

Saved

BY

His

Grace

(I)

As Written By:

Mr. Ben

SEGMENT ONE

Venue: The Multi-purpose Hall of The Fountain of Truth Church, Atlanta, Georgia, USA, Venue of the Three-day 6th Annual Meeting (Day Three)

Congregation: 600 Members (invitees inclusive)

Time: Starting from 9:30 AM to end at 1:30PM

Theme: Saved By His Grace

Ministering: Rev. Michael Xhosa

The service begins as the four-man team of prayer warriors takes to the spacious pulpit to carry along the attention of the expectant congregants, well seated. The split air-conditioned hall is decorated in all corners with the enlarged banner that reads the convention's theme. The ground is covered with modern state-of-the-art marbles and there is a "5 by 40" seat arrangement from the left to the right of the hall that gives space for members to move in and out freely. The gap between one seat and the next is enough for members to comfortably pray, stand, praise and worship God without having to disturb each other. The projectors, placed on the four-cornered walls of the hall, are on hand to visually assist the men of God to preach to the reach of the attended brothers and sisters, irrespective of where they are seated.

There are nine ushers-three males and six females. The three males are positioned at the exits of the hall while the six females are position in threes-the right, middle and left-in front and at the back. A hall guard is on hand to check those coming to attend the program. There are appointed four guards to monitor people's movement, the parking lots within the church's vicinity and secure the generality of the church.

The elders, two each, from the church's branches-England, Zimbabwe, the Republic of South Africa, USA and Nigeria are seated to the far right and left of the hall's background, leaving the projector's light reflecting at the background's middle. The podium is very spacious enough to contain them. Members are taking pictures of the hall and the prayer warriors as the five-man camera team is on hand to cover the event as before...previous two days. Five to the left and right of the hall's background, the council members are each equipped with their bibles to follow the scriptures taken by the preachers. As the members of congregation pray in tongues with them, the panache-oozing prayer warriors-Brother John, David, Matthew and Mark take turns to give their prayer charges for the congregation to pray fervently with them.

Brother John (One of the prayer warriors, takes the first prayer charge): Praise the Lord, Church!

Church (members of the congregation scream): Halleluiah!!!

Brother John: Praise our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Savior, the Mighty One, and Son of David!

Church (screams): Halleluiah!

Brother John (reflects): Brethren, we have been richly blessed by the vessels God had used to impact in us the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ...Pastor Greggs and Evangelist James Peters. God is in this place! I'm happy to be a partaker of the divine grace that is ONLY in Jesus. Are you, Church?

Church (yells): Yes!!!

Brother John (Continues): For those of you who weren't here for the first-day teaching by Pastor Greggs, I'd suggest you get to stand just outside this hall to get yourself a copy. I wouldn't say: "Hey, you missed Pastor Gregg's message". The word of God gets newer by the day! He exhumed in from the Rock of God's word what makes us qualified to be in Christ ...grace. Day two came along...The God-inspired presence in what I like to call the "Fire-Branded" Evangelist James Peters told us that the ONLY way we can live in God's kingdom is by salvation. He also used the scripture to explain that salvation is that worth we earn through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I don't know about you, Brothers and sisters in Christ, I was richly blessed.

(The very-audible "I was blessed too!" chant comes from the congregants. Thrilled by their reaction, he goes straight to his four-point prayer charge...)

Brother John: Today, we're all here to listen to what our very own Man of God; the man with many shades of Godly colors has to teach us through God's word. But before going into prayers, I want to make an observation...Today's population is more than that of yesterday and its previous day. That's good to know!

(Passive laughs, chuckles, smiles and indifferences are read in the faces of the 600-member congregation. Calm returns)

Brother John: Church, be on your feet. As we have prayed in the past two days, let us pray that today will turn out better than the previous two days. For His word says, "the glory of the latter shall surpass the former". Let us pray that lives will be touched in all segments of today's meeting better than the last two days; right from our prayers now to when the man of God takes the microphone to preach. Church let us pray!

(For the next two minutes, the church prays in tongues. The wave of the Holy Spirit is charging the atmosphere as the people groan in their prayers. After two minutes, Brother John moves to the second prayer charge on his prayer-list...)

Brother John: As we anticipate the undiluted word of God, we will pray against all forms of spiritual distraction for as the word reads "our weapons of warfare are not carnal but mighty to the pulling down of strong holds". Let's pray!

Again, the 'sounds of noise' is reading the movement of the Spirit of God reflecting in the manner the word says: "the fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much." He ends the prayer charge with the words "in Jesus name."

The church (Shouts): "Amen"

Brother John: For the word is a lamp unto my feet and light unto my path. On the basis, we will pray that the word which we will be hearing will give us all that we need to live the Christ life on earth, grace. Pray, church!

The well-up of prayers passed across from the mouths of the brethren is assuring him that they are in the spirit. As he ends the charge, he proceeds to the last one.

Brother John: We will be praying for our brethren who are not yet with us at present. We pray, according to your word, which says: "the steps of the righteous are ordered of you". Pray this charge like never before

The church prays as instructed for the next three minutes. Prayers in the form of praises, tongue speaking, shouting Jesus' name and sounds of "amen" are heard. Brother John hands over the microphone to Brother David, while Brothers Mark and Matthew stand on the same pulpit, silently praying in tongues as they look on...

Brother David: The best place to be always is in the house of God. "In the presence of God", the bible says, "there is fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forever". Also, the bible recognizes that in God's presence, His very own House, the Church, precisely in this great assembly, there is liberty. Our prayer, therefore, is may the joy, liberty, pleasures that come from God never be shortlived. Let's pray!!!

The church prays fervently for a minute and thirty seconds.

Brother David (continues): The next prayer point is that our minds are renewed day by day with His word. Let us pray...

