



Ecclesia Today

Inclusive & Transforming Good News

ECCLESIA TODAY

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Christian Digital Magazine

When love reigns



Multi-talented apostolic couple sing the gospel

ECCLÉSIA TODAY

ISSUE 6

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MANAGING EDITOR

Kimion Tagwirei

About Us

Ecclesia Today (*meaning Church Today*), is a free digital Christian magazine, published quarterly from Zimbabwe, Southern Africa.

We are inspired and informed to advance the integral mission of the Church (*proclamation and demonstration of the gospel in all areas of life*) by John 10:10, which says that “the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; but I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly”.

We publish inclusive and contextually transformative articles from various contributors in different denominations and countries.

We welcome new contributions; readers’ feedback and suggestions. For enquiries please email the managing editor @ kimion22tc@gmail.com ; Call/WhatsApp +263777430283.

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Editorial Note



Rethinking our presence and absence for mental health

Mental health issues have been increasingly tragic in and outside Zimbabwe. Multiple stories about suicide, consequential losses and pains that bereaved families and relatives face, speak volumes about the criticality of the matter.

While waiting for the judgment day, those who kill themselves offload heavy burdens unto other people.

Painfully, we are all irreplaceable gifts that our beloved families lose, and struggle to find closure when we die early. More-so, there are some people in and beyond our circles that live better because of our presence, than how they may, in our absence.

God purposed, created, placed, positioned and resourced us differently in order to meet varied needs of people in different places and times. That is why the Bible teaches us through 1 Corinthians 12:12-24 that we are diverse members of the body of Jesus Christ. Everyone carries particular functions and capacities.

When a part of our bodies dies, we struggle and sometimes fail to undertake certain things.

So if you and I succumb to mental breakdown and commit suicide today, nobody can do exactly what God commissioned and capacitated us for. Although He has always been raising other people to fill certain gaps and accomplish His mission, the impact of suicide unavoidably disturbs a lot – i.e. it drains hope from those who look up to us (as 2 Corinthians 3:2-3 tells us that we are letters that others read and learn from); dumps spouses into early widowhood, children into early orphan-hood; buries life-building brains, talents and disrupts the flow of human interdependence. Whoever and whatever the dead used to be part of loses something.

Bearing in mind that none of us is immortal, staying connected with God, fellows and nature can help whenever we struggle to stand. Each time we get disconnected exposes us to stressful loneliness and vulnerability to helplessness and hopelessness. Such encounters can prematurely pull us to graveyards.

Keeping connected creates a conducive environment for us to regularly check each other up, communicate and keep sound and safe. It is very difficult for us to engage God when depressed if we haven't been close with Him before. The same applies to our fellows, and nature. Thus, maintaining strong relations with God, other people and nature matters. Praying, studying the Bible, attending ecclesial services and living the gospel count. Building and sustaining firm relations with some people enhance fellowship, conversations and beget solutions to encountered problems. Complementarily, going for outings – i.e. observing the beauty of creation is inexplicably therapeutic. Though this is not a medical prescription for mental health, it is a pastoral call for us to rethink the significance of our presence, and susceptibilities of absence. We should not live and die for ourselves! We should live beyond ourselves, shun self-centeredness and adopt other-centeredness to stay connected with God and each other. Consequently, we can keep mentally healthy and withstand suicidal pressures to live until He takes us home.



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Readers' Voice

The Church we want:

“

MR. NEWS RUFURWEKUDA



In Masvingo, Zimbabwe
I desire a united church free to share ideas, whose members are hardworking and exemplary in deeds that welcome new members

”

“

VIOLET KWANGWARE

In Masvingo, Zimbabwe
I desire the Church to be full of Bible teachings, empowering and creating opportunities for every member to do what they are capable to do in the house of God.

”

“

JOCELYN MHOSVA

I desire a church that supports her own – one that promotes the ‘brother’s keeper’ principle, not hypocrites who judge and condemn others –, Masvingo

”

“

ALEXANDER NYAKUDZI

In Botswana
I desire a united church that is educative, Christ loving, brotherly, which welcomes everyone.

”

“

TENDAI MLAMBO

In Harare, Zimbabwe
I wish the Church could be loving, accommodative and leading to God instead of being judgmental and scaring others away.

”

“

GEORGINA BHILA

In Chiredzi, Zimbabwe
I desire a church that allows everyone to participate, where there is no discrimination.

”

By Rev. Kirion Mhazo



in Harare, Zimbabwe

GOSPEL REVIEW

Reverend Kirion Mhazo Pastors Assemblies of God (AOG BTG) church in Zimbabwe, Budiriro Assembly in Harare, Zimbabwe.

WHEN LOVE REIGNS

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved”.

We are now in the festive season during which we celebrate the love that God extended towards us by giving His only son Jesus Christ to redeem us from the bondage of sin and death.

The love of God is not limited to a certain race, class or nationality, tribe or social status. It is open and accessible to everyone who can believe in Jesus Christ.

We all deserved to be condemned because of sin. It would have been right for God to have pronounced judgment upon the whole human race, but behold, He graciously considered to

forgive us.

The sentence of condemnation was therefore deferred for those who have not yet believed in Christ. But, although Jesus did not come then to condemn the world, the time is coming when he will return to judge the living and the dead. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says that “for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”.

If we do not accept the free gift of Jesus Christ that God gave us, we will be condemned. As Romans 5:8 says, “...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

While God is holy, and there is no sin in him, He loved sinful and undeserving people like you and me. His desire is that all mankind may be saved (1 Timothy 2:3-4).

Such is the great love of God as 1 John 3:1-3 expresses, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God. Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

Volumes of literature can be written about the love of God for mankind without exhausting its extraordinary depth and richness. 1 John 3 calls us to behold, contemplate and marvel upon the great love of God.

