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THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD is upon me, because He has anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4: 18-19).

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Dear Friends

It is hot and dry right now. The dust and soot of many bush fires blows into our faces and into our homes. We are waiting with expectation for the rains to come and break the tension in the air and in the hearts of the people who are hoeing their fields in the heat and dust. The fact that the rains are already late can be seen in the lines of their faces. It will come! And when it does, so much joy fills the atmosphere, relief washes over faces, and people walk with renewed purpose.

At Inhaminga we have an abnormal intrusion of snakes, particularly puff adders. Bush fires send them looking for shelter in our gardens where the fires don't reach. It is also a time of skin shedding. We have found several paper-thin skins of snakes that have shed their old skin. Sometimes we go through something similar—spiritually, that is. We get a bit dry, we feel itchy and frustrated, and we're not even sure why. The reason may be that we have outgrown

our skin and we need to shed it so the new one can come forth. It's time for change! It's time for something new.

Shedding the old skin takes some effort, real exercise. It's a process that is very necessary for growth. It's amazing to see a shed snake-skin completely intact. The size and shape of the scales are perfectly printed on the skin and left behind. It is done; it is recorded; it is finished. The snake emerges with a bright, new, supple, and shiny skin. Now it's time to move on.

Have you been feeling irritable or frustrated lately? Perhaps it's time to shed your old skin and move on in the newness of fresh vision and purpose. It takes some strategising, it takes some exercise and discomfort, but it is worth it. Come on! You can do it!

Our love and blessings to you, Rod & Ellie and Team.

GRADUATIONS

This month AWYesu graduated the Nacala Discipleship School, Votec School, and the Inhaminga Leadership Training School. The premises are now empty of Bible School students but will be used for youth conferences during the holiday break.

LEIDY—Teacher at Inhaminga Bible School

We had one group that spoke Sena and another that spoke Portuguese, but it was a new and very good experience to give two classes per morning.

It was very different to explain the curriculum in Sena to illiterate pastors. It impressed my hear to see them respond with the innocence of children. It was beautiful and enchanting.

The class I was teaching was "The Christian Family." I learned a lot myself as I tried to explain with fun and diversion concerning practical aspects. Sincerely, I think they received a lot on the subject. To understand the importance of the family and the value that it has for the purpose of God is something important and necessary not only for the leaders but also to the church in general.

In the end, I asked for some to testify on the subject. Some admitted serious things, and they declared that after learning on the subject, they have faith that they will act in a different way. I pray for

each one to have a cure and transformation within the area they prayed for.

CHRIS—Votec School

The students have been doing great. They now have completed their chairs, and they all came out very well. The joints are good, and they have started to see the value in taking extra time and care in the finishing of their work; it show in their chairs. They have now started doing a window frame, and all is going well. This time around with the window frames I am seeing if we can finish them completely—that is also put in burglar bars and all the window hardware. I think these window frames are going to be the best so far.

Spiritually the students are growing as they see that God is in everything we do and he is alive in us, and also the quality of work we do speaks of how we care. They have begun to see that they are worth something and have got something to give to their community.

Nelson and Amemio continue to improve in the teaching and their skill in carpentry, also. They are now seeing that the way I want the students to learn has value as it can get the job done quicker and to a better standard, and now they are passing that knowledge on to the students. Great.

Testimonies from Chimoio Ladies' Retreat, from Women Who Attended

Hosted by the Oasis Ladies

ELLIE—I was excited to be invited to speak at the Chimoio Ladies' Retreat. We are more accustomed to doing conferences for Mozambican women; this one was for the largely expatriot community (foreigners) living in Mozambique as well as a large group that came from Mutare, Zimbabwe. There were eleven nationalities present. My joy was in having some of the AWYesu ladies minister alongside me. For some of them it was a huge step, but they saw God come through for them. I felt so proud of them. Christa and Leidy led the worship with anointing and power, Patricia, Nicky, Telvina, and Leidy shared the Word of God. Christa did almost all the interpreting needed, what a great job! Our own team was immensely blessed as seen in the following statements.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE TESTIMONIES is to show how we as women basically have the same needs, no matter where we are from. Inadequacy and lack of confidence is a problem too many women struggle with. It takes time, more than just one or two meetings, to break through this. Thus the value of having a conference where women can take time apart with God and with other women, enough time to see the work done.

LEIDY—One thing that was really powerful to me was how God was leading in praise and worship and each Word brought forth. I learned to never limit myself or look at me, but to face challenges in peace because God is the one who operates.

PATRICIA—For me the time of praying for people was very special. That God could use me to speak to them, give them a Word from the Lord, and see that the needs of women are the same, it doesn't matter culture or language. There are no limits when God wants to use us.