Members of the congregation pray atop of their voices as Brother David's microphone-aided voice over-shadows theirs. This is maintained for the next two minutes...

Brother David: Still in the mood of praying, we will be asking God for the grace to be the very doers of His word, not just hearers alone. His word says that! So, let's pray...Pray fervently in tongues

The church prays in tongues for the next three minutes before he stops by saying "in the mighty name of Jesus Christ we pray"

The Church (heralds): Amen!!!

Brother David: Finally, the undiluted word says: “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” and “the pray of a sinner is an abomination unto God.” Let us pray for the next four minutes for God to forgive us and have mercy on us so that our prayers will be heard and answered...let's pray!

Majority of the congregants are praying in tongues. Brother David prays as well as he sees the high energy being fired up for the Lord, God.

He ends his prayer charge with the words: “May our Good Lord answer our prayers in Jesus' name, Amen!”

The church (resounds): “Amen!!!”

Brother Matthew takes his turn as Brothers John and David take their individual microphone to pray in accordance with the prayer charges he dictates.

Brother Matthew (Begins with a question): Church, whose report would you believe in; that of the world or of God?

The church (answers): I shall believe in the report of the Lord!

Brother Matthew: I shall believe in the report of the Lord because His report says “I am free”: His report says “I am victorious!” Therefore, we will be praying that today's ministration will bring to us freedom and victory. Pray...

Brothers and sisters pray for close to two minutes before he stops and moves on to the next prayer charge...

Brother Matthew (Authoritative in his prayer-point leading): The bible says that the entrance of God's word gives insight and understanding. Let us pray that the word we are about to hear will give insight and understanding into all things that concern us...

Congregants are on praying rampage for a minute and half, pouring out the waters of the spoken word of God in the form of tongues, praises and worship.

Brother Matthew (Administers the third charge): Apostle asked: “Shall we be living in grace and continue in sin?” What was his reply? “God forbid!” We are still praying... we pray that this theme: Saved By His Grace will not make us go back in sin, on grounds that His grace is sufficient for us. Pray, brothers and sisters in Christ!

All are praying this prayer with all of their hearts. Some are shedding tears as they pray in tongues, sing for joy and groan in the spirit. After two minutes, Brother Matthew declares his final prayer point...

Brother Matthew (his black suite and that of David, John and Mark are soaked in sweat, despite their nearness to the air-conditioners): The word of God says that the world awaits the earnest manifestation of the sons of God. In the mood of prayer, we shall ask God for the grace which He saved us with will... enable us manifest as His sons on earth... to world. Pray, brethren!

Brother Mark takes the pulpit's center stage to lead the congregation in prayers. The three others are behind him on the pulpit silently praying in tongues... Brother Mark starts...

Brother Mark: The word tells us that we are saved by His grace through faith. As a matter of fact, we are righteous in Him through Christ Jesus by our faith. Let us pray that this word have its root in every fiber of our being. Pray in tongues, church!!!

The church prays for two minutes. Satisfied by the express steadfastness of the congregation during prayers, he utters: "And the church said..."

The church (Thunders): Amen

Brother Mark (moves on): I am a man of practical faith. My father in the lord, Pastor Tim...of course, we all know he is the UK-branch head pastor, trained me through the three levels of faith...the weak, strong and great. I've been through the three levels and I know what it is when the bible reads: "the just shall live by faith." We will be praying...that our faith level be on the high, no matter the challenges we are going through...Shall we pray...

Brother Mark's baritone voice inspires all to pray with all their might for a minute.

Brother Mark (continues): "Without faith", the bible says, "It is impossible to please God." Yes, I know today's world of uncertainties seemed to have blindfolded the church about what it truly believe. In fact, quite a number of almost-practically unanswered questions in the body of Christ have been asked. Yet, the word admonishes us not to be moved by sight, but be moved by faith. Right now, we will pray that we refused to be moved by what is happening in the word and the body of Christ is growing in faith, leap and bounds...Pray in Jesus' name.

The church is praying with their eyes closed. As they open them, they realize the program's anchor is on the pulpit; seeing that the prayer warriors are seated at the third row, behind the seats reserved for the churches' representing pastors, 5, and their assistants, 5. They are positioned at the middle of the hall's seating arrangement.

SEGMENT 2

The program's anchor steps out from the first seat to the right of the hall to take charge of the event. Dressed in white T-shirt and a blue jean with a complementary black pair of shoes, the Mulatto, 40, is a Zimbabwean evangelist at the church in South Africa. Especially on the pulpit, the 'carry-along' power makes the six-foot-one-inch tall, body-built, handsome middle-aged man appealing to anyone who comes in contact with him or is under the sound of his voice.

At the podium, he holds with his right hand the microphone to the service with worship.

Anchor (looks very delighted): The best place where one can be happy is no other than what was said by one of the prayer warriors...the house of God. I'm more than glad to be in the presence of God. Joy is boundless and in truth, there is liberty! I wouldn't know about you; as for me I've been touched this past two days by the every segment of the service...the worship, praise, the word and testimonies. Now, I am expectant of God's touch in my life today! How many of you are prepared for God's visitation?

All raise their hands; a 'yes' indication.

Anchor: I see...Having said that, I'd have loved to identify with you all. But as the bible correctly puts it: "Many are called but few are chosen", I'm, because of time and pardon me, the overall population, which, to me, is essential for kingdom expansion on earth, chose the few to identify myself with. Remember, the bible says: "All things work together for good for those who love Him and called according to His purpose." People of God, we're born of God; we love Him and are called according to his purpose. You are all identified in Jesus' name, Amen!

Behind me are the representing council members from all the way from Nigeria, the United Kingdom, the Republic of South Africa, Zimbabwe and our very own United States of A...America. Although I'm Zimbabwean by nationality, I could claim American...

