

Life Beyond Imaginations

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DEDICATION

I sincerely dedicate this book to my queen, mother and my joy, Catherine Namonje. I know other people have their mothers but for you are special and unique; you are a true gift to many.

What would I have been without your hard work? You sacrificed a lot for me and especially your comfort in order for me to complete my education. Mama, you are a blessing to me and will live to cherish your life.

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Foreword

The book you are about to read, the author represents the most comprehensive thought of imagination “where success begins with an individual self,” so says the author. The impression is that in this life’s journey it is risky to wonder in a way that excludes God. The author sees marriage as a metaphor of God and a creation of God himself and emphasizes that “to fully enjoy the blessings of hard work and complete a puzzle of living life beyond imagination, a happy marriage is a seal of it.”

Strictly speaking, we live in an increasingly bureaucratic age. There a real danger that dreams and visions become squeezed out of our lives. Imagination, and the freedom of soul that goes with it, can take second place to mechanical organization and changing patterns. The revolution of modern technology often means that imagination is only for the few, the elite, those clever enough to have their ideas accepted and produced, leaving the rest of us looking like machines: the passive receiver rather than the imaginative creator.

Some are born with the gift of dreaming; others need a little help. The author lays out before us a feast to sample and to learn from. Rather than presenting imagination as an unreal escape route, he teaches us to use our dreams to brighten and bring vivid colour to our everyday lives. Imagination is not just a part of our times alone, but a unique facet of our work, worship and family lives. The author encourages us, whether child or adult, to be dreamers of dreams and to think imaginatively.

Personally, I find the whole book as thought provoking, very informative and useful because it makes the reader think about the importance of leading a quality life in a holistic way. Consequently, in commending this invaluable book, I would like to encourage you to read and take to heart the wealth of insights and the offer of enrichment that lie between its pages, thus allowing your imagination to be reawakened.

Dr. K. Kondolo (Rev)
Vice Chancellor,
The United Church of Zambia University
20th October, 2019

Introduction

It is the desire of everyone to be successful in life; to live a happy and healthy life as well as to have a meaningful job or become a successful entrepreneur and attain financial independence. We all want to be with spouses that keep our lives beautiful every day. We wish for a great marriage, have great kids and wonderful in-laws. We want to love and be loved back, we long for such a moment We would see real blessings of unending peace, love and prosperous life. Everyone in other ways wants to make a difference in the world, to be significant, to have a positive impact on those around him or her.

On a number of times, I have thought about this, especially that life again and again kept on giving me a puzzle as to why certain people live in extreme poverty while others have never known how it feels to sleep on the floor and eat one meal a day. For some people walking on foot is like a sin while others driving a 1980 model corolla car is a great achievement. The biggest question was do

we all qualify for a good life? Somehow God through his eternal plan began teaching me something and I started realising that no matter how poor a particular family can be, God will always bless one or two people with either resources or wisdom to guide the rest of the family. Now, the greatest puzzle and most challenging factor is for people to know that the power and grace to uplift the rest of the family is bestowed upon them. Knowledge, wisdom and man power to change our circumstances is obviously in us but because knowledge is scattered, no one has the zeal and courage to harness it and make use of it.

I came to learn that the great truths are simple to apply even though often ignored. This is where my passion to write this book emanates from. Most importantly, I have come to discover that all what people go through, is not a torture but a recipe to make one come out of the slumber.

There is always a starting point for anything in life. Where we are and what we shall become has nothing to do to who we will in life. It is purely the decisions we make that determine everything. Often times, we fail to achieve much because as we grow up, we adopt from the environment habits

that do not add value to the life we desire and the future we want. We become more reluctant to take action and treat life as simply a matter of fate. We expect life to give a miraculous ending and somewhat present to us the very things and life we wish for. I believe that where you are and what you want to become is an act of thorough thinking and a matter of taking massive action.

This means that whether it is financial success we want, thriving business, happy marriage or a successful career, our ultimate joy will only manifest when we make right choices, take action and have the tenacity to hold on to the vision and dreams of our lives which we had imagined.

I have titled this book, "*Life beyond Imagination*" because your dreams are your imaginations. The pictures of the life ahead of you even when you are not timely there. I believe that things we see physically are not self-created but started from somewhere. In imaginations for example, it is the state of living in the future or creating a brighter future in spiritual realm. It's the mind of being what you are not living currently.

It is cardinal to note that imagining living a life better than we are now, falls in the laps of many. Now in the midst of so many visions and dreams, few manage to live half of what they dream. So, in this book, I look at living life beyond your prescribed strength, desire and wishes. I discuss overcoming factors that can cause you to live less than your desire. Interestingly, for one to live beyond his or her desire, one must have imagined a certain life. To live beyond this line of desire calls for extraordinary effort, being taller than the problem and working beyond self-imposed limits.

Today, most people think life is a gamble. Most people think chances to live well only come once, they strongly believe that once an opportunity is gone, it will never come again. That is not true, every day is your opportunity to do better than yesterday, a chance to re-do, undo and perfect the clarity for what you want out of your life. In this book you will learn that every day is a chance to succeed and every positive action you put in it, piles up into the future you want.

The primary reason for this book is to inspire great dreams, restore peace and happiness in marriages as well as give educative information on financial

literacy. Your burning desire therefore should be to accomplish them and successfully enjoy life. I have written this book alongside marriage lessons because my inner conviction is that how fruitful and enjoyable your success can be for you to live a life beyond your imagination, will depend on the kind of spouse you marry.

CHAPTER ONE

Discover your primary Purpose

“What really constitutes success for my life? Is it money, properties or investments? And what counts most in my journey of life, “Is it God’s will or my personal desires?” These are important questions which I ask myself on my destiny in the pursuit of success.

What would be the implications if you told a rich man that you are not successful, how would he feel or how would he think of you? Probably he/she would think something was wrong with you. Indeed, it is as difficult as it is to comfort a person whose door to success is still closed. I remember the pastor rebuking the mourners during the burial of my beloved father. He cautioned all the mourners during the funeral service as to why they were mourning so bitterly as if the earth and their lives had come to a standstill?’. ”

“What if God’s purpose on our father’s life was just for him to only bring us up to a level he did?” He warned us.

In the nature of things, the pastor appeared very heartless to us but I now believe he had a point. People are filled with a lot of personal desires; they want things to move the way they wish and many times we even fail to listen to what God is saying in that situation. We become too ambitious and somehow ignoring the primary will of God for our lives.

Our motivation rises from superficial things and we engage all the hard work day and night so that we can leave inheritance for our children but little do we take time to know what constitutes our success and destiny. Is it money, is its good life or good marriage? Do we even know how our future looks like?

Unless you know the purpose for your life you will wonder away from what truly brings you happiness and fulfilment. What one may call success might not be success for the other person and where one calls destiny might be the starting point for someone else. Honestly, I know money is very important; yes, it is an answer to a lot of

things. However, I have found it hard to think that having a lot of money and investments is the true measure of success though the world thinks so.

“For me some people are not called to be financial giants but their success counts on service delivery such as the number of people saved.”

Think about this; suppose you are a medical doctor and each time you operate on a patient the patient dies and on the other hand you are getting paid and building a lot of mansions, can you call yourself successful? Suppose you are a teacher and your career record show that none of the children you have directly taught cleared your subject with merits or better and on the other hand you are building houses and you are financially sound; would you call yourself successful?

We must not forget that each one of us is called differently and unless we discover what constitutes our own success, we will be casting our seeds on rocks. Maybe it is the reason as to why most pastors are now preaching prosperity at the expense of salvation; they are taking out money from their flocks so that they can also build

mansions and become financial giants which maybe too far from the true gospel laid down in God's holy word. People who don't know their primary purpose are the source of poverty and conflict. Indeed, discovering your primary purpose is completing the puzzle of life.

A good name is also valuable success

Success can be defined in many ways and I have come to believe on that one without any single doubt. Early 2018 during my orientation meeting with the General Secretary of the United Church of Zambia (UCZ) Rev. Dr. Peggy Mulambya Kabonde, after my appointment as Senior Accountant for the church ministry, she told a story that left me with a lot of lessons.

She narrated about a man who was employed by a very rich entrepreneur as a Chief Financial Officer. Each time this Chief Executive Officer (CEO) travelled outside of their town, he left him in charge of everything.

The boss was so rich such that he could not even manage to count his wealth to the point that he

could not even know what was missing. Fellow employees stole a lot of money and machinery but he kept on serving the boss faithfully and diligently. His first-born daughter was annoyed and she complained that dad regardless of him being in charge of uncountable wealth could not make life out of it. She eventually disowned his father and called him foolish father who didn't care about leaving an inheritance for his children.

Ten years later after the death of her father, this daughter graduated from the university and she was bitterly and desperately looking for employment. Later she was called for an interview for one of the subsidiary companies.

During her interview upon introduction, the board chairperson took interest and inquired more of her. He desired to know of her father who had seemed to be a familiar man. She then gave details of her parents' names and what they did for their living. To her amazement, the board chairperson was the son to the CEO who her father had worked for faithfully.

She was hired the same day without any further interviews, she landed in a dream job effortlessly. The next day she reported for work and found that

from the time her father died, the office was locked as they could not find the person who was as faithful as his father was. In a short period, she was honoured with a new brand vehicle, a house and all necessary incentives. She without hesitation broke in tears and wondered what a legacy of success her father had left. She later went to the editor of the famous magazine and published her story of her father's legacy. Her life changed instantly going to her father's tomb shading tears asking for forgiveness. Success of a good name is another one people aspire for; all other areas are important too but ensure to leave a good name.

