



# Stop Suffering!

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## I FELT HOPELESS AND WANTED TO DIE

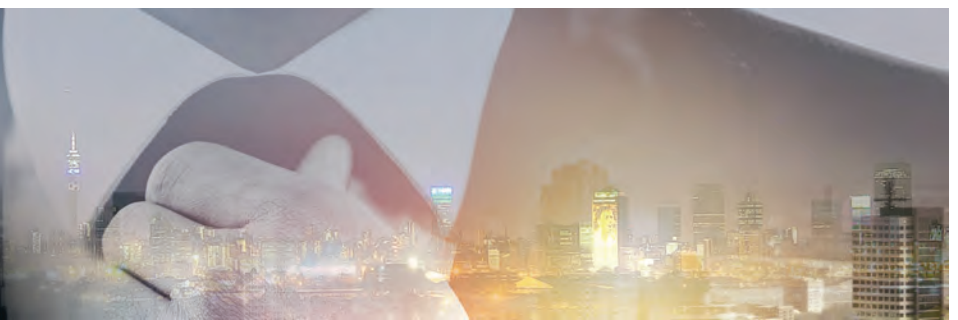


“I was always in pain. I depended on my sister, who lived close by, to come over constantly and help me with most things, including taking a bath.” *-Read more on page 3*

JOIN US WEEKDAY MORNINGS FOR

# WORKER'S PRAYER

5:55AM - 6AM (MON-FRI) ON **e**



# I blamed God every day

By Nikiwe Titus  
uckg.org.za

Life became an uphill battle for Lerato after the passing of her mother who died in her sleep.

Lerato was left in the care of a family friend who was not financially well off.

"I was 18 years old when my mother passed on and it was difficult for me to accept the loss because she was never sick or complained about any pain before her death. I was in disbelief and in pain at the same time. It felt like my heart was going to stop beating from my pain. I cried day and night. I had to live with a family friend, whom I called aunt because she was very close to my mother and I grew up thinking of her as family. She was already old and her two children and I survived on her pension money. It was difficult for me to adapt to a new life of living with other people because I was the only child at home.

I blamed God every day, asking why did my mother die when I still needed her. I grew tired of waiting for the money my mother had left me as I could only access it when I turn 21," she said.

Unable to deal with her situation

Lerato started drinking alcohol and dating men who gave her money.

"My friends and I went to taverns to look for men who could give us money to buy alcohol and new clothes. I always lied and became rude and defensive when my aunt asked me about my whereabouts. We constantly exchanged harsh words because of my bad behaviour," she said.



**I was amazed by how God blessed me after I committed myself to Him.**

Lerato still managed to pass her matric in 2007. In 2009, Lerato heard one of the Universal Church's radio programmes and attended a service in Sebokeng.

"I went to the church, but I did not fully commit myself to the things of God at first, because I was very attached to my friends and our lifestyle," she said.

She completed her studies after three years but battled to find a job.

"I grew tired of submitting my

curriculum vitae for job applications with no success. It was during the time I was unemployed that I did some introspection. I knew my lifestyle was not pleasing God and I was determined to build a relationship with Him. I started spending more time in the church and avoided being with my friends because I knew it was going to be difficult for me to resist the temptation of men and alcohol when I was out there. I engaged in the chain of prayers every Monday for my finances, she said.

She also joined the youth group of the church.

"That was where I learnt how to conduct myself as a young woman. I understood that God was my source of provision and I did not need men to give me money. I regretted how I had compromised my dignity in order to get money and worked on forgiving myself for the wrong things I did with my friends. I was able to come to terms with the death of my mother and I learned to appreciate my aunt who took me in and treated me like her own child, even though she did not have much to offer me financially," she said.

While Lerato was enjoying her new journey of salvation and looking for a job,



her inheritance was released to her.

"That was such a relief for me. I even stopped the job search and enrolled for a one-year course in beauty therapy. After completing my studies I found a job as a sales consultant. I was promoted in two weeks. I was amazed by how God blessed me after I committed myself to Him. I became spiritually mature before I found what actually brought me to the church. Finding a job was the cherry on top because I already had a good foundation laid on the fear of the Lord. I now have a good job that affords me all that I need. I have my own place to stay and I have a healthy relationship with my aunt. My life is in the hands of God. I live it according to His desires and that gives me inner peace," she said. ☞

I am  
**SOUL  
PRECIOUS**

Every Sunday at 6am on e  
And simultaneously on  
e|africa Channel 250  
FOR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

*"Since you were precious in My sight, you have been honorable, and I have loved you..."*

- Isaiah 43:4 (MEV)

# I FINALLY FOUND FINANCIAL FREEDOM!

By Nikiwe Titus  
uckg.org.za

The desire to provide for his family pushed unemployed Mokete to steal from his brother-in-law and end up in jail. Mokete and his wife were unemployed and survived on their two children's support grant.

