

The Bottom-line Message: *What Follows You? Psalm 23:6*

*Anywhere, Anytime, Under any circumstances - His GOODNESS AND MERCY follows us!

52 Devotionals for the 52 weeks in the year:

- Be Encouraged,
- Be Inspired,
- Be Challenged,
- And In turn, positively Impact Your Sphere Of Influence!

Year 2015 Edition

www.goodnessandmercy.org

devotionals@goodnessandmercy.org

ISBN : 978-0-7974-6145-1

Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Mobile:

E-mail address:

Targets for 2015:

1

2

3

4

5

The Team

Editors: Kiven Mupetura, Rejoice Moyo, Gloria Ndlovu

Proof Readers: Grace Dube, Matie Beja

Critical Analysts: Gracious Ntebang, Nkosilathi Molokele-tsiye

With Thanks to: Partners, Affiliates and Prayer Team

NIV Bible used unless stated otherwise. References were made to Mathew Henry’s Concise Commentary, Gill’s Exposition, Pulpit Commentary and NIV Study Bible.

GMI 2014 Devotionals:

‘Thank you so much for the word that you share with us, every time after reading the devotions I feel strengthened and inspired to trust in the Lord always. Thank you so much.’ Ethel Moyo, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Thank you! Very POWERFUL and my testimony- Mbii Zhanje, Harare, Zimbabwe

‘What a touching passage! In case you cannot believe that people are still following these readings and being revived each week of which am one of them.’ Gloria Ndlovu, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

'Another week of blessings----- Amen, Amen!!!!!!!!!!!!!!' Siphon Ntebang, Gaborone, Botswana

'We are blessed by the word.' Dondeguy Sibanda, Johannesburg, South Africa

'I got my copy. Guys this is a devotional worth buying, so encouraging and inspiring.' Pastor Jeffrey Mwananyanya, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

'I am inspired, encouraged, strengthened, uplifted, empowered all is by the Grace of the living God. To Goodness & Mercy Team - Labour continuously with Him for with Him (God) NOTHING is impossible. Be blessed all. Bessie, Johannesburg, South Africa

'Very powerful devotional book, God bless you.' Pastor Zondiwe Mudenda, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
Introduction.....	
January - New Season, Fresh Anointing.....	
February -A God Without Limits.....	
March - Praise Him Continually	
April - Happy Easter	
May - No More Insecurities.....	
June - Avoid Dangerous Decisions	
July - Non-situational Integrity	
August - Dare To Excel.....	
September - Goodness and Mercy Follows You	
October - Create A Positive Difference In Your Sphere	
November -Thanksgiving.....	
December -Merry Christmas	
Make Jesus Your Lord and Saviour	

INTRODUCTION

How to use the devotional:

- It is a weekly devotional, 52 sharings for the 52 weeks in the year, divided into 12 major topics by month and further divided into weekly subtopics.
- Study, meditate, confess, declare, decree, be challenged, be inspired, be encouraged, action points and in-turn make a difference in your sphere of influence.
- May be used in Home groups, Bible Studies, Preaching etc.
- Send an e-mail with a subject 'weekly devotionals' to devotionals@goodnessandmercy.org to receive weekly messages on-line.
- Join us on Facebook: Goodness&Mercy Weekly Devotional.
- Visit our website: www.goodnessandmercy.org

JANUARY- NEW SEASON, FRESH ANOINTING

Week 1:1-7

First Things First

Week 2: 8-14 **New Year, New Everything**
Week 3: 15-21 **What Follows You?**
Week 4: 22-31 **Celebrate Your Victory In Advance**

Week 1: 1-7 January

First Things First: Mathew 6:33 (KJ2000Bible)

“But seek you first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Devotional Thought:

- It gives a competitive advantage to start anything standing on the right footing. As we begin the year; the million dollar question is who or what is your priority?
- It goes without saying that misplaced priorities ultimately lead to non-achievement of goals.
- The Bible opens by: ‘In the beginning God...’ Let your Year 2015 and life be in that order. Nothing less, far be it from you!
- The greater part of 2014 God has been talking to me on Re-aligning My Priorities. Somethings we worry about and spend so much time scheming and trying to invent, will follow if only we could seek His kingdom first.
- God has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness so the favour we can do ourselves is to have the Master Planner on top of our priorities. He has something better in mind for you, and how will you know it if He’s not first in your life? As the scripture says in Psalm 84:11; ‘No good thing shall he withhold from them that walk upright.’ Like David, why don’t you set the Lord always before you? (Psalm 16:8)

Action Point:

Take stock of your life: what do you devote most of your time on? Where do you channel most of your resources? Who/What is first in your life? RE-ALIGN YOUR PRIORITIES and live a purpose driven life!

Week 2:8-14 January

New Year, New Everything: Psalm 65:11 (KJB)

“Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.”

Devotional Thought:

- God has surrounded this year on every side with His goodness; from the east to the west, north to south, below to above, left, right and centre, no gap has been left open.
- It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: Great is His faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:28). I can set my seal on this. Can you not?
- In 1923, Thomas O. Chisholm wrote one of the greatest hymns of all time and this stanza is the refrain of this truth, "Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be."
- Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, let them say to the nations, the Lord is good all the times.
- The Psalmist could not describe it, he was exasperated: ‘He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters.’(Psalm 23:2).
- God is good. He cannot be anything but good. All of His actions are good. Everything that God is involved in is good. As we highlighted in the last week’s devotion; make Him first and enjoy His goodness from your every side from now on.

