



Pastor Mike's Bio & preparation for ministry

My testimony



Mike and his family: Wife (Blandine), children from right to left Aurora (First born), Neville (Third born), Faith (Last born), Ariel (Second last) and Alexia (Second born).

Every person in this world has his background which can be explained in form of chapters. In my case, I will explain my conversion into three parts comprising my life before conversion, my conversion, as well as after my conversion to Christ.

I was born and raised up in a Christian pastoral family. My Christianity started when grandfather received Christ during an evangelism campaign done by American missionaries from a certain Conservative Baptist missionary society, the founder of my Denomination. He was trained in evangelism and planted later a church in the village where he was living. Later on, both my father and his brother (my uncle) embraced the pastoral ministry. My father received a scholarship to pursue his theological studies at a Theological Seminary in the Country, and earned a Bachelor Degree level. I was born just one month after his completion.

Hence, I grew up in a Christian environment, attending Sunday schools within my Denomination and in fear of the Lord. However, being born in a Christian family is neither a guarantee of salvation nor being spared from the devil's temptations.

My father caused me to rebel myself against God due to his uncontrolled mistake in his speech; fortunately, I was saved by God's grace. This is a darkest period in my life which started when somebody who knew during my childhood came to visit us and who had still the image of a stubborn and pride Mike. Given that I grew up and that we could not recognize each other, when I came back home, my father introduced me to him, by telling him that I am no longer the stubborn and pride child he used to know, instead I became a shy boy, unable to talk with a girl or a woman. With this statement I felt frustrated, offended and humiliated, to the point that I decided to rebel myself against God and him, and would like to show him that I am a man who can do everything but I was humble because of fearing God, which seemed to him that it was a weakness. As a result, I decided to punish him by joining a group of young delinquents. I lived this shameful life for almost six years. Unfortunately, through this new group, I learned how to drink alcohol, to smoke cigarettes and marijuana, to rape innocent girls passing on our way, as well as passing nights in bars with prostitutes. Meanwhile, I was dodging to attend Sunday worships and other churches' services, although I was baptized since I was twelve years old, and was playing some musical instruments in my church choir as well. This life was leading me blindly straight to a physical death.

However, by God's grace, mother was the channel from which came my true conversion in Christ. As I said earlier, I was baptized when I was twelve years old. At that time, I didn't grasp the quintessence of salvation given that my baptism was my parent's decision, who imposed me to follow a baptismal class and be baptized. Hence, I consider this baptism not genuine from a true conversion, but was just to please my parents in their ministry. Unfortunately, in that life plain of disorder, I caught gonorrhea from one of the prostitutes given that I did not protect myself. Consequently, I became very slim to the point that my mother noticed that and thought I caught HIV. The day of my salvation appeared, when one of my fellow drunker advised me to stop mixing alcohol and medication; I decided then to continue with medication at home. And it is that very day I came early at home that my mother grasped the opportunity of having me home during day time and entered in my bedroom, closed the door and sat down on my bed close by. After weeping for a while in front of me, she then started advising me about my sudden and unchristian behavior.

At the end of the conversation, she unfolded two options from which I should choose; on one hand to persist in that dirty behavior, and consequently die within three next months; or on the other hand, to turn back to Christ; consequently God will use me, bless me and send me far away, to different places where both her and my father never dreamed to reach or will not reach in their lives. Concluding her speech, she told me then that she leaves me alone so that the Holy Spirit may teach me, and she left. It is at that very hour, and for the first time of my life, that I heard a gentle and internal voice, explaining the meaning of what my mother was talking about. For the first time of my life, I cried bitterly as a crazy alone in my bedroom, I realized at which point I have persecuted Christ again at the cross because of my shameful sins, just because of vengeance to my father.

After two hours, of cries, tears and meditation alone, I decided then to call back my mother in my bedroom in order to repent sincerely. In face to face, I repented with much tears. She was astonished and asked me if is there anyone who advised me to repent? And I reported to her what happened after she left my bedroom, that I heard an internal voice convicting me about my shameful sins, and which called me to not only repent, but also to repair the relationship with my whole family and the church as well. I reconciled myself with the whole family which was heart broken by my sudden behavior. I also took time to explain to my mother that I rebelled because of the statement of my father before the visitor I talked about earlier. The following day, I gathered my whole family and repented, and that coming Sunday, I repented in front of the congregation. Since then, I felt internal peace and understood that I was finally saved.

