



Heart of Compassion Missionary Ministries Newsletter

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Pursuing Your God-Given Destiny

Every believer has a God-given destiny that is a part of God's master plan for the world. Some believers have a call to go to places in the world that another person wouldn't dare go. Whereas, another believer may be called to do something that may not be daring at all, but nevertheless just as important. Whatever God has called you to do, whether it is going, supporting those who go, praying, or evangelizing in your local area, all are very important steps to reaching the destiny that God has planned for your life.

As you pursue the destiny that God has for your life, you will be faced with situations and circumstances that will discourage you. From this discouragement, you will realize that pursuing your God-given destiny is not as easy as you thought it would be. Why?

Although you may have given your life to Christ, you still live in a world filled with evil and destruction. In the Bible, John 15:19 and John 17:14-15, the Scriptures tell us that we live in the world, but we are not of the world. This means that as believers in Christ Jesus, we live in the

world, **physically**, but we do not hold the same values as people of the world.

Furthermore, even though you are saved through Christ Jesus, you can still be affected by the world, **if YOU allow yourself to be affected**. You see, when you accept Christ in your life, you are immediately covered by the Blood of Jesus, but the moment you let your guard down by entertaining self-pity, envy, strife, and whatever else that is not of God, you have uncovered yourself. The door will open for Satan to come in to steal your joy, kill your hope, and lead you down a path of destruction, which will prevent you from reaching your God-given destiny.

But this doesn't have to happen. Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead so that you can live in a world filled with wickedness and evil but not be **infected** by it.

Even though your situation may seem impossible, Jesus said, "... **all things are possible to him who believes**" (Mark 9:23).

Even more so, you can live a positive, faith-filled life despite your circumstances. For example, Abraham waited 25 years for the son God promised, Joseph was in

prison for 13 years before his life changed, and David was anointed king of Israel, but it was 13 years before he assumed the throne as king. In reading about these patriarchs of faith, you know that they had troubles. Jesus said it Himself, "***In this world you will have tribulation***" (John 16:33). In other words, you will have troubles. Yes, there will be challenging periods in your life, but you must use these experiences to produce perseverance and develop the character that you will need to reach your God-given destiny.

Pursuing Our God-Given Destiny

As God calls us to go from one country to the next, Linda and I have encountered many obstacles, which could have discouraged us. But since we know that we will have troubles, we continue to move forward by faith in the direction that God has called for us to go.

We also realize that despite the troubles that we encounter along the way that our God-given destiny is a part of God's master plan; to bring people out of darkness and into His light.

A New Mission to Zambia

On this mission, God sent us to Zambia which is a country located on the continent of Africa. Zambia was once a territory of Northern Rhodesia which was governed by the (British) South Africa Company from 1891 until it was taken over by the United Kingdom in 1923. The name, Northern Rhodesia, was changed to Zambia upon independence in 1964.

If you look at the map, you can see that Zambia is a landlocked country that shares a border with Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.



Even though Zambia is 50 to 75 percent Christian, 24 to 49 percent of the population has Muslim and Hindu beliefs, and 1 percent of the population have indigenous beliefs, many of which have yet to hear the gospel. Furthermore, there are many poor people who are crying out for help and encouragement.

Lusaka Family Church



While in Zambia, we worked with Pastors Arnold and Giesla Nel of Lusaka Family Church and were hosted by friends of the family, Victor and Lucy Michello.



You might be asking, why Zambia? Although we have never been to Zambia, we are pursuing the destiny that God has for our life, which is part of God's master plan for the world. God wants all of us to be a part of His master plan, but to do so, we must be obedient. Therefore, wherever He calls us to go, we go. Whatever He calls us to do, we do.

With that in mind, while in Zambia, God cleared a path for us to help 14 little girls in a girl's home, as well as oversee a project to install a bore hole that will provide water for people in a rural area.

Daughters of Zion International home for girls

While serving in Lusaka, Zambia, we were introduced to 14 little girls who touched our heart. These 14 little girls are a part of an organization directed by two young women dedicated to preventing the victimization of children that can occur from extreme poverty,

abandonment, and the death of parents.



Shani Britton and Njavwa Namwila are directors of Daughters of Zion International.



Since its inception in 2003, D.O.Z.I.N. has held to the belief that everyone can do something, large or small, to demonstrate God's love and care to the disadvantaged. They believe that a selfless commitment to changing lives empowers the oppressed to be the transformers of their own communities.

The organization is also helping to change the systems that can lead to the abandonment, abuse, and neglect of children.

By helping children to establish a strong foundation; spiritually, emotionally, and physically, as they mature, they will discover their God-given destiny. In doing so, they will see that they

are a part of God's plan and that they can be a positive role model in the lives of other children.