"The money did not cover even half of our basic needs. We bought food that did not last for a month and I had to ask for help from my mother, a pensioner, when it was finished.



**With God on my side, I do not lack any good thing!**

It pained me to see my children hungry and sometimes going to bed on empty stomachs. I felt less of a man because I could not provide for my wife and children. I sometimes thought I did not deserve to have a family of my own because I still went back home to ask for food from my mother," said Mokete.

His desire to provide for his family drove Mokete to steal from his brother-in-law, and this landed him

in jail.

"I stole his bank card because I knew where he kept it. I withdrew money on two occasions without anyone noticing. Unable to live with the guilt of stealing, I later confessed to my sister that I had stolen from her husband. My sister reported me to her husband who was so angry that he called the police to arrest me. I spent seven days behind bars before he decided to drop the charges," he said.

"No one wanted to leave me alone in their homes after that incident. My whole family completely lost trust in me. I was always the first suspect for everything that went missing. That stripped away my dignity and left me feeling useless," he said.

One morning Mokete found a *Stop Suffering* newspaper from the Universal Church in a taxi. After a brief conversation with the taxi driver, Mokete was offered a lift to a nearby Universal Church in Welkom.

"All the testimonies that were in the newspaper gave me hope that my situation was not beyond God's power.



It took me a week before I went to the church because it was far from where I lived and I needed to have taxi fare. On the day I went to the church it felt like the pastor was preaching directly to me. It was as if someone had told him about my situation. After the service I spoke to an assistant who suggested that I start attending Monday services for my finances to improve," he said.

He continued coming to church every Monday without fail and he developed hope that his breakthrough was on the way.

"Each time I attended the service, I learned something positive about how to become financially independent. A year later, someone I knew called and offered me a job in Johannesburg. I left the Free State very excited because working for my family was my greatest wish.

For the first time in over five years, I felt like a real man. Sending that portion of my first salary to my wife and children restored my feeling of self-worth. My family later joined me in Johannesburg. As my finances improved, I was able to build my mother a big house back home. I regained the trust of my brother-in-law, my sister and all other relatives. I then started a bottle-recycling company. Knowing God and believing in His abilities marked a new start in my financial freedom. With God on my side, I do not lack any good thing as He is my source and my provider. Applying the word of God gave me complete freedom in every area of my life, including my finances. I'm financially independent," he said. ☞

# I FELT HOPELESS AND WANTED TO DIE!

By Maggie Sithole  
uckg.org.za

For more than 15 years, Christina battled with a sickness that doctors could not diagnose and eventually wanted God to end her pain by taking away her life.

Christina's feet and hands swelled up so she could not walk properly or use her hands for house chores.

She married and had a child, but her health continued to be a challenge.

"My condition worsened over the years. I could not walk properly, could not cook for my husband and my child or do house chores. I could not even play with or hold my two-year-old child because I was always in pain. I depended on my sister, who lived close by, to come over constantly and help me with most things, including taking a bath. When my sister was not around, my husband helped with the house chores. I felt like a useless wife and a burden to my husband, who had to go to work and then come back to help me," said Christina.

In search of help, Christina went to many places, but her condition did not improve.

"It worsened as my body did not respond to painkillers. I drank them both day and night, but the pains were so severe that I stayed awake throughout the night," she said.

Christina's ill-health affected her marriage, because she became insecure and angry when her husband spoke to their female neighbours.

She lost all hope of being healed and asked God to take away her life so she could be free from the pain and humiliation she suffered.

"I had given up on life and just wanted to die so

that my pain and the shame I felt for being such a burden on everyone could end," said Christina.

A friend invited Christina to the Universal Church and she attended the services as her last hope.

“**My faith grew from strength to strength each time I was in the church.**”

"On my first day in the church, I walked in limping slowly. The pastor prayed for me and encouraged me to believe that God was going to heal me. That same day, I walked back home without limping. The following morning my feet and hands were no longer swollen. I continued coming to the church every Tuesday and believed that God would heal me. Soon after that, I was able to sleep well at night.

That encouraged me to trust God with my whole life. I was able to do my house chores and my husband became a happy man seeing the improvement in my health. I am now a confident wife and a mother who is able to take care of her household. Coming to the church did not only restore my health, but every area of my life, including my dignity and my marriage," said Christina. ✎



**DISCLAIMER:** The Universal Church does not claim to heal anyone, but believes that through the power of faith in the name of Jesus, a person can receive healing. Those under medical treatment are advised to continue taking prescribed medication and following their doctors' instructions.

# God trusted me for BIGGER blessings

By Maggie Sithole  
uckg.org.za

Drinking alcohol and smoking dagga from the age of 16 turned Bruce into a bully and a disrespectful teenager at school.