Overall, the length, breadth, depth and the height of God’s love goes beyond human comprehension.

This reminds me of a song we used to sing during our children’s church days back then about the love of God; “The love of Jesus is so wonderful x3. Wonderful love! So high you can’t go over it! So wide you can’t go round it! So low you can’t get under it! Wonderful love!”

Beloved, we did not deserve such great love. We neither could claim nor merit to be called the sons of God. We were the children of the wicked one, from the fall of Adam in the Garden of Eden. Since then the devil captured the human race up to the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

Therefore, it is necessary for us to accept and live with such transforming love that moved us from misery to greatness as we are now co-heirs with Christ.

When he appears in his second coming, we shall be glorious like him as John 17:24 states, “...Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory.”

Thus, we should abstain from all forms of evil and live in love according to our new narrative in Chris; 1 John 4:7-8, “beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God. He who doesn’t love doesn’t know God, for God is love”.

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GOSPEL REVIEW

WHEN LOVE REIGNS

While unbelievers may be selective, the Bible teaches believers to love unconditionally (including our enemies – Mathew 5:43) as God does.

Apostle Paul explained to the Corinthians that “love is patient and is kind; love doesn't envy. Love doesn't brag, is not proud, doesn't behave itself inappropriately, doesn't seek its own way, [love is not selfish} is not provoked, takes no account of evil; doesn't rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Imagine if our homes, churches, industries, governments, etcetera were led by loving people! I have no doubt that this world could be a better place to live, free from wars and poverty.

When love reigns, people exercise patience and kindness with each other. When love reigns, envy, pride, selfishness and evil end! Love promotes forgiveness and empathy.

As we enjoy this festive season, let us reflect on love and live it for the best of our personal, family, denominational, organizational, national and global lives. God help us to allow love to reign in our lives in the name of Jesus Christ! Amen!



REVEREND KIRION MHAZO AND WIFE

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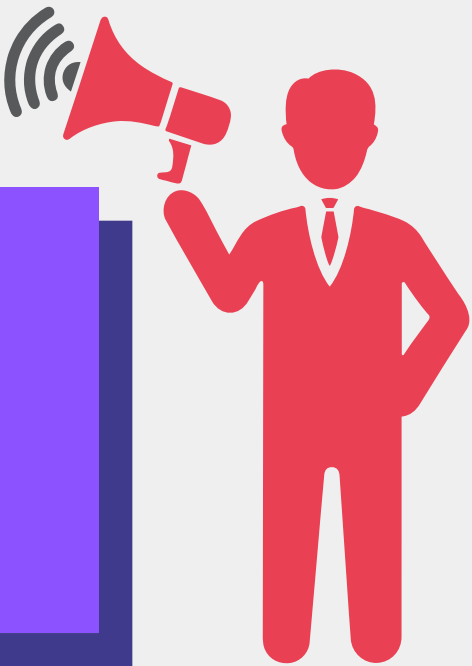
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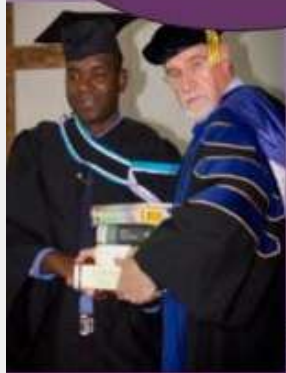
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GOSPEL REVIEW

KEEPING LOW TO STAY HIGH: THE POWER OF HUMILITY



By Pastor Mbebe in Bulawayo,
Zimbabwe

Almost all of us pray that God may change our circumstances, but only few people pray for God to change their character.

When some of us open our mouths to talk, lies just flow and we lie boldly. This is a character disorder. Many of us need to pray for transformation. Jacob wrestled with an angel. The angel touched his thigh and broke his long leg which he was using for mischief.

One of the reasons why God cannot use many of us is that there are so many pressure points in our lives which He wants us to sort out. Unfortunately several fellows are not fixing their issues. God works on people point by point, and character by character.

There is no amount of riches you can have that can atone for character poverty. Money does not atone for lack of good character. If you want to know the kind of character that people have, watch them when they are quarrelling. When you hear what they are saying you will be baffled because they go to church and call themselves children of God.

Pastor Enasio Mbebe is the vice chairman of Assemblies of God, Matebeleland North region. He pastors AOG Pumula South assembly in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

You can't be humble if your character is not dealt with

They have bad character, and such people can't be humble unless the grace of God reaches them.

When I came from Malawi in 1981, I was in a seminary training to be a Roman Catholic father. Few years later, I got served and trained myself to enjoy the word of God. I encountered scriptures that challenge my life on how to keep low and stay high;

Philippians 2:5-11, "The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had: He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death —his death on the cross. For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"

Apostle Paul was one of the people who lived a life of humility. Philippians 1:21 adds that "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain". Paul was arrested as he was jotting this letter because of his love for Jesus Christ, and he was not discouraged by such predicaments. Even when he faced death, he did not despair. His secrete was fully submitting himself to God. Thus, Paul lived for Christ, sacrificially. He did not base his life on circumstances, but on the eternal truth of the gospel.

If our purpose in life is to love Christ and serve him, God will give us joy even when we face danger and trouble. We will glorify him always.

Every humble person is a person of Character; James 4:10, "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up". God walks with the humble. Humility begets God's promotion. Without humility, we may fast, pray and seek God in vain.

Thought-provokingly, what we are in the sight of God is what we truly are. We cannot borrow humility. That is why the status of a nation lies in the character of its citizens. Humility is more valuable than even gold.

Ugliness with good character is better than beauty with a bad character. Pride can catch up with us and eventually disgrace us. So, we need more of humble people in this world. God Himself is searching for men and women whose hearts are after Him. Such are those he seeks to use.