Patricia ministers in Chimoio while Christa interprets.

CHRISTA—It was amazing to see how some of the women who were reserved in worship in the beginning began to open up and flow with us by the end. God gave me an assurance that He can and will use me even when I

feel inadequate or unable. I learned that even when I think I don't have anything to offer, I DO because I have Him, and He will use me!

TELVINA—What touched my heart was how the women were ready to receive. For me it was a very different experience, being in front of so many people of different nationalities. Before I thought that I was nothing, but now I know that I am important and I can minister to people who are greater than I am.

P.S. Telvina was the only Mozambican present, and one of the speakers at that. This is big for her and we are so happy. Ed.

SANDY—All felt the meetings were so, so special—the Presence of the Holy Spirit being so pronounced and awesome. There was a breaking down of all inhibitions, a complete nakedness before the Lord. As a result walls came tumbling down, followed by freedom and liberty to enjoy His song and His Presence.

ESTER—There was so much Word preached out of the Bible. I was previously resisting; now I know I have stepped out of the boat. Now I am like a perfect vase ready to go onto the table to the Lord. I am no longer shy.

LALITA—The meetings changed my life completely. I had a lot of anger and bitterness welled up inside of me. On the Saturday afternoon I felt goose bumps all over; I couldn't explain it. I was told it was some sort of anointing or preparation. During the service we were asked to close our eyes and listen to what God was saying. I was prayed over and slain in the spirit. I am a completely changed person. Normally, I have a lack of self esteem, self confidence, and am very shy, yet the Lord gave me the courage to go forward in front of everyone and give a testimony. (I have never in my life done this).

MOIRA—When I went up for prayer, Ellie asked if I needed healing, though that was not what I went up for; I wanted more of Jesus. Ellie prayed for this and also a miracle took place in that my back problem is completely healed, and I praise the Lord for that. At the end of the session, Ellie called me up to pray for her. I put my hand to her head; the feeling was just so overwhelming it was something so special. I had never done something like that. From now on I am going to be a living stone for Jesus.

TRISH—I gained strength from the retreat. I now know it's all about Him, and it's not about me. I will witness to others of His love and who He is. I was going through a phase of self rejection, humiliation and self pity, I felt so unworthy. Jesus saw me through merciful eyes. He has prepared me to become a fisher of men. On returning home there was an awesome spectacle in the sky, like a staircase going up to heaven, as witnessed by several of the other women traveling back to Mutare. I believe this signifies acceleration; the glory fell on me, and it was the glory that set me free. I now find myself witnessing to others, realizing Jesus always goes ahead of our problems. We just need to follow and be obedient. He is the life.

CHRISTINE—The worship impacted me. While I was lying on the floor after been prayed for by Ellie, I saw myself as an "Ellie", a woman leader, going places. I wanted a double anointing. God is restoring what was lost in my life. I had a deep time with God; sobbing on the floor I kept saying, "I'm sorry God for being so passive." I am normally a warrior, bold, etc., so I was praying for God's forgiveness, telling Him that I wanted to get out there and do things for Him. I said, "The girls were ready to go out there." I pictured myself as Ellie and the girls, the AWYesu Team.

I am always bright and alive in the mornings so I told my husband, "Darling the nights are yours, but the mornings are for God." Mornings I worship among the trees just thanking Him. I realize I have missed the Lord. I have found my new spot for a new phase with God.

OLGA—I feel totally different; I am not the same woman, even at home. I believe I received an anointing. I find myself closer to God, trembling and praying even while cooking. I feel God's presence so strongly, I sense him all over me. I shared with Nancy my feelings, and she has confirmed it is a special anointing. My Husband, too, confirmed I was totally different.

ALVINA—Before I went on the retreat I was in constant prayer telling the Lord I wanted more of Him; I didn't want to stagnate. I wanted to be taken to the next level. A lady came to pray for me, speaking only Portuguese. My spirit dropped because I wanted to hear what God had to tell me in my own tongue. The Lord rebuked me, telling me that He was unlocking something in my spirit. I was slain in the Spirit and couldn't get up; throughout that time I spoke in new tongues. He was dealing with issues in my life. I have been given boldness; I am no longer shy, and I am not caught up in my self.

CLAUDELLE—I climbed another level. Prior to the retreat I had feelings of unworthiness with low self esteem, so unloved even unable to love myself. At the retreat I let go—I was bare. I discovered God does love me and I do love myself. I received the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I also received a special anointing with trembling in the hands while praying. I've stepped out in boldness and I feel "oh so special."