"I smoked dagga and drank alcohol to experiment with my friends at school. At first, I did not like the taste of alcohol and the smell of dagga, but my friends told me I was going to enjoy it with time. They even offered to buy me alcohol and dagga when we went out on weekends. Two months later I was so hooked on dagga that I started buying it for myself and continued smoking it, even when I was alone. I also smoked before I started classes and during lunch breaks. I became violent and fought with other learners at school. I disrespected the teachers and refused to be corrected," said Bruce.

Together with his friends, Bruce bunked classes and went into the bush near their school where they smoked and drank alcohol.

"I eventually failed my matric in 2003," said Bruce.

He found a job in a shop and his situation worsened because he then had money to feed his addiction.

"That was when my mother found out about my addiction, but she could not do anything about it because I was already out of school and working. I went on a drinking and smoking spree when it was pay day. I spent my weekends at a night club and only came back on Sunday evenings," said Bruce.

His family and relatives continued inviting Bruce to the church.

"I grew tired of their nagging and one Sunday I decided to go with my cousin to the Universal Church. I told myself I was going there to silence him so that he did not invite me again, but before the service ended, I had made up my mind that I would return. I listened to people's testimonies during the service and I developed hope for a new and better life," he said.

He continued coming to the church on his own because he understood that he had the power to change his life through his faith. He spent most of his time in the church when he was not at work and his friends got tired of not finding him when they looked for him.

"They stopped coming to visit me and that was how our friendship ended. After four months in the church, I was able to stop drinking and smoking dagga," said Bruce.

He came to the church on Saturdays and asked God to give him wisdom to manage his finances well. "God gave me the idea to start a cleaning and construction company," he said.

Early last year Bruce's company received big cleaning and renovating contracts from well-known companies in Johannesburg and Pretoria. His finances improved and he was able to marry his girlfriend of two years.

"It was after I started applying the word of God that every area of my life changed. I was able to put my finances to good use. I also overcame my addiction to alcohol and dagga," said Bruce. ✎

“**It was after I started applying the word of God that every area of my life changed... I overcame my addiction.**”



# STOP SUFFERING

Join us every **Monday - Friday**  
9am to 9.30am on **Soweto TV**

**repeats** 00:30 to 1am



**14 APRIL @ 9AM - ELLIS PARK AND JOHANNESBURG STADIUMS**

**DISCLAIMERS:** The contents of this publication reflect the opinions of the interviewees. This publication is for information purposes only. Opinions and advice expressed do not necessarily represent the views of the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God. The Universal Church does not claim to heal anyone, but believes that through the power of faith in the name of Jesus, a person can receive healing. Those under medical treatment are advised to continue taking prescribed medication and following their doctors' instructions.



## UNIVERSAL ADDRESSES

**For more addresses - HELPLINE: 0861 330 320 | WEBSITE: uckg.org.za**

### GAUTENG

**Alexandra 1:** 740 Pretoria Main Road, Cnr Link Road  
**Benoni:** 70 Cranbourne Avenue (Next to ABSA)  
**Daveyton 1:** 9397 Eislen Street (Next to Engen garage)  
**Dobsonville:** 4337 Main Road, Dobsonville  
**Duduza 1:** 4B18 Mphuti Street, Extension 3  
**Eldorado:** Sirkel Road, Ext. 5 (White tent, Next to Shoprite 7 and Shell Garage)  
**Evaton:** 348 Bodea Road, (Next to Mmali's Shop) Evaton  
**Fine Town:** 9 Fonteine, Golden Highway, Grasmere  
**Germiston:** Cnr Voortrekker Street and Railway Road, (Opp. Total Garage)  
**Hillbrow:** 60 Pretoria Street, Highpoint  
**Kagiso:** Cnr Ngalonkulu Street & Thulani Drive, Hillsideview  
**Kempton Park:** 9 Pretoria Road (Next To Caltex Garage)  
**Kwathema 1:** 6993, Shabangu Street, Emajudeni (Next to Boxer Supermarket)  
**La Rochelle:** 18 Geranium Street, Cnr Prairie Street  
**Lenasia 1:** 1 Station Place, Ext 1, Former Apsara Cinema  
**Meadowlands:** 21332 Isigwe Street, Zone 6, Meadowlands West  
**Merape:** 2231 Moletsane Moliva Street, Soweto (Behind Pick 'n Pay)

