



# Stop Suffering!

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## WE DEPENDED ON 'DOEK MONEY'!

“My salary was less than R2,000 a month which was too little to cover my family’s needs... I felt humiliated because my husband sold ‘doeks’ on the streets.”

SIBONGILE TELLS MORE ON PAGE 3

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# WORKER'S PRAYER

5:55AM - 6AM (MON-FRI) ON **e**



# FORGIVENESS

## ...HEALED ME FROM GRUDGES!

By Maggie Sithole  
uckg.org.za

In search of freedom away from her parents, 14-year-old Manini left home to live with a friend who was alone in her family's house in KwaZulu Natal. Her parents lived and worked in Johannesburg. "I was in high school doing grade nine. I longed to live away from my parents so that I could do different things with my life. I started drinking alcohol and dating many men. My parents sent me R500 every week and I used it on alcohol and friends. I drank the weekends away and went back home on Monday morning to sleep all day. My homework was not done and I didn't study. Although only 14, I dated much older men who had cars because I wanted them to drop me off at school every day," said Manini.

Because she failed grade nine, Manini decided to give up drinking and focus on her studies.

"That same year I went back to my parents. I didn't stop dating, but this time the men I saw were not as old as my previous boyfriends. My marks improved and I passed my grades. I fell pregnant when I was in grade 11 and eventually

dropped out of school. My mother was so disappointed when she heard the news. She cried like a baby because she thought my future was ruined," Manini said.

Her boyfriend married her and life seemed good for a while.

"I was a happy housewife who had everything she needed, but that all changed after I found a job. My husband hated the fact that I was not home all the time. He became jealous and accused me of cheating on him with other men. He beat me up and insulted me in front of our son. He insisted on taking me to work every morning to check if I was cheating on him or not. It hurt so deeply to know that he did not trust me. Going home at the end of the day terrified me because all I had to look forward to were more beatings and hurtful words," she said.

Manini developed hatred towards her husband.

"I couldn't stand his company and even had doubts that I still loved him," said Manini.

Manini told her colleague about her problems and was invited to the Universal Church in 2002.

"I was desperate for a change in my marriage and wished things could be the way they were before I started working,

but I did not want to leave my job. I took part in the chains of prayer on Thursdays for family and asked God to restore peace in my family," said Manini.

In the church she learned the importance of forgiveness and asked God to give her a forgiving heart.

"Forgiving my husband gave me the inner peace I longed for. God healed me inside and I was able to love and respect my husband again. My behaviour prompted him to change and he started treating me with respect. He stopped suspecting that I was cheating and trusted me. I am grateful for those three years of closeness and peace that we shared, before he took ill and passed away in 2005. My relationship with God helped me. I have no regrets and His presence helped me to heal after the death of my husband," said Manini. ☞



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"Since you were *precious* in My sight, you have been honorable, and I have loved you..."

- Isaiah 43:4 (MEV)

# I sought comfort in alcohol

By Nikiwe Titus  
uckg.org.za

Blinded by love, Elizabeth remained in an abusive relationship that left her bitter and heartbroken after eight years. She was 16 years old when she met her boyfriend.

"He started drinking and physically abused me two years into our relationship. I believed he was going to outgrow his drinking habit and violent behaviour. I thought he was the man I was going to spend the rest of my life with. He beat me up so badly that my whole body was swollen and

I could not walk the next morning. He was overly jealous and accused me of cheating on him with other men. He beat me up for that. When he was sober, he would apologise and promise not to hurt me again. I was young, naive and blinded by his love, so I believed him and forgave him every time. I did not see anything wrong with him being jealous and violent because I thought it meant that he loved me so much that he did not want any other man close to me," said Elizabeth.

To avoid questioning her boyfriend's abusive actions, Elizabeth found comfort in alcohol.

"I then understood where my partner got the strength and the energy to fight when he was drunk. When I was drunk, I also fought with him and would even overpower him. My siblings were afraid of me because I was uncontrollable when I drank. They were tired of getting involved in my fights," she said.

Unfortunately for Elizabeth, she fell pregnant. "I continued drinking while I was pregnant but my boyfriend did not stop abusing me. He beat me up during my pregnancy and did not care if he hurt the baby. I gave birth at seven months and my baby died a few days after he was born. Losing my precious baby hurt to the core. I did not think I was ever going to recover from the loss. It felt like a part of me had been torn away from me. I wanted to leave my boyfriend after the death of my baby, but I didn't think I could live without him," said Elizabeth.

Her boyfriend promised her that he would change and paid lobola for her.

"That gave me hope of a better future with him because I also did not want to lose him. It was not long after he paid lobola that he went back to his old ways. He drank heavily and beat me up. I threatened to leave him, but he begged me to stay because he did not want to disappoint our families," she said.

The pain inflicted by her partner left Elizabeth hurt and bleeding inside. She also became suicidal.