LAURNA—I looked forward to the retreat with an expectant heart. I knew deep in my spirit something was going to take place. Ellie prayed, and she said that from my belly there would be rivers of living water coming up. There was a moaning and groaning until the living water sprang up—a new birthing in my spirit. She confirmed I was an intercessor. I see some people coming to church and going out empty. I feel their pain, their emptiness, I want to be in prayer for people to break chains of bondage. I can feel an anointing on me, a tingling, His presence in me; at times I just lay down and glory in it.

NAN—I went to the retreat with an expectant heart knowing God was going to show me who I am in Christ. Two ladies prayed for me—Nicky and Leidy. I was slain in the Spirit. Nicky pulled me up again, touched my hands, prayed some more, and I literally felt myself being pulled up in the Spirit, out of body, flying high. She said, “You know who you are.” “Yes,” I answered, “I’m an eagle soaring high.” Wow! I say this in awe of how God works. Unbeknown to me at the time these ladies were praying for me, Sandy was also being ministered to. The lady praying for Sandy asked the Lord to send her an eagle to look out for her and her chicks. I saw myself as an eagle so clearly—the movement of the head with searching eyes, soaring, watching. It was revealed to me that I was to be a look out for Sandy, catering for and ministering to her administrative requirements

SANDY—From the first night I felt a strong need to worship the Lord, wanting to just lie at his feet. The anointing and worship was so powerful and emotionally moving. The Holy Spirit brought me humbly down to the floor with my forehead to the ground in worship. Nancy came up to pray for me, and emotions welled up inside of me. I wept and wept with a washing of some sort. In all that the Lord was telling me to work closer in support and unity with my husband. I was to stand by Him. I was also given direction toward our ministry. Things Nancy could never know in the physical were being revealed in the Spirit. I was advised to protect the sheep. I was also in the process of starting a Tuesday prayer group called “Mother Hens.” This had not been revealed to anyone. The Lord confirmed the name for I was told I am the mother hen taking the chicks under my wing. The message to protect the sheep was very strong.

SOPHIE—I haven’t been to church for three years. Three years ago I took a nose dive, and my world crashed around me. I went through a deep grueling decline—a real decline. Prior to that, I had no time for people with depression; I didn’t understand it. Now I found out first hand what it is like. I went through a time of deep depression, clinical depression involving doctors, was on medication, and I didn’t go out. For one year I was a total recluse. I was angry with God; the depression became worse and became a habit; it was as though I had died. My spirit was dead. While on a trip to South Africa I bought a book entitled *The Shack*. This book blew my mind. A little seed began to grow.

The week of the retreat, Shirley and I were playing a card game. While playing the game of cards Shirley brought up the subject of the retreat and my attendance. Phew! Me attending a retreat???? No I couldn’t think of anything worse. Retreats I don’t do, and how many women were attending? 60!!!! Ha, ha, ha. Any way we were playing cards, I had miscalculated Shirley who saw what I needed to win the game—a seven. (What does the number seven represent? It is God’s perfect number, the number of perfection.) She threw the card down warning that I didn’t have to pick it up, but if I did I would have to come on the retreat. I picked up the card saying I would come.

Friday evening THE RETREAT! During praise and worship I felt like an alien. I thought, *What are these people doing???* I couldn’t lift my hands, I couldn’t sing. When Ellie started talking I fell asleep and woke up at the end.

Saturday morning the Brazilian girl, Patricia, spoke about the seasons—the autumn and winter. That’s when God began “open heart surgery” on me without anesthetic. I had been in winter because of three years of stubbornness. God didn’t make it happen. I had to do it; I had to open my spirit and allow Him in. It had everything to do with the seasons, and I thought that He was finished with me.



Leidy and Christa taking a break between worship sessions.

Sunday—Lunch tables were set on a Christmas theme. A lady prayed over the food and talked about the frost of winter. I realized I had been covered over by the ice and completely sealed. Slowly the ice melted, and I sprouted, as though I had awakened from a deep, deep sleep. There were three years

of not talking without crying. God showed me the way. I told Him, “I’m tired; have your way, have your will, I don’t mind.” That’s when He said to me, “Sophie I will restore what the locust, the palmer worm, and the canker worm have eaten.” Wow!! It was like coming alive.

When I saw the ladies at the retreat, I saw them as a family, united and full of love. I realized I needed to belong again. I had been outside a family.

I had to seek forgiveness from my husband. Forgiveness I don’t do!!!! We had gone our separate ways—no divorce involved, just separate ways. I began to explain to him that I’ve come out of the winter and God had given me back my joy. I asked him to forgive me for being a terrible wife, not being very Christian. I told him that while I didn’t make any promises I would endeavor to make right toward him.

