

My divine call to serve God

Before I present my testimony I would like to make one important observation: God chose you many years ago, before you were born, to make a vital contribution to his Kingdom. Whatever you have gone through in life has drawn you towards that assignment.

Born in Uganda, East Africa, I grew up as a Moslem and my father had picked me out of all his fourteen children to train as a sheik. He had given me a special name saying, according to his faith, that angels would go round our house many times every night seeking to protect and bless a person with that name. He even made special arrangements for me to be coached by a Moslem scholar who rode a bicycle thirty two kilometers every working day from Mityana town to our village for this purpose. Unfortunately, for my father, my mother had a Christian heritage. As love knows no boundaries, my father compromised some of the Islamic marital restrictions and allowed my mother to maintain some of her Christian values, including her name Esta, and even permitted her to keep a Bible in our House which was full of Islamic books. When alone, my mother used to read the book of Psalms a lot.

My father was advised that I needed formal education, and since there was no Islamic school nearby, he enrolled me at an Anglican Church school called Kiggwa Church of Uganda Primary School, which was about two kilometers from our Home. What I liked most in this school were the exciting Bible stories which were read to our class every Friday morning. I couldn't wait for the coming week to hear about the mighty miracles and wonders the God of Abraham performed, especially in the books of Old Testament. I didn't know that through these lessons God was planting a spiritual seed within my soul that would germinate many years later.

At the age of eight my father died, followed by my mother several years later. Both died through mysterious circumstances. I was left drifting between two faiths. My paternal relatives pushed on my father's wish for my life by urging me to continue attending Friday *Juma* prayers, praying *Swallahs* five times a day and fasting during the month of *Ramadan*. But deep within my soul I was praying to God that if he ever provided an opportunity for me to travel very far from my nagging relatives in East Africa, I would give my life to Jesus Christ. As God heard Jonah's cry from deep inside the belly of a large fish, he heard the cry from deep within my soul as well. Through

a miracle I was offered a scholarship to study at the University of Exeter, Devon, South-West England. About a week after joining this University I presented myself to Christians at St. Leonard's Church, in Exeter City. The Rector, Reverend John Skinner, realized my hunger for Jesus Christ and he immediately enrolled me into the baptism and confirmation class. On 25 March 1987 the Bishop of Crediton, Devon, baptized me Makko. The two things I always remember about this baptism service were, first, an old bespectacled white lady who came to me during the reception and asked me, "Did you see the strange light that came upon you as you were being baptized?" and second, the Scripture quotation Philippians 1:9-11 which the Bishop of Crediton wrote in his gift book to me. I always believe that it was God himself who was speaking to me through these three verses, which I will always treasure throughout my walk with Christ. I thank God that even as I write now I still feel the power of the Holy Spirit which on that day filled the vacuum that had been within my soul ever since I was born. I returned to my home country with more thirst for Christ and I joined a Spirit-filled church that was the center of revival in the country. I accepted Jesus as my Lord and personal savior in this church in December 1987.

Walking in the supernatural

From that time on supernatural things started happening in my life. God gradually started speaking to me through dreams, visions, and many other ways. In dreams God would even show me familiar faces of people and their very thoughts or the words they have spoken about me. Africa is a land of witchcraft. One night God revealed to me, through a dream, the witchcraft a fellow worker was performing against me at that particular hour. In the morning I told this person what he had been doing the previous night. He was both shocked and embarrassed. He never practiced again acts of witchcraft against me.

God also started showing me, through quick mental images, situations in the invisible world (Acts 10:9-11). They frequently take place when God urgently wants to reveal and draw something to my attention. These images last only seconds but reveal hidden things about persons or situations around me. One time I entered a church late when a visiting American preacher was already ministering. As soon as I sat down I saw, in a split-second, a beautiful new tarmac road with modern signs before me. When I told a lady friend who was seated nearby what I had just seen, she was completely taken aback and said "You talk as if you have been around. This

preacher has just been prophesying the new heavenly highways God is going to make for each one of us!”

