MY DOUBLE
LIFE CAUGHT UP WITH ME

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“Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honorable, and I have loved you;...” - Isaiah 43:4 (MEV)
My double life caught up with me!

By Maggie Sithole

Gloria became bored after being a member of the Universal Church for five years because she did not invest in her spiritual life and all her friends were not church members.

She could not resist the temptation to start drinking, going to nightclubs and dating many men which was how her friends behaved. She was 13 years old when her mother introduced her to the church, but she wanted to experience the lifestyle of her friends and skipped church services.

"I was in high school when I met friends who drank alcohol and went to parties. I felt that my life was boring. I sometimes went to the church, but spent most of my time with friends. We went to parties, drank alcohol and dated different men who gave me money that I used for entertainment," she said.

"I heard the preaching about the importance of being faithful to God with my life. I knew God was talking to me through the preaching and I felt guilty. However, I continued with that lifestyle because I thought I was enjoying life," said Gloria.

The lifestyle that Gloria chose brought emptiness into her life.

"I felt that there was something missing inside me and no men or alcohol could fill up that space. In my mind I knew it was God who could give me true happiness," she said.

Gloria only realised that life was too short to be wasted after a man tried to rape her at gun point. "It was at night and we were coming from my friend’s place. When we walked past an open field, he pointed a gun at me. He told me to take off my clothes, but I refused. He started beating me and I thought he was going to shoot me. I prayed and asked God to give me a second chance to change.

He stopped beating me and even offered to take me home. I was surprised, because he had wanted to rape and kill me. When I arrived home, my mother could not recognise me because my face was swollen. I could see she was shocked and scared of what she saw," said Gloria.

That was when Gloria took the decision to change and become a better woman. She took part in the chains of prayer on Fridays for her deliverance in 2012.

"I then joined the youth group of the church and committed my life to God. I did not want anything to do with my old friends and their influences and I stopped drinking alcohol. I deleted their numbers and lost all contact with them. I can’t even stand the smell of alcohol. I also stopped dating different men," she said.

She attended Wednesday services for her spiritual life to develop. "I was baptised with the Holy Spirit and found inner peace. I now have a job, and God filled in the missing pieces of the puzzle of my life. God continues to bless my life. I later found a well-paid job. I bought myself a car and in October this year I bought a house. I am independent and I don’t need money from men because I know God is my only provider," said Gloria.

THE LOSS I FELT FORCED ME TO CHANGE

By Maggie Sithole

The sudden death of his wife challenged Justice to change his behaviour and pay more attention to his children. He was drinking heavily and spent weekends away from home with his friends.

"I went to taverns every weekend and returned home late at night. My wife and children would already be asleep when I got home. I did not have a relationship with my children because they hardly saw me or spent time with me, but I made sure they had everything they needed," he said.

After 12 years of marriage, Justice’s wife collapsed and died.

"I was at work when I received the news of my wife’s passing. My world came crashing down...I cried like a baby and felt hopeless..." said Justice.

"I was at work when I received the news of my wife’s passing. My world came crashing down...I cried like a baby and felt hopeless..."

After the funeral Justice took his children, who were 14 and two years old at that time, to his mother. After six months Justice moved back to his parents’ house in order to help his mother with the children.

"I stopped drinking alcohol because I felt my children needed me more than they did when their mother was still alive. However, I battled to quit smoking because it calmed down my nerves," he said.

The following year, Justice was invited to the Universal Church and started attending services because he wanted his life to change. He took part in the chains of prayer on Fridays for deliverance.

"I asked God to deliver me from smoking because I wanted to live a healthy life and be there for my children. As I continued coming to the church, I was able to forgive myself for not being there for my wife and accepted that she was gone. I was able to stop smoking after a year in the church. I spent time with my children because I wanted them to receive the love they needed. I became involved in their social activities and helped them with their homework. Their performance at school improved as well as our relationship," said Justice.

His daughter is now in high school while his son is at pre-school. "I am grateful to God for giving me a new lease on life to raise my children and be there for them," said Justice.
I was raised by brothers who drank

By Nikwe Titus
uckg.org.za

Being raised by his brothers without any parental guidance exposed Paul to the abuse of alcohol as a child. His mother was abducted by soldiers during a war in his country when Paul was only three years old.

“My father worked and lived in Johannesburg, so my brothers took over the responsibility of raising me. They had no one to look up to and they did what was good in their eyes.

They gave me alcohol from the age of five and I started drinking it voluntarily as I grew up. No one reprimanded me, instead they made it a joke that I drank like my grandfather who was an alcoholic. Growing up without parents around was normal for me because I did not have any memories of them,” he said.

Paul came to look for a job in South Africa when he was 17 years old.

“I hitch-hiked and I didn’t know where I was going to sleep. On my arrival in South Africa I was dropped off near a farm in Mpumalanga and the owner offered me a job and a place to stay. I worked there and made enough money to keep me going. It wasn’t long after that my alcohol addiction got me fired. I then went to a mine in Johannesburg with a hope of finding my father. I sold cigarettes to earn a living, but I drank every cent I made. I later had to flee the area because men from there wanted to kill me for sleeping with their girlfriends,” he said.

He then moved to central Johannesburg where he lived on the streets with nothing but the clothes he was wearing.

“I begged for money and food during the day. Night times were a nightmare because I had no blankets to cover myself. I slept on cardboard boxes. Going back home was the last thing I thought of because there was nothing good that I left behind.

One morning I met people who were from my country and they offered me a place to stay, clean clothes and food. That same year I was invited to the Universal Church. Within a week in the church, I was able to quit alcohol and cigarettes,” he said.

One of the members of the church gave Paul money to start a small business. He sold airtime vouchers on the streets and his business grew. He later bought a machine to print airtime vouchers.

“I have a company that supplies airtime vouchers to different retail shops around Soweto. I also bought a car, a Jeep Cherokee. Coming to God gave me the love of God that I never received from my parents. It turned me into the responsible man that I am today. I found wisdom for a blessed financial life,” said Paul.

unable to cope with her financial struggles and family problems, Aletta tried to commit suicide.

Her mother died when she was 15 years old and two weeks after the funeral, her father’s girlfriend moved in with them.

“We lived in a family house with my grandmother while my father and his girlfriend lived at the backyard. I thought she was going to comfort and help my father to take care of me and my sister, who was two years old. However, she turned our father against us. It did not take long for my father to stop taking care of us financially. His girlfriend did not want him to buy us clothes and shoes or supply our basic needs,” said Aletta.

Her grandmother had to take over and provide for Aletta and her sister. “My grandmother was not working. We depended on her grant for everything. I did not have any hard feelings for my father’s girlfriend. Instead I was angry and bitter towards my father who did not provide for us. I sometimes wished that my mother was still alive because she took care of us,” said Aletta.

To earn extra cash, Aletta worked at a salon after school. “It hurt me seeing my grandmother struggling to provide for us. As the elder sister, I felt that it was my responsibility to do something about our home situation, I found a temporary job at a salon. After school I went to work. It was not easy because I was always tired at school. With the money I earned, I was able to buy food for the house, pay for my school trips and buy clothes for my sister and I,” said Aletta.

When she completed her matric, she could not further her studies because of her financial problems. “I was sad because I knew my father could afford it, but he did not care about me. I felt helpless in the situation and thought ending my life was going to put an end to my suffering. I drank an overdose of tablets, hoping to die, but to my surprise nothing happened,” she said.

A few months after her failed attempt at suicide, Aletta watched the Universal Church’s programme on television. “I heard testimonies from people who had hit rock bottom but had built up their lives through their faith and that gave me hope. I looked for the nearest church and started attending services. I felt lighter and happier on my first day at church,” said Aletta.

She took part in the chains of prayer on Fridays for her deliverance. “I learned how to use my faith in order to change my situation. I was first delivered from suicidal thoughts and saw life in a different way.

I understood I am precious and was born for a purpose,” she said.

Two years later in the church, she had her financial breakthrough. “I found a job and my life started to improve. I was able to take care of my sister and grandmother. That gave me great satisfaction knowing that we do not need to depend on anyone except for God,” said Aletta.

As a child of God, Aletta believed that she could achieve even greater things in life. She continued taking part in the movements of faith. “I was able to forgive my father and that opened great doors for my blessings. In 2003 I found another job with a better salary.

Two years later I was able to buy a house and a car. I am now able to provide my family with the things I could not before. I now live peacefully with everyone around me,” she said.
Gauteng
Alexandria 1: 740 Pretoria Main Road, Coral Link Road
Benoni (Main): 70 Cranbourne Avenue (Next to Macdonald’s)
Brakpan: Shop 3 & 4 Kitchener & High Street, Olympic Centre, (Victoria Ave)
Daveyton 1: 1839 Eiken Street (Next to Engen garage)
Daveyton 2: 9546 Eiken Street Daveyton Review former Cinema
Dobsonville: 4337 Main Road, Dobsonville
Duduzi 1: 4818 Mphu Street, Extention 3
Elizebeth: Ef 57158 The Hom Str - Elizawawa-Daveyton
Editorado: Sinkel Road, Ext. 5 (White tent, Next to Shoprite 7 and Shell Garage)
Evaton: 248 Bodea Road, (next to Evaton: tent, Next to Shoprite 7 and Shell Garage)
Finnstown: 9 Buitenkant Street (near Duinefontein Road - New Brighton)
Khayelitsha: 15 Leeukop Street, Unit B, Ithala Premises Kwa Meoyi
Kwathema 1: Kempton Park
Kwathema: Kagiso (Main): (Next to KFC) 60 Pretoria Street, Highpoint Railway Road, (Opp. Total Garage)
Fine Town (Main): 9 Fonteine, Golden Springs 348 Bodea Road, (next to Evaton: tent, Next to Shoprite 7 and Shell Garage)
KwaZulu Natal
Durban (Main): 465 Anton Lombode Smith Street, (Opp. Duduza Centre)
Kwa Masuhu: 91 Bogiheane Road
Pinetown: 28 Crompton Street Mndoni Centre
Hammersdale: BB83/3 - Mpyumulangis Unit II, Ilheias Properties Kwa Mecwi
Stanger: 39 Calicoon Street
Ntsuama: 1 Ntsuama Shopping Centre, Ihaha Centre (Next To Ntsuama Clinic)
Port Shepstone: Shop no 2 Robertson Street
Phoenix: 6c Samora Machel & Petroleum Street (Behind Buscor Terminus)
Pinetown: Nolite Shopping Complex
Dundonald: EFF 713. (Next to taxi rank)
Witbank: 9 Areas Street, Witbank CBD
Ermelo: location
Brackenhurst: 3 Small Street (Next to the main taxi rank)
Delmas: 28 Saul Cillers Street, Delmas
Limpopo
Polokwane: 101 General Joubert & Robie Street, (Next to KwK Fit)
Turffoep: Shop 6A, Zone A, University Street, Turffoep Shopping Centre
Tzanes: Grotia Gebou Building, 9 Kudu Street
North West
Rustenburg: 1 134 Klopper Street, Rustenburg
Brits: Shop Number 10 Panasar Street - Imruth Murray Street
Jouberton: 150 Emangweni Street
Kana: 1908 Ramcoswaria Road Orkney
Mahikeng: 35 Main Street Mahikeng
Kroonspruit: 3305, Zone 2, Kroonspruit
Schweizer-Reneke: 765 Serame Street, (Next to petrol station)
Your nearest UCKG:

Soweto (Main):
Cnr Irene nr & Kukwesr Drive Zone 5, Dalesford

Maketsa: 6975 Makente Street, Khathma
Mabapsane: 2733 Block B - Next to Tlamekong Clinic
Meadowlands (Main): 21332 kipswe Street, Zone 6, Meadowlands West
Merafe: 2311 Moilani Molwa Street, Soweto (Behind PK & Pav)
Orange Farm: 1 Falcon Road, Ext. 6A, Pretoria Ext
Prehatra: 175 Nana Sita street (old Skinner str) Pretoria Central
Porthe Gose: 826 Ithala Street, Cty Ithala/gawax Street
Rabie Ridge: 786 Reeldruker Street (Opp. 107 Garage)
Randfontein: 4 Old & Bram Fischer, (Opp. General Mall)
Randfontein: 197th Street Lomba Building, opp Middas
Rockville: Ef 146056, Ntabathiba Street
Roodpoort: 37 Moci Street
Soshanguve: 306 Mthunzi Street, Zone 10 (Formerly Freddie’s supermarket)
Springs: Flat Floor, Ef 977, Ceduli, Springs
Spruitview: 23 Cty Brickfield & Moagi Road
Thembisa: 1-87 Kestrel Street Mahaloh, Ditlakeng
Thokoza: 1 1838 Rakoma Street (Opp Shell Garage)
Tsakane: 2745 Mabaso str, Corner Shado and Mabaso
Vanderbijlpark: Shop No. 4, C Diy 2911 Mokopong
Voorspoed: 8384 Heidelberg Road, Cty Mixture Place (Next to Big Hall community)
Western Cape
Cape Town: 51 Buitenkant Street (near the Grand Parade)
Khayelitsha: 54 Nkazi Street, Ithala Park
Nyanga Junction: Dunoonfontein Road

Makapa: 6495 Makapa Street, Khathma
Maibapane: 2733 Block B - Next to Tlamekong Clinic
Meadowlands (Main): 21332 kipswe Street, Zone 6, Meadowlands West
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Voorspoed: 8384 Heidelberg Road, Cty Mixture Place (Next to Big Hall community)

East Cape
East London (Main): 5 Gladstone Street
Port Alfred: 3465 Endoniom Village
Gonubie: 259 Mzamomhle Township Fort Beaufort: 84 Campbell Street, Dimbaza
Mthatha (Main): No. 36 Owen St (Next to Mehta Sigauq Building)
Nerongomu: Cn Nerongomu & Sapien Street (New Brighton)
Grahamstown: 33 Beaufort Street (Opposite the Police station)
Korsten: 1st Floor. Erven 1611 & 1612
Korsten Man Street: Cnr Palms & Gowan Mbali Avenue
Siddell: 96 Commercial Road
Uitenhage: 13 Chase Street
Humanzomo: Jerry Kobelo Street, Kwanzomomo

Free State
Bicentsoo: 60 Church Street (Next to the main taxi rank)
Batlo: 1024 (Opp. Excellence School & Safari Garage)
Qwa Qwa: Motalo Complex Shopping 2 Phuthaditsha
Bethlehem: 92 Masello Street
Bloemfontein: 9701
Maikel: Maikle Shopping Centre
Harivating: 47 Stuart Street
Brandlto: 1044 Mmamorleng
Marquard: 8 Van Der Walt Street
Clocolan: 27a, General Avenue, Clocolan

Northern Cape
Kimberley: 18 Curme Street (Behind Home Affairs)
Delpoor: Cnr Deport and Sibntlos Street, (Next to Comes Garage)
Hartswater: Phokwane Way 3
Uitenhage: 15 Uitenhage Street, (Next to the main taxi rank)

Northern Cape
Kimberley: 18 Curme Street (Behind Home Affairs)
Delpoor: Cnr Deport and Sibntlos Street, (Next to Comes Garage)
Hartswater: Phokwane Way 3
Uitenhage: 15 Uitenhage Street, (Next to the main taxi rank)