ON THE WILD SIDE – IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

Rod & Ellie took time out with Jeff and Nicky in a Zimbabwe Animal Kingdom. At Mana Pools we were out of touch with the world but in touch with God and His creation while camping in the midst of hippo, elephant, baboons, hyena, lion and buffalo on the Zambezi River beside the crocodiles. Where else in the world for just \$5.00 a night can one experience Africa in the raw? This is the only game park we know where one can walk in the bush close up and personal with wild animals without a guide or gun.

Going to the bathroom at night means dodging the hyena, buffalo, and elephant while trying to estimate the distance of the roar of the lions. Jeff knows the thrilling fright of the deep growl of a huge male lion from just 30 metres away; it was hiding in the bush beside an elephant it had been eating. “Jeff, its close; move back,” said Rod. Rod knows what a night encounter with an elephant just six feet away is like. “All I could see was these two white things (tusks) in front of my eyes.” The elephant had come to feast off tree pods fallen on the ground, its dark shape hidden by the night. Nicky and Ellie laughed with the hyenas, and can they laugh! The hyenas, that is ;o) at night we lay on our beds listening to them laugh.

Nicky and Ellie’s laughing stopped when two elephants charged while they were on top of the roof of the land-cruiser and the guys were inside. “Rod, go, please go oh oh oh!” Ellie shrieked almost as loud as the ellies. The trumpeting shrieks of an elephant with a long reaching



Our camp on the Zambezi River with small electric fence to discourage hyena, elephant, buffalo and lion from eating us while we sleep.

trunk is a terrifying experience! Then the four of us tracked the lions Rod had seen disappear into the bush. We found two females with half-grown cubs lying in the shade on the other side of a stream. We watched them for an hour while they nonchalantly watched us. They were obviously satiated and not in need of a meal. All this plus more adventures—amazing birdlife and herds of deer and antelope. We could write a book! It was an amazing, wonderful gift of God time. Our old adage of, "Some people would pay a lot of money for this," was said many times. Crazy people, that is. Oh, it is wonderful to LIVE, and even more wonderful to live on the edge!

NICKY'S TOUCH TO THE TALE

We traveled with Rodney and Ellie to a place of adrenaline to make ministry plans for 2010. We had our "Code Red" moments of charging elephants and roaring lions. For your enjoyment we have documented some of the Mana Pools quotes that emerged from our time there.

"Fire in the Hole!" The camp electric fence is on.

"Once a hyena took out the eye of someone sleeping outside their tent." Thus the two strand electric fence standing 18 inches high.

"They're starting to dance!" Uneasy elephants before a charge.

"Rod, do you see an elephant wearing glasses?" Jeff left his glasses on an anthill as we made a necessary evacuation since the elephants smelled our tea and goodies and were quickly approaching us.

"Keep low, lie flat, and don't point out your arm. Hang on in case Rod needs to swerve out of the way of an attack (of a lion that is)." These were my instructions while we (Ellie and Nicky) were on the roof rack of the Land Cruiser tracking the lions that had been spotted.

"We can run with the big dogs or stay on the verandah." Ellie and Nicky were making the decision to follow Jeff and Rod to track the lions. "Yes, but we can die just sitting on the verandah." NB. We highly recommend running with the Big Dogs.

"Elephant and two hyenas are on your right." Upon leaving the shower block to return to camp.

"A hyena once ran through the camp and took the meat right off the grill." A comment as we grilled our meat for dinner (outside of the fence that did not work some of the time anyway).

Ellie and Nicky on the cruiser's roof rack experienced a charge from an angry and trumpeting matriarch elephant guarding the family's young ones. The first and second charge is to scare you. The third one? They mean business with 25 steps to one of a man's.

"He's sitting on the table!" (He was.) "He's sleeping in the bed!" (He wasn't.) Another baboon camp attack while we were on a game drive left Rod and Ellie's cook kit upside down. The zipped verandah doors remained closed, but he obviously wanted the boxes of food. Ellie's imagination of baboons in bed definitely kept us alert.

"They are going to separate us from our car." As we decided to run with the Big Dogs to track the lions on foot, buffalo kept eyeing us from behind as they moved closer to our car. "That is what they do. Buffalo and elephants strategize and circle you. While you focus on one, the dangerous one comes from behind."

"Friends told us when they were here some lions chased children through the camp." Okaaaaay! "How do you know they were just chasing them?" "The lions were not hungry, they had already eaten".

"Freak man!" As a warthog jumped up and out of an anthill hole when we disturbed his rest. A *National Geographic* moment for sure disappeared as we jumped too!

"People pay a lot of money to do this!"



Following Rod into the Lions Den.



Take time for a romantic meal together.



Hippo Heaven, Together Forever.



Jeff & Nicky getting cosy with an elephant.



Ellie and Elephant.

REACH US! For more information about the various ministry departments of Afrika wa Yesu visit us at www.afrikawayesu.org.

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