He chuckles as the church does same. For a few seconds, the Anchor put away the microphone from his mouth to laugh a little. The council members, pastors and their assistants and the rest of the church can't help but to express their happiness through laughter.

Anchor (puts the microphone towards his mouth): Yes...I can see you all are in the mood of gladness. My bible tells me for there is neither male nor female, Greek, Jew nor Gentile among us for we are all equal in the sight of our Almighty God, the Lord of Hosts. However...brothers and sisters in Christ, like they say, 'give honor to whom honor is due', I am in that light going to identify with what I call the 'pearls'. I call them so because without them, I don't think you and I would be here!

Right about now, I want you to be on your feet, clap those hands of yours as I call on the names of the elders of this great assembly...Elder Mark Thomson and Pastor Zulu Sotho from the church's branch in South Africa, Rev. Baines Little and Henry Mugabe from the Zimbabwean

branch, Evangelist Tom Richards and Pastor Tim York from the UK branch, Pastors Frank Chima and Helen Cardozo from the Nigerian branch and our very own Reverends Richie Banes and Raleigh Shaw...Atlanta, USA! Having mentioned them, we will have to appreciate the presence of the following people I am seeing-the representing members of council of this sanctuary. Well seated, brothers and sisters in Christ, they are:

- 1) Reverend Xhosa from the Zimbabwean branch
- 2) Pastor Greggs from the South African Church
- 3) Evangelist James Peters from the United Kingdom church
- 4) Pastor Henry Alli from the Nigerian church
- 5) Pastor Dan Campbell, our very own...
- 6) Apostle Micah Williams from Zimbabwe
- 7) Pastor John G. Graham from the Republic of South Africa
- 8) Reverend Chamberlain Ox from the United Kingdom
- 9) Deaconess Damilola Cole from Nigeria and
- 10) Pastor Dick Sanders of the USA.

All of the congregation clap hands as the dressed-uniformly-in-clergy-outfits council members and pastors stand in twos and individually respectively as they hear their names and sit when others are called. Brethren are still on their feet as the anchor holds a paper with his left hand, indicating the order of service...to be read.

Anchor (starts the order of service; stares at the paper, then looks directly at the congregation): Please, do have your seats...I mean, for the meantime! It is time for song ministration! Church, our God's Kingdom Choir will take us through the moment of praise and worship. Just as they have been doing in the previous days, this one promises to be different. The songs to be administered will be in line with the theme: Saved By His Grace. As they prepare to come to the podium, may our lives be transformed by the words of their song ministration.

SEGMENT 3

The anchor leaves the podium to take his seat at the first seat of the third row; the right-end of the hall's seating arrangement. He seats along in the same row with the prayer warriors. The 20-member choir is made up of choristers equally chosen from the five branches of the church. There are four young men to handle the available musical organs-the first on the saxophone, the second on the keyboard, the third on the drum and the fourth on the guitar. Four other male members of the choir are behind the technical soundness of the systems where the instruments are connected to ensure no hitches. There are three microphones erected on the podium, with each being manned by three female choristers as back-up singers to the three lead singers-two females and a male. The male singer is to her right and the female, to her left. All dressed in white gown regalia, the female singer, popularly known as Sister Daisy, takes the lead microphone as the two other singers take theirs. They're positioned steps away from the view of the pastors and their assistants. Sister Daisy moves around, from the right through to the left, and then positions herself directly opposite to where they are sitting, praying in tongues... The congregation is praying in tongues as does the entire choir.

Sister Daisy (Charges the atmosphere with eulogies to God Almighty...slow melodies from the guitar, keyboard and drum. The congregation is in the spirit giving thanks to God): Thank Jesus, Ancient of Days, King of Kings...you're worthy to be praised. Church, please be on your feet and begin to speak in tongues...

The church stands up to its feet to pray in tongues as she does same.

Sister Daisy (reflects): The vessels God have used to touch our lives in the past two days stress the need to embrace grace...Brethren, grace is all that we need to live a successful Christian life on earth. Evangelist James said something profound: "It is the grace of God that makes us qualified to become His sons through and in Christ Jesus". It was followed up the next day by Pastor Greggs' statement: "When grace fall upon a man, it forces him to do the impossible, afterall, as the bible says, 'I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me'"

Being touch by those words, my choristers and I worked throughout the night to compose some songs which will be sung...They are "Grace! Grace! Grace!" "Christ the grace provider" and "God have given us grace". Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are qualified to become sons of God because Christ died for our sins and rose again the third day that we may have life, and more abundantly. With it in us, we can practically say, "with God, church..."

The church (completes her statement): "all things are possible!!!"

Sister Daisy (livelier): Yes, that is why it is called the Household of God! It is in God's own house you have the utmost liberty to joyously express your love towards him.

As you read the wordings to be shown on the screen, I want you to dance just as David danced in the bible!

The instrumentalist cooks up techno beats to get the praise session started. The choristers spur the members to a techno dance exercise as Sister Daisy leads the team to sing: “Grace! Grace! Grace!” The two choristers to her left and right and the rest of are acting as back-up singers to her

Sister Daisy (singing)

The Grace of God

Makes me Rich

Because Christ paid the price

At his own expense

I know who I am

I am the son of God

His riches are upon me

Because I have Grace! Grace! Grace! (5CE).

The male singer takes over. His high soprano voice breathes inspiration to the song he is singing: “Christ, the grace provider” as the techno beats gain higher pitch. The rest of them, including Sister Daisy and the female singer to his left, are backing him, voice-wise.

Male Singer (Gets the church ready for the next song as the beats play): Church, the next song is titled “Christ, the grace provider”. Praise our Lord Jesus Christ like you have never done before...

Christ the grace provider

How great is your name

You gave to us your priceless worth

You made it free with your own life

You laid down you for us

You gave us the grace

We didn't deserve

You are...the Grace provider (5ce)

The female singer takes the lead while the male singer, Sister Daisy and the rest of the choir back her.