This organization is really making a difference for young girls in Zambia and need a lot of help. We realized that they needed help when we visited the house that was temporarily rented to them. We saw that there was one stove that was not working properly.



Through your donations, we purchased a 5 burner stove. The good thing about this purchase is that it is a gas and electric stove, so when there are electricity cuts, they will have the option of using propane. We thank you again for your donations!



God's Heart is for the Poor

As we entered into the Chikolomo, Chongwe District of Zambia, with Evangelist Christine of Lusaka Family Church, we could see that there are still many, many poor people who are barely getting by and whom have yet to hear the gospel. The Bible says ***"When the poor and needy search***

for water and there is none, and their tongues are parched from thirst, then I, the Lord, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will never abandon them. (Isaiah 41:17, NLT).

It is apparent from Scriptures throughout the Bible that God has a heart for the poor and the needy and will answer their prayers.



As believers, we are the body that God uses to carry out His plan. In Proverbs 14:31, it says, ***"...whoever is kind to the needy honors God."*** Our actions towards the poor and needy are a direct reflection of our love for God and demonstrates our love and hope for the poor.

As we spoke with Evangelist Christine, we learned that she was pursuing her God-given destiny; evangelizing in the rural area of the Chikolomo, Chongwe District of Zambia. As she pursues her destiny, she will encounter problems but by believing in her heart that what she is doing is God's plan for the world, she will not allow seeds of doubt to stop her from accomplishing God's plan.

In fact, God has already given Evangelist Christine a strategy for reaching people in the rural area. The closest water for people living

in the rural area is several miles away. Evangelist Christine's plan is to place a bore hole in the area. This will not only provide natural water for the people but through preaching the gospel, they will begin to be filled with the eternal water, of Christ Jesus.

Evangelist Christine is also working to construct a building where she will teach life skills to help people in the rural area develop spiritually and economically.

Women at Risk

Our journey continues to Debre Zeyit, Ethiopia. The issues of prostitution in Ethiopia are not much different from the rest of the world. It has a lot to do with poverty, lack of educational and job opportunities for girls, breakdown of families, teenage pregnancy, sexual, emotional, and physical abuse of children.

When a few of these factors are combined, the push on young girls to veer towards prostitution can occur. After that, once a young girl or woman gets involved in prostitution, the face of their original problems change. Other issues begin to emerge, such as; loss of self worth, addictions and destructive behaviors.

During our stay in Debre Zeyit, we met with the

Directors of Women at Risk, a Christian organization, led by Negist Brhanu and Michelle Tiatia.



Negist and Michelle, both saw a need in their community and decided to do something about it. God placed it on their heart to pursue their God-given destiny by establishing an area office of Women at Risk to help young girls and women in Debre Zeyit, Ethiopia. The primary goal of Women at Risk (WAR) is to love, accept and reach out to urban women in prostitution with a view of building the community through relationships and improving their quality of life through prevention and education programs. Although poverty and unemployment are common reasons for young women getting into prostitution, there are other issues that have contributed to them being involved in this lifestyle, such as, dysfunctional families and sexual abuse. The majority of ladies that attend are young girls that are primary school drop-outs or have no schooling, which limits their ability to take life-changing steps. Counseling, training and teaching are all tailored towards helping the women face and deal with the variety of problems and life issues positively and constructively.

Once they reach the point of positive behavioral changes, WAR

teaches the girls various practical skills to help them gain employment or start their own small businesses as a viable alternative to prostitution. As Negist Brhanu and Michelle Tiatia serve in their God-given destiny of helping women, they are making a difference in the lives by helping Women at Risk.

We are also working with Pastor Solomon and the elders of Berhane Wongel Church (Light of the Gospel) in Ethiopia to reach their God given destiny. We are helping



generate income for their church through a business development program by purchasing a Bajaj taxi. We will keep you posted.

Progress in Gondar

Pastor Yemane of Christian's Temple Church updated us since our last visit in 2012. He told us that they have since sold the old church building and have put the profits toward a new building. Remember, the old church building was located in a predominately Orthodox area and city leaders prohibited him from holding Sunday services there because the local residents do not agree with Pentecostal beliefs.



Since then, Pastor Yemane has been given approval to build a church in a strategic location that is more accessible to people than where the previous church was located. So far, one section of the building has been erected. Despite his troubles, Pastor Yemane continues to pursue his God-given destiny.

Thank You

We love the destiny that God has commissioned us for and we will not stop until His work is completed. We are praying that we will have the funds to install a bore hole in the rural area of Zambia. The cost is approximately \$5,500. We are also praying for a home for the 14 little girls of Daughters of Zion. Please remember these prayers during your prayer time.

Reaching People and Touching Lives Around the World

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them..." (Matthew 9:36)

Dr. Tracy and Linda Sharpe

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