I deeply reflected on this story and how the faithfulness of her father turned into a power inheritance for his children. Indeed, a good life is better than riches and obedience is better than sacrifice.

I left her office with a thoughtful mind and the spirit of God lead me to meditate in the book of **Joshua 7: 1-13.** ‘

This is an account of Joshua, the Children of Israel and the Chan. After the fall of Jericho, orders were given that they should neither spare any lives nor take any

treasure to themselves, however, one man called Achan secretly got the devoted things and hid them. As Joshua set out to fight Ai a small region, they were defeated terribly. So, Joshua became annoyed and complained to God why He had allowed a small region to kill them. Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied."

' Pay attention to the story well, although it was one person that erred, the children of Israel are said to have committed the trespass. Achan's wife, his children and the properties were destroyed. We may do wrong things in privacy but the repercussion to our generation can be big. Though that father never left any physical financial inheritance, the children started benefiting from his faithfulness and the sweetness of his good name. From the biblical story on one hand, Achan disobeyed alone in private but the whole family and the whole children of Israel were punished for the wrongs of one man. We indeed have to re-define what matters most for us and those directly in line with us if we are to truly test the success we want.

The Invisible Hand

One of the things I am convinced beyond doubt is that, anything intended by God to succeed has no amount of human frustration to hinder it". Though it is also true that the best hindrance to your destiny is yourself; I feel sometimes even you cannot change it.

One principle which you should not ignore even if you don't understand why things are happening in the fashion you cannot comprehend, is to do the correct thing at all times in an efficient and timely manner.

If you have done everything correctly but the circumstance keeps on twisting you to the left, keep on doing what is right, watch diligently and wait patiently for the invisible hand to do the rest. Certain things are beyond your power and as long as you do your part diligently, some breakthrough shall come your way.

Never underrate your influence in any situation and never also take the ways of the invisible hand for granted. I recall during the interdenominational bible studies in 2015, we listened to a testimony that lifted our spirits high. There in front of us stood a woman well-dressed

and looking fresh. Some of the members recognized her though they were amazed about her new look. She then introduced herself as the mother for the boy who was bashed by the car five years ago.

She told the congregants that when the boy just finished writing grade nine examinations, he suddenly started praying to go to America. Friends and families used to mock him considering how poor the family was, however the boy never stopped praying over his dream to United States of America (USA). Three years later as he was coming from school where he went to get his grade twelve results, he was terribly bashed by a car and thereafter he was taken to the University Teaching Hospital (UTH).

The doctors at the UTH examined him and recommended him to be taken to specialist hospitals outside Zambia. To the amazement of the mother, the boy's name came out on the list for those who were being flown to America. As they were boarding the plane, the boy looked at the mother and said, praise the Lord for he has made it. He further comforted the mother saying, Mum don't cry, this is the beginning of my journey to the

fulfilment of my desires". She explained that after medication in USA, the boy was picked by a Good Samaritan and was later given sponsorship to study medicine. With a joyful heart, the woman showed the congregants photos of his son studying medicine in the United States of America.

The whole church fell down to worship and praise God. The pastor asked the congregation whether the accident was a good or a bad thing. Though the boy's leg was amputated, the whole congregation responded that it was a good channel in fulfilment of the destiny.

She jokingly said that she was now looking fresh because the son sends her part of his upkeep allowances.

In the same vein, certain privileges which one may have, are not as a result of us solely working so hard or because we read the bible so much or prayed so much but it's because other factors are at play and an invisible hand has already pre-packaged it.

Interestingly, someone would argue and say, "What about the street kids whose mothers died may be few days after their birth?" or what about

the poor scruffy man in the village whose family has been living in immense poverty for the decades, are they also pre-packaged to live like that? If so, who is to blame for their fate? In the midst of so many questions, we should not forget that there is an invisible hand and power that holds and controls the universe.

“The Almighty; Omni-present power of God, whereby, as it were by His hand, He still holds heaven and earth with all creatures, and so governs them that herbs and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things come not by chance, but by His Sovereign hand.” We must know that God’s providence, as it is taught in Scripture, is opposed to fortune and fortuitous happenings” Thus all things work together for good for those who love God and who have been called according to his purpose

(Romans 8: 28)

Ignoring the influence of God in fulfilling your destiny, is planning to fail and settle for unending frustration.

God acts in the world in many ways and even through events. He is not a passive participant in your activities but He is actively involved in the sustenance and governance of the universe such that *if He perceives, he performs. If he inspects, he effects*. As such man's effort alone cannot affect destination neither could they overturn someone's destiny.

Your hand in Success

In one of the world's noddled preaching, **Bishop Tudor Bismarck** gave an illustration on why some countries have remained in massive poverty regardless of them being in prayerful moods all the time. He compared the developments which are taking place in none Christian (Buddhist) countries like China, North Korea to Christian faith-based Countries. He gave Zambia as an example by saying; the Zambian government sold the copper mine to invaders in the name of investors at a cost of \$25,000,000 for which the consortium did not pay in full but paid in instalments. In three months, this buyer (consortium) made \$75,000,000(three times higher than the purchase price) and they started paying back the Government 0.006 % of the profit.

Mr Tudor stressed that it's not about saying hallelujah and praising God but it is about making sound decisions. He said decision making is in success equation but Prayer is not in success equation but in a revelation equation. So, we have to be disciplined and make sure that we get what God has called us for through decision making. We can pray the whole day but change will only come when we make sound decisions.

"There is an urgent need for us to do our part diligently even before we submit our petition to the next person."

This calls for an understanding and appreciating that the world and everything in it including you as well as your trials and tribulations are inherently sacred; thus, coming to a point where we recognize that,

"There is a truth that lies within us and it can only be known by a still mind and can only be discovered by looking inward and regularly setting time aside to do it either through meditation, prayer or contemplation."

We all have the ability to determine our own destiny. However, what I've found is that many

of us don't really take the time to decide what that destiny will be. We live day by day, moment by moment and give little thought to our long-term plans. Remember great researchers have reviled that the brain uses five primary drivers to operate. These drivers form a loop that starts with our beliefs. Our beliefs determine our thoughts. If we believe money is hard to make, we have thoughts that support that belief. "I'll never make enough money." "I'll never make enough to afford that."

In Luke 19: 1-10, I like the story of Zacchaeus so much because the man knew that the crowd was too much such that he could not manage to see Jesus because he was short. He ran on ahead, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way and When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw him, and said to him, "*Zacchaeus, hurry come down, for today I must stay at your house.*" He hurriedly came down and received him joyfully. At least, Zacchaeus knew what mattered the most; it was high time for him to *see Jesus and so he* desperately wanted to see him. This is the art of creativity where among thousands of people who were following and wanted to see Jesus, Zacchaeus had created an opportunity for

himself to be noticed and Jesus had a meal with him. I am sure that it was one of the most sought-after opportunity everyone wished for and admired the most. I believe his life was not the same. Sometimes it does not matter how many people are doing it, what location you are operating from and what product you are selling but it's about the art of creating an opportunity for the next level you desire to be and live on.

CHAPTER TWO

The Value of Setting a Standard

Not everything we have grown up believing is really beneficial. Some things need to be questioned and proved wrong. There is a lot that holds us back and prevents us from reaching out to our glorious place we deserve to be. Growing from a humble home is amazing as you tend to be introduced to a way of life that is peculiar to the civilized world. Imagine washing your hands in one basin of water before you start eating nshima starting with the father until it reaches the youngest person and you wonder what kind of dirty, we were removing when the water had already gained some colour due to dirty. That's life many of us Zambian children went through; and indeed the Grace of God is sufficient to bring us out of such demeaning life conditions and if you are a victim or a product of such a background, your primary inspiration and focus is to work hard and ensure that you give back hope in hopeless children and give light to dark tunnels

and help many families to cross the bridge of poverty through this book.

I remember vividly seeing people doing well in life being classified as “White People,” (Abasungu)”. It is common in Zambia to associate well-to-do and successful individuals to a white man’s fortune.

Not only could I hear it in the village but my father also used to encourage me by saying,

“My son if you want to live like a white person, you should work extra hard at school.”

This trend of classifying people doing fine in society as *Basungu* (whites) kept on troubling my mind until one day I gathered courage to ask my school teacher during lunch break.

Out of curiosity, I wanted her to explain to me whether certain races or people were created separately from Africans. In her response, she opened God’s Holy word: Genesis 1:26 where God said,

“Let us make man in our own image, in our own likeness”

And after quoting the scripture, she later emphasized that every human being came from Adam and Eve. She later said to me;

“The only way we can slowly diffuse the trend in our societies is by us working hard and start living a good life so that we can become role models and as well as a reference points to our families”.

That is where my life regained another stroke of inspiration and drive. My mind was revolutionized and I swore to myself to step up and make a change in my life. I purposed to work hard and prove wrong every limiting belief that held me and my family down. I reflected on how God had loved me to be his creation and how much he had honoured the human race to be in his own lovely image that alone was the U-turn of my life. I did not become the same person; in my mind something had begun to change. Only time was to prove me right or wrong and show the results of the new being I had become inside.

Well, I became thoughtful and I imagined living a life full of testimonies and before I could conclude thinking about life ahead of me, I remembered several encouraging words from my teachers in

Ecclesiastes 9:11 "I have seen something else under the sun; time and chance happen to us all." I became so motivated and prayed that afternoon and believed that my time would definitely come when I would live my dreams.

Just do your part

Once you understand your inner potential, where you are going and what you want to achieve, move along your lane. Whatever you need to do on your part, do it. When I was starting out my career, as a young person, it is this principle that helped me breakthrough in many areas.