Female Singer (exuberant): Church, do you believe God has given us grace?

The church replies "Yes"

Female Singer (feeling more encouraged as the techno sounds play): Now, I want you to dance, possibly better than David in the bible as I take on the song: "God has given us grace"

God has given us grace

The grace to be mighty

The grace to be saved

The grace to be wealthy

The grace to be called his sons

The Grace to live righteous

The grace to heal

God has given us his grace (5ce)

SEGMENT 4

The praise session ends with Sister Daisy gently dropping the microphone on the podium; along with the male and female singers because its time frame is. The Anchor stands from where he is seating to mount the podium, the moment he sees the choristers leave to take their seats at the first, second, third and fourth front row of the hall's left-side.

Anchor (holds the microphone in style as always): What a time we have to fellowship with our creator. I was lifted especially when that sister took on the "God has provided us grace" song. Our choir is the best in the world! The grace of God is sufficient for you all to do greater exploits because grace will make you do greater things in your music ministry in Jesus name...

The choir members (yell): "Amen!!!" We are itching close to what we have been waiting for...the Word of God by our own God's chosen vessel...Unto honor...Brothers and sisters, before we go into the word to be delivered by His servant...whose name you'll shortly, I want who among you has a testimony to share.

Hands are raised to the heavens to testify. The anchor, because of time, is figuring out how best to 'quickly' get the Set Man of God to deliver the message.

Anchor (Randomly selects): Brethren , because of the time, I am constrained to pick just three people from this congregation of God's own generals. Brothers and sisters, please pardon me if I don't pick you because many are called but few are chosen. Majority raised their hands, indicating they wanted to testify. But I have no choice other than to pick just ONLY three! Again, forgive me...

He eventually picks three-a brother from the extreme end of the hall's right side, a sister at the seventh row of the hall's middle and another brother at the tenth row of the left side of the hall. They all find their way to the podium, standing with their hands forming a 'V-shape' at their backs, about fourteen steps away from Anchor's.

Anchor (instructs them each): You only have at most a MINUTE to testify. Please, ensure to include your name, nationality and which of the church's branches do worship.

The testifiers are lined to each other with the Anchor staying some few steps behind them. To the left of the podium, the first testifier is given the Microphone...

Testifier 1 (looks happy): The Lord is good all the time! I go by the names Randy Wesley. Irish by nationality, I am a member of the church's branch in London, United Kingdom. Under the sound of Evangelist James Peters' and Pastor Greggs', their messages preached enabled me gain deep understanding into the propagation of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Coming to the sovereign knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ has been, to me...the greatest miracle, feat...that has ever happened to me! Praise the Lord!

Church (responds): Alleluia

Attendees clap their hands to what he said. The anchor receives the microphone from Randy Wesley he is told to wait for others to testify. He then hands the microphone to the second person.

Testifier 2 (confident): My name is Mrs. Sophie Wyse and I'm American by nationality. I attend this church! I want to testify to the goodness of God for preserving my life through the years. The bible says: "many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord God deliver him from them all." I had been through a whole lot of near-death experiences but today, as I testify to God's own saints, I'm not only alive, but hale and harty!

The church clap hands as the testimony is heard by all. She hands the microphone to the anchor who hands it to the last person.

Testifier 3 (portrays a serious look): I am Gregory Ani, Nigerian by birth but grew up in the Republic of South Africa. I currently attend the church's branch in Pretoria. I would like to testify to the glory of God and shame of the devil over the life of my younger brother. For the past three years, he had been down with Lou Gehrig's disease. He had been the very concern of our family...My mom, dad and my two other female siblings were all at the best of what they do...except for him! But since this programme, I have been praying fervently for divine health. Miraculously, just as the bible states, "the fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much", I got a phone from my mom telling me that he's healed! At first, I didn't believe it...but when my dad called to tell me the same and Nat, the name of my younger brother, called me, it was then I knew the God's works on healing are marvelous in our sight! Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord Church!!!

The church goes a bit rowdy as the testimony sends waves of uncontrolled excitement immediately after the 'alleluia' responds. The anchor takes the microphone from the tears-shedding Gregory as the three hold hands...the very tradition of the church-a way of identifying with and praying for them.

Anchor (feeling terrific): We overcame our enemy, satan, by the words of our testimonies! Mr. Greg, your testimony was mind-blowing. Your case shows that God can make the impossible really become possible. As the bible rightly put it, "With God, all things are possible", your testimony is a confirmation of how God works. You really spent more than the stipulated one-

minute time frame. Anyway, it does not matter because in the realm of the spirit, time and distance do not exist!

Now, I call on Elder Mark Thomson to pray for the testifiers...

Elder Mark walks towards where they are standing. The Anchor hands him the microphone.

Elder Mark (prays for the testifiers, standing in front of them and backs the congregation): Father Lord, we thank You for the lives of these testifiers. It is a great thing they are here to confirm how glorious Your name has been in their lives through their testimonies. Abba Father, I ask that their testimonies be permanent in their lives and encourage and inspire all that are facing similar challenges to know that You're God, all by yourself. Thank you , Ancient of Days, for in Jesus' name I prayed, Amen.

SEGMENT 5

He hands over the microphone to the anchor and takes his seat. The testifiers match to their various seats. The church is charged in the atmosphere of readiness for the word...The Anchor senses it...However, in the order of events, as read in the paper he's carrying with his left hand, whose instructions he is following, the presence of the choir to render the "Saved By His Grace" special number is important...

Anchor: Yes, I can see we're looking forward to hearing the word of God. After all, faith comes by hearing and hearing from God's word. But before the man whom God has chosen to impact in us His timeless truths mounts the podium, I'd like to call on the choir to render their special number: "Saved By His Grace"

The anchor leaves the podium to take his sea. The choir mounts the podium in style. Sister Daisy is on hand to take the lead...