"I thought death was the only way I was going to leave him. It was after yet another fight with my boyfriend that I felt I couldn't take it any more. I prepared some battery acid to drink so that I could die and be free from this abuse. My brother came in just as I was about to drink the acid, and he grabbed it from me and threw it away," said Elizabeth.

That incident brought Elizabeth back to her senses. She realised she needed to leave the abusive relationship before something worse happened to her. Her cousin invited her to the Universal Church and she attended the services because she needed courage and strength to leave her partner. She took part in the chains of prayer on Fridays for her deliverance. She understood that alcohol was not the solution to her problems and stopped drinking after a week in the church.

"I left my partner and went back to my parents' place. I learned to forgive him for all the pain he put me through during the eight years we were together. I am at peace with everyone around me, including my family who used to be distant because of my violent behaviour. I know that at the right time God will bless me with a man who will love me and respect me, but I first needed to learn to respect myself as a woman. I started to love and value myself. I was delivered from suicidal thoughts and I understood how precious my soul was before God," said Elizabeth. ☞



# POVERTY NEARLY TURNED ME AGAINST MY HUSBAND!

By Nikiwe Titus  
uckg.org.za

For over four years, Sibongile and her family lived a life of poverty and humiliation. She was a domestic worker and only worked four days a week while her husband was a street vendor.

"My salary was less than R2,000 a month which was too little to cover my family's needs, our children's school fees and pay our rent. I sometimes took loans from my employer who deducted the money at month-end. That made things even harder for me because I was left with nothing and I was forced to take another loan. I would get angry and frustrated with my husband when he did not did not sell enough because we depended on his money for food. I called him names and told him how useless he was because he couldn't secure a proper job or provide for his family. That's when I noticed that my husband was becoming withdrawn," said Sibongile.

Her family's financial problems affected Sibongile's relationship with her husband. She was always irritable at home and felt her husband wasn't doing enough to find a job.

"I also felt humiliated to be associated with a man who sold 'doeks' on the street and wondered what people thought about me. Our neighbour, a Universal Church member who sometimes helped us with food, invited us to the church. My husband didn't want to go to church because our situation was so bad that he had lost confidence in himself and hope in God. I went alone and explained my problems to a pastor who offered me counselling. He also suggested that I engage in the chain of prayers. I came to church every day because I felt at peace in

church and became hopeful that God was going to change my situation," she said.

Shortly after Sibongile started attending the services, the church announced the Good Friday event.

"It was the *Nothing to Lose* event and I looked forward to attending it

Early Childhood Development. I worked during the day and went to school in the afternoon because I was determined to change my life," she said.

After she completed all her studies she started looking for a better job.

"I asked the

pastor to pray over my curriculum vitae, but he told me to use my faith and start my own day care centre instead of waiting for someone to employ me. That idea inspired me and made me realise I was not far from my financial freedom. Things started to change at home as I became polite to my husband and I understood

he was not unemployed on purpose. I showed him more respect as the head of the family and prayed for him. On the very day he went to the church with me he received a call and was offered a job," she said.

Sibongile took a leap of faith and left her job to start a day care centre in her house.

"I used my spiritual intelligence and put a board outside my house inviting parents to bring their children. I started with one child and, as the number grew, I used another room in my house. Now I have a bigger place to accommodate the growing number of children. I now have the financial freedom I did not have before I came to the church. I'm content with where God has placed me and my family. I'm glad I trusted Him with my problems. We are now a united family which shares the same faith and goals," said Sibongile. ☞

"I called my husband names and told him he was useless... I felt humiliated to be associated with a man who sold 'doeks' on the streets."

because I believed that by giving my problems to God, I had nothing to lose, but more to gain. I was encouraged to use my faith to change my situation. I left the event a different person and my spiritual life was full to the brim. I started saving up money and I registered to redo my matric at a night school. I passed and enrolled for a course in



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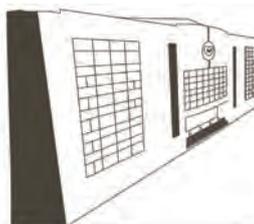

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**GAUTENG**

**Alexandra 1:** 740 Pretoria Main Road, Cnr Link Road  
**Benoni:** 70 Cranbourne Avenue (Next to ABSA)  
**Daveyton 1:** 9397 Eislen Street (Next to Engen garage)  
**Dobsonville:** 4337 Main Road, Dobsonville  
**Duduza 1:** 4B18 Mphuti Street, Extension 3  
**Eldorado:** Sirkel Road, Ext. 5 (White tent, Next to Shoprite 7 and Shell Garage)  
**Evaton:** 348 Bodea Road, (Next to Mmali's Shop) Evaton  
**Fine Town:** 9 Fonteine, Golden Highway, Grasmere  
**Germiston:** Cnr Voortrekker Street and Railway Road, (Opp. Total Garage)  
**Hillbrow:** 60 Pretoria Street, Highpoint  
**Kagiso:** Cnr Ngalonkulu Street & Thulani Drive, Hillsideview  
**Kempton Park:** 9 Pretoria Road (Next To Caltex Garage)  
**Kwathema 1:** 6993, Shabangu Street, Emajudeni (Next to Boxer Supermarket)  
**La Rochelle:** 18 Geranium Street, Cnr Prairie Street  
**Lenasia 1:** 1 Station Place, Ext 1, Former Apsara Cinema  
**Meadowlands:** 21332 Isigwe Street, Zone 6, Meadowlands West  
**Merape:** 2231 Moletsane Moliva Street, Soweto (Behind Pick 'n Pay)