After my conversion, I decided to maintain my salvation by abiding in a Christian environment and deepening my search of God. Although I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Community development and concentration in project planning, and was appointed to the position of Director of Development and Aid Ministry within the Headquarter of my Denomination. After serving for nine years, I resigned to my position in order to embrace Reformed Theological studies, and graduated in 2021. In 2023, God opened a door for me to be admitted for pastoral internship at Kabwata Baptist Church in Lusaka/ZAMBIA. I am therefore waiting to open my next chapter as a way forward of complying to what the Scripture says in **Isaiah 6:8**. I will go where God wants me to go and do.

My call for ministry

After the completion of my community development studies, I decided to be involved in ministry than to be hired in secular jobs, in order to preserve my faith, my conversion, as well as serving God more. Hence, I was hired in the Aid and Development Office, and stood on the position of the Director of this Ministry for nine years. My job description was of bridging between donors and several of our different ministries by writing proposals, implementing some of them, monitoring, evaluation, translating from and to English proposals to allow the flow of communication between the project stakeholders. In addition to that, I was in charge of submitting final reports of all projects on the use of any fund received for the accountability toward all project's stakeholders.

Although I was a lay person, I learned a lot by working in a pastoral environment which increased my calling to ministry. Being a desk officer of several pastoral projects, I was encountering however, some hindrances when I was writing projects proposals especially in pastoral domain, such as in church planting, in global mission, in evangelism, on one hand; and for many years, I was receiving some God's servants requesting me to become a pastor; but I was skeptical ignoring that it may be God's call for ministry on the other hand.

As matter of fact, my Denomination, through the Ministry of Evangelism and Church planting, organized a vast campaign of evangelism and church planting. I decided then to escort the team of evangelists, given that I was the one who wrote the proposal for funding that campaign, and had the responsibility of monitoring the project. I witnessed how the team of evangelism was moving from one village to another, preaching in public places, door to door, individual as well as by projecting every evening after the session a movie on "the life of Jesus Christ". And indeed I witnessed how God was saving many, resulting to the planting of 33 new churches.

It is during this evangelism and church planting campaign that God spoke to me through the mouth of His servant the Director of this evangelism Ministry about my call for pastoral Ministry. During the course of the implementation of the project, every evening before supper, the evangelism team had to meet and evaluate the work done during that very day in order to learn lessons and take decisions for next steps. I was therefore, attending the meeting and intervening side by side with the Director of the Evangelism Ministry to help Pastors and evangelists composing the team for the campaign, to understand and apply correctly the teachings learned before the campaign starts. Then one night after the meeting, the Director of the Evangelism Ministry called me in his bedroom, after appreciating the way I was helping him to explain his ideas in my own words, He then revealed me that God is convincing him that I am called for ministry. I started then to feel a burning desire to be involved pastoral ministry and learn more.

Given that I was novice in theology, and was still hesitant, I prayed God to give me signs to confirm if really He is calling me for Ministry. I prayed God asking Him two things so that I may know that it is Him who is calling me. Firstly, I asked him to provide with a theological scholarship; Secondly, I asked Him that I may study Theology but in an English speaking Country than a French speaking one.

God in His providential faithfulness opened a door for me, I received a scholarship provided by a German Organization known as **Hilfe Fur Brueder**, which changed its name to become **Coworker International**, and is up to date one of our Denominational partner. Secondly, God opened a door for me to be admitted in Uganda, one of the English speaking Countries of the Eastern Africa. Hence, in 2017, I was enrolled as student at AFRICAN BIBLE UNIVERSITY, ABU in acronym, located in UGANDA, which is a Reformed Presbyterian Theological Institution, whereby I graduated in 2021. For more info, visit the website at www.abu.ac.ug

After completion of my theological studies at African Bible University, I received another scholarship to upgrade at African Reformation Theological Seminary located in Kampala/Uganda. I met pastor Bill Issa who is a missionary of HeartCry and who is also studying at the same seminary. After chatting with him, he revealed me about the Reformed Baptist work in Africa and mentioned that Kabwata Baptist Church has an internship program for future ministers. I applied and was admitted for the 2023 Pastoral Internship which I completed in December 31st, 2023.

It is now that I am convinced that really God was preparing me for ministry, because if I could not go for Developmental studies, I could not be hired in my Denomination. If I could not work in my Denomination, I could not be aware of my call for ministry and could not go for theological studies. If I could not go for theological studies, I could not meet pastor Bill Issa, and therefore I could not come across the internship at Kabwata Baptist Church. If I could not go for internship, I could not be able to identify Kinshasa, where God is calling me for ministry. I can then say confidently by quoting the Apostle Paul writing to Romans in Romans 8:28 that *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose"*. Everything I passed through my life was God's pathway for my good.

I feel therefore, that time is up to pass from theories to practice; all of these years of works, training and internship increase additional values to serve God wherever He wants me to go and to fulfill the great commission.

Solideo gloria

My 2023 internship at Kabwata Baptist Church

In January 2023, I was admitted to be part of 2023 internship program at Kabwata Baptist Church. The program is run for the full year starting in January and ends on 31st December.



During the 2023 mission retreat

During this internship, we have been exposed to every aspect of church's life, the way Kabwata Baptist Church does in a daily basis.

Hence, we have been exposed to preachings in different preaching points that Kabwata Baptist Church has settled already across Lusaka town such as in prisons, schools, organizations etc. We have attended different home groups whereby, members of the church meets at least two times a week to either for Bible study or prayer meetings.



We have also witnessed by attending every event run by the church so that we may understand why and how the church does them, such as retreat, conferences, block classes, seminaries, youth camps, student campus etc.

September and October are the two months that interns are sent out in mission fields to familiarize with mission works. I have been attached to Kaoma Reformed Baptist Church led by the missionary Pastor Nyambe.

During my attachment at Kaoma Reformed Baptist Church, I used to go to evangelize; and with the support of Kabwata Baptist Church, I was distributing Bibles to those that I have shared the word of God.

Missionary Pastor Nyambe in Kaoma

These images show some of people I evangelized in the street during my attachment to Kaoma Reformed Baptist Church. Please continue to pray for this ministry in the life of the church in Kaoma.





*This picture was captured the first Sunday when all 2023 interns arrived from various places in Zambia and across Africa. Among nine of us, two are internationals; that is me (from the Democratic Republic of Congo) and brother Isuh Aka (from Cameroon) who joined the team later, and was not on this picture. **From left to right:** Pastor Conrad Mbewe, Brothers Yawila Sebio, Obby Lubumbe, Alex Mutale, Michael Mwanza, Esaya Nkhata, Emmanuel Chileshe, Joseph Chisola and Mike Musafiri.*



After brother Isuh Aka from Cameroon arrived (Second left on front line), teaching Elders of Kabwata Baptist Church (Pastor Conrad Mbewe, [last right in the front line], and Pastor Sibale [first in the front line]), invited us for lunch to have time to introduce ourselves. They wanted to have enough time to hear our expectations after the completion of the internship program.



This is a farewell meal with Pastor Mbewe and Sibale for evaluation, whereby they asked every intern how the program met their expectations for the future ministry.



Pastor Mbewe has been a game changer and a role model for me.

As stated in my call for ministry section in this document, I didn't know pastor Mbewe in person. The first person who told me about him was pastor Bill Issa, the Missionary of Heart Cry in Uganda. It is from him that I heard that Pastor Mbewe is considered as the "Spurgeon of Africa".

The time that I had privilege to listed his expository sermons has changed completely my way of exegeting the scripture. What I appreciated the most is that he doesn't add or deduct anything in the passage in order to let people understand the meaning of the passage. This is a fruit of hard labor and a long experience in ministry.

I praise God who has put on my way his servant, from whom I learned a lot.

May God bless him.