Sister Daisy (starts by praising, introduces the song to the congregation and renders the song. There are slow melodies being played by the instrumentalists): Thank you, our Messiah. It's an honor to be in your presence. What a great joy being in the house of God! Church, you have been saved by His grace, not by your very works... He even says in His word that our righteousness is like a filthy rag unto Him.

"Saved By His Grace" is a sing-along song. If you like, you could seat down, relax in God's spirit, follow the wordings on the screen and sing along. Be blessed as you listen...

(Reggae beats)

Hmmm....

I have been through all temptations

But was deceived by my self-righteousness

I became a hypocrite, deceiving myself

I thought I was righteous but something happened

The word of God gained entrance into my heart

I realize that we have been:

Saved By His Grace (3ce)

Not by works

The song is repeated thrice. Most of the brethren are penning the song using their writing materials. The song ministration is ended and Daisy and the rest of the choir head for their seats. The anchor mounts the podium, looks at the paper in his possession and prepares to usher in the next invent...

SEGMENT 6

Anchor: I must confess...that was a great song ministration by the famous Kingdom of God choir. Church, they are the best in the world! We're at the grandest, the peak of what we have been craving for since the start of today's program...Brothers and sisters in Christ, It's a rare honor to make welcome to the pulpit our coach, friend, brother, mentor, vessel unto honor and set man of God...Be on your feet, clap your hands as he makes his way to the pulpit...Rev. Michael Xhosa!!!

The Rock-and-Roll-like sounds by the musicians and noise from the congregation follow Rev. Michael Xhosa, seated at the extreme left end of the hall, who is accompanied by two dressed-in-black-shirts-and-jean female ushers, carrying each with them his bibles and penned materials, to the pulpit, standing on the podium. He hugs and pecks the anchor who is on his way to leaving the podium. The church is well-seated as Rev. Michael Xhosa takes charge of the microphone...

Rev. Michael Xhosa (Smiles, as he holds the microphone): It's indeed a great thing being the house of the Lord! Brethren, I welcome each and every one of you to the program's third day. For those of you, whom, for one reason or the other weren't able to make the first and seconds days of the program, not to worry... You can get copies of the programs in video and audio formats at Stand behind the hall.

I was richly blessed by the sermons of Pastor Greggs and Evangelist James Peters. My belly poured out the rivers of living water when the voices of God as spoken by these God's generals were ministered to me. Like what the bible says, the word of God is newer by the day, I saw grace from an entirely different perspective. Although they preached on the same theme, their different insights into what it meant to be saved by God's grace in Christ Jesus filled the pages of my book! May God enrich your wisdom reservoirs in Jesus Name, Amen!

Yes, I want to appreciate the painstaking sacrifices made by our very own Apostle Micah Anchor, the anchor of this program. Interestingly, most of us, workers inclusive, still think Anchor is his nickname. Sorry, if your thinking followed this line! Anchor is his actual name! That was the reason he was the anchor for this program. We, as a church, not only appreciate your contributions in the organization of this event but recognize your inputs since the program began. May God reward you and strength your zeal to work for Him in Jesus name, Amen!

The choristers, sound system engineers, Sister Daisy, Elder Mark, the Lord is your strength. May God bless you all mightily in the mighty name of Jesus, Amen!

Again, talking about their sermons, they preached all, including all I wanted to preach about concerning theme. But one thing about the word of God is that the completeness in the body of Christ consists of all our contributions towards making His kingdom resident in each and every one of us. The word of God is new in our lives every day, everywhere we go and in anything we do because Christ in us...

The Church (responds): The hope of glory

Rev. Michael Xhosa (continues): Can you say you are righteous if you're not in Christ? Without grace, are we any better than people of the world? Can we be justified by our works? Does our being moral prevent us from sinning? Can you be saved other than the grace of God which is in Christ Jesus? The bible says: "we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus." I have come to agree with the truth that we are saved by His grace through our faith, making us the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. This is evidenced in the bible, not my words!

If you have your bibles, please turn with me to the book of Romans 3: 9-18. If you do not have, what you see on the projector screen would suffice. And I read from the King James Bible: "What then? Are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no not one. Their throat is open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the position of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: there is no fear of God before their eyes.

Shall we pray... Our Father and Lord, we commit this segment under your control. I ask that your word give light and entrance to all who are under my voice. They are receptive to your word and distraction is far from them. I ask that none of me, oh Lord, but all of You take perfect control of this great atmosphere of your divine influence. Let your word meet them at every point of their needs, addressing all issues they have come to you with. Above all, let Your grace work in, for and through them in all they do in Jesus' name, I've prayed and the church said:

Church: Amen!!!

Rev. Michael Xhosa: I've prepared before now what I'd preach. But something happened...Do you want to know, brethren?

Church (curious): Yes

Rev. Michael Xhosa: The leading of the Holy Spirit changed the initial sermon I had. This was confirmed by...the spirit-lifting words of Pastor Greggs and James Peters. All things work together for my good, church, for I believe in him and I am called according to His purpose. Brothers and sisters, if you believe, shout alleluia!!!

Church (shouts with enthusiasm): Alleluia!!!

Rev. Michael Xhosa (looks at the ministering book placed on the pulpit): Today, I want to use share with us on something entirely different but in line with the program's theme. It is an issue many of you really don't know. In fact, except for a few dedicated members, most of you aren't

aware of this. When the Holy Spirit directed me to share this as the sermon for the third day, I thought through the night how 'enormous' this could be...But, like Abraham, I followed his leading and this is what I would share with you...ME

Quite a number of you would think Rev. Michael had it rosy all along. His ministry was a product of God's grace working in his life, the support of his parents and other factors. For sure, members who have come in contact with me may reason I'm not married, yet I have a grown-up son, Dan, the lead usher. Well, you're all entitled to think the way you're thinking...But what thing is for sure; I was Saved By His Grace.