**Orange Farm 1:** Orange Farm 1: Falcon Road, EXT 6A, (Near Spar)  
**Protea Glen:** 806 Isicibilili Street, Cnr Igwayigwayi Street  
**Rabie Ridge:** 706 Rietduiker Street (Opp. BP Garage)  
**Randburg 1:** 4 Dover & Bram Fischer, (Opp. Garden Mall)  
**Randfontein:** Roma Building, 17 Sixth Street (Opp. Midas)  
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**Springs:** First Floor, Erf 977, Geduld, Springs  
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**Thembisa 1:** 87 Kestrel Street, Mathole, Difaeng  
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**Vanderbijlpark:** Shop No. 4, C R Swart Street (Next to OK Furniture)  
**Vereeniging:** Shop 1, 8 Kruger Avenue (Opp Sassa)  
**Vosloorus:** 8384 Heidelberg Road, Cnr Mottile Street (Next to Ratanda Multipurpose Hall)  
**Pretoria:** 175 Nana Sita Street (old Skinner Street), Pretoria Central  
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**Nyanga Junction:** Complex shop 45, 46, 47 Manenburg, 1st floor, Duinefontein Road  
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**George:** 44 Sandkraal Road, Conville (Opp Sassa)

**KWA-ZULU NATAL**

**Durban:** 465 Anton Lembede (Smith) Street (Opp. Durdoc Centre)  
**Pinetown:** 28 Mdoni Centre, Crompton Street  
**Isipingo:** 115 - 122 Old Main Road (Opp. Sasol Garage)  
**Kwa Mashu:** P50 Bhejane Road  
 Phoenix: Shop No 7 Gem City, 80 Parthenon Street  
**Empangeni:** 7 Chrome Crescent Street  
**Pietermaritzburg:** 399 Church Street, (Opp. Capital Centre)  
**Newcastle:** 25 Allen Street (Next to Allen Motors)

**EASTERN CAPE**

**East London:** 5 Gladstone Street  
**Mdantsane:** Stand number: 108063 Shai Road (Opp. Sisa Dukashe Stadium)  
**King William's Town:** 13a, b Market Street  
**Mthatha:** 36 Owen St (Next to Botha Sigcau Building)  
**New Brighton, PE:** 45 Norongo Road & Cnr Sopazi Street  
**Njoli, PE:** 382 Boozi Street, Zwide, KwaZakhele  
**Motherwell, PE:** 78 Makhangiso Street, NU6 Swatkops Valley  
**Grahamstown:** 33 Beaufort Street (Opposite the Police Station)

**FREE STATE**

**Bloemfontein:** 60 Church Street (Next to Hoffman Square)  
**Thaba Nchu:** 11 Market Street  
**Phelindaba:** 9374 Mathebula Street (Next to Motherwell ground)  
**Qwa-Qwa:** Midtown Shopping Complex, 2 Phuthadijhaba  
**Welkom:** Marios Shopping Complex, 4 Kort Street

**NORTHERN CAPE**

**Kimberley:** 18 Currey Street (Behind Home Affairs)  
**Upington:** 2104 Nick Ossewa Street (Next to Labella)

**MPUMALANGA**

**Nelspruit:** 6c Samora Machel, Cnr Petroleum Street (Behind Buscor Terminus)  
**Witbank:** 8 Arras Street, Witbank CBD  
**Secunda:** Ingwe Drive, Embalenhle

**LIMPOPO**

**Polokwane:** 101 General Joubert, Cnr Rissik Street, (Next to Kwik Fit)  
**Turfloop:** Shop 6A, Zone A, University Street, Turfloop Shopping Centre  
**Tzaneen:** Gratia Building, 9 Koedoe Street

**NORTH WEST**

**Rustenburg 1:** 134 Klopper Street  
**Brits:** Shop Number 10 Pienaar Street  
**Jouberton:** 150 Emangweni Street  
**Potchefstroom:** 3680 Lekhele Street, Ikageng (Next to Post Office)  
**Mahikeng:** 35 Main Street



**Soweto:** Cnr Immink & Kokwane Drive Zone 6, Diepkloof

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**Cape Town:** 9 Buitenkant Street (near the Grand Parade)  
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