



Rev PM Sibanda

BEGINNING OF A HAPPY LIFE

I was born into sin and became a vile sinner. I grew up in farm lands, and as a herd boy, I drank beer and smoked tobacco and marijuana and as a result I looked older than my age. Gambling became my favorite sport.

The little knowledge I had about the existence of God, did not help me in anyway because I was born into a family that was engaging in ancestral worship. This was the religion that the entire family cherished and respected. I became a vile sinner.

I was very cheeky and quarrelsome and would frequently get involved in physical altercations. Lying became fashionable to me and the only time I told the truth was when I was giving directions to someone. I was also a daring thief, who stole anything that I came across.

I got married in that state of sinful life, had children but continued my perverse ways. At times I would leave and children at home and spend the entire week, moving from one home to the other imbibing, partying, dancing and entertaining other women. I could not manage to live the righteous life I so desired.

In 1959, people of the Gospel came to our home and testified to us, that it was possible for one to overcome sin, provided they were born again. This was the first time ever, for me to hear this kind of message, from birth. Due to my argumentative nature, I did not immediately accept this message.

Gospel ministers would come from Gwelo to conduct services at our home, I would offer them a room to hold their services but I would not attend. While they preached

the message in the dining room, I would be drowning my beer in the kitchen, I would stay in the kitchen until they were gone.

While I gave no attention to the things of God, my brother and his wife sought the Lord and got born again. I knew in definite how sinful they had been, both husband and wife were drunkards. I knew very well how vile, the life of my brother's wife had been and how much hatred there was between her and our mother, because of the sorcerers who told my brother's wife lies regarding our mother, whenever my brother's wife consulted them. As a family, we had hatred for one another and never cared for each other.

One day after their salvation, I paid them a visit at their home in Gwelo. At that time, my brother was working for the national railways. Upon arrival, I found my sister in law, discussing with my sister, Emma about the blessings they had received through prayer. I was very much surprised by this. I was then convinced that what they spoke about was indeed possible, should one sincerely believe in God.

I observed their lives and noticed great change. I could see the love for one another and loved me like they had never done before. I also knew my own sister to be a vile sinner but her life had changed as a result of the new birth that she had received. My brother would get so drunk to the point of him sleeping on the road overnight and it was only by God's Grace that, he would wake up alive the following morning. All this became a thing of the past.

When I heard that if a person be in Christ, he becomes a new creature, I agreed and repented, whole heartedly, of all my sins. Those who knew my life and behavior, did not believe in my repentance.

When we left home, those I was walking with, were surprised to see me getting into the place of worship. Fully knowing the kind of life I was living, they expected me to proceed to the beer hall.

The first sermon I heard, when I attended church for the first time, was on the works of flesh, taken from the scripture of Galatians 5 v 19 -22. At first I thought my wife had told the ministers all about my life but soon realized it was the Spirit of God speaking through the preacher.

The Word of God convicted me and convinced me that I was a sinner, who was in desperate need of salvation. I knelt down in prayer and sought salvation. One night Reverend MJK Sengwayo, visited our home, he preached about the New heaven and New earth. The following day, I did not attend work but rather went to the bush to seek new birth. I prayed for three days, if not four. I was not successful because I knew

nothing about faith. I continued to attend services and God gave me understanding on the subject of faith.

One day at the end of the sermon, as I was praying, I felt the urge to stand up and go without being saved. A minister knelt beside me and said “don’t listen to the devil telling you that you are now tired. Pray!” I wondered, how he knew that I wanted to give up.

At that point, my heart broke and I cried, faith filled my heart and the Lord saved me! The Spirit of God bore witness to my heart that I had been born again. I leapt with great joy in my heart because I had been saved. I got a personal assurance that I had been saved.

All the old things that had troubled my soul had passed away, all the sins and all the sickness. I started to live a happy life and rested from all the turmoil of sin. I thank the Lord who had mercy on me and showed me the way of life and freed me from my sins.

I learnt about sanctification, which is the eradication of the Adamic sin principle. I sought for this experience and the Lord sanctified me during a Holy Communion service. I also heard of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Power, I waited in prayer for that Holy mantle and the Lord filled me with the Holy Spirit.

In 1962, by the Grace of God, we were called to the service of the Lord, we sold all our property and the entire family, including my parents moved from Somabhula to Bulawayo, to stay with the servant of God, Rev MJK Sengwayo. God kept us in the Gospel and I thank God for most of my relatives have gone home to Glory. I have a burning desire to attain the everlasting life, I have been called unto.