Therefore, my sermon is hitched on the testimony I'm about to share with you...It's all about the story of the Rev. Michael Xhosa you really don't know about. Remain blessed as you listen...

You'd think I had a smooth background and growing up as the son of Christian devotees as parents were what made me. Sorry to disappoint you, church, I wasn't! In fact, I was a boy of decadence whose anomaly grew into a man of the underworld. Questions like "How can this be true? Reverend, you're go kidding, aren't you? and many more are questions some of you would be asking...from your mind. Let me begin...

My names are Michael Xhosa. Born to Nigerian father, born and bred in the then Rhodesia-now Zimbabwe and adopted the name "Xhosa" because of its unique lingual expression and a Zimbabwean mother about five decades ago, I was the second child in the family of three but became the only surviving one when my elder brother and younger sister were five and three respectively. Sadly, my mother died when I was just four years old in the hands of cancer, resulting from excess smoking, drinking and intake of cocaine because she was into prostitution and drug peddling in all slums in Zimbabwe. My dad died as a result of gunshot wounds he had at the hands of armed robbers who came invading our Kent slum home...I could remember at the time when I saw strays of bullets stuck in all parts of his body. At this time, I just clocked eight years about an hour ago! These memories still linger but for the grace of God...

Being with my parents was a mixture of the good, bad and ugly. Most times, mom would smoke packets of the good, bad and ugly times. In as much as I recall enjoying their company, I was very humiliated seeing them, especially my father, doing things that I, when I look back now, regretted doing. For example, he'd beat me in front of his girlfriends; send me to buy for them alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and condoms. I was like five or six years of age! I remember seeing my mom drink Porsche, the highly alcoholic drink on her deathbed...

At the age of ten, I was homeless...The streets became my home. The only abode where I could lay my head and at the same time, make ends meet by hustling. Because of my experience of being with my parents, I was able to switch easily to the life on the streets. By twelve, I became a drug courier, gun user, snitch for the local drug controllers. I began seeing monies that normal twelve-year-olds shouldn't see, let alone have business with! As the money kept coming in what I saw as being large, so did I spend them...women, drugs, drinks and booze. I had known

quite a number of women before I turned fourteen! The business of drug peddling in our ‘abode’, our streets as we, the drug couriers, were on the rise in Zimbabwe for the next four years until a certain government policy abruptly halted its thriving.

We knew if we didn’t find an alternative, we’d be on our way to poverty! Armed robbery was a way we figured out to help us attain the lifestyle we use to live. When I say ‘we’, I am referring to robbery squad, “The Ferocious 4 Squad.” Gary, Turner, Mbabane and I were the four dutifully committed members whose goal was to keep up the street lifestyle of being the big boys in the slum. For the next four years, killing, raping and carting away with items worth millions of Zimbabwean dollars were our mainstay contact-points until the long arm of the law caught with us!

Hart, the “main man”, as he was fondly nicknamed, the one who initiated me into drug peddling and led me to creating to “The Ferocious 4 Squad”, was arrested, detained and later imprisoned. Before then, he taught us some computer dynamics-decrypting and encrypting. But I knew more than the rest of the... I would use the knowledge in future... It was by being tortured he disclosed to the men of the police force our hide-outs, operations and movements. Armed with the information, the police was set to give our heavily armed squad a serious showdown.

We thought we’d have the ground-breaking and grandest robbery of Gate-Ways Bank in Bulawayo’s outskirt...Montgomery at about 9.00pm. We were in for the biggest shocker! The fourteen-man police squad was stationed at all corners the bank’s vicinity at the time we barged in, killed the security man. And as we were about decrypting the gate pass, the automatic doorway to where the vault was located as I interpreted to the group the information of the company’s architectural blueprint.

“Put your hands on your head! You have been surrounded by men of the police force!” As they charged towards us in numbers, Mbabane and Gary tried opening fire on them but met their abrupt death and Turner was mistakenly shot on the spine as he tried to escape. I was the ONLY survivor...Handcuffed in chains, I was wrapped into the car they came with and taken to their station. The nemesis of my inhuman crimes against humanity would trail me.

After a careful court ruling, I was given a DEATH sentence by hanging! It was to take place after a month. I was taken to the prison where I’d watch other inmates being taken out for execution. It was at the prison I began to reminisce how the streets became my home, the drugs I peddled from one slum to the other, the murders, and the incessant molestations of women, the several robbery attacks on individuals and companies and other crimes. I thought my end has come...

Somehow, I was made to realize that all of my landed properties and other investments in Harare and Bulawayo had been confiscated by the states’ governments. The connections I claim to have all suddenly disappeared. The ‘big boys’ whom I thought were behind me in this ‘game’ was nowhere to be found. Though my excruciation was heightened by the sad development, considering

all of my efforts, that wasn't great enough to be compared with what at hand...my death sentence.

The prison room I was in was for those who were waiting the time for their execution. Initially four in number, each inmate was taken away for hanging every week. I witnessed the first two being called out by the jailer and they never had the opportunity of coming back again. Usually, we're being told whose turn it would be for execution. So, in the next two days, Frank would bid farewell to Mother Earth; so would I, a week later.

We were two left...Frank and I. We didn't get to talk to each other until the arrival of the missionary... She introduced herself as Felicia and she also got to know our names. Felicia was a missionary whose ministry involved preaching to those in prison, particularly those whose judgment read DEATH SENTENCE. American by origin, she specially came visiting and by seeing us, she felt serious pity. As she neared our prison corner to be hindered by the bars, she began preaching the word of God to Frank and me. It was very interesting a piece of conviction, though I didn't necessarily see the need to embracing it. But, as for Frank, it was the whole world to him! What suddenly heightened my interest was what she showed us in the bible: "For God so loved the world that He gave His Only begotten Son that whosoever believe in me shall not perish but have everlasting life." I knew, in shallow terms, that there was a life after this life.