One Sunday morning, during a much anointed church worship service, I saw, in a quick mental image, a long arm stretched from heaven towards the earth. Within its fist was a large stick the arm used to severely hit two persons who then fell on the ground. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying “I have beaten your enemies.” A few days later all the members of one family that had been practicing witchcraft against my family were admitted to hospital after contracting very serious unexplainable illnesses.

Sometimes while attending church my wife thinks I am dozing when, in actual sense, God is revealing to me many things about my life, the lives of people nearby or about the service in general.

On another day, while listening to a live radio sports commentary, I was startled when, in a quick mental image, God revealed to me the dirty secret life of that radio commentator I had never seen before. I believed God wanted me to pray for that person, which I did.

As I continued my walk with Christ, God started guiding me through situations by directing my eyes to specific, yet very applicable Scriptures, in the Bible. I remember one time we had a large Christian meeting where we had invited our head of state as the guest of honor. He confirmed his attendance well in advance. But just only one day to this meeting, his Protocol Office sent us apologies indicating the President would not attend due to pressing national duties. Our hearts were crushed because we had spent a lot of time and efforts working on this invitation. Besides, thousands of registered participants were already in a great mood of expectation to see the President. In a long prayer at night I cried to God about our predicament. Immediately after that prayer God spontaneously led me to open my Bible. I found myself in the Book of Hebrews chapter 10. Then verse 37 instantly jumped out of the page into my eyes!

For in just a very little while, “He who is coming will come and will not delay.”

I was sure this was God speaking to me through this verse. He was assuring me that the President would change his mind and come to our meeting. I quickly called my

close friends and informed them of this breaking news from heaven. Many doubted saying it was already late for the President to attend since no advance security teams were on site so far. In the morning everyone was excited when our conference grounds were awash with presidential security detail. Later, during that day, the president indeed turned up and opened our meeting.

One day, while attending a large Christian conference in Anaheim, USA, I decided not to give any offerings in the morning service. I reserved all the money I had for the last session in the evening because, I felt, the last minister was most anointed. As I sat watching other believers give, the Lord spontaneously led me to open my Bible. The page I opened had Ecclesiastes chapter 11, and instantly verse 6 jumped out of the page into my eyes!

Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

Again I was confident this was God speaking to me. God was instructing me to use every sowing opportunity to give. I quickly repented, divided up the money I was left with, put some in an envelope and rushed my offering to the ushers! God was teaching me a very important lesson about giving.

Another time, while I still had a secular job, my bosses advertised my position with the intention of getting a more qualified person to replace me. After a long prayer at night, the Holy Spirit, without my intention, led me to open my Bible. The page I randomly opened had Matthew chapter 21. Then suddenly verse 42 jumped out of the Bible into my eyes!

Jesus said to them: "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this and it is marvelous in our eyes'".

As usual, in such circumstances, I was certain God was speaking to me through this Scripture. He was assuring me that no one would take my job. As a human being I asked myself "How will this be when my job has already been advertised in two daily newspapers?" But, as Mary Magdalene did, I just believed and left the rest to God. Later, after all the interviews for the short-listed candidates had been done, all the three selected candidates started to blunder in one or another. I recall one of them,

a highly educated and respected lady, refused to reveal her most recent salary and this angered my bosses a lot. In the end my bosses rejected all the three and decided to maintain me in the already advertised position. The stone the builders had rejected became the cornerstone!

I remember another night I was interceding for a man who had been falsely accused of murder. He had been in prison for over one year. After pleading to God in prayer I was spontaneously led to open my Bible. The page I randomly opened had Isaiah chapter 51. Then immediately verse 14 jumped out of the page into my eyes!

The cowering prisoners will soon be set free; they will not die in their dungeon nor will they lack bread.

Again I knew God was speaking to me about this prisoner. He was assuring me this man would soon be set free. Through a series of miracles lasting a month, the judge indeed set this man free!

