**My Personal Statement**

My name is Collins Sakalunda. The following is a personal statement of my salvation and calling experience.

**Salvation**

***My life before receiving Christ***

Staying and living far away from my parents’ home, as a teenager, made me spend a lot of years without going to church. This was a period of about five years, from 1991 to 1995. This was because there was no one to encourage me to go to church. In 1993 I went into boarding school and there I adopted a life that was not good in the eyes of God.

***How I received Christ as my Lord and Saviour***

When I completed school in 1995, the Lord began to speak to me through my sisters. One Sunday of March 1996 I decided to accompany my sisters to church. That Sunday I got challenged by the message preached by the Man of God. His words that, *“one can never be successful in life unless God uses him or her in His service”* touched me. These very words changed my life and I gave my life to Christ Jesus. I accepted Him as my Lord and Saviour. I joined the baptism class and on the 2nd of November, 1996, I got baptized. I then became a member of the church, Chilenje South Baptist Church, were I grew up spiritually and was discipled.

***My life after receiving Christ***

From the time I received Jesus as my Lord and Saviour, my life has never been the same. I have found the real meaning and purpose of life in Christ. I have learnt what true happiness really is in Christ. It’s really worth it to be a Christian and I have found joy in serving Christ.

**Call to Ministry**

In 1998, I got involved with a youth missionary group called Ambassadors For Christ. This was a group that was formed with the sole purpose of doing missions especially in the area of church planting.

As got more and more involved in missions with this group, I began to sense God’s call to pastoral ministry. God used several ways to speak to me, two of which was a strong impression upon my heart, and through other believers who noticed the gift of preaching and teaching in me.

I answered God’s call, and in December of 2001, I enrolled into the Baptist Seminary of Zambia for studies in theology. This was after a careful and serious reflection of my life and a sense of what God wanted me to do. My desire was to serve God in teaching and preaching His word. I was encouraged to do so by those who were close to me.

When I graduated from seminary in 2005, I served as Pastor of Harvestime Baptist Church in Ibex Hill until December 1st of 2008, when I called to Evangel Baptist Church, to serve as Assistant Pastor. This is where I have been serving to date.

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