But Felicia's message got me more interested when she preached: "The bible says: 'I am the way, the truth and the life; no man comes to the Father except through Me.'" Surprisingly, I began to understanding the very essence of the scripture when she told us: We, including myself, have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Yet, in our sinful states, God loved us to the point His Only Son, Jesus Christ, was sent to die on the cross and rose on the third day so that we may have life and have it more abundantly. Because of the gift of salvation, we're saved by his grace through our faith. Therefore, I beseech you this day that you give your life to Christ, the Savior of the world whom you'll spend your eternity with in paradise. When you give your life to Christ, 'you are', as the word assures, 'a new creation; old things have pass away. Behold, all things have become new.' For Christ said: 'In my Father's house, there are many mansions there'. Surrendering your life to Christ is very simple; believe that Christ is Lord and Savior of your life; He died and rose from the dead on the third day."

She waited for us to make up our minds. Funny enough, about two minute later, Frank and I indicated our interest to give our lives to Christ.

Delighted Felicia was, she continued: "I'm glad you both are taking decision to hand over your lives to the One who is the author and finisher of your faith. His words say: 'For with the heart, man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation and there is joy in heaven when a lost sheep is found. Now, say after me: 'Lord, I come to you as sinner, accepting my wrongs. I ask this day that you to forgive me and fill me up with the fullness of salvation. I confess you as Lord and Savior of my life. I know that by faith I'm now saved by

Your unfailing grace. Thank you for counting me worthy of being in your Kingdom when depart this world. Alleluia!”

Repeating the words of confession as Felicia instructed gave us the assurance how secure we are in eternity. The jailer signaled to her that her time was almost up. So, she revealed to us something very striking: “One of you’d work out this prison alive and testify to the goodness of God, and the other will be with ME in paradise. One more thing: the one who’d come alive would be mandated to carry out this gospel to the world in an unusual way... These are the words the Lord revealed to me. It is well with you, spirit body and soul in Jesus’ name, Amen!”

She left the prison facility. It was obvious, from what Felicia revealed that Frank would be with the Lord in two days. The day came and it happened just the way she said. Three days to my execution, there was a review of the prison reformation policies in Zimbabwe. And the product of that decision? My outright release from prison! I was taken to the Project ‘Train the Released Prisoner’ Center at Harare. I met Felicia again but only to realize she was the very co-coordinator! My heart beamed with joy as our eventual friendship steadily grew into something divine... She thought me the famous song: Amazing Grace. This was my first Christian song I had to commit to memory... I sing:

Amazing grace

How sweet that sound

That saved a wretch like me

I was once lost

But Now I’m found

Was blind but now I see

(Church sings along with him. The choir takes over the song ministrations. The song is repeated twice. Rev. Michael continues as he indicates the ‘stop’ sign with his fist for everyone to stop)

Reverend Michael: A year later, I was done with the program and through her, I attended the McHale Bible School in Abuja, Nigeria. It was at the school I met my great pastors, assistant pastors and some of the council members. Upon graduation, I proposed to Felicia. We got married the following year.

Two years later, she put to bed a baby boy whom I christened Daniel or Dan for short. Unfortunately, a series of complications surrounding the birth of Daniel led to her death. But on her death bed, she said her last words: “I am happy I lived a fulfilled life of love, faith and hope. I am joyous I am going to be with the Lord with my helmet of salvation and breastplate of righteousness. I am the happiest woman to spend the greatest moment with you in pleasure, love and intimacy just as God planned it in our marriage. I thank God for giving unto us a son, who I

witness his naming...Although I may not exist in the physical form to watch him grow into God's own chosen vessel, the Lord God will guide him all through his years on earth. To you, Michael, please, do for me my greatest wish before I die...propagate the gospel of the kingdom of God through the message of our Lord Jesus Christ in unusual places like the prisons..."

She coughed and gave up the ghost. In the room where she died, I couldn't help but shed the tears I last did when I was a child. Six months later, I grew in passion to propagate the message of our Lord Jesus Christ, starting from the slums where I grew up, to commercial vehicles, schools and other places. She died in Abuja and laid to rest there

It was in Abuja I met Pastor Bode Cole, husband to our deaconess, Mrs. Damilola Cole. Unfortunately, he is not here because he is on an important assignment for the church. However, he's with us in the spirit! The outcome of the meeting resulted to what the world had come to recognize: Fountain of Truth Church. Today, to the glory of God and to the shame of the devil, we're the co-founders of the church!

Church as you can obviously figure out, my testimony is summed up in one sentence: I have been saved by His grace. You can, if you decide to by giving your life to Christ. In that wise, for those of you who are yet to be saved, are not born again and or have erred from the faith, I want you to be on your feet as I pray with you.

Most women are shedding tears after hearing his message. Seventy five congregants-thirty males and forty females are standing on their feet. Rev. Michael, done shedding tears as he is ministering, prays with them...

Reverend Michael: I want you to say after me the prayer of confession, the pathway to giving your life to Christ. I need the choir to sing the song: 'I surrender' as I pray for them.

Sister Daisy leads the choir as they render the song... Rev. Michael is speaking in tongues

Unto Jesus I surrender

Unto Him my redeemer

I surrender I surrender all (2ce)

Unto Jesus blessed savior

I surrender all I surrender all

The song is repeated many times to charge the atmosphere for Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael (Prays): As I've told you before, I need you to say after me the confession prayer...I Now, say after me:

Dear Lord, I come to you as a sinner. I ask that you to be the Lord and savior of my life. I believe with my heart unto righteousness and confess with my mouth unto salvation that Jesus died for my sins and resurrected on the third day. I am born again! I am a new creation; for old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. Alleluia!