I recall one day I and Florence went for a burial ceremony and the ushers offered us two front seats. After some praising songs the MC, who never knew both of us, reorganized the seating arrangement and we were made to sit in a place I considered bad. God saw my unhappy heart and I found myself spontaneously opening my NKJV Bible. The page I randomly opened had Philippians Chapter 2. Then, like a flash, verse 3 flew out of the page into my eyes!

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

My unhappiness turned into joy as I realized that God was teaching me an important lesson in life. This experience changed my view of front seats because now I know they are reserved for those better than myself.

One time all our children were studying in boarding schools so we kept at home a maid called Rosette to take care of the cooking and a young man called Gershom to work as both a gardener and a night guard. One Saturday morning as I and Florence were getting ready to go for shopping the Lord all of a sudden led me to open my Bible. The page I randomly opened had Luke Chapter 22. Then, like a spark of light, verse 3 jumped out of the page into my eyes:

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the twelve. NKJV

I wondered why God brought this Scripture to my attention at that very moment, but I suspected the devil may have entered someone. I quickly asked Florence to stop dressing and we prayed about this verse. When we returned home in the evening we found our maid in a sobbing mood. At length she murmured to my wife many things I couldn't hear. When Florence joined me and I asked her what the matter was, she said: "Darling, Gershom tried to rape Rosette in our children's bedroom!" The Lord reminded me the Scripture he gave me before we left home and I realized that Satan had surely entered into Gershom. Our prayer in the morning prevented something more serious from taking place in our own house. We paid Gershom all his dues and we fired him immediately.

God speaks through Scriptures as I have been narrating above, but, I believe, this comes as a gift that operates spontaneously according to God's own purposes and timing. This is the reason why some Christians who, through their own efforts, attempt to communicate with God using this method end up getting confused.

Since 1988 God has been training me in prayer and intercession. Every night God wakes me up at specific hours to warn me of particular situations and to pray. Once I woke up feeling God wanted me to pray, but I was so tired that I just fell back into my bed and covered myself up. As I dozed off I felt someone pulling away the blanket and sheets from my body. Part of me was left uncovered. I jumped out of my bed thinking a thief had entered my bedroom. My fears were allayed only after I checked and confirmed there was no one in my room. God had sent an angel to pull away my blanket and drive me out of bed for prayer! He was training me for an important assignment in His Kingdom. I quickly repented and went into aggressive prayer.

Another time, around midnight, I dreamt that someone had stabbed me in the chest. I woke up, breathless, with sharp pain near my heart. I even failed to pray as I kept on wondering what this terrible dream meant. In the morning when I reported at my place of work, which was forty kilometers from home, I sadly found that one of our security guards had been murdered during an attempted night robbery. I learnt that he was attacked two hours after God had given me the terrifying dream. The dead man's body was still in the security room where he was killed. When I looked at it I was even more terrified. The man had been stabbed at the exact spot where I

was stabbed in the dream! Through this whole tragedy God introduced me to the realm of dreams as a tool for prayer and intercession. I was convinced that my intercession would have saved this man's life.

During my early years of training, wherever I felt reluctant to pray God would mysteriously lead me to the book of 2 Chronicles chapter 29. Verse 11 would always come into my eyes:

My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you to stand before him and serve him, to minister before him and to burn incense.

Another way God talks to me is by putting within my mind thoughts that guide me to exact places where he wants me to be. I have been led to places of opportunity or taken away from places of danger through this means. On three occasions God has led me mysteriously to precise obscure locations where a snake was hiding in my compound. I killed them before they could do any harm. Through this gift I have many times found myself moving spontaneously out of my house to the gate outside just before someone rings a bell or knocks. Sometimes, after her travels, my wife thinks I am too nice to always wait for her at our gate when, actually, it is the Spirit of God who tells me that she is about to reach the gate and moves me to go and welcome her there.