GOSPEL REVIEW

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF CAMPUS MINISTRY



By Pastor Zodwa Mutisi, in Harare, Zimbabwe

Zodwa Mutisi is a Development practitioner and a Research Consultant. He is also a Campus Ministry Pastor with the Assemblies of God church in Zimbabwe. He developed passion with the campus ministry after experiencing what Christian students face and go through once they set foot on a college or university campus.

Campus ministry is so important for the continual engagement of the gospel during learning seasons at schools. It is strategic beyond sharing the gospel, towards grooming future church and marketplace leaders.

If we do not engage students at school, many of them lose direction and may eventually succumb to devilish temptations and enslavement. Thus, the church should be tactically positioned with relevant programs to continue providing spiritual guidance at campus.

Over the years, most Christian students who were actively engaged in ecclesial activities on campus grew and became effective ecclesiological and marketplace gospel ministers. It should be therefore premeditated for any serious church to facilitate programs that consistently and effectively engage students.

In order for us to appreciate and redouble efforts to accomplish this ministry, let us look at some challenges that are usually encountered in running a successful campus ministry.

Institutional policies

Institutions of higher learning have different policies that guide their operations. Common institutional provision in Zimbabwe is the chaplaincy division which oversee all religious activities in any university or college. However, not all colleges and universities have space for ecclesiastic activities as there are infrastructural challenges. Some universities do not allow Church services to be held in the campus premises. So, progressive churches usually look for any venues close to the campus to continue engaging with students. Many churches fail to sustain alternatives without financial challenges and eventually neglect students’ ministry.

Lack of motivation

Many times some churches failed to realize meaningful growth and impact on campus because of lack of motivation among the young people. It takes effective leadership to motivate students to take up the gospel regardless of any discouragements. Churches should

therefore provide, raise, train, mentor and capacitate young people to serve God from their schooling times. Whenever ecclesial inspiration and support lacks, the majority of students tire and lose out.

Financial resources

Campus ministry is made up mainly of the non-working classes (students). We cannot run away from the fact that to effective campus ministry demand financial resources. Denominations that have strong local and city churches close to the campus have been very successful in running campus ministries. Usually, mother churches bear the burden of financial liabilities and sustain all the campus programs, for example, by providing Public (PA) systems, funding team building activities, and exchange initiatives. Without economic sustainability, most churches struggle to run campus ministries.

Transformational ministry Opportunities at campus

Meanwhile, there are also opportunities that we should remember, in campus ministry. Ministering the gospel with students is one of the best training grounds for gospel envoys. It is through sharing the gospel with young people that various gifts can be nurtured, upcoming leaders can be mentored and transformation agents can be grounded. Considering that universities and colleges gather young people from different backgrounds, impacting them with the gospel also prepares cross cultural marketplace missionaries and ecclesial ambassadors.

Additionally, campus ministry retains professionals to the mainstream churches. If we do not follow and keep up with our church members at school, other religions will eventually take them! Yet, spiritually, socially, economically and politically stable churches are built up by professionals that they raised throughout their studying journeys. It is highly commendable for us to observe challenges, and opportunities of campus ministry to do all that we can towards reviving, establishing and sustaining campus ministry for the best of the mission of God, our children and churches.



CHRISTMAS BRIEFS

It's about our salvation

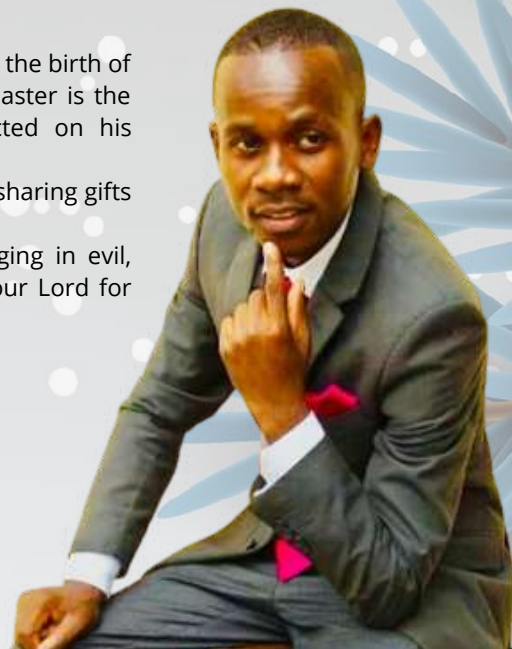
Christmas season is a wonderful time for us as believers. It's a time to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ – the founder of heaven and earth. The birth of our master is the birth of our salvation. Our salvation began on His birth, and was effected on his resurrection.

Christmas is a season to celebrate this new life that we have in Christ through sharing gifts and worshipping together in His presence.

I want to challenge us that Christmas is not a time to be wasted by engaging in evil, experimenting, overspending and related commonalities. It's time to honor our Lord for our salvation. Merry Christmas to us all!



Apostle Admire Mupwanyiwa, in Masvingo, Zimbabwe



AN AMAZING STORY OF LOVE

Christmas is a melodious love story. Many love stories have mushroomed and some like 'the Titanic' and 'Beauty and the Beast' became global hits. Many would cry while watching the romantic Titanic movie, but today the once popular Titanic is no longer appetizing to the twentieth century youths.

Yet, the Christmas love story, as old as it is, remains a hit! The spirit of Christmas still rules 2022, years after the birth of Jesus Christ, and his birthday is still celebrated today.

"For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son..." So, celebrating Christmas is celebrating God's gift of love.

By Pastor Kidson Maponga, in Masvingo, Zimbabwe



IT'S TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

I wish us a happy Christmas holiday. The word merry speaks of happiness. My expectation for us for this season is lovely and cheerful fellowship.

Envision Godly fellowship beyond Christmas, throughout your whole life!