Back in my secondary education, I got 11 points at Grade Twelve and enrolled for accountancy program at Evelyn Hone College of Applied Arts. I recall during Financial Accounting class, my lecturer whispered to one of my classmates, "he looks not all that fine". The lecturer whispered to my friend.

Especially that I had come from the typical village and had never had a feel of town life, at my village people just woke up and put on any attire as long as it was clean with no regard to the dress code and trending fashion. People in the village are instrumental rational; as they don't pay much

attention to a number of things that town dwellers worry about.

I was putting on a long-sleeved white shirt, a track bottom and a four-corner edged smart black shoe with yellow socks. I did not know my dress code was a source of discussion among my peers and everyone was laughing at me. I knew it was a tough experience competing with people who seemed to be ahead of me in many areas of life but one thing I told myself was I would do my part no matter what would happen.

To the shock of my course mates; I cleared all the three courses which I sat for in the first semester and I finished my Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants- technician certificate within a year.

How could a “confused guy” clear in one year? They wondered. Indeed, my looks did not match my performance but one thing I would like somebody on through this book is that when you choose to put in the best in whatever you are doing do it immediately. You should not wait for somebody to tell you because time and chance waits for no one. When don’t procrastinate but

follow your will and drive along your lane, success will definitely be yours?

In life try to avoid approval from people, be it your pastor, mentor or highly qualified individuals because your creation is different from them. They are fat and you are slim, they are born in urban areas and you are born in the village, so your destiny is far different.

I know the importance of giving reference to what other people have said about the subject but I refuse to tie my life based on another people's strength. Though it is cardinal to recognize and hold in high esteem what other people before you have done, it's not necessarily to attach your life on what they believe work well. In the whole world, you are the only one who looks like that and if God thought you cannot do anything new; He should have only created your mentor since everything you do are those approved by him or her. If everything you do is attached to what someone else has done or written about, the question is that where did that person learn it from? If he also learnt it from someone, then who started it. You can also start something new; you can break a record and prove critics wrong.

Raise your Standard High

Who are you and what do you want to be in the future? Once you discover that only you can bring about success and no one else, then you move to the next phase of defining what kind of future you want. You need to become real with yourself in life and raise the standard of your faith for the life you wish.

A standard is a level of quality or attainment and it's a measure that distinguishes you from other people.

These are different standards. Setting a standard is in its own a competitive advantage because it creates good will, increases reputation and gives lasting impression to friends, peers and society. Raising a standard is not boasting but it's a way of life that defines you.

You cannot be everything neither can you be everywhere or look like everyone. Some races are considered to be more special and superior to some Africans simply because they have a standard in the way they do things. Unlike some Africans who do not even have a dress code.

Whatever they see in the media becomes their fashion even when it was meant to be used for training and sometimes it may be a dancing costume, they may wear it even in church.

People and institutions that are smart in their dealings are able to command respect from society and a good example is an impression which most of us have over soldiers. These men and women in uniforms are known for not tolerating nonsense; people know that for a soldier, no is no and yes is yes. Society knows and treats them like that. The soldiers are highly disciplined. It is my considered view that everyone sees them with this kind of perception.

Nevertheless, some people and nations have become puppets and have lost their dignity because of never discovering their true place. The level you raise for yourself becomes a blue print of what you shall become; it is important to know what you exist for and it is much gratifying to die for it. This is what I believe, we are here, in this time and place, for a reason. We have a purpose and a purpose that only we can fulfil. For this reason, all we need is to be unique. Unfortunately,

most of us don't know this reason, so we try to follow what others do and tell us.

To progress towards your goal, it is important that you assess the standards that you have and the qualities that you lack.

In your career for example, the quality of your life is a potent weapon in your success because most other people are simply waiting to be told what to do, what to wear, how to talk or they simply copy others, instead of developing and maintaining their own defined standards. The more positive standard you develop, the better you will do in your career. When you develop a class of life that force you to see the world in positive ways, your life will change and it will be more positive. In nut shell, it is important to take inventory of your life style and to know who you are and where you have come from. You need to know which life style is widely acceptable and helping you to get a positive publicity. Here, you need to be value rational. Yes, value-rationality!

In Africa, it is a sad story; a lot of Africans have potential and capacity to become who they want to be but for their demeaning low self-esteem, we have accepted and inherited inferiority and

eventually we are puppets and live a photocopy kind of life.

In society where we live, we have made our children to believe that Africans have no capacity to live a good life unless other races. This has caused damage to some people in the way they do things. I give credit to the late president who said;

“We are convinced that Zambia shall develop mainly through the efforts of the indigenous Zambians themselves” -President Levy Mwanawasa.

This too applies to our personal lives; it will take ourselves to create the life we want and not anyone else.

A brand name speaks volumes

One reason why I was struggling to understand reasons friends mocked me was because I did not have any exposure to any formal or proper self-branding. I knew I would be successful in my career but to the success I deserved, I needed to brand myself like my career demanded. Personal branding is very important if you will stand out effectively. It defines what people know you for,

whether they can follow to do business with you and why they should obey and work with you. There are habits that you may require to change, add to your life and remove for the success you want to be true and possible.

Long time ago, I met six ladies in Zingalume compound (a *small compound in the capital of Zambia*) who helped me to further understand personal branding. I was going to attend a funeral for one of my loyal clients and I went along with these wonderful looking ladies; well dressed and with a great potential for a wife. In my mind, i thought they must have been coming from church, and not only that maybe also were career working women, I supposed. They had great outstanding looks and could only be thought of as respectable and those who do noble things.

Few meters later, these women took me in shock when they spoke to each other getting themselves drunk in order to have courage to sing well. To my surprise, these well-dressed women bought chibuku beer (Zambian indigenous local beer) and began to drink on the road while going to the funeral house.

They lost my respect which I had earlier given them immediately. I was embarrassed and even forgave myself for misclassifying them to be executives. My father's words echoed to me that day and turned so real;

" My son a man of high standing and with value does not eat on the road, because eating on the road compromises the morals of society and it also brings shame to your mother or wife who prepares food for you. And in most cases, it's a sign that you are greedy such that you have a bad habit of enjoying yourself before you reach home."

It is convenient and advisable for a man who is hungry to find a place somewhere, sit down, wash hands, eat and then continue with the journey. That is the wisdom I learnt from my own father and I still cherish it till now.

In all what I saw and investigated, I learnt one thing which makes some people to look more special than others and this one thing is how well they brand themselves.

CHAPTER THREE

Success Can Begin with You or Never

We cannot doubt the wisdom and intelligence of God in the creation of mankind where some are short others tall, some are born in poor families and others in rich homes and so on and so forth. For instance, when you compare the design of a man and that of a woman, to some extent you would be tempted to suggest that God paid much attention to creating a woman than a man. Nevertheless, He carefully designed each one of us according to the roles and functions he/she would perform on earth. To a woman He gave them craved shapes, breasts and other nice features which perform specific functions different from that of a man. It's amazing! Even when you look at the creatures and animals of the earth like the crocodiles, tortoises and the giraffes; they are all designed according to the food they eat, their habitat and where they are found etc. My dear, you are carefully made and you are the best match

in achieving whatever you may want. Why waste your time wishing you were born in China, wishing you were born tall? Wake up and fulfil your purpose otherwise life is not complete without a person like you.

How do you wish you were born in USA when your destiny is in IsoKa district of Zambia, why do you wish you were born light in complexion when your future husband according to God's plan is interested in a woman dark in complexion? You are perfectly made and you don't need any additional feature in order to meet the desires of your life.

Many would often fall in the trap of trusting their future and destiny in other people while others are so much bothered about how they look and the kind of families they belong to. We always have in mind someone to be a major shaper of our destiny. We think of friends, workmates, and our bosses and in most cases even those we call mentors. This is common today; we are preoccupied with thoughts of blaming others for our misfortune. Change will not come on its own in our lives without any serious efforts to initiate it. We got to

take charge of what we should become otherwise we will not achieve any tangible results; only a mediocre living will be our destiny.

There is nothing mediocre about you, the only thing you should do is to discover your purpose and appreciate that you are carefully designed and you don't need any additional features. I do imagine what was going through the minds of the parents for the famous Nollywood actors **Chinedu Ikedieze** and **Osita IHEME** (Aki and Pawpaw) with height of 1.29 metres. May be at one point they thought their children were lame and they could not even think they were bringing up billionaires. Small in stature but might in intelligence; the size doesn't bother them to limit them from their dreams.

"I know that my height doesn't have anything to do with my brain. I believe that it is not by size, but what you can do and what you can put on the table. I don't allow my size to bother me. In fact, I don't even believe I am small. To me, I am normal and I am a big man,"
-Chinedu Ikedieze." (Pawpaw".

This man is an inspiration to many people who by looking at their own condition may feel left out in life. He inspires a persistent spirit and faith. The

fact is that you are not disadvantaged in any way except you have to reprogram how you think of yourself and the unlimited potential you hold within yourself.

A key factor on your route to success is determination. No matter how driven you are, how a great sense of purpose you carry with you, how much you want to follow your passion or how clear your vision is, your mission will end before the finish line if you do not have the grit to determination to see it through. If you give up, you will never achieve success, and all your previous hard work will go to waste. In other words, giving up is not a word successful people know or something they associate themselves with. This is so because, their sense of purpose is so strong they will do whatever it takes to achieve the outcome they desire. If you were to take stock of your life and check why up to now you have not crossed the bridge of poverty, you would be lucky if you would not attribute your failure to your bad timing, careless and being unfocused.

Push out of your comfort zone

One day in the year 2017, I was challenged by my mentor Ebony Sikaonga (Teacher at Jombo primary school) when he pointed out to me that

anyone can turn life around if serious efforts where applied. It was after I complained to him over my ever-rising numbers of family dependents. Him in a jokey way, only asked me two questions, the first question was about the number of dependents I had at home and their respective ages. I told him I had nine dependants who were above 20 years.

Do you think those dependants would die without your care? This was another question that came up and immediately I said a no! He immediately cut the line. I was troubled the whole night over his questions and started realizing whether I should let them go or not. I recall kneeling down for a prayer to God more especially that they were close relatives and I imagined how the entire family would react more especially those in the village where this act could be highly misunderstood. Instead of sitting and let things happen, just be persistent and let the whole of you pull up for the life you want, you will notice that the very limitations that scared you actually are the motivations to reach the furthest point of your life.

The following day I called everyone and broke the news that I was shifting to a two roomed house so that I could have a breathing space from rentals. Since everyone knew shifting into a two roomed house would be an instant dismissal of their stay in my house, the following day two of them went out and started a work piece (casual work) at Trade Kings and within four days or so, I received a bag of mealie meal and a packet of relish. Then I wondered, looked at them and realized that some help which we render to people are not solution but enemy to their being productive. I stayed with nine dependents for over two years but none of them was bothered to go looking for something to do and the few who were doing some business, never contributed for rentals or bought a bag of mealie meal; but on that day, things changed.

Actually, a good number of people are suffering today not because they have nothing to do but because they are comfortable in that very state. We all have the ability and potential to excel but what limits us is dependence syndrome, finger pointing and living without a vision. It took me into thoughts and started comprehending what could have happened if our forefathers didn't rise to fight for their freedom. One sign of living a

visionless life is being comfortable with a life that does not add value to your dream life

Nelson Mandela is a celebrated hero all over the world not because he had what it took for him to fight the whites, but his determination "To overturn South Africa's vicious apartheid regime" was his vision. Nelson Mandela showed the world a remarkable vision of leadership that arises all too seldom. For his unwillingness to compromise with his country's white-supremacist government, Mandela spent 27 years in prison. He spoke to his resolve in the brutal years in Robben Island prison, years often marked by pointless pounding on rocks in a lime quarry, by saying, "any man or institution that tries to rob me of my dignity will lose because I will not part with it at any price or under any pressure." Mandela said his faith in humanity was "solely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair.

A vision is where you see yourself in the future. It's an act or power of imagination, the mode of seeing or conceiving, it's also unusual discernment or foresight of a person's future.

A vision will guide and direct your steps decision. A vision that receives favour from God will stand a test of time; is that which does not

ONLY focus on personal achievements but also for other people.

We all have who to blame for our failure but great success is measured on the accomplishment and living up to one's dream. Living up to your dream also entails sacrificing the present's enjoyment and being taller than problems like what Nelson Mandela and those of his time did.

CHAPTER FOUR

Putting Yourself on the Map of Success

A vital part of taking action in the pursuit of your success is recognizing when to act and having the courage of your conviction. It is key to believe that the best chance of success can rise when the foundation is powerfully laid down. It is the meaning you give to your vision of your life that tells how much the world will respect you. When you put yourself on the map of success, it is undeniably easier for people to respect you and do interact with you. Those that are known for what they do attract success and many times not because they are smarter than others but because they have mastered the art of creating a brand name. They have learnt to be ahead of others and notably out beat their rivals.

If you want to be successful, ask yourself this question, what do I want to offer to people and how will I do it? This brings me to an interview I watched and listened to on the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) in 2010.

Geoffrey Bwalya Mwamba (GBM) a successful entrepreneur and politician was being interviewed and Geoffrey said that if one wanted to excel in life, one needed not to be pre-occupied with what product to sale or where to sale it but rather it should be *"how to create a brand name."* Example, he spoke of himself that he could go in the desert and start selling sand and label it as GBM manure soil, without doubt would excel, he nodded. Reason being that he has branded his name.

He further gave an illustration that up to now a good number of people do not know that COLGATE is a type of tooth paste but rather consider all tooth pastes as COLGATE this is because Colgate brand is viral in people's mind.

I have come to believe this phenomenon more especially that in this era people no longer listen to wise council but rather to who has said it and in what capacity. No matter how smart, educated and intelligent one can be, without the brand name in society, your brilliance is in vein and no one takes our words seriously. It starts at primary school level where prefects (captain) pick beautiful

girls as their girlfriends, not because they are more handsome than others, but because they have a position and everyone is looking up to them.

“Opportunities dance with those who are already on the dance floor”

Having a position in society is in itself a competitive advantage thus it's the easiest root one can use to realize their dreams. Have you realized how easy it is for fake prophets to manipulate people? A young man today out of poverty will wake up and say he is a prophet. Believe me you, our mothers, sisters, aunts and wives will be queuing for him. Depending on how the young man wants to manipulate them, he would at will listen to all our home and bedroom secrets not because people are dull but because we trust, treasure and respect brands. ”

"Being in a position of power relative to those around you certainly does change you – not necessarily in an evil way, but there is a definite shift in how you see things when you are in the driver's seat," When you feel powerful, you tend to think about the bigger picture in more creative ways. You're more optimistic, self-assured, and geared towards problem-solving and

tackling tough challenges. When you are in leadership, you're more likely to think creatively about solving problems and tend to feel responsible for the people you have power over. --- Prof Heidi Grant Halvorson

The Need to operate in a limitless zone

Felix Banda said, “We don’t just become.” Life is about fighting for what matters most and this causes for operating beyond job description and above the problem line. Creating a brand name and being in a driver’s seat do not come on a silver plate but it requires a willing heart and determined mind with eyes open to grab any opportunity that arises.

I was once a fun of not reading books until 2015 when I met my fate. As an assistant accountant then, I was sent to represent an organization (SWAAZ) for a workshop at Taj Pamozi Hotel organized by the American Jewish Worldwide Service (AJWS). Not being unique from other accountants, I paid little a attention to narrative reports and I was not interested in reading anything related or falling under the Programs department such as reports or media statements related to Gender, HIV, Sexual reproductive

health rights and Children health. My focus and attention was only to figures. While at the meeting, I met a number of professionals who knew the importance of operating beyond the normal way of thinking and beyond qualifications. These men and women had data and information for almost all sectors; they knew the national budget figure by figure, they followed local news and were conversant with all global proclamations regarding HIV/AIDS and child marriages.

Going into the discussion, I felt lost as if the meeting was for health practitioners and I was a carpenter.

This was very embarrassing as the meeting ended without going into budgeting where I could be seen relevant. At the end of the meetings, we formed groups with group representative and these group representatives had the privilege to travel all over the country. Do you think I was chosen to be a representative of any group? No.

The problem with most of us is that we have limited our minds to those things we know and no room for new things. Leaving our minds wide

open for knowledge outside our professional is key if we are to find roots which can lead us to a map of success. Unfortunately, most people do not like reading books and knowing a lot of things and with the coming of internet, it's now a done deal! No one bothers to research and read printed materials. If you want to achieve great success, make yourself stand out, be known for something.

Create an opportunity

When opportunities arise, take advantage of them with confidence. You haven't planned, primed, and nurtured a pipeline of opportunities to let them go to waste. The amount of preparation you've done will equip you to know whether or not an opportunity is right for you. You're able to make an informed decision based on your confidence, skills, and knowledge of self. Step into your power and feel assured that you cannot make a wrong decision. If you step into an opportunity that eventually turns out to be least perfect, you'll know that it served its purpose of leading you to the next one. Every step in your journey happens for a better life has a reason.

Taking a practical action is a key aspect in opportunity creation because thinking is just a phase in living but doing it takes the ball into a net. One day fear gripped my heart when one guy called me and told me that he needed me to be their manager for their music club based in Livingstone. First, I asked him why he thought of me to be their manager. He told me that the postings on my face book account made him think so. In my thinking, I thought my 'writings' had made me a manager for a music firm. After conversation with him for a while, I told him to meet me at Harry Mwanga Nkumbula Airport on my way to Mwanzi district.

After making this appointment to meet me in Livingstone, I sensed excitement on his part and I started asking myself why someone giving me an opportunity could be so excited.

As I was disembarking from the airplane, I saw a group of boys on the upstairs of Harry Mwanga Nkumbula airport building waving at me and in their minds, they were receiving a sponsor. Realizing their thinking, I changed my mind and started thinking about how to address that group of excited boys. During my address to them, I asked

them whether their neighbours particularly the young ones knew them as musicians.

Do they know you as musicians, comedian or artist? They said no. Then I asked them if any club in Livingstone or Lusaka would pay entry fees in pubs if we advertised that *Vaison Chisi* would be performing. They said no. I later asked them how much they had and how much their budget was. They told me they had K1000 and were looking for a K2000 so that they could pay one famous musician and feature into his music.

I immediately contributed k1000 plus what they had; it became K2000. I told them to buy a simple music sound system and luckily one of them had a key board and speakers. We then went into a shop dealing with second hand sound systems and bought the remaining instruments. In their mind they thought after buying these instruments I would give them another cash but to their surprise I told them to go into their compound and randomly without shame or fear start playing their music.

I encouraged them to perform their music for two days and two hours each a day as if there were mad. I later promised to meet them after two days and I emphasised that if people would be happy with their songs, then I would definitely give them more money. They got motivated, went and played music coupled with performances and before I could meet them, two neighbours got interested in their music and asked them if they could perform in their functions (Baby shower and come together party respectively).

As I was returning from Mwandia, I called them and they told me about the development and I then asked them to meet me after they had performed in those two functions. Two weeks later, I heard them in Lusaka downtown performing at a wedding and within a month, the boys were famous in Livingstone.

With no doubt people that have made a big difference in life know that opportunities to the life they want will never come once and if it really did, they would create their own door until they pass through to get the very dreams they long for. It is a lie that you will have to wait for perfect time to

achieve success, to wait for connections and a miracle to happen.

The majority of things you will enjoy in this life will come by persistence and a will to command what life should give to you. This means that by taking mastery of your situations around you, you can gradually pull up from the bottom to the top and meet other successful people.

Some people life seems to be marked by a profound sense of perfection, self-realization, and joy. Fortunately, those people aren't just subject to luck and chance. Opportunities are present all around you as well; you just need to learn how to identify and step into them. There is nothing in the Universe that says you can't fulfil your own dreams and create a life you want to live. On the contrary, the Universe actually invites you to step into who you were created to be, offering your unique skills to others in ways only you can.

As much as creating opportunities is based on doing, it's also about how you do it. Being a good person and putting positivity into the Universe invites good things to happen in return. Take time

to genuinely connect with others, instead of having a one-track mind for building an opportunity for yourself.

By creating lasting, solid relationships, people will remember you when an opportunity arises that requires your expertise, and where you can, volunteer your time and talent! Offer guidance and counsel based on your skills, establishing credibility and laying the foundation for when a full-blown opportunity presents itself. If you have a listening ear and want to become a counsellor, volunteer your services at a local community centre or offer your time pro bono at a counselling firm. Even if an opportunity doesn't manifest immediately, have faith that something is on the horizon.

CHAPTER FIVE

No One Has Enough

Resource mistakes are pretty common even among those of us who speak loudly. In some cases, the guilt from a money mistake can linger and end up causing one making even more mistakes. Being good with money is about more than just making ends meet. Don't worry that you're not a mathematics genius; great mathematics skills aren't really necessary - you just need to know basic addition and subtraction.

Life is much easier when you have good financial skills; life is beautiful if you can acquire what you planned in a space that you thought. However, financial management is not miraculous but it sits between what you think before having the money and what you think when you actually have the money in your hands. How you spend your money impacts your credit score and the amount of debt you end up carrying. In fact, if you're

struggling with money management, then you are strangling with development. When you're faced with a spending decision, especially a large purchase decision, don't just assume you can afford something. Confirm that you can actually afford it and that you haven't already committed those funds to another expense.

For example, for those that get more than ZMK10 000 have you not mercifully thought about how those who get ZKM 1 000 survive? Certainly, the least paid staff dream to have half of what you get.

One day my friends broke in laughter when I told them that for my family and I, breakfast meal is very luxurious because we only have it when our budget allows. My friends saw craziness in me and they wanted to start convincing me that I should be providing breakfast meal at all cost. `If we have enough, we eat all the three meals but if we don't have enough, then lunch and supper are enough and everyone is happy. Money management is key and knowing what you can afford and what you can't is vital for a health living.

Budgeting

In homes when we talk about budgeting some people view it as a complex task forgetting that the plans which we make before we actually receive the money are more genuine than the ones we make when the money is in the pocket or bank account.

Some of my friends and relatives when they call me two days after my pay day, they get shocked when I tell them I have no money. They ask me like, “were you not paid”? I tell them I did and they will seriously ask me like, “do you have termites in your home which are eating your money”? I simply laugh and tell them that I will look at their issue next month. Basically, I have a principle that money cannot be in my pocket or bank account for more than 48 hours without being spent. Note that, money being spent within 48 hours does not necessary mean spending it out completely and remain with zero balance. If you have a ZMK5 000 in your bank account which is attached to specific commitment, then that money is not yours. For me, I count it to have been spent.

Changing goal posts is not progressive unless something is very serious.

So then how can you successfully and fruitfully finish your salary in 48 hours? Or how can you honour your budget?

First of all, analyse your long-term plan. If it can take you six months to raise the money for a long-term project, then consider opening a fixed or savings account where you will have access only when you need that money.

For example, your salary is ZMK5 300 and you need ZMK 6 000 for a plot, and you plan to be saving a K1, 000 every month. It is not practical that you can manage to save such an amount in your house or in a current bank account where you can get any time. In life, each day brings new competitive ideas such that you cannot see your neighbours dying of hunger when you have ZMK 4,000 in your account waiting for December so that you can buy a plot. So, saving your money in an account that can give you access to it any time as you wish, is not actually saving. So, I propose that you keep your money in a fixed savings account

where no matter what happens you cannot withdraw until such a time when you agreed with the bank. This will address the issue of saying let me lend it to my neighbour and by the time it will reach December, he/she will have paid me back. What if he also lends it to someone else and says by the time the date to pay back what I owe to Mr. Silumbwe comes, he/she will have already paid me back. Before you realize my sister, your money for buying a plot is in a chain of 10 people. Then you develop high blood pressure and consider your uncle as a person bewitching your development.

Secondly, list down your monthly needs. For example,

Rentals ZMK1 000

Food staff ZMK 1 000

School fees ZMK500

TV set ZMK 1 500

Transport ZMk300

Savings ZMK1 000

When the money hits your bank account, immediately pay the landlord, pay school fees, go

and buy the TV, buy food stuffs and deposit the saving into your fixed account before other plans come in. If you hesitate to pay out these commitments as money is credited to your account, you are likely to receive other commitments which will look more serious than your earlier plan.

Thirdly, start listing new commitments....

Most of us consider allowances we make from our work places as unplanned for money so it can be spent on anything. This is unpatriotic mind which should never appear in the dictionary of progressive minds. When the month passes, you will have other items listed on your budget which your salary could not manage and you will be easing your monthly salary if some of these items listed can be sorted out from allowances. In other words, the month has gone and you are now listing down other commitments which came after you had already spent out your budget. So, list them together with those that remained on the previous list. If this trend can continue, you will discover that your pocket will be empty all the time but meanwhile new things are bought every month.

*“We are neither lazy nor is Our Economy is too bad
to make it”*

I totally refuse to accept that African People are lazy; nor do I agree that the environment in Africa is not conducive to do business. Yes, to a certain degree, we have been impacted by unfair policies but it is not the major reason for our personal failures if others are making it big in the very environment.

First of all, I personally I have more than 5000 hectares of land idol in my village, so the reason why I fail to make use of such fertile land regardless of me being a graduate and financially stable, is well known to me and my conscience. In another example, every morning in my neighbourhood around 04 hours while in my bed, I do hear some voice of bus conductors calling people to board buses and besides that, mothers in numbers as early as 05 hours will have already secured their orders alongside wheelbarrow pushers.

Thirdly, I have heard several times the government announcing for youth / SMEs, economic empowerment fund but many friends

and I have never visited such offices so as to inquire and submit our business proposals. In fact, I have seen people driving expensive cars in the same economic environment. So, what kills us is not the economy nor that we are lazy, no. But:

i. The I syndrome

We have a number of business people whose spouses don't even know what businesses they do and where they conduct their businesses. Yes, there are a number of justifications which includes that once a spouse knows what you do and where you are found, there is resource mismanagement and the like. Now, if we cannot show our relative how we manage our business, how do we expect the business to continue when we are no more? Indeed, no ways and that's why so many businesses collapse once the proprietor dies. *The I syndrome* is a danger to the success of so many of partnerships because everyone wants to lead an organization and everyone wants to be called the founding father of ABCD enterprise.

Early 2018, I was engaged to help a certain group of women to register an NGO. Upon hearing that

there was a potential donor who was waiting for them to register an organization and then fund them, the fight rose within the group. As if I was dreaming, the fight became intensive as to who should be a chairperson and also what clause should be put in the constitution so that certain individuals could be barred and other to remain chairpersons for life. The clock was ticking and the donor was waiting for the registration of that NGO. Before we could realize, the time to submit the proposal was over. An opportunity was lost.

ii. Expensive life before dawn

If someone is living beyond their means, they are spending more money than they can afford. If someone is living within their means, they are not spending more money than they can afford.

People who know how things work are not preoccupied with the mind of driving expensive cars and nice jackets as a sign of wealth. To them business sustainability and improving the balance sheet is the issue.

Someone will have ZMK1 000 capital and every day he makes sales of let us say ZMK300 and if you

are to count the cash at hand and stock in the shop, you will discover that out of the ZMK300 that he makes per day, actually the real profit in those sales is ZMK50. However, he will be boasting to say, I make ZMK300 every day daring those who get paid at the month end. Instead of recognizing the fact that on every ZMK300 that he makes every day, the profit in real terms is ZMK50, they end up spending more than k50. Similarly, for us who are in employment, our first task when we start getting paid is to buy expensive things in our homes so that our work mates could see that really, we are doing fine. We expect manna to come from heaven so that we can invest. How many retirees are living merciless lives and how many people become destitute after the end of their contracts? The only thing they remain saying is that, “we were people.”

III. Failure to utilize our borrowings

Two years after my graduation, I was engaged by a financial Institution '*Closer Walk Innovation Limited*' as a loan officer. One of my tasks was to look for potential clients and also to orient them on loan servicing mechanisms. I conducted a number of seminars before awarding loans to potential business men and women. I discovered that out of

100 people who got the loan, only 10% could be successful and service the loan, 20% could service the loan from other sources of funds, 30% defaulting time to time and the rest could simply be under the loan trap.

My boss, the Director for Lusaka region told me to do a survey on why people defaulted regardless of the loan scheme being very flexible. After reviews, I discovered most people were spending out on the principal amount before they could invest it. For example, Mr. Sichone got ZMK5 000 and before investing this amount in his drug store, he bought a phone for ZMK500 and spent another ZMK500 on home utilities. After investing the ZMK4 000 which remained, he made the total sales of ZMK5 700 at the end of that month, he then paid ZMK650 towards servicing the loan.

He again paid rentals for ZMK 350 and he spent another ZMK450 at home. You see, under normal circumstances, he had made the profit of ZMK1,700 in this particular month but because he used ZMK1,000 before investing the whole ZMK5 000, the only profit which could be recorded was ZMK700 knowing that the ZMK1 000 from the

ZMK1 700 was recovering the principal amount. So, because of this, he went in the second month with the principle amount of ZMK 4 250

Sales	ZMK 5 700
Loan service (650) Rentals (350)	
Home expenses (450)	
Total	<u>(1 450)</u>
Balance (Capital)	4 250

So already the principle amount is limping. The following month he made total sales of ZMK5 800 and incurred the same expenditure of ZMK1 450. By the time he was reaching month 5, his capital had reduced to ZMK3 100 and by the time he was finishing the loan, he remained with nothing.

In other words, many people when they get a loan, they spend part of it on other things other than what the loan purpose is and eventually they start

working towards recovering the principal amount, servicing the loan and running costs.

iv. Lack of cooperation

“Lessons from Honey Bees”

There is a lot that human beings can learn from the life of honey bees. Honey bee hives have three broad categories of individuals: the queen, the worker bees and the drones. While this appears on the surface to be a hierarchy in the hive, the truth is that all of the bees need one another to survive and thrive. No single individual, nor group of individuals is more important than any other.

A queen without her team is no queen at all. Similarly, without a strong queen, a hive would literally crumble. Bees instinctively understand the importance of their hive members. They all matter as individuals, and as parts of the whole. What they can't do alone, they can do together. Different bees have different jobs. They include

cleaning the hive, managing the temperature of the hive, caring for the queen, feeding younger bees, and guarding the hive's entrance, construction, maintenance, and repair of structures within the hive, gathering food and many more. Often, duties are divided up among different bees based upon age and experience, but not always. If a bee notices something that needs to be done that isn't being done, that bee will take the initiative and do it. It doesn't wait to be told. It doesn't ignore the need; that it would be to everyone's eventual peril. If it must be, then it's up to each and every bee.

You can easily imagine that an executive director takes on a similar role to that of a queen bee, the leader of the hive. And those of us underneath that post work hard towards a common end goal.

This lesson has a pretty obvious implication for us even in our various organizations. Inter-departmental collaboration is key! Think of all the various friends and relatives. Each one has a vastly different day to day tasks, but all are equally important to the survival of our vision as a whole. Without our work mates and friends, how would we keep our goals afloat? Without our Marketing folks, how would people find out about our

offerings? Without our Customer Service representatives, how would we maintain positive relationships with our patrons? And the list goes on and on.

The point is, everyone at your organization or community level plays an important role for you and your team to move forward. Take the time to recognize this, celebrate accomplishments, lift one another up, and come together to problem-solve! If one person succeeds, you all succeed.

Animals and ants of the soil know how important it is to work together but human beings who are created in the image of God have degrees in Pull Him Down attitude (PhD).

It saddens me when I refresh myself with what I witnessed one day as I was driving for work.

CHAPTER SIX

Marriage

To fully enjoy the blessings of hard work and complete a life puzzle of living life beyond imaginations, a happy marriage is a seal.

Marriage is originally God's idea for which men and women can fulfil God's purpose. It is God's own agenda for mankind, it is to be a source of reflection and motivation of life. It is a sacred union of two souls opposite to each other but yet equal in value and purpose as far as human life is concerned. It's the best way to wrap your life with an unending happiness and it is never meant to be fearsome or shunned but to be enjoyed till death.

This is not implying that there are no problems in it; but it means that there is a larger part of your life that is impacted positively when you marry the right person for your life.

There is no perfect or common formula on how a marriage should be managed, so a couple has to

find what works for them and ultimately taking care of all the necessary prerequisites. It has to happen when you are fully aware of the consequences of every action and be ready to take full responsibility for them.

Most importantly is that one is not a hero based on how much he or she perseveres in an unhappy marriage but on whether one marries the right partner and for right reasons. Choosing your life partner is more important than the recruitment for the position of senior manager for a company because your spouse is a key partner of your life and a manager of all your wealth and family. It is a crucial point which comes often in any person's life for as long as there is life.

It comes with an impact in your heart considering that a spouse has the ability to influence your choices and decision and through actions and deeds, he or she can halt or put things in motion.

The success you have (wealth, health, achievements) and all you can do with your life will never amount to anything in fulfilling your deepest desires and inner joy if your spouse is not

carefully and maturely dealt with. This is not to mean marriage is everything; No! I know that there are people who have special grace to live single lives, we thank God for that but in any case, these people are few and only God knows. If you have a wife or husband or aspire to be in marriage, I will demand your full attention on this chapter. It is a truth that I have realized and quite important in your journey to the life you will love to live for and purposely lead you into success and fulfilment.

Suitability

Settling for marriage is the most important thing but what most of young ones entering into marriage forget is that, having a lot of money or a good job is not a sign that one is ready to marry. I begin by saying one is ready for marriage the moment he or she finds a suitable companion. Unfortunately, being in love with a beautiful woman or a handsome or rich guy doesn't mean that one has found a suitable companion. If you are not comfortable with this statement, then ask rich people why they fight even when they have enough resources around.

“Wealthy is not a sign that one is ready for marriage otherwise rich people would have been the happiest couples.”

The question that everyone wishing to enter marriage needs to answer is that “ Why marry Jane and not Joyce. Genesis 2:18 is a very important verse for every man and woman to consider. Regardless of how poor or rich, beautiful or ugly, every person has an ability to achieve one or two purposes in life. Marriage-wise, however, these abilities may not be effective until brought with a compatible companion. Try to imagine a person with a Mercedes Benz which has a certain part broken and then goes to buy the same part but which is meant for a Toyota Corolla, how suitable will that be? Will that vehicle function properly with such a part? Definitely, no. Suitability in marriage is equally the same: Explains Naomi Zawa Mulenga(a respected marriage counsellor)

Marriage is God’s agenda; any two people trying to come together out of what they see or even how they feel for each other than what was meant by God will be a marriage full of struggles and regrets

I have seen many people including servants of God who get married and struggle in their marital life to the extent where they get affected in their ministry or career. One servant of God said if only God could allow me 30 minutes to be out of marriage, the ministry could flourish. This is because the abilities to excel sometimes get affected by the spouse's abilities. The first question to answer is that, "What does God want out of your life in order to achieve his purpose?" Secondly is to look at the abilities of the woman you are looking for by asking yourself the question, "Does she have what it takes to make us together achieve the purpose of God in our life?" Most people today cry in marriage because they consulted their emotions when entering marriage, "she has a good shape or she smiles very well or he is very rich".

All these things are just ingredients for marriage and not the reason to even put on the checklist. You must consider his or her abilities; he may not be driving now but if he finds you, the favour to buy cars will fall in place. She may look dirty now but with your coming together, she may become your best match.

“We should remember that a suitable companion is one suitable for you and not the one suitable for your brother, sister, uncle, aunty, mother or father.”

I have come to know that sometimes couples with different preferences make a good match. Imagine what could happen if a man who is quite (reserved) marries a fellow quiet woman; it means the home will have no funny. For men who are impulsive in spending, make more sense if they marry a woman who is economically minded.

Suitability is key for a happy marriage. It's like a lock and a key! Together you can lock and open things.

Sympathetic Love

The issue is that it is a phase in life where you will only have to rightfully make one choice out of a million if not billions of options and to be made once and for all. It is the most important thing to say "I do" and in fact it's so beautiful if vowels "for better for worse" fall on the person you love without conditions and someone ready to turn

your weakness into strength and turn your income into investments.

It sounds easy but certainly it is not. There are many people today that wish for it and also many that want to jump and wish out of it and others have already jumped out of it.

To be sincere, the baseline for a happy marriage is love; benchmarked by the reasons why he or she wants to get married. Is it because you are old enough or is it because you have no one to take care of you? If your reasons to get into marriage is wrong then your future spouse is likely to be wrong.

One key formula of identifying your suitable companion is understanding your feelings, defining your goals and avoiding marriage by sympathy. Sympathy is marrying someone who you don't love but because you have been together for so long and you feel guilty to leave her. Sympathy is also where you marry someone because (I) you are family friends and both of your parents enjoy a good relationship (ii) because she sings very well at church (iii) she is the daughter to the pastor (iv) he helped you with this and that. All

these things are useless without love and even if the mother has got a good heart; you are marrying the daughter who is different from the mother.

“Even if her mother has a good heart, you are marrying the daughter who is different from the mother.”

In as much as we depend on friend’s advice; we need to respect our feelings and our time so that we do not fall into a trap of entering into marriage simply to make people happy.

Temptation

I’m convinced beyond doubt that being in the presence of God through prayer, worship and meditation of the holy word is key in identifying a suitable companion. However, people must not be tempted in believing that marrying a prayer warrior means marrying a suitable companion. In 2014, I had the privilege to be an usher and an intercessor for an inter- denominational gathering. As an usher, I had chance to pray while moving around the church. As I was praying for God to help me locate a suitable wife, alas, the lady beside

me was also praying so that God can locate her a suitable man.

Hearing that, I posed a bit and looked into her eyes but unfortunately, I could still not see my dream companion in her and immediately I became very observant with my head up. It was a funny but very serious moment. Am sure my fellow ushers wondered what I was really up to. I had not yet thought of it so strongly like I did that day.

“Sometimes People who pray for God to give them suitable companions are normally not suitable for a suitable companion they are looking for.”

Being sharp-eyed, I learnt that there were three main groups of prayer supplication rendered to God by most women; those that are married pray mostly about behaviour change of their husbands and of course for family prosperity, and behind the scenes of their prayers, you will also notice that somehow they are not happily married and wish God could correct the situation. For those that are single, their main prayer is for them to meet a suitable husband with good heart, caring and with

resources to take care of the family, but surprisingly those who pray for suitable husbands look unsuitable for a suitable man.

For the divorcee, their major prayer is for God to locate to them a man different from the previous husband and when you look at them, they are beautiful, loving and you wonder why they had been through a divorce. At the end, I learnt that this generation is in danger; so many singles are not properly guided and the rate at which people are divorcing is high today, something to give a thought about. In this era, people devote so much in prayers but they are not ready to do things which can make them wife or husband materials.

“Choosing a suitable partner, means choosing a lot of things; including your parenting partner and someone who will deeply influence your children. Your wife will be your eating companion for a thousand meals; your travel companion, your primary leisure time and retirement friend, your career therapist, and someone whose day you will hear about many times.”

CHAPTER SEVEN

The Walk towards Marriage

In our society today, the emphasis is to get married before you're too old and "too old" varies from age 27 and above, depending on where you live. The rule should be "whatever you do, don't marry the wrong person," but society is so much concerned about 35-year-old single persons than it does on an unhappily married 35-year-old with two children. It makes no sense the former is one step away from a happy marriage, while the latter must either settle for permanent unhappiness or endure a messy divorce just to catch up to where the single person is.

The strong foundation for marriage is love cemented by the reasons why someone wants to go into marriage at that time with that type of man or woman. If your reasons to get married is to find someone to spoil you financially, then your focus will be for rich men and this is wrong because your missing rib might be poor but big in mind. And if

your focus is to catch up with time, then you may end up getting married to people you have never wished.

“Never be cheated, in marriage there are times when you do not need her beauty but her character and there are also times when you do not need her character but her beauty, so better have both.”

The good walk in marriage should be cauterized by love “do I love him or her?” Have I found the right person? Am I settled to move on with marriage? Normally there is an inner peace when you find the love of your heart at a right time. If both of you love each other and are willing to come together, then consider other factors other than love. “Are you willing to tolerate her nonsense? “. Remember that you are marrying someone who is not your relative and someone brought up differently and each one of you have different preferences. Since it's not everything you can change from your partner, are you willing to buy into his or her weakness? Most importantly, both of you have future plans, so the question, is he or she a solution and best match in as far as you reaching your destiny is concerned? So, if you really take care of these prerequisites very well,

you will find that some people who you waste time dating cannot even qualify to be with you even for one week.

Follow Your Heart

Marriage is something which you cannot afford to leave in the hands of a friend or family member but the greatest adviser is God and you yourself. There might be a great commonality in the way you and your friend respond to the environment but it's dangerous for your friend to advise you to marry a fat or slim woman. Your body chemistry makes up is different from that of your friend and his feelings might be for the slim one but yours for the fat one otherwise you are bound to marry your friend's choice.

Not to subdue the teaching, I have come to know that every human being is unique and the scientific make up of each one's body react differently from the other and as such our preferences and our responses to love is different. Always follow your heart but prayerfully. People are not always the same they can change and become anything but if you have taken care of all the godly virtues as key components in your partner, then you have hope that your marriage will last a test of time but if the foundation is weak, be certain to fail because

marriage is a huge test that you need to pass every day. So, before you choose be sure that you are happy and the choice has been out of an unconditional love, love without limits and boundary. Romance can be a great part of a relationship, and love is a key ingredient in a happy marriage, but without a bunch of other important things, it's simply not enough.

Take your time

Thinking about how overwhelmingly important it is to find the right life partner is like thinking about how huge the universe really is or how terrifying death really is—it's too intense to internalize the reality of it. But unlike death and the universe's size, finding a life partner *is fully in your control*, so it's critical to make yourself entirely clear on how big a deal the decision really is and to thoroughly analyse the most important factors in making it.

The scripture is very clear on the importance of finding a true love. He that finds a woman finds a good thing and receives favour from God. Proverbs 18:22. If I was the one writing the bible I would have said; "he that picks a woman picks a good thing. In this context, pick should have meant getting from things already available. The

key word in the Holy Scripture is “**find**” which mean not readily available and in fact to find there is a probability that you cannot find it. In other words, the role of people entering marriage is to “Find the right partner”. This is not an easy task and it requires your efforts and dedication.

“Finding a love partner is a huge project that requires planning, consideration and prayer because your good health, your investment, your long life can begin or end with your partner.”

Searching for your missing rib must not be a matter of fate or luck where you go in the field “Whoever accepts me, marries me” You cannot go to find something which you don’t have an idea of. Truth is that every mature single person has a dream husband or wife who he/she sees each time he/she crosses the eyes and through the inner voice, a woman for example is able to tell the first day a man proposes love to her as to whether he is the one or not. This is possible if you truly know yourself as well as what you want to become.

Don’t forget that you have embarked on a journey and you must be prepared to invest your time and money. Just like in business where you spend in

order to earn, be prepared to compromise and be flexible. Remember you are meeting people who have their own principles and so don't let your principles override theirs otherwise they might misunderstand you. In the same way people invest in education, they should also invest in love because love is a good catalyst for success in marriage.

Don't over classify yourself

Always remember your partner or your mate is also searching for the right person and so be conscious about the things you demand. You might be thinking he is interested in your beauty meanwhile he is looking for your ability to understand his weakness. You may think she interested in your money meanwhile she wants to know if you are humble and gentle. Overrating yourself makes people to miss their "Mr or Miss Right." I have no problem in you listing down the qualities you want in your partner but I have a problem if you could judge people based on their appearance.

There is a thick line between being beautiful and being a good wife or being humble and being a good husband." *Be conscious that you are not a*

success by material wealth only or physical beauty, you are a true and real success if everything even in your marital life take shape". Remember if the devil cannot attack your wealth, he may attack your marriage so that you fail to enjoy your abundant wealth.

Counter the belief

I always refuse when people say," women are more than men." My research is that actually we have a lot of single men hesitating to go into marriage for fear of responsibility. So, what makes women to prominently look more desperate than men are that a good number of women are fighting for few men who are financially stable while most men are looking for women who can accept them the way they are. The demand which women place on their boyfriends cost them marriage. Most block single guys are waiting to have money and call themselves ready for marriage which is wrong.

"Marrying the right way is not about who is economically viable or who is beautiful with a good shape but it's about who is the best match in helping you reach your destiny."

I know one key role of a man is to provide material things but we don't go in marriage or relationship

in order to improve our financial position but to help and encourage each other to raise up and become the person God has meant us to be. During such difficult times do your best by providing what you can afford to provide and let each one does the best to build the marriage.

Keep the Basics of Marriage

One thing that challenges me so much is that, when you go to the village for example, you would find that our young brothers and sisters who have never been to school, who have no money, no exposure; they manage to find who to marry at a very fresh age and they also bring up children without much problems. For us civilized children, with good academic and professional qualifications, well exposed and with all kinds of things, we have problems to find who to marry and after marriage, its problems after problems. The reason is simple, our brothers in the village uphold culture and follow laid down procedures before and after marriage.

Small things which we ignore amount to a greater deal in the long run.

Similarly, in the olden days before they could settle for John or Jane, they could first scan who the parents for John were, they could also analyse the common problems faced by the family and whether he or she was a hard worker.

All this great information was gathered and analysed before one could settle for engagement. Nowadays, people say love is between two people and they don't care about who the families are, they have no regard to family or societal values and they don't also care whether they meet in a bar or on the road because everything is modernized.

A good walk in marriage requires you to understand how complex marriage is (not a contract) and taking necessary precautions your love doesn't override the basic societal principles. This reminds me what I saw with my eyes. As I sat with my family watching Television, I heard a knock and opening the door, immediately, I saw a young lady in tears on our door step.

My wife first thought may be the young lady was looking for me. We asked her to sit down and explain her case; alas she began by saying, " how

could you allow me to go through all these things". This is a situation where this young lady started dating our brother without really finding out who he was. This brother in question left a wife in the village and after one year in town he also married another woman and at the time they started dating, the wife had taken the baby to her mother in village.

This young lady under the concept of love is between two people got pregnant for him. One day as she was resting in the house of this brother, she heard the sound of a car and as if she was dreaming, the lady came out of the car with a baby and went straight to the bedroom.

In fear she started running for her life and decided to meet the relatives (us). We then asked her who she was and she got more annoyed to learn that we didn't even know her. In her thinking, she was so popular and her relation had gone viral to the point where all families knew about it. We asked her why she could not be bothered to inquire about the life of her lover; she just started crying uncontrollably. You see, small things matter a lot and sometimes we may not even see the gravity of the blessings which parents pray for us on our

wedding day or when we do a good thing. What is education if it can make you fail to find a person to marry, what is civilization if it can make you fail to bring up children in the Godly way? What class can you talk about if it can make you morally bankrupt?

CHAPTER EIGHT

Ingredients for Marriage

Having chosen your spouse is not enough on its own because life on a daily basis brings different issues which can make couples not to see what they saw before they married each other. To sustain marriage and ensure that it remains in shape, couples needs to go some extra miles. Some of the essential ingredients of marriage though not comprehensive are:

Respect

Unlike women, most men are not usually moved by romantic words like honey, sweet. Marriage for most men is cemented by those acts which makes them feel they are in a driver's seat. So, most women ask questions like, if I love him what can I do to make him mine at all costs? In a very simple sentence, men want respect and care. This means that a man wants to be held in esteem and to be shown consideration and appreciation even when he makes mistakes. He wants to be seen as a king, especially in the eyes of his bride. He needs

someone to believe in him when the odds are stacked against him. If a man doesn't feel respected, he's destined to act in a way reminiscent of the obnoxious, "I-can't-get-no-respect,"

What I'm saying is, men need to be respected for who they are, not for what they do. Even if a woman has a valid contribution, speaking while a man is speaking is an act of disrespect. Comparing him to other men is also an act of disrespect. Remember that there is nothing special which slay queens do to snatch men from their wives but they only capitalize on the mistakes which the wives due to their husbands.

When I knock off from work, I find the house very dirt with plates everywhere, bedding scattered so I feel not respected upon hearing this, the slay queen will go and maintain high standard of hygiene such that the house will be clean and bedding well displayed and rose flowers everywhere.

Care is an act of love that makes a husband to differentiate between work place and home, food from the hands of a wife and food from a restaurant, sleeping in a home and sleeping in a lodge. Some Slays queens have been married

before, so they know that most wives have no time to impress their husbands and therefore they will try to prepare special meals until he feels the difference of being with them and being with a wife. Wife materials are not those who survive hunger in marriage but those who care and respect their husbands regardless of who they are.

On the other hand, some men feel a woman is a special being who has no blood nor feelings. They treat women inconsiderately; in such a way that they feel, they can reach home any time and they can go anywhere since they are the head of the house and no one can control them in the way that please them (I mean men).

However, I believe how long a man lives here on earth sometimes depends on the wishes of a woman! Though you boast about being the head, but you eat her food. Though you may think that you are powerful and that no one can control you but you sleep on the same bed the whole night with her. For me, any man who doesn't respect the wife, deserves no respect as well. This does not mean a 50/ 50 kind of approach but it means respect becomes true respect if it can also be enjoyed by both parties in a marriage relationship.

Some of the acts of respect for men to their wives may be;

Never to shout or correct or rebuke her in the presence of people or family members.

Never involve her parents in an argument with her for example, you are as bad as your mother or your mother didn't teach you good manners. Telling your wife that she badly brought up.

Never to appreciate other women in her presence like Angela Mba knows how to cook.

Never answer suspicious calls in her presence that makes her feel insecure.

Family

Despite love, respect and care being the best ingredients for marriage, some other factors however are quite critical. In our set-up as Africans, to a very large extent our marriages are influenced by families and friends. In as much as love is between two people, it's a grave mistake for you not to associate with friends and in-laws. Friends and family members know your partner better than you do.

This is because they have been together for years. For instance, most men are so much bothered about what their friends tell them. 'Your wife is beautiful and she has a good heart for the family'.

Therefore, to seal up your marriage I recommend you to maintain a balance in your marriage with in laws. When you are married, you also became part of another family with its own set of expectations. It sounds more like your in-laws are a burden in your life. Perhaps you feel caught between trying to please them (and trying to avoid offending them. The first time you meet your in-laws, you have a singular goal: impress them and trying your best to accommodate to them. After a number of years and a couple of kids, you start to become the gatekeeper.

The first principle that applies here is that, if you're a Christian, you owe your in-laws behaviour that's consistently Christian in character—as you do anyone else regardless of your in-laws being "difficult" The problem is that they're not just anyone but they're connected to your spouse through genetics, history, and complex psychological dynamics.

“Never fool yourself into believing that you are more important than his mother because a man can divorce 10 wives but cannot divorce the mother.”

Secondly, always treat each family member equally and without segregation. A couple that can learn to treat each family member equally regardless of whether that member is a sister to the husband or wife, prosper easily. In most homes, a husband would be sending money privately to his family without the knowledge of the wife and the wife would also be doing the same. A lot of couples feel that if their wives know that they gave their respective mothers a k500, their wives would also want their mothers be given k500 when she visits. Equity in treatment of family members means helping them according to their needs. For example, your uncle visited you when you had enough money at home and you bought him a lot of goodies, a year later the uncle from the husband’s side visit you when things are not too good, so a bad couple would seek to treat them equally. Another example is where the family of a wife lives in a village or they are poor and the man’s family are well-to-do. Definitely, one family needs more help than the other and there is no point for a man to say “bring two relatives

(dependants, I also bring two". Needs for families differ from time to time and how a couple helps them differs also.

Do something

Women let no none cheat you, doing something is another reason to be loved." The world is changing and everything is turning around but people are missing what can sustain them in this global world. There is no time to go for fashion because;

"Fashion attracts a man to a woman but doing something to the contrary gives a man a reason to marry and continue living with a woman.'

In 2016, my friend invited me to a family meeting where the family for the man felt that the woman was abusive hence the need to be divorced. When the matter came up for trial in a local court, the man refused to divorce his vile wife narrating how his wife helps him to meet some basic needs at home. In his defence for the withdraw of divorce case notice, he narrated that one day he went into town to sell some merchandise and worked the whole day without selling anything, so he decided to pass through some women who give usury known as *kaloba* considering the fact that he had

left nothing at home and the landlord would chase them from the house. While going to get the loan, he received a call from his wife asking him why he had taken too long a time to reach home and he told his wife about the plan to get *kaloba*. To his surprise, the wife happily told him not to worry about rentals because she had already paid and bought some food at home from her small business. This gave him relief. This left the whole family in shock.

Let no one cheat you, doing something is another reason to be loved;
in fact, just as women feel excited to introduce their husband to friends like, "my husband is a Finance Director at Mupakasi PLCs, it's also sweet for a man to be a husband to that very woman who is most feared and respected in a reputable institution.

Doing something is another reason for a woman to look clean. Actually, its heart breaking for a man who had a slow business to be called like, "Bashi Junior (father to Junior) its 20 hours now and you are not back?" So, you think your children will eat you." Hurry up we are waiting for food! You reach home and you find her at the roadside waiting for

a 50 ngwee from you so that she can buy a box of matches. Wake up and let money making be your fashion. We appreciate your beauty but start doing something to sustain your beauty. Never wait to marry a well to do man because one day you will be an opportunity cost and he will run to women of his class.

Romance

Romance is one of the key ingredients of a happy marriage and lack of romance sometimes leads to couples cheating on their spouses. It begins by a couple understanding that in the whole world he/she is the only one who can show the spouse how sweet and wonderful marriage is. If you cannot bring the world of love closer to your spouse, it's either she dies without having a feel of how it is to be in a romantic marriage or she finds someone to bring the world of love closer to her.

“Defines Romance as a powerful force that makes you feel connected to someone in a deeper way. It's the gestures, both big and small, that make you feel especially wooed and especially cherished by your partner”.

- Kristen Rocco

Some husbands take it for granted that their wives know they love them “after all I buy her

everything”, they assume. And other couples think calling each other sweet, honey, and baby is enough sign of romancing each other. For me romance is every minute activity that keeps marriage live and makes each partner aware that someone thinks of them, someone cares for them and someone values them. Some of the examples of the act of love that deepens romance in marriages are;

- (a) Communication: small things like text messages, telephone calls like hello dear how has been your day and what do you have for lunch are very powerful romance tools. They make your wife feel that though you are far (at work) your heart is with them.
- (b) Gifts: Never take it for granted that she has seen flowers before or she has eaten cakes before, gifts make people to feel special and very honoured.
- (c) Adventures: going out with your family is incredible because it makes couples to think they are also part of this world of love, after all we also go where other couples go. A piece of chicken in a hotel is better than the whole chicken in one’s kitchen
- (d) Spending time with family at home; having fun with your spouse arouses love emotions,

for example playing chase, or pool table with your wife is awesome and makes couples to be connected, after all we are not just wife and husband but close friends., they lament.

So, if you are the kind of guy who makes her laugh, she will always want to be around you and not with the guy who is constantly nagging her, in additions, it would be an incredible idea if you notice the little things that she does and praise her. In order to know how to attract any girl it's important to know how to connect with her, that is, how to build an emotional connection so that she feels close to you, and you feel close to her

Provision

A lot of men day in and day out are preoccupied with thoughts of making money and when they make more money and buy everything at home, they feel the inner peace and call themselves good husbands. In some instances, men who have difficulties in bringing food on the table have difficulties in relating well with their wives. Unfortunately, most people think provision ends at one buying food, renting the house, paying school fees for children etc. First of all, let us compare what *proverbs 31:10-31* says about the roles of wives. Proverbs describes the role of a

woman as, “to provide a conducive environment in a home, healthy food for the family (not just any food), service to her husband and, mothering the children and the list goes on. Providing a conducive environment is beyond romancing a husband and doing home chores. And that’s why a foolish woman destroys her home with her hands.

In the same way provision for men is responsibility, care, leadership and protection regardless of his personality, level of income or education. Care includes spiritual, moral, financial and material care. You are bad husband if you can give material provision for the family but leave them spiritually and morally bankrupt. Provision may not translate into money, but to give confidence in leadership, vision and mission for the family can make it. As long as a husband can show leadership, a woman will have no challenge to submit in an effort to actualize the financial and family dreams.

Therefore, one of the primary roles of a husband is to lead. Leadership simply means a husband should influence his family in a way that brings glory to God and create wealth. A husband will never influence his wife if he does not care for her.

He can demand and she may follow as a result, but he will never truly have her heart unless he provides for her needs, cares for her well-being, and protects her both physically and spiritually. Remember the physical nature and strength of a man is to be managed with grace and gentleness. God did not create men to lord over women nor did he create women to simply wait on men. He made them both to complement each other through healthy companionship.

If the husband is a true believer, he would see this as sin not to -give leadership to the family repent and be cleansed.