Congratulations! You're now a child of God. Your pathway to heaven is straight and certain and the license to preach promote the message of our Lord Jesus Christ has been divinely given unto you. As I speak to you, heaven is rejoicing over you; you have been translated from the kingdom of darkness into His marvelous light. Heaven is rejoicing over your souls won unto Him!

After the end of this program, please see Pastor Henry Alli.

SEGMENT 7

Pastor Henry Alli stands up for recognition. Rev. Michael Xhosa hands the microphone over to the anchor and takes his seat.

Anchor (Comments): I must confess, sir, your ministration today brought the light I so desired to chart a new course in my work with the Lord in His vineyard and the spread of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ throughout the ends of the earth. Reverend Michael, I was lifted by what I call ‘the testimony-in-the-word’ ministration.

It’s time for offering. Offering time, church...

Church (responds): Blessing time.

Anchor (continues): I call on Pastor Micah Williams to take the offering. Church, clap your hands as he marches forward!

Pastor Micah James (Bass-speaking, tall-looking and elegantly dressed thirty-five-year-old man): Praise the Lord, Church!

Church: Alleluia!!!

Pastor Micah James: All segments of today’s service have been impacting...wonderful. From the intercession, praise and worship, testimony to the word, I have been blessed! If you have been blessed, please, deep your hands into your pocket or anywhere you’ve placed your offering and give unto the Lord. The ushers are passing the offering baskets. You can also pay your tithe; all you need do is to request for an envelope from them... The bible tells us that we should give and it shall come back to us in good measures, press down and running over shall men and women give unto bosom, whatever a man sows, he shall reap. Meaning that if you sowed sparingly, you’ll reap sparingly but if you sowed bountifully, you will reap bountifully...

The ushers carry the offering baskets inches away from he is standing, a feet away from the podium.

Pastor Micah James (prays): Ancient of Days, our great provider, we thank you for these ones who have given for the expansion of your kingdom on earth. I ask, this day, that you meet them at the point of their needs. Their financial forte is strengthened. Lack isn’t coming their way. As they give, I decree great returns and increase in their finances. Thank you Jesus for prayers answered for in Jesus’ name I prayed, amen.

SEGMENT 8

He gives the microphone to the Anchor as he takes his seat, adjacent to where Pastor Greggs is seated. With his white handkerchief cleaning his sweaty face, he mounted the podium...

Anchor: We're almost done... There is no need for you to go home. Just a few segments and we're out of here. Thank you for your patience! Going by what I have here on my list, we are to recognize our 'pearls'...the first-timers! If it this is your first time being here and in this program, I urge you to please be on your feet so that I can recognize you...

Eighty people stand. Ushers, other workers, some of the pastors and their assistants all go toward their various seats to identify with them in the form of handshakes with smiles all over their faces.

Anchor (amazed): Wow! This is surprising!! The first and second days of this event never got such turn out of first-timers! In fact, what I'm seeing right now is the numerical strength of today's attendance a combination of the previous days. No wonder the bible says: 'the greater shall surpass the former.'

We have a 'she' amongst God's seated generals. I have mentioned her name before but it won't be out of place to identify her again because of her indefatigable service to God through her giving and service to humanity through charity. She is no other than Deaconess Damilola Cole. She will be handling the first timers.

He calls her attention to pray for the first timers as the church clap hands for her to temporarily take the anchor's position.

Deaconess Damilola Cole (Prays): The all-sufficient God, the I AM that I AM, you said in your word: 'the steps of a righteous man are ordered of Him'. On this truth, we thank you for ordering the steps of our 'pearls' to your sanctuary. I ask, oh Lord, that you give them the grace to stay put in this church, not to forsake the assembly of the brethren and use them as vessels unto honor and unto good work through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!

SEGMENT 9

Anchor takes charge as she leaves for her seat. The program is drawing to a close. They say, whatever that has a beginning must surely have an end'. Without asking any question, I know we've all had fun and learnt timeless truth today. It's now my turn to take the closing segment! Without wasting much time, I would like us to declare Our Lord's Prayer and Psalms 23. One, two, three...Go!

Our father who hath in heaven

Halloweth be thy name

Thy kingdom come

Thy will be done on earth

As it is in heaven

Give us this day our daily bread

As we forgive those who trespass against us

For deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, the power and glory

Forever and ever,

Amen.

The Lord is my shepherd

I shall not want

He made me to lie down in green pastures

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name sake

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou prepares a table before me In the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercies shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever and ever, Amen!

Shalom!

Church (responds): Shalom!

Anchor (declares): Go in peace..I pray for journey mercies for our brothers and sisters departing for their country homes. They will meet their families in peace and in good conditions. All is well with their soul, spirit and body for in Jesus' name I prayed, Amen!

To the new converts and first-timers, please wait for counseling by their assigned persons; Pastor Henry Alli and Deaconess Damilola Cole. Ensure you meet with them and assure you, your life will never remain the same again!

The church is getting scander each passing minutes. But the workers are all meeting at their respective cell units. The pastors, their assistants, council representatives, ushers and other workers are in talks as majority of the attendees take leave the church vicinity to their various homes in Atlanta and its environs.

Ten years later, the audio CDs of Rev's message was in high demand in Atlanta and spread throughout Southern US, later, the North, the United Kingdom, Southern Africa, Nigeria, Japan, Hong Kong and the rest of the world were inspired by the message; "Saved By His Grace". Translated in over fifty languages, it made him a really famous, loved by all, speaking appointments world over in the Christian and secular circles write seven bestselling Christian books and gain favors from various world governments.

THE END