One night I abruptly woke up from sleep and, as I sat on my bed, a thought came in my mind that I should check on one of the windows of our house. I followed this voice and, as soon as I drew the curtain, I saw a thief who had just scaled over the security wall into our compound. I quickly raised an alarm which sent the intruder running for his life.

Quite often, especially when I have questions in my mind, God reads my troubled thoughts and gives me answers even before I present issues to him in prayer. To me this is a confirmation that our thoughts are always before God's monitoring screens in heaven. One time I was alone with many questions about the difficult life my old grandmother had gone through. I was not aware that God was also concerned about what was going on in my mind. As a result, during the night, God revealed to me many things I didn't know about my grandmother. God further revealed to me that he had wonderful plans for her salvation and provisions.

Another time I had some doubts about the personal promises God had made to me. Again I was not aware that God was monitoring my mind. Afterwards, in a vivid dream at night I saw myself on earth facing the heavens above. Then all of a sudden a white cloud descended from heaven and it engulfed me. Within that cloud were voices singing the common hymn "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS." As the cloud lifted and the choir stopped singing, I woke up. God was assuring me he is faithful to all his promises (Psalm 36:5). From these and many other experiences I have learnt that a filthy mind only works to drive God's presence away from you (Genesis 6:5). A mind full of God's Word and pure thoughts invites God's presence in your life.

At other times God has used other persons to tell me about my life's concerns. I remember one day I had many problems with a new company vehicle I was driving. I was not aware that the driver had planted witchcraft material in it to prevent any other person from driving it. The following morning I was astounded when a fellow lady worker, whom I did not even consider religious, told me a very revealing dream she had the previous night about my situation. God revealed to her everything the driver had done and what was going on in the spiritual realm. Her dream guided me in prayer and in tactics. I never had problems with that vehicle again.

My wife has her own ministry serving God. But ever since I met her I have realized that many times God uses her to guide me in the right direction. For this reason I always think seriously about her advice, asking God to verify it. Many times God gives his nod of approval.

Early in my salvation God made me aware that he had assigned angels to protect me. I remember one time I doubted God's security and I went to check on my piece of property I had just acquired and had already entrusted to God for protection. As soon as I stepped in that place I heard a clear voice saying, "Since you have doubted and you have decided to come, we are leaving now!" I realized that there were some friendly supernatural beings in that place. I quickly repented and never doubted God's protection in my life again. After every prayer I make for God's protection I leave all the other concerns to God. I have found this useful when praying for the sick. Have faith as you pray for a sick person, then you leave the rest to God- even when the symptoms of that sickness are still visible.

Before I shifted to my current place of residence I used to stay near a very busy city road. One morning we heard a very loud bang along this road, near our house. It

was followed by cries and commotion. Soon I learnt that two vehicles had collided, and in the process, had knocked to death a small boy who was on his way to school. I rushed to the site and found a group of sad-looking people surrounding the dead body. As soon as my eyes saw the still body, I heard a voice, within my heart, instructing me to lay my hands on his forehead. The moment I did this, and I called upon the name of Jesus, I heard the boy taking a very deep breath. It was as if his soul had been thousands of miles away. To the joy and wonder of all the onlookers, the boy made some movements and came back to his senses.

One night I parked near our neighbors place a brand new double cabin pick-up vehicle belonging to my employers. I prayed over it for God's protection and I went to sleep. When I checked in the morning I found that all the lights on this vehicle had been stolen. As I was wondering where I would get the money to replace the lights, I heard a voice instructing me to walk around the vehicle. As I did so I found all the stolen lights, together with all the screws, collected at a nearby place. When I told my neighbor about this enigma, he informed me that during the night he suddenly woke up and felt like reading a certain book that was in his front room. As soon as he switched on the front lights of his apartment he heard some frightened persons running away! God's angel had woken him up to scare away the thieves! I happily screwed back all the lights praising God for his faithfulness.