**Orange Farm 1:** Orange Farm 1: Falcon Road, EXT 6A, (Near Spar)  
**Protea Glen:** 3806 Igwayigwayi Street, Extension 4  
**Rabie Ridge:** 706 Rietduiker Street (Opp. BP Garage)  
**Randburg 1:** 4 Dover & Bram Fischer, (Opp. Garden Mall)  
**Randfontein:** Roma Building, 17 Sixth Street (Opp. Midas)  
**Roodepoort:** 37 Mooi Street  
**Sebokeng:** 392 Moshoeshoe Street, Zone 10 (Formerly Freddie's supermarket)  
**Springs:** First Floor, Erf 977, Geduld, Springs  
**Spruitview:** 23 Cnr Brickfield & Moagi Road  
**Thembisa 1:** 87 Kestrel Street, Mathole, Difaeng  
**Thokoza 1:** 1838 Rakoma Street (Opp Shell Garage)  
**Vanderbijlpark:** Shop No. 4, C R Swart Street (Next to OK Furniture)  
**Vereeniging:** Shop 1, 8 Kruger Avenue (Opp Sassa)  
**Vosloorus:** 8384 Heidelberg Road, Cnr Mottile Street (Next to Ratanda Multipurpose Hall)  
**Pretoria:** 175 Nana Sita Street (old Skinner Street), Pretoria Central  
**Mabopane:** 2733 Block B (Next to Tlamelong Clinic)  
**Mamelodi:** No 1 Dabolwane street, Cnr Tsamaya Road, Mamelodi West (Next to Denneboom station)  
**Hammanskraal:** 4411 Unit 01 Temba, Kudube



**Park Station:** 25 Plein Street, Johannesburg

Standard Bank & KFC)  
**Khayelitsha:** 54 Ntsikizi Street, Ilitha Park  
**Nyanga Airport:** 10 Montreal Drive, Airport Industrial  
**Nyanga Junction:** Complex shop 45, 46, 47 Manenburg, 1st floor, Duinefontein Road  
**Mitchell's Plain:** 7th Avenue, 13 Polka Square, Town Centre  
**Phillipi:** 427 Landsdowne Road (Next to Tesco)  
**George:** 44 Sandkraal Road, Conville (Opp Sassa)

### KWA-ZULU NATAL

**Durban:** 465 Anton Lembede (Smith) Street (Opp. Durdoc Centre)  
**Pinetown:** 28 Mdoni Centre, Crompton Street  
**Isipingo:** 115 - 122 Old Main Road (Opp. Sasol Garage)  
**Kwa Mashu:** P50 Bhejane Road  
 Phoenix: Shop No 7 Gem City, 80 Parthenon Street  
**Empangeni:** 7 Chrome Crescent Street  
**Pietermaritzburg:** 399 Church Street, (Opp. Capital Centre)  
**Newcastle:** 25 Allen Street (Next to Allen Motors)

### EASTERN CAPE

**East London:** 5 Gladstone Street  
**Mdantsane:** Stand number: 108063 Shai Road (Opp. Sisa Dukashe Stadium)  
**King William's Town:** 13a, b Market Street  
**Mthatha:** 36 Owen St (Next to Botha Sigcau Building)  
**New Brighton, PE:** 45 Norongo Road & Cnr Sopazi Street  
**Njoli, PE:** 382 Boozi Street, Zwide, KwaZakhele  
**Motherwell, PE:** 78 Makhangiso Street, NU6 Swatkops Valley  
**Grahamstown:** 33 Beaufort Street (Opposite the Police Station )

### FREE STATE

**Bloemfontein:** 60 Church Street (Next to Hoffman Square)  
**Thaba Nchu:** 11 Market Street  
**Phelindaba:** 9374 Mathebula Street (Next to Motherwell ground)  
**Qwa-Qwa:** Midtown Shopping Complex, 2 Phuthadijhaba  
**Welkom:** Marios Shopping Complex, 4 Kort Street

### NORTHERN CAPE

**Kimberley:** 18 Currey Street (Behind Home Affairs)  
**Upington:** 2104 Nick Ossewa Street (Next to Labella)

### MPUMALANGA

**Nelspruit:** 6c Samora Machel, Cnr Petroleum Street (Behind Buscor Terminus)  
**Witbank:** 8 Arras Street, Witbank CBD  
**Secunda:** Ingwe Drive, Embalenhle

### LIMPOPO

**Polokwane:** 101 General Joubert, Cnr Rissik Street, (Next to Kwik Fit)  
**Turffloop:** Shop 6A, Zone A, University Street, Turffloop Shopping Centre  
**Tzaneen:** Gratia Building, 9 Koedoe Street

### NORTH WEST

**Rustenburg 1:** 134 Klopper Street  
**Brits:** Shop Number 10 Pienaar Street  
**Jouberton:** 150 Emangweni Street  
**Potchefstroom:** 3680 Lekhele Street, Ikageng (Next to Post Office)  
**Mahikeng:** 35 Main Street



**Soweto:** Cnr Immink & Kokwane Drive Zone 6, Diepkloof

### WESTERN CAPE

**Cape Town:** 9 Buitenkant Street (near the Grand Parade)  
**Bellville:** 16 Kruskal Ave (opposite to



Your nearest UCKG: