



# PRAYER HOUSE BONGO MOSAMBIQUE

## ABSTRACT

The following story is a testimony to show-off the Lord's ability to do the impossible as we trust in Him and in Him alone.

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## **Preface**

Luke 5:4-8 is an inspiration to adhere to the Word of God, do whatever you do based on the authority of God's Word. *But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." <sup>6</sup> And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. <sup>7</sup> So they signalled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"*

In Ingwavuma during my daily prayer time the Lord revealed the detail of the Mozambique mission. He showed me to get a tent, a generator and a projector and to go to Mozambique. I immediately told my sister and she offered to help me with a generator.

The following story is a testimony to show-off the Lord's ability to do the impossible as we trust in Him and in Him alone. At the time the Lord revealed the Mozambique mission, my only transport was a bicycle the Lord blessed me with and a bicycle trailer I built to transport equipment showing the Jesus film and Bibles.

### **Introduction, to God be the glory.**

A few weeks later I received a call to go to Pretoria. On arrival a precious child of the Lord and friend of my mother handed me the keys of her Mercedes 300D, in her words in obedience to the Lord's conviction in her heart. I was overwhelmed with joy, praising the Lord for the love that He bestowed on me.

Then in the same week a friend who assisted me with buying Bibles informed me that he deposited the money for the generator into my bank account. The Lord did not only provide, He also did it in a practical manner as I could now buy the generator while still in Pretoria and transport it with the vehicle the Lord provided for the work!

We need to always remind ourselves the Lord is not in the likeness of man, He operates out of time and space. Never underestimate the Lord's ability to bring His plan into fulfilment! In the same week, a friend told me about a tent that he bought for a pastor, but the pastor never needed it in two years. He asked me if I would be able to use it and then donated it for the mission, what an amazing God we serve.

I visited a leader within Operation Mobilization to ask for advice concerning the Mozambique mission. He gave me a book regarding Elisha that received a double anointing, but he had to believe that he did receive it. He also told me about a short-term outreach to the Congo where the community leader "sangoma" challenged the missionaries to a community "dual" to show the power of God. The sangoma took a ring and place it on a stump of a tree, then he explained that he is going to call on the spirit to make the ring spin, and then they can perform the same feat. The community can then decide who to follow. As the sangoma did his thing, the ring started to spin, he challenged the missionaries. They did not know what to

do, they decided to take hands and prayed to the Lord. Asking the Lord to manifest His glory and then they heard the sangoma shouting stop!! The sangoma was spinning! The Lord showed Himself to the community. This story gave me a sense of peace, knowing that we do not need to perform for the Lord, we just need to place our trust in Him and in His ability to do the impossible.

Back in Ingwavuma, I did not immediately leave for the Mozambique mission, but used the equipment in Ingwavuma.

### **The Transition**

After using the Mercedes for some time I realized that it will not be a suitable vehicle for going into Mozambique. Daniel, my brother-in-law offered to buy it from me for the exact amount R15 000 that I could buy a Land Rover series 3. I believed the Lord directed His precious daughter to donate the Mercedes and therefore I asked her first for her blessing on the transaction. My brother-in-law was also instrumental in the hands of the Lord offering a monthly payment of R2000.00 that would assist me in paying for the petrol for this very thirsty vehicle!

I went to collect the Land Rover close to Port Elizabeth and on my journey back to Ingwavuma I practically experienced the saying that the series 3 was not build for speed! However it just gave me more time to praise the Lord for His blessing on my life.

### **Preparation**

Back in Ingwavuma the preparation started, first to prepare the new vehicle not mechanical but as a banner for the Lord. Maryna, my sister who is also an artist, undertook to paint it with oil paint and to coat it with a protection. The idea was, to paint a lot of scripture on the Landy so that people would be able to see and read it, with the intention and hope that the Word will minister to them. Maryna used an array of bright colours and wrote the scriptures in white. Words cannot describe the banner she created, you have to see the picture to appreciate it! One of the officers at the border to Mozambique expressed his confusion to describe the colour of the vehicle and together we concluded that the best would be to say multi-coloured.

After Maryna completed the creation of turning the Landy into a banner, I started packing to plan and ensure taking everything I needed to operate. Maryna and Daniel prayed that the Lord will direct my steps, then Daniel felt that I needed someone to go with me, and we decided to leave it in the Lords hands.

The next day at the filling station, a man (Johnny) approached me to join me on the mission to Mozambique. We arranged to meet and asked the Lord for His guidance, as we prayed both of us felt that it is from the Lord. His father living in Mozambique started a church and we felt the Lord wants us to assist him, this was confirmation of a dream that I had of a man in a rural area standing next to a reed building and praying.

We decided to go first by taxi to meet with the church and the church members.

## **First Journey to Mozambique**

We left Ingwavuma at 17:00 with a taxi to the Ponta do Ouro border post. There we needed to get some Meticas for the Mozambique taxi. Going through the border was easy, but waiting for the taxi to be filled, I realized once again how many people are reliant on other people, waiting patiently for the taxi to be filled.

We arrived much later than expected in Maputo and boarded a bus to Chumbana, arriving in Chumbana past 24:00 midnight. We started walking into the “bush” to Bongo on a dirt road in the dark with not even a flickering of light and we could hear the drums of the sangomas.

The reality that the spiritual realm is active 24 hours dawned on me. They knew we were there and I realised so did the enemy. We came in the authority and victory of Jesus Christ as proclaimed Colossians 2:15 *Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*

I praised the Lord as I was reminded of the story of the missionaries in the Congo, I knew that we do not have to do anything, for if we hide behind the authority of Jesus who sent us, we would be more than conquerors. The Lord also gave me a dream in this regard. In the dream I was in a rural village and a man dressed in animal skin came to me and challenged me for a dual in front of the community, to which I agreed. He had some weapon that he presented during the dual, and I was armed with a shofar. As I blew the shofar it was as if he suddenly had no power left in himself.

## **Meeting pastor Abilo and the members of the Church**

Even though we were so late, they were all there dressed up and waiting on us. The greeting was amazing, they showed a love that one seldom experience. They even had food prepared for us, fish and rice.

The next morning I was amazed to experience the love and the eagerness of the people to hear what the Lord told us. As I explained that the Lord told me to start a prayer house and that the vision is 12 prayer houses, then pastor Abilo explained that the Lord told him about the 12 apostles.

They did not have any electricity, using coconut tree leaves for the roof of the houses built and reeds for the sides that is packed with mud. They did not have a house with a living room, every place was a separate area and each family member had their own small house where they slept. The communal kitchen was also separate and because I was there they arranged a small place under a tree for me and the pastor. At night everybody would gather around a big fire and there they would have family time, while the children played. The primary focus was discussions around the Word and it was amazing to see their eagerness to know the Word of God.

Pastor Abilo told me his story, that he was a sangoma but he also attended church. One day during the church service he heard a voice asking him what are you doing. The voice told him to go and read the Word of God in Galatians 3 and he realized that he was wrong. He stopped practicing the ways of the sangoma and started a small church that was primarily focussed on

the family to show them the way. When we arrived the church was still small, but pastor Abilo had faith that God was going to change the community.

### **My encounter with darkness and the sangomas**

Pastor Abilo gave me a small separate house (that is just a room for sleeping), with a bed and mattress. I later discovered it was his own bed and they were sleeping on the floor of their room.

One night I was woke by a bright light shining in my room, since the door of the house was not solid, I thought it was a light shining from outside. As I looked up I saw an enlightened figure, looking like a human skull with a dragon body. I rebuked it in the Name above all names, Jesus Christ and as I rebuked it, it moved higher until it left through the roof. This is something I had never experienced before, but that morning pastor Abilo gave me insight. He said that he saw sangomas standing around my hut, as well as witches in the tree near my place. The mentioned was like stories we heard as children but never believed. This time however I saw it.

The dream the Lord gave me about the sangomas challenging me, became a reality, but what also became a reality for me on that day, is that all things on earth is subjected under the authority of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There was many more encounters, but always the same outcome, confirming the Word in Ephesians 1:20-23 *“which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”*

As a child in South Africa, we used to hear the stories of a small demon, a tokolosi, that harass the people while sleeping. So some people elevated their beds by placing bricks under each leg. One night I woke up with a feeling of being strangled and called on the name of Jesus Christ. As I called on the Lord the feeling of being strangled left, then I saw a small man walking from behind my bed and climbing out through the window. This was the first and the last time the Lord allowed me to see a demon. I realized that the sangomas and witches do have some power, but once again they have to submit to the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, who God raised to a position of authority as mentioned in Ephesians 1:22-23 *And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.*

As mentioned the Lord showed us to increase His Light and in so doing the darkness will be less and less effective. Paul reminded us in 2 Corinthians 10:4-6 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.* I believe the Lord showed us in Bongo that He

is calling on His Church to be more active in making the Light of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ shine into the darkness.

## **The stories - not chronological - just stories to the glory of God**

### **The Acts church**

When I arrived at Bongo I explained to pastor Abilo that I received R700 a month for my living cost and suggested that I would share it with them so that we can then eat together. I experienced a true sense of the Acts church, at the beginning of the month, we would travel to

Cumbana to buy the R700 worth of supplies also with pastor Abilo and his family's contribution and everybody shared. We would buy coffee and condensed milk as a treat to be shared amongst all the people, of which sometimes would be more than 10 people. What really touched me of the communal living was that when at some stage during the month the condensed milk would be consumed no one would complain. Even if the coffee ran out we just drank hot water with the same joy as if we drank condensed milk coffee.

There were always joy in sharing in abundance and in lack. Thinking about what Paul wrote in Phillipians 4:6-7 *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup> and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

The Sunday Church service would start at around 08:00 and continued till about 16:00 with a meal at 14:00 for all who attended. The community involvement was amazing as everyone who could contribute so that there were no lack. Even with giving to the Lord in the Church, pastor Abilo did not make a fuss, he just gave time for giving. Some people would bring cashews nuts as an offering. For them and for me, the focus was on the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Living the Bible**

One night we were busy eating, as usual eating is done in the open air, a man arrived and according to their custom he asked if he could enter. As they invited him to come in, he came to the place we were sitting, after greeting each person, the pastor told him to sit down and eat with us. They brought him a plate of food, and I assumed that they were acquainted with each other. However after he had eaten, the pastor asked him how they could help him. It was only then that I realized that he was unknown to them, and he got lost trying to find his way in the bush. This story made me realize that we do not really live the Bible in South Africa, if unexpected guests arrived during lunch or dinner, in some homes normal procedures would be to take the food to the kitchen, with the idea that we resume eating after the visit.

Another thing that really touched me was when a Muslim man arrived sick and in need of assistance. Pastor Abilo did not think twice, he immediately accommodated the man with a place to sleep and provided food for him. This man stayed there for 2 weeks during which time we prayed for him during the night when he was afraid of dying.

Then there was another time a very old lady, at the point of dying was brought there, she had no relatives. Pastor Abilo and the church took her in and looked after her, praying for her salvation so that when she died she will be ready to go to the Lord. After she passed away, the church arranged her funeral.

Community support and love in action was demonstrated when a man's wife died. The church went to his house and stayed with him. They cared for him taking their food supplies cooked for him and themselves during this time.

Some of the people could not read, so we played the audio Word in Guitonga language for them to listen to the Word. There were two old ladies that came every day, then one day they asked all of us to pray for them to forgive the man who stole their coconut harvest. They knew the bible said they needed to forgive to be forgiven. This demonstrated the importance of the attitude of our hearts that Lord is seeking love and forgiveness in all our relationships. It reminded me of the widow that gave two mites and Jesus said *"Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; <sup>44</sup> for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood."* Mark 12:43-44

### **The prayer house**

I was to a certain extent overwhelmed with the extreme darkness I experienced in the area and asked the Lord what I should do. The Lord showed me a scale with one side being very heavy with darkness and the other side light with very little light. Then I heard the words **"do not focus on making the darkness less, focus on making the light more until it outweighs the darkness"**. I knew we should start with the prayer house, so while doing home visits as well as showing the Jesus film in different areas I continued to look for a place where we could put up the tent as a permanent prayer house with the purpose of evangelising and making the light more.

With the assistance of pastor Abilo the chief gave us a piece of property, so we started cleaning the area and erected the tent, we started praying and worshipping there. The emphasis was praying for the community in faith that the Lord will remove the hearts of stone and create in them a heart of flesh so that His Word could fall in well prepared soil. Initially Johnny and I were praying alone, but as we continued the Lord added the number of people. Eventually the tent was so filled to capacity that we had to take down the sidewalls to create more space for the people from outside.

We started at 18:00 with worship, prayer and teaching as we allowed the Holy Spirit to direct the flow, and sometimes only stopped at 23:00, not that people wanted to leave. What amazed me was the heart of the people to come together and praise the Lord. They walked long distances to be there, some people were spreading the word that **if you want to experience joy, you must go to the prayer house.**

Pastor Abilo's background gave us insight into the activities of the enemy and the community. One night while worshipping, one of the attendancee's started shouting as if he is

hurt, on enquiring he said was as if something is stabbing him in his back. Pastor Abilo asked him whether he visited a sangoma and he said yes. We then led him in a prayer of repentance and the stabbing stopped. We saw similar numerous deliverances as people attended the prayer house gathering.

The Lord directed us to put up a more permanent structure. A prayer house with the traditional building method, we planted a Bible open at Isaiah 62. Isaiah meaning “God is Salvation”. We believe the Lord’s Word is powerful to overthrow the enemy, and by doing it the Word continually declares in the spiritual realm that God is Salvation. We saw how God worked as He used even dreams to draw people and even sangomas to Him. In one testimony the Lord showed a sangoma to go to the prayer house, to find the help he is looking for.

### **Testimonies of God’s mighty works.**

**We know that the Bible tells us that it is through water baptism that we die to ourselves and are raised with Christ into a new life.** I have been baptized and have witnessed numerous baptisms, but never have I seen what the Lord showed us in Bongo Cumbana. During one baptism we could literally see the light entering a person as she emerged from the water. Before she entered her skin was dark and dull, as she emerged we could see her face being radiant with a bright colour to her skin.

We also experienced how the enemy fights back, one of the women who came to be baptized was former witch. As we immerge her in the water, we battled to retrieve her from the water, it was as if the enemy was holding her back, for he could not remain with her as she came up from the water and entered into the new recreated life in Christ Jesus. **This signified the importance of baptism as a gateway through which we pass from being slaves to freedom in Christ Jesus. The enemy cannot follow.** It is as if the Lord illustrates this very important principle in scripture through the story of Moses and the Israelites that had to cross the red sea to cut off Pharo and his army. They wanted to enslave them again but could not follow them through the red sea, in fact they drowned never able to harass them again! This is an example of the importance of baptism to be set free from the enslavement of the enemy. Clearly described in Romans 6:4 “ We were buried therefore with Him by the baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, so we too might (habitually) live and behave in newness of life.”

### **A Special Miracle!**

We would normally travel by bicycle, but one day we travelled with the Land Rover. As we entered into Cumbana on the sand road, passing some shrubs on the left side of the road, we heard the shouting of people and everything suddenly changed. I saw everything in slow-motion, traveling at about 30 km/h still busy pressing down the clutch with the intention of stopping. Suddenly the car automatically came to an abrupt stop, as if we drove into something solid. I opened the door to get out in order to investigate, it was then I saw a baby crawling from under the car, unharmed and safe! We just praised God for His intervention in awe and wonder. Later that we realised it must have been the intervention of angels of God stopping the vehicle in such a dramatic and significant way!

## **Light and darkness are opposites**

We often discussed the principle of the light driving the darkness away, however in Bongo we saw it manifesting in the physical. Apart from people being set free and the subsequent manifestation of being set free from demonic oppression, obsession and possession manifesting as the countenance of the person changed. Once during a home visit, we entered a yard with an altar in the centre and as we entered the women started running trying to get out of the yard but she could not. Her husband told us it is the demons tormenting her, because of our presence. Finally she came to sit with us in total peace and explained to us that as we entered she just had the urge to get away from us, but something prevented her from getting out. She mentioned that ever since we came to Bongo she wanted to go and watch the Jesus film but it was not possible for her. She then said what hindered her was gone! This was a confirmation that as we focus on making the light more, the power and hold the enemy have on people become less effective for as the Kingdom and light manifest the darkness and enemy have to submit to the Kingdom of God's rule. He can only rule while the presence of God have not been made manifest. We believe that is why the Lord called on us and many others to go and to manifest His Kingdom under the authority of Jesus Christ, so that those in slavery to the enemy can be set free.

We, in the western civilisation, having received the light, do not always understand how by not going, or not sending missionaries to go, we allow the enemy to overpower communities with fear and hopelessness. The enemy rules by fear and hopelessness, which he instils in the hearts of people. We saw how God transformed a community from living in fear, because of the sangomas, to people with hope in Christ and faith in His ability to set them free.

2 Timothy 1 vers 7

**In agreement with the strategy the Lord showed us to increase the light,** we would give out tracts flooding the area with Word. We believe the Lord uses His Word through tracts mightily to enter into every area of a community. The tracts we used were from All Nation Gospel Publishers, they have translated Gospel tracts in more than 700 languages. Even if a tract is thrown away we believe someone will pick it up and if they read the Word, it is proclaimed in the spirit realm, penetrating the darkness. One of the testimonies of a woman in India who started a church of over 2000 people from only one tract she picked up, illustrates this.

## **The Jesus Film**

The Lord blessed us with the Jesus film produced through Campus crusade. I believe that it is the most effective way to bring the Gospel message to people in their own language as it is a powerful demonstration of the Gospel.

We would show the Jesus film in various communities, schools etc. Wherever the Lord opened a door. At Bongo we would show the Jesus film every Friday. There was a specific old lady, who according to pastor Abilo was part of a church, but in a religious way. She would come to watch the Jesus film every Friday night. After 8 months of watching, she said

she would like to surrender her life wholly unto the Lord. Time is in the hands of the Lord and I believe that we create opportunities for the Lord to work in the hearts of people, **He saves we are only instrumental in preparing the way.**

### **Evangelism with a Bicycle and a Trailer**

The Lord blessed me with a bicycle and a trailer, so we used this as a point of interest, a connection point to draw people. Loading the trailer with Bibles we would travel to the area we wanted to evangelize. People would come to look at the bicycle and the trailer and asked what it was about. We then used the opportunity to introduce them to Jesus and the Bible. Everyone would ask for a Bible and we would insist on them answering a question. In response they would be open for questions, in most cases they would not be able to answer the question so it gave us the opportunity to explain the answer and in so doing spread the Gospel. Then we would give one Bible and ask another question. This would sometimes last a few hours of preaching the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Once when traveling with the bicycle and trailer to Inhambane, the police stopped us at a roadblock. This once again created an opportunity in such a way that they stopped the road block in order for us to talk to them and to receive Bibles.

It was then that I was confronted with a question that showed me that the Church err in how we approach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. One of the policemen asked me whether God needed his money. I explained to him that God created all things by the power of His mighty Word, He did not need our money, He desires a heart wholly devoted to Him in Christ Jesus. I explained to him that the Bibles we were able to give away, was bought with money donated by believers whose heart belonged to the Lord and desired that the Love they received in Christ Jesus would be available for all people.

Reminding him of the Words of Jesus when He sent out the disciples in Matthew 10:8 ***Freely you have received, freely give.*** He then showed me a statement he received from his Church on a monthly basis, billing him for his tithing based on his monthly salary, he was also in arrears because he did not pay every month. The mentioned action from the church alienated him and his family from the Church. Money is needed to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but care must be taken not to push people away. Giving is part of sharing the Love we received in Christ Jesus, but giving must come from a cheerful heart overflowing with the love of Christ.

***Someone once said, you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.***

**Love - the power of God, a more excellent way.**

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:31 ***“But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”***

Paul also said that the Gospel of “*the the kingdom of **God is not in word but in power.** What do you want? **Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?** 1 Corinthians 4:20-21*

**A lot of time we focus on demonstrating God’s power through signs and wonders but the power of God’s love is underestimated.** Once while travelling to Cumbana using public transport, I arrived at Maputo bus station, later than usual. The bus was full, knowing that it is the last bus going, the driver said that if I am prepared to stand I can board. I had my backpack on and as I boarded the bus standing in the beginning of the aisle the people sitting looked at me with an expression of “so where are you going to sit”. As I saw their expression the love of the Lord was expressed through a laughter from within me that suddenly transformed the attitude of the people in the bus. They invited me in, placing a drum in the aisle with blankets on it for me to sit. I was alone without a translator and could not understand the conversation, but their actions was clear. The one women sitting next to me gave me some of her biscuits to eat and as a seat became available they gave it to me.

**This once again demonstrated to me that the love of the Lord is the power to overcome every resistance that brings about division.**

I believe that when the Lord empowered us by the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses, the witnessing is not merely proclaiming but His love in us being a witness. My mother who is now with the Lord used to say, “we are not **human doings** we are **human beings**”. It is not in our doings that we witness concerning the transforming power of Jesus Christ’s work within, but it is in our being that we witness for Jesus.

### **Teaching people to fish**

There is a human proverb saying “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”. This is true in relation to the Gospel as well.

In Bongo as in many places people tend to turn to the pastor for help, even though we teach them that their help is from God and all of us have direct access to God through His Son Jesus Christ. Sometimes it is required to teach people in a more practical way. Since the Bible tells us it is not our words that impress God, it is our heart towards Him as in 2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of **those whose hearts is blameless toward him.**

In the medical profession it is a well know fact that people get sick in the early hours of the morning. In Bongo it was no different, so people would often call on pastor Abilo to pray for them very early in the mornings. So one day a man came at about 04:00 in the morning asking pastor Abilo to come and pray for his wife. Pastor Abilo asked the man whether he were saved and believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, to which the man replied yes. So pastor Abilo sent him back to pray for his own wife, at about 06:00 in the morning the man returned praising God for God answered his prayer, and healed his wife.

There was also a time that we were gathered in the prayer house, when a women came in to ask prayer for her children in Johannesburg South Africa. The two brothers were planning to

take each other to court due to some business transaction. She asked if we could ask the Lord to intervene and restore their relationship. We decided that everyone in the prayer house should pray together for the Lord's intervention. It might have sounded like a meeting in disorder, but each one prayed out loud pouring out their heart before an Almighty God on account of a situation that was out of their control. Two weeks later the women returned to the prayer house with a bag full of sweets, thanking each one for their prayers since her two children were reconciled and phoned her to thank the Lord and the church who prayed for them. This was another breakthrough in the community as each one realized that their prayer went before the throne of God, and He heard and answered them in restoring the two brothers' relationship.

### **The Lord equips His vessels**

One of the foundational principles in faith is that the Lord "does not call the qualified, but qualifies the chosen". In agreement with the mentioned principle, the Lord told us that He is looking for people who is willing to place their trust in Him, so that He can show Himself mighty. We have seen in Bongo that Lord is not concerned with the qualification of His vessels, **He requires a heart wholly devoted to Him, trusting in Him and Him alone.**

Pastor Abilo would not have been qualified to be a pastor in a western church, but he was a vessel willing to be used by God, and God made use of his willingness to show Himself mightily. We saw how the Lord healed people and set them free from bondage. Bongo is a rural area and the people do not have transport, if someone within the community were bitten by a snake, pastor Abilo would pray for them and the venom would drain out of the wound.

We also experienced that the Lord used us, not based on our ability, but His ability. So one afternoon we were in the house, when Andre, a man that assisted us with work on the mission base came to us. He explained through hand gestures that people were waiting for us in the prayer house in need of prayer. As we entered the prayer house there were 2 women and a child, since we did not understand their language and could not talk to them concerning the problem we decided to pray for each one as the Lord led us. While we were praying Andre was also on his knees praying earnestly to the Lord. As we finished praying, the child stood up, and as the child stood up, Andre started running towards pastor Abilo's place. We did not understand why, but returned home. Then pastor Abilo knocked on our door to inform us that the Lord had done a mighty work. He explained that the women and child we prayed for was the wife of a sangoma that is well known and respected in the area. They were the people in the area spreading lies concerning pastor Abilo, alleging that his power came from visiting the sangomas. They came to the mission base as a last resort, for the child could not walk. The sangomas could not help them, then the hospital could not help them, in desperation they turned to the prayer house. The Lord healed the child, we did not even know we were praying for a sick child, we just prayed for the Lord's blessing upon their lives.

## **The Lord's supernatural protection**

We have heard about how the Lord sends His angels to protect His children, this we also experienced even though we did not see them we knew they were there.

The Landy had a box in front where we kept the jerry cans filled with petrol. One day we went to the market in Maxixe and when we came back we saw the jerry cans was gone. A lady sitting nearby pointed to the door where the men who took it went. As I opened the door without knocking, there were 4 men standing with the jerry cans, one holding a big knife in his hand. As they looked at me, I told them in English I came to get the jerry cans. They, without a word or any resistance, just gave me the jerry cans. As we left with the jerry cans, Johnny said "I would have liked to see the size of the angel that stood behind us". I believe the Lord was there, for He provided the petrol and we needed it in order to complete the work that He assigned for us.

There was another incident, while traveling to Bongo via public transport, the taxi we used from Pondo de ora was a 4 x 4 long wheel base Land Rover. We were late and there were a lot of water on the road since it rained the day before, just as the taxi drove through some water, it came to an abrupt stop. The driver got out and started running in the direction of the town. We in the taxi were dumbfounded and presumed the Land Rover got stuck. Everybody got out of the vehicle and started pushing without success. They then started to drain the water. I realized that everybody in the vehicle was reliant upon one another, and it became a picture of how we as the body of Christ should function. The driver eventually returned with petrol in a can, we did not get stuck, he ran out of petrol. This ordeal caused us to arrive very late at night in Maputo. At the bus stop we found a Cumbana bus, leaving only the next morning. We asked the driver if we could sleep in the bus, and he agreed. I was woke, by a person bending over me trying to reach my bag. Then I realized he was trying to steal it. I asked him if I could help him and he ran out of the bus. Romans 8:31 came to mind "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

## **God saved my life, praise be to God**

Going to Mozambique was a God ordained mission, and the thought of becoming sick or getting Malaria never even crossed my mind. I packed no medicine for I trusted in God and His ability.

We need to understand that God in His awesome power and love is always in control, and in everything He does is to the glory of His name. If there is a trial, God in His love will give you a promise to help you stand in faith for the fulfilment of his promise.

During my prayer time in Mozambique the Lord showed me a vision of the tabernacle of Moses, I was standing in front of the veil. In the vision the veil was like silk, I was able to see the arc of the covenant on the other side of the veil. I asked the Lord in the vision if I could go through the veil into His glorious presence. The Lord said that I can, but once there I can never return. In the vision I said yes Lord and the vision was over. A few days later I started with a headache and fever, I did not expect to get sick. Thus I assumed it was something I ate

and pastor Abilo gave me some homemade medicine. After weeks I became so ill that I mostly stayed in bed and only attended times of prayer. Then I realized that if I do not leave for South Africa, I will not be able to leave at all. Johnny, my translator left for South Africa, but his wife stayed behind, and I asked her to accompany me.

The next morning, we left Bongo very early, planning to drive all the way to the Border at Pondo de ora. I had no plan, but drove as fast as possible. Johnny's wife wet her scarf with water and turned it around my head for the high fever. Apart from stopping for petrol I did not stop at all. I still remember while speeding on a sand road the back door of the land rover fell off. I did not even consider repairing it, I just put it into the Landy and in haste continued driving.

My sister called me while on the way to the border and sensed something was wrong. She decided to send someone from Ingwavuma to the border to meet me. As we got to the border and I stepped out of the vehicle I passed out, recalling only Johnny's wife throwing water over me. The border control opened the border and my sister assisted us to go through.

My brother-in-law, a doctor tested me for malaria and diagnosed cerebral malaria. He immediately started treatment while they took care of me in their home. The treatment had no effect even after the third dose of antibiotics my skin and the white of my eyes turned yellow.

I was very weak and could not stand without shaking.

My brother-in-law came to me on the Wednesday saying that medically there is nothing more they can do for me, but they will continue to pray. That night some pastors came to greet me as they thought I was going home. Meantime my mother, who was a missionary, was in Kenya and raised prayer within the Christian community. Confined to my bed, I was reminded of the vision the Lord showed me concerning the tabernacle. Remembering what the Lord said that if I entered there I will not be able to return, I rejoiced praising God that He is inviting me into His presence for ever.

Two days later I got out of bed and went to run 5 km! I was more than healed, it was a miracle, the doctors could not believe it and said healing in this case usually takes at least 6 months or more. The Lord used the experience to show me His might but also His love for us. This healing miracle has always been a reminder in my life of our faithful God.