WORKING AND STAYING WITH REV MJK SENGWAYO

My wife and I loved the Man of God, wholeheartedly. We stayed with him and worked with him in all of the Gospel work, that God allowed us to do with him, through his limitless grace. This included both the difficult and easy tasks. Our pliability in everything he asked us to do, made it easy for the Man of God to teach us all of God’s work, wholeheartedly and with patience.

1965, at Iminyela hall, The Overseer, Rev MJK Sengwayo called me to him, when they were busy with the program for the service with other ministers, he asked me to listen attentively as they wanted to teach me how the work of God is conducted. I was appointed by the Overseer to lead the service from beginning to the time of the sermon.

SENT OUT TO THE FIELD FOR THE FIRST TIME

Brother T Tshuma and I had once been sent to conduct a revival at the Gwaranyemba areas of Gwanda district, by that time both of us were not preachers. We were surprised to see the hand of God manifested through our preaching. The sick and lame were healed. This was the first assignment that God gave us and I did not know the meaning of it.

Rev Sengwayo used to teach in a manner that was seemingly harsh. He was in fact a lion of righteousness.

If you made a mistake in speech, you would not escape his harsh rebuke. If you lacked the Grace of God, you would not stand the rebuke and admonition that came from the Man of God, you would quit the Gospel and never come back. He was a man full of love that was wrapped in being harsh. God created in me a heart that loved and respected him as he was. I realized that him being harsh when I did something wrong meant his deep love for me.

He taught me the work of God in a harsh way like a father imparting wisdom to his son, survival skills enabling him to be a man amongst man. Some congregants thought he was too harsh towards me but what they did not know was that he wanted me to pass the test, he had set out for me and fulfill his wishes on me. I thank God, for what I am was a direct result of what he taught me and the Godly love he had for me. I continued to work with him, day and night, under these conditions, life was always on the furnace when you worked with the Man of God due to his Holy life and the manifestation of the Spirit of God in his life.

MANIFESTATION OF THE POWER OF GOD IN HIS MINISTRY

The hand of God was always with his servant, confirming the Word with wonders that followed. Many souls were saved, the sick were healed and the evil spirits were cast away. The dead were raised.

A revival was held in uMlazi, Durban in the province of KwaZulu Natal, in 1979. During this revival, the body of the late Ncamisile was brought to the service. With the service already in progress, the Overseer, Rev MJK Sengwayo, told those that brought the body to place it in the garage. After the service, he took some ministers to where the corpse was. He rebuked death in his prayer and the girl arose.

The Overseer, instructed that she should be given food. She ate, stood up and started serving us food.

I had the opportunity of learning what kind of a man the Overseer was in the process of him teaching me the work of God. He used to do things in time and very fast in line with

what the Spirit of God would have instructed him. His spiritual ear was always attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit and he strived to be in tune with the will of God. He was a fervent worker in all of the work of the Gospel. He also undertook some manual work for the progression of the Gospel. He used to work during the night and equally travel during the night and I was driver in most of the trips he undertook. He would not sleep before 12 midnight and I only slept when he had gone to sleep whether locally or outside of the country. I learnt working at night, hunger, lacking and having enough.

FIRST POSTING OUTSIDE BULAWAYO

In 1968, I was sent to Mutare to Pastor the branch church there. By then I was employed by Supersonic Company. I had to give a three days resignation notice. I bought a Shona bible on a Wednesday and my departure was on the Thursday. It was my first time to learn the Shona language. We left for Mutare and arrived the following morning. We began distributing tracts to the community, on the evening of the same day, we held the first service in Mutare, we were only fifteen.

As I was preaching that evening, I felt led by the Spirit of God to go to the mountains and read the Shona bible from the book of Genesis to the book of Revelations. I managed to do that in just one month. From then on I was able to speak and write the Shona language.

In 1975, I was transferred back to the headquarters, in Bulawayo and worked under the Man of God once again. He would leave me in charge of the congregation when he visited other branches both within and outside of the country, particularly South Africa. In 1976, I was posted to Pastor the church in Harare. While in Harare, I was anointed by the Man of God, Rev Sengwayo for the work there. This was repeated in the presence of the whole congregation and a group of local Harare ministers and those that had travelled from Bulawayo. I was brought back to Pastor the headquarters church and worked under him until he was taken to glory in 1982.

God kept me and the work throughout the challenges that followed. The work of God has progressed ever since. We thank God who is on our side, we see him in the signs, wonders and miracles that he performs in our midst.