God has been teaching and encouraging me to walk in righteousness and has been warning me of any sin that may have crept into my life. Such warnings are accompanied by terrifying dreams and unexplainable problems. Some of these dreams include visions of red-hot clouds of fire raining on me or seeing myself descending into a pit of full of fierce dogs and then waking up before they bite me. On such occasions I quickly repent promising God never to allow such sin to creep into my life again.

Sometimes God has spoken to me through open visions. One time I was expecting a good amount of money from abroad onto my account, but I gave up after days of waiting. Then one clear morning, while seated wide awake on my bed, I very clearly saw something that stunned me. I saw a live beautiful gold fish swimming, with all its fins, through the open door of my bedroom towards me. As it was about to hit my face, it vanished! I told my wife what I had seen and she was perplexed as well. Within a few hours I got communication from my bank that the money I had all along been waiting for had been wired to my account!

Occasionally I buy a new Bible and read it book-by-book underlining important verses and paragraphs until I complete both the Old and New Testaments. Every time I do this I constantly see in visions a huge towering tank of pure clean water before me. Then I see myself holding a small container drawing from this giant tank.

Sometimes God has substituted my natural senses with supernatural consciousness. I remember one weekend, while away from home, I was seated alone in my office clearing my desk of all outstanding work. I was enjoying the quietness of a typical resting day when all of a sudden I heard an eruption of beautiful choral music praising the Most High. The music sounded like an orchestra of a million instrumentalists and singers. At first I thought it was coming from outside my office, but I checked and found that there was total peace and silence elsewhere. I tried to block my ears with my fingers but I only made the music louder! Just as God had opened the eyes of Elisha's servant (2 Kings 6:17), God had opened my ears to angelic worship music. This music echoed in my office for about five minutes before it faded and silence prevailed again.

Many times I am faced with situations whereby I have to make a choice out of many options, especially when I am conducting job interviews, or when I am buying something, or generally when I am facing uncertain situations. God usually bails me out of such situations by igniting His flame of fire within my heart as soon as the right option appears before me. This gift has always helped me to understand how Prophet Samuel picked David out of all Jesses many sons (1 Samuel 16:1-13).

When my contract for the job where I heard angelic music ended, I found myself jobless and overwhelmingly worried. My fear did not concern being jobless as such, but rather was related to the hurdles of getting a new one in this world of competition. God read my troubled mind and at night His angel appeared to me in a dream. He emphatically informed me that I wouldn't look for a job, but rather it was the job that was going to search for me! A few days after this dream my wife told me she dreamt when someone had come home to pick me up for a new job. Three days after her dream a very dignified Professor heading the Medical School of a prominent university in our country came to my residence to pick me up for a job within their newly set up American sponsored health project. I readily accepted and I was offered a salary five times what I had been getting from my previous job.

My relationship with God can further be exemplified by the following experience. One morning, as I left home for work, I noticed that a section of the perimeter wall around my residence had developed a long crack. Within three weeks, the crack had expanded and the wall was on the verge of collapsing. Since all the money I had was already allocated for the most urgent domestic needs, I resorted to God for help. I laid my right hand on the crack, looked upon the heavens, and pleaded to my heavenly Father for assistance. The following day, when I returned from work, I was shocked by what I saw: a large section of the perimeter wall, where I had prayed, had been completely knocked down! I hurriedly went into the house and asked my wife what had gone wrong. She told me the following story: "Honey, after you left for work today, a speeding truck went astray and hit our wall. The whole length where the crack had developed went down. The truck owner apologized a lot and feverishly pledged to rebuild the wall." Within two days the wall was rebuilt with strong materials. In all this construction, I never spent even a single coin. I remembered my prayer to God and praised Him for his faithfulness.

Before I present this message I want to make one thing clear. Even though I have training in Evangelism and Ministry, I am neither a Bible scholar, nor a Bible expert. In my Christian life I had no intention of sitting down to seriously analyze Scriptures. All I wanted was to have a good job to enable me live happily with my family. But, as you are about to see, God had other purposes for my life.