By Pastor David Vurayai,
in Masvingo, Zimbabwe



CHRISTMAS BRIEFS



LOVE: THE HALLMARK OF A BELIEVER

(1 John 4:7-8) 7 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.'

Many people often wonder how God looks like; it remains a mystery but the Bible says HE IS LOVE. We cannot describe Him in terms of power, prayer or worship, we can only do in terms of love. (1 John 4:16) says, 'He who walks in love, walks with God.' You cannot be a Believer in Christ walking out of love and claim to be walking with God. For those who desire to experience the supernatural in their lives, this is the cheapest way to procure the same. When you walk in love, you assume His nature and you start to function like Him. All the laws of God are domiciled in this one principle, when you walk in love you fulfil the law. During this festive period, I will leave you with this Word of encouragement. Love God PASSIONATELY and Love men COMPASSIONATELY. God bless you.

Apostle T. Matthews in Marondera, Zimbabwe

CELEBRATE JESUS CHRIST

Does Today's Christmas have the same flavour of before or it has become a space for vacation, business and to many it has become a season of wild parties . Aren't we supposed to be meditating and celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who qualified us to become sons of God. Christ should be the focus of this holiday not us .

In Mtt 2:11 The wise man from the east showed up on this birthday of Jesus to do three unique things which I think should be done by believers around Christmas that is to Bow down ,**BEING AVAILABLE FOR WORSHIP** and **GAVE GIFTS**

Pastor Kelvin Zakeyo in Harare, Zimbabwe.



IT'S GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Matthew 2vs1-2 and verse 3-8KJV Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. As we enter the festive season in commemoration of the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, allow me to bring to our attention the wonderful news of this birth. When He was born Herod was king over Judaea and the Israelites waited in earnest expectation of the coming Messiah. It is of particular interest to note that the king and even all of his court were not aware of the birth of the Messiah till the wise men came and proclaimed he is born. Some of us reading this article might not be aware of the good news like Herod, Jesus the Messiah was born, lived and died for our sins. The second point I want to bring to our attention is that when Herod heard the good news he was troubled instead of rejoicing. The news about the Messiah is definitely amazing news yet many like Herod seek to destroy the good news in the person of Jesus. As we commemorate his birth day let us all remember it is not about the fun and meeting relatives it's about the person of Jesus. The wise men came actively seeking the king and he was found of them. I employ us dear reader let us actively seek him and assuredly he will be found of us.

Pastor Bongani Siqalaba Bulawayo, Zimbabwe



THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

UNDERSTANDING TITHING IN
THE CONTEXT OF GRACE



REV. KURAUONE
MUTIMWII, IN MASVINGO,
ZIMBABWE

Reverend Kurauone Mutimwii is a pastor with the Uniting Presbyterian Church and passionate ecumenist in Masvingo, Zimbabwe.

The issue of tithing is highly debatable. I am writing this as my theological reflection on the subject – thus, this is not canon, but subject to criticism. Let me also sincerely acknowledge the school of thought and proponents vehemently refuting the giving of tithe in the era of grace, stating that tithes were made obsolete in Christ’s sacrifice at Calvary, that it was Mosaic, and that the Lord never taught about tithes. Tithing is defined as the concept of paying/giving a tenth part of one’s earning or harvest to the Lord, through ministers of God and a church.

The Context of Grace

Jesus Christ is Grace and within him and the entire Christ-event is the general broader context of Grace. It is about God’s salvific purpose on humanity and ultimate redemption of creation, in Christ Jesus, which started when the Lamb of God was slain in the beginning of the world. John 1:29, “The next day he saw Jesus coming

toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” Revelation 13:8 tells that “...all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain”. That makes every dispensation theology interactive with the Mosaic Law, and tributaries that feed into the bigger river of the gracious purpose of God. I do not know if water can lose its identity when it flows into a bigger stream. It may change the colour, taste or speed, but can never lose its essence.

Why did Abraham give a tithe?

Genesis 14:18–20, “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor[b] of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!’ And Abram gave him a tenth of everything”. The least, we can, in interrogating the space of tithing in the context of Grace post the advent of Calvary is to place it alongside Abraham the patriarch of faith and to thoroughly investigate or unpack the spiritual or faith conviction that compelled him to respond in giving a tithe to God before we nullify it on the premises of the Mosaic Law. The act of tithing was never a creation of the Law. Neither was tithing a dictate of the Divine. The earliest Biblical characters identified with the act of tithing are Abraham and Jacob. Way before the tithing was administratively incorporated into the precepts of the Law of Moses, it popped up as a gesture of a communion and worship response by a man Abraham to God, a Christophany who was in the form of Melchizedek. After being blessed by a Being, he perceived as God, Abraham gave a tenth of his war spoils. It was a commitment he made to God and God accepted (adopted) this commitment by a mortal whom He called his friend and later incorporated it as his requirement from his people.

Jacob commits to Tithe

Genesis 28:20–22, “Then Jacob made a vow, saying, ‘if God will be with me and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and clothing to wear, so that I come again to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God, and this stone, which I have set up for a pillar

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THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE



UNDERSTANDING TITHING IN THE CONTEXT OF GRACE

, shall be God's house. And of all that you give me I will give a full tenth to you."

As shown in this portion of Scripture, tithing was a vow of commitment when one encountered God. Jacob pledged a commitment of a tenth as he solicited for the protection of God.

The tithing scenarios of these two patriarchs of our faith, makes tithing transcend conversations beyond the Mosaic premises where it is treated as a law requirement which some may claim was abolished by the advent of Grace.

The Law did not create tithes but the promise. We are still the children of the eschatological promises of God. The law did a great job of prescribing how the tithes was to be administered by his elected people. He actually demonstrated how serious he was about it by pronouncing curses on those who would violate this sacred gesture of his friendship with Abraham.

Tithing was always a human commitment in response to God's grace, communion and fellowship. Abraham was not under any legal compulsion and the threat of the menace of curse but was moved by the love and grace of his God when he made this commitment.

Tithing, though divine in nature, was originally from below but it assumed in itself the nature from above. God then under the Mosaic Law, set it apart and gave it to be a portion for those who served before him and those who totally depend on him for daily bread.

God said to Israel about tithes

Numbers 18:20, "The Lord said to Aaron; 'you will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites'.

'I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting'."

In the same way Abraham gave tithe to God who ministered to him as a Priest in Melchizedek, God gave and allocated the tithe to Levi who would minister in God's house, as God's portion as a Priest on behalf of the people.

In such a scenario, a tithe is placed as a very special seal of trust and friendship between Abraham, his children of faith and God. We may undo all these administrative legal attachments of tithing but as a commitment in response to God's goodness, tithing is a gesture that is contextually congruent with grace.

DISABILITIES & CONDITIONS

DEMYSTIFYING DISABILITIES
IN THE 21ST CENTURY



Esau Makwindi is a History and Religious studies teacher at Mupandawana High school in Gutu, Masvingo, Zimbabwe

John 9:2-3, "His disciples asked Him, Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind? Jesus answered, it was not that this man or his parents sinned, but he was born blind in order that the workings of God should be manifested (displayed and illustrated) in him".



BY
ESAU MAKWINDI
IN
MASVINGO, ZIMBABWE

My neighbor gave birth to a child with a disability. The majority of villagers rumored suspicions that one of the parents had bewitched him for some enrichment. As if this was not enough, a certain man from our neighborhood got involved in a car accident and broke his spine. Eventually, he could no longer walk. Many fellows raised suspicions that his relatives charmed him.

It is increasingly challenging to note that in this 21st century, many of us misunderstand and mystify disabilities. Most assumptions take disabilities as effects of bewitchment or God's punishment for one's personal or family sins.

However, the book of John 9:2-3 answers the heart of disabilities. Firstly, it clearly shows that disability is not caused by sin neither of

our fathers nor of one's misdeeds as most of the Africans believe.

Secondly, it shows that people with disabilities were fearfully and wonderfully made by God because they add value to the society. They are not rejects. If well equipped the sky is the limit, they can outshine the so called able-bodied.

Furthermore, the workings of the Lord refer to the deeds as well as activities which can be done by people who are differently able. Some might think that the works of the Lord are miracles of God to make those with visual impairments to see, or to eradicate all disabilities but alas, that's not it. John 9:2-3 also enlightens us about the nature and causes of disability.

It helps us to understand and accept children who are born with disabilities, so as not to run demonize and avoid them.

It is unfortunate that some men reject children with disabilities. Some of them blame their wives or even accuse them of some mischief. Besides contributing to conflicts and divorce, misunderstanding and rejection of disabilities subject children to psychological trauma and various other problems like abject poverty.

Our social and cultural worldviews should be reviewed towards acceptability and inclusivity.

Therefore, there is a dire need for continuous enlightenment on the nature and diversity of disabilities to avoid hollow assumptions and conclusions in today's societies.



Tabgha • Foundation • Trust

Matthew 6 verse 33



*Tabgha Foundation is
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people in society.*



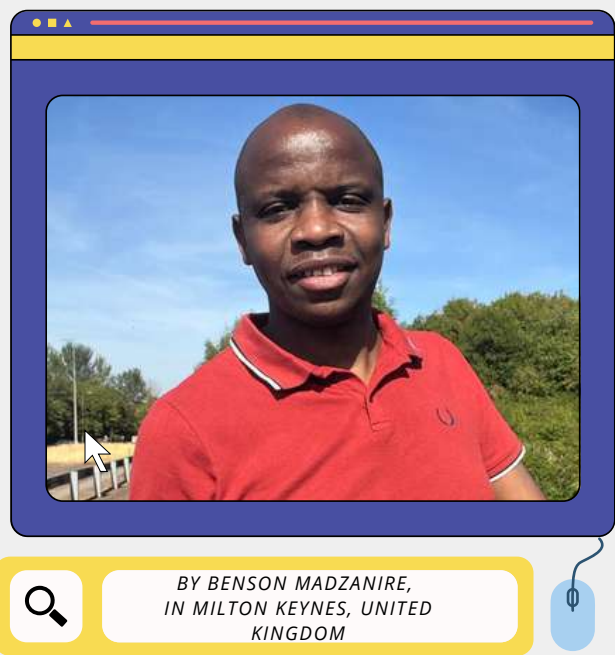
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LIFE SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT

MAINTAINING OUR
PERSONAL COMPUTERS



BY BENSON MADZANIRE,
IN MILTON KEYNES, UNITED
KINGDOM

Benson Madzanire is the Director of Kalahari IT Solutions and Software Quality Engineer, based in Milton Keynes, United Kingdom. He writes in his own capacity.

Nowadays life is highly enhanced controlled by technology, hence the importance of computers. So, this article attempts to share some advice on how to maintain one of the most important devices in our lives. There are a number of measures that should be taken in order to maintain a personal computer in a sound condition;

- Reinstalling the operating system regularly – Windows operating system slows down with time so the best solution is to back up the information and reinstall the operating system again. This can be done on intervals of eighteen months depending on the performance of the machine at that particular time.
- Installing the antivirus – The internet is not a safe place. There is everything you can think of. Hackers are also on the prowl, so it is advisable to install an antivirus to protect the machine from virus which can wipe out your information.

- Always install operating system updates – Microsoft releases updates periodically to improve the operating system performance and to strengthen the security of the operating system against the new known threats. Make sure that the system updates are up to date. The solid-state drive is a better version of the traditional spinning hard drive which crashes and lose data. Solid state drive uses the flash memory without any moving parts which makes the machine to be faster. It is recommended to upgrade the machine storage to solid state drives from the old spinning drives.
- It is also important to avoid overloading the hard drive with a lot of information. Rather use the cloud system which guarantees you the safety and accessibility of the information from anywhere where there is internet.
- Generally, it is also highly recommended that users must not eat or drink while working on a computer in case they make a mistake and spill liquid on the computer that will damage the computer beyond repair.
- Additionally, never expose your computer to dust because the dust will gather in the computer overtime and make the fans to clock and eventually the machine will overheat and blow the mainboard.
- Do not blindly click emails and browser links without scanning. These links may have viruses which may destroy your computer so it is recommended to always analyse the attachment and scan it with an up-to-date antivirus to make sure that it is safe to open.
- Make sure that you create a strong password for your computer so that nobody will be able to hack into your system and steal your data or damage your computer.

Last but not least; do not fill your hard drive to capacity. This will slow the machine or even make the hard drive to crush at point.

LIFE SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT

THE GAINS OF
WAITING UPON
THE LORD

BY OBEDIENCE NORUPIRI, IN ZHEJIANG,
HANGZHOU, CHINA

Obedience Norupiri is an aspiring engineer, studying Mechanical Design Manufacture and Automation Engineering at Zhejiang Sci-tech University in Zhejiang, Hangzhou, China



Waiting on the Lord means having faith in something you cannot see; it can be exceedingly frightening. "For we live by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Essentially, faith is strengthened by remaining steadfast in God's word when everything seems unattainable. With it, we grow spiritually, mature and become more resilient than before. The secret to waiting upon God is to teach our minds to think in accordance with God's word. As Romans 10:11 says, "For the Scripture says, 'everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame'".

Let's reflect on this;

- To have a son, Abraham and Sarah had to wait more than twenty-five years.
- Before his dream came true, Joseph had to wait for at least twenty years.
- David had to wait fifteen years before being crowned king.
- For a hundred years, Noah patiently constructed the ark while anticipating the flood.
- Before escorting the people out of Egypt, Moses waited forty years.
- Before speaking to the King, Esther went on a three-day fast.

Relatedly, Psalms 40:1-17 tells us that David sang, "I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord. Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O Lord my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear.[a] Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." I have told the glad news of deliverance[b] in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O Lord. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation. As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me! For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see;

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LIFE SKILLS & DEVELOPMENT

THE GAINS OF WAITING UPON THE LORD

they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me! Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!" But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!" As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

The ultimate benefit of waiting upon the Lord is growing closer to him. As we wait on the Lord, he is able to teach us about His character. At the end of our obstacles, we will learn that God is always there and will always be there.

We are more than ever confronted with opportunities and possibilities. It is simple to become involved in too many activities that are unrelated to our goals and deplete our energy, time, and resources. The best defense against things that don't belong to our lives is waiting.

Distractions lack the inherent staying force that comes with 'meant-to-be's. Temporary things will naturally disappear from our lives over time, freeing us up to concentrate on what makes us up. Time has a lovely way of sifting the vital information from the unnecessary details.

As Thomas Foxwell Buxton once said, "With ordinary talents and extraordinary perseverance, all things are attainable". The definition of persistence is doing something despite difficulties or delay in obtaining success. By persevering, we develop the emotional, physical, and spiritual muscles we need to cope up with any challenges. By persevering, we also gain experience to use in our next encounters.

When we wait, the enemy may attack us from any other sides. Nevertheless, God will still strengthen our faith during the waiting period. He is always available for us.

We must therefore withstand all the lies that the adversary may try to implant in our minds and hearts.

That way, we exercise our faith and become strong Christians. According to Isaiah 40:31, "...they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint".

In view of that, the waiting period is a time for us to be renewed.

Although waiting appears to be difficult to many of us, it is crucial. We should submit ourselves to God and adhere to His word as we trust that He will show up and meet our needs.

BY OBEDIENCE NORUPURI, IN
ZHEJIANG, HANGZHOU, CHINA

SOCIAL LIFE



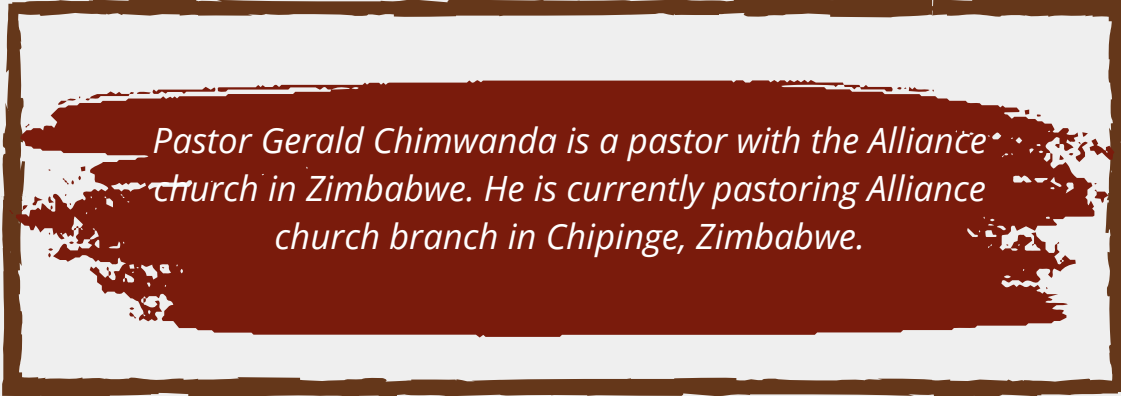
ENJOYING EACH OTHER: SUSTAINING LOVE FOR LIFE



BY PASTOR GERALD CHIMWANDA IN
CHIPINGE, ZIMBABWE

Marriage is so sweet. It is an institution that was ordained by God for a man and wife to enjoy each other's company, to help each other and become the best of what they are destined to.

While most of us wholeheartedly prepared to get married, it is unfortunate that alarming numbers of couples today are enduring instead of enjoying marriage, while in worst extremes, some are divorcing while others are committing suicide and killing each other.



Pastor Gerald Chimwanda is a pastor with the Alliance church in Zimbabwe. He is currently pastoring Alliance church branch in Chipinge, Zimbabwe.

This article therefore shares some of the ways we may consider to apply towards sustaining marital love.

Partnering as visionaries

Usually, men are vision-oriented. They have a hunter's mentality. They chase prey. When seeking a relationship, males pursue females like preys. After catching a prey, and exchanging rings, the pursuit ends. Somehow, one may find him/herself losing love after tying the knot. A number of factors cause that – mainly husbands tend to give too much attention on building stability and eventually neglecting marital love. When facing such experiences, the best way to engage with the husband is to partner

him in pursuing a life-building vision together. When couples integrally support each other and share ideas and every engagement together, they overcome individualism and grow collectiveness.

Understanding love language

Many say that love is a universal language but I have come to understand that it is expressed differently by different people. One of the greatest challenges amongst couples is understanding how they express love to each other.

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SOCIAL LIFE



ENJOYING EACH OTHER:
SUSTAINING LOVE FOR LIFE

Love is defined and expressed differently. As Ephesians 5:22–28 indicates, Paul teaches wives to submit to their husbands. I submit that love manifests through respect and submission. When a man does not feel respected, he may not feel loved. Similarly, when a woman is not attended to, she may not feel loved. So, besides speaking out how much we love each other, it's important for us to always demonstrate our love in respecting and attending to each other. While there are many ways of showing respect and attention, consulting each other before making any major decisions, avoiding arguing, gently making suggestions as well as giving time and serving each other can be part of helpful strategies. If one wrongs his/her spouse, saying 'I am sorry' heals any wounds of hurt faster than silence.

Becoming one

Ephesians 5:31 says that “therefore a man shall leave his mother and father, shall cleave unto his wife and the two shall become one flesh”. This means that couples should bond and become one in all angles such as commitments and passions (i.e. showing interest and supporting each other on occupations, hobbies etcetera). When two withstand their differences and commonalities, the eventually enjoy each other physically, sexually, spiritually and in all other fronts. Consequently, they can then feel always excited to be together anywhere.

Mastering communication

Communication refers to an art of gathering, preparing and disseminating information. In that regard, some of us cannot hold a conversation with each other for more than thirty minutes. Others hardly communicate. When two cannot communicate with each other effectively, they cannot understand each other. Thus, they can easily misunderstand each other and misfire against themselves. It is always critical for two to find best ways of communicating with each other to build understanding and resultantly grow love for each other. Emailing, texting, calling and talking face to face do not effect same results. Each couple should therefore consider the best way to communicate with each other for different issues and contexts. Serious issues that need detailed information and explanations will always need face to face dialogue. Yet lovely Sms, WhatsApp or related chats can sometimes add flavor when away from each other.

A lot of people got into marriage thinking it's all about sex. While sexual enjoyment is part of it, partnering as visionaries, understanding love, becoming one, mastering communication and deliberately working out other ways of growing love for each other matters much.

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

MULTI-TALENTED APOSTOLIC COUPLE SING THE GOSPEL



APOSTLE AND MRS MAJAYA

Attempting to profile and promote upcoming talents from the margins, *Ecclesia Today* engaged one of the most multi-talented couples in the Southern city of Zimbabwe, apostles Majaya in Masvingo. Their story is inspiring, enlightening and transforming. Enjoy excerpts of the interview below;

Question 1 : What is your full name and surname?

Apostle Majaya: Nicholas Majaya
Mrs Majaya: Apostle Rosemary Majaya

Question 2 : When were you born?

Apostle Majaya: July the 8th 1967
Mrs Majaya: 22 December 1967

Question 3 : Where were you born?

Apostle Majaya: Lundi Mission Clinic, but was raised up in Mbaimbai Village under chief Madzivire area in Chivi District, Masvingo Province of Zimbabwe.
Mrs Majaya: Chipinge, Zimbabwe

Question 4: What's the name of your church?

Apostle Majaya: United Pentecostal Ministries
Mrs Majaya: United Pentecostal Ministries

Question 5: When did you found your denomination?

Apostle Majaya: Officially founded in 2012
Mrs Majaya: 2012

Question 6 : Which church(es) did you attend before you formed yours?

Apostle Majaya: Assemblies of God and Apostolic Faith Mission.

Mrs Majaya: Apostolic Faith ministries (AFM) and Apostolic church of Pentecost (ACOP)

Question 7: Please tell us about your educational qualifications?

Apostle Majaya: O' level in 1985. Diploma in Religious Studies 1992-1994
-Higher Level Diploma in Religious Studies. 2010- 2012

Mrs Majaya: O' level; Higher Diploma in Theology, Early Childhood development & care

Question 8: Where did you attend your primary, secondary and tertiary studies?

Apostle Majaya: Primary School. Madzivire, Zunga and Ratelshoek. Secondary School. Power from On High Bible College; Masvingo Bible Institute.

Mrs Majaya: Chinaa Primary school, Ratleshook secondary school, ECDC (Ministry of Education in Gweru), Diploma in Theology with Satellite Bible college international, and Masvingo Bible Institute

Question 9: What inspired you to become a gospel musician?

Apostle Majaya: It's purely God's call upon my life.
Mrs Majaya: It's a calling from God.

Question 10: What's your mission in music?

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PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

MULTI-TALENTED APOSTOLIC COUPLE SING THE GOSPEL

Apostle Majaya: Preaching the gospel of Christ and encouraging the saints. Last but not least earn a living from music proceeds.
Mrs Majaya: Entertaining and preaching to people

Question 11: What’s your vision in your music ministry?

Apostle Majaya: To reach every ear in Zimbabwe and other Nations around us, with the intention of glorifying Jesus which will not only benefit God’s Kingdom and also at the same time upgrade my personal life as people buy my music.

Mrs Majaya: To lead people to know and relate with God as the author and finisher of their faith

Question 12: Which tracks and albums have you produced so far?

Apostle Majaya: Two albums namely,
1.Hope for Zimbabwe
2.Roputika Vhangeri (2022)
The other three was a combined effort with my wife (Rosemary). These are,
1. Handingasare.
2. Shumba Yajudha.
3. Magiredha

I also have five singles to my credit.

Mrs Majaya: Two personal albums, ten tracks (Handingasari & eight track album Kutapira kweshoko;
Two combined albums with my husband namely Magiredha and Handingakoni; two singles – Covid-19 song Tibatsirei; Makamisa gomo; Gore rino – collaborating with pastor Haisa and many others.
I also have multiple videos on YouTube (N&R Majaya Music)

Question 13: Who is your local role model?

Apostle Majaya: Baba and Amai Charamba. Matthias Mhere

Mrs Majaya: Pastor & amai Charamba and Baba Manyeruke



Question 14: Who is your international role model?

Apostle Majaya: 1. Itani Madhima
2. Siphosiphiso Makabani

Mrs Majaya: Shingisai Suluma and Siphosiphiso Makhabani

Question 15: How do you balance your attention to your music ministry, and your apostolic ministry?

Apostle Majaya: It’s not easy but quite workable. Most of my songs come as I prepare messages to preach.

Mrs Majaya: It’s just by divine enablement

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PROMOTIONAL FEATURE



MULTI-TALENTED APOSTOLIC
COUPLE SING THE GOSPEL

Question 16: What’s your other occupation besides gospel music?

Apostle Majaya: I love evangelism and outreaches fulltime and doing Apostolic work.

Mrs Majaya: I do some projects to serve the community and my full time ministry

Question 17: What’s you hobby?

Apostle Majaya: I love watching and also playing football

Mrs Majaya: Watching athletics

Question 18: What’s most important that you wish the world to know about you?

Apostle Majaya: I desire to live a life which defines me as a God glorifier in everything and in every way.

Mrs Majaya: That I’m an encourager of good morals and Worshiper of God
- Those who want to support this good work to do so , that will be well appreciated

YOUTUBE (N&R MAJAYA MUSIC)



Question 19: Any message of advice you can give to upcoming gospel musicians today?

Apostle Majaya: Keep pushing, keep climbing higher and higher, don’t throw in the towel when things seem not to be working we will get there. It’s a matter of time.

Mrs Majaya: Stick to your vision
- Involve God in everything you do
- Produce good quality stuff
- Love and uphold one another as musicians
- Stay Blessed

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

EBENEZER ENVISIONS TRANSFORMATIONAL MUSIC



EBENEZER MURONZIWA

As Nathanael once asked, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?” and Philip said “Come and see” when Jesus Christ was born there (John 1:46), *Ecclesia Today* calls us to come and see a musical gem who is slowly but surely rising from one of the most belittled borderlands of Zimbabwe, Gokwe;

1.What is your full name and surname my brother?

I am Ebenezer Muronziwa

2.When were you born?

I was born on 21 December in 1997

3.Where were you born?

Mtora General hospital, Gokwe North.



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PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

EBENEZER ENVISIONS TRANSFORMATIONAL MUSIC



4. What's the name of your church?

Assemblies of God church

5. Please tell us about your educational qualifications?

I ended with my ordinary levels.

6. Where did you attend your primary, secondary and tertiary studies?

Mhumha Primary School, Nembudzia Government High School

7. What inspired you to become a gospel musician?

My father is a singer so he is the one who inspired me to pursue music.

8. What's your mission in music?

I need the world to know God and his power through music.

9. What's your vision in your music ministry?

I pray and wish my music ministry to inform and transform lives beyond Gokwe.

10. Which tracks and albums have you produced so far?

I have four tracks so far.

11. Who is your local role model?

Takesure Zamah Ncube and Charles Charamba.

12. What else do you do besides music?

I run a broiler project.

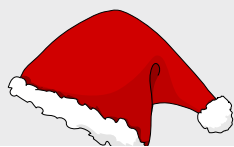
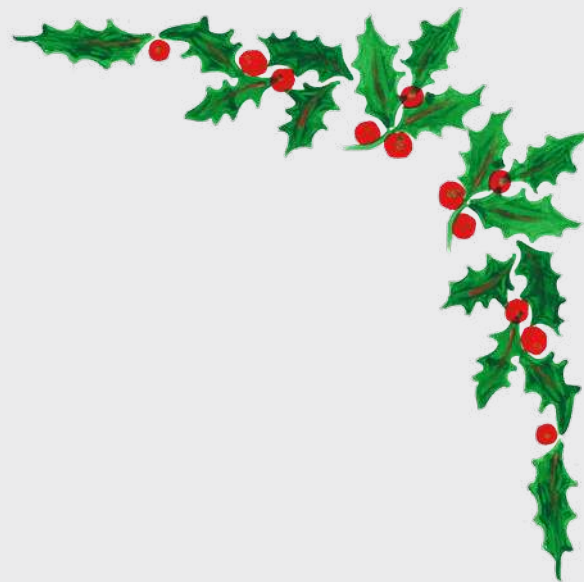
13. What's most important that you wish the world to know about you?

I wish the world to know that I am a born again Christian who loves God, and I wish everyone whom I come across to get born again if not yet, and to grow in Christ.

EBENEZER MURONZIWA

ECCLESIA

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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



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