Thanksgiving:

- How precious is Your loving kindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Week 3: 15-21 January

What Follows You? :Psalm 23:6 (KJV2000)

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Devotional Thought:

-Charles Spurgeon says, “...Up till now goodness and mercy, like two guards have followed us from day to day...” What certainly pursues you is goodness and mercy. Well, there is no question here. It says surely not hopefully.

-God spoke to me about this when I was in my lowest. I was supposed to be celebrating after a long awaited breakthrough but celebration was cut short as the blessing was stolen before I even enjoyed it. All I know is that the blessing of the Lord maketh rich and he adds no sorrow with it (Proverbs 10:22) but there I was sorrowful, got it and lost it too quickly. Of course God being God, He did it again for me, He had something better in mind for me... (Hebrews 11:40a).

-I might not know many things but if there’s anything I can put my seal on is that anywhere, anytime, under whatever circumstances-His goodness and mercy follows you! Blessed are the people who worship such a God, whose coming is ever a coming of goodness and of grace.

Exhortation:

What certainly pursues you this year and forever is goodness and mercy. Tell it to the nations without any shadow of doubt that it’s the Lord’s goodness and mercy that follows you.

Week 4: 22-31 January

Celebrate Your Victory In Advance: Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us...”

Devotional Thought:

-He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to His power that is at work within us. Now the questions are-Can you stand to be blessed? Do you believe? Do you have the capacity?

-In November Year 2014, when we had run out of resources to complete one of our projects, one of my very close mothers, Mrs. B C Nkala, emailed me and the last line read... 'my prayer for you is from Ephesians 3:20.' I took time to read and meditate on the scripture. I was too revitalized, re-energized and revived and could not help but celebrate my victory in advance. Needless to mention that the project was a great success.

- God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Will He not again save us or gain victory for us? We are sure He will. Was the past a dream? No. Think of the dead bear and lion in 1 Samuel 17. Who is this Philistine? He is not the same, and is neither lion nor the bear, but then God is the same. Now what do we need? Hallelujah and Amen is all that is left to say!

Action Points:

-When was the last time you raised your hands and shouted “Praise the Lord!” Maybe this week is a good time! Look back and praise Him. Look ahead and celebrate your victory in store this year in advance. Praise the Lord!!!

Week 4: 22-31 January

Celebrate Your Victory In Advance: Ephesians 3:20 (NIV)

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us...”

Devotional Thought:

-He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to His power that is at work within us. Now the questions are-Can you stand to be blessed? Do you believe? Do you have the capacity?

- Digging deeper: Arthur T. Pierson once said that there is a sevenfold measure of the power of God- First, God’s able to do first what we ask. Second, He is able to do all that we ask. Third, He is able to do what we think. Fourth, He is able to do all that we think. Fifth, He is able to do above all that we ask or think. Sixth,

He is able to do abundantly above all that we ask or think. And seventh, He is able to do exceeding, abundant above all that we could ask or think.

- God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Will He not again save us or gain victory for us? We are sure He will. Was the past a dream? No. Think of the dead bear and lion in 1 Samuel 17. Who is this Philistine? He is not the same, and is neither lion nor the bear, but then God is the same. Now what do we need? Hallelujah and Amen is all that is left to say!

Action Points:

-When was the last time you raised your hands and shouted "Praise the Lord!" Maybe this week is a good time! Look back and praise Him. Look ahead and celebrate your victory in store this year in advance. Praise the Lord!!!

FEBRUARY – A GOD WITHOUT LIMITS

Week 1:1-7	Despise Not Small Things
Week 2: 8-14	Provisions Follow A Vision
Week 3: 15-21	At The Edge of Your Breakthrough
Week 4: 22-28	He Will Finish What He Started

Week 1:1-7 February

Despise Not Small Things: Zechariah 4:10a (NIV2011)

"Who dares despise the day of small things..."

Devotional Thought:

-A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step goes an old Chinese adage.

-You have to start from somewhere, no matter how small. Its precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little. Jim Collins in His book Good to Great-after a five year research project, concluded that even the smallest companies with almost zero percentage market share can leap from small to great.

-Have you ever been told that what you are attempting to do will amount to nothing? So was Nehemiah and team by Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem (Nehemiah 4:2-3). And Jesus too: 'Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?' (John 1:46). What will you do faced with people who do not understand your vision?

-It does not matter how small that idea may seem. Once you have it, do it with all your heart. God will expand your vision. He will give you the ability to implement it. Every day is a gift from God, and time is too valuable, focus and run your race with determination.

Challenge:

Like Peter walk on that water, and like David take those stones and sling against a giant, and like Moses part the Red Sea. The world needs visionaries, who will step out from the crowd, find a need and reach out to meet that need. What are you waiting for?

Week 2: 8-14 February

Provisions Follow A Vision: Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)

"Where there is no vision, the people perish."

Devotional Thought:

-It is interesting that it does not say, 'Where there is no money, the people perish.' Vision comes before provision.

-As mentioned in one of the devotionals (January week 4) in November 2014 we had an emergency meeting with the GMI team when the resources were not available to complete a project. It had to be done but we had no money to do it! Then we realized, "When have we ever had the money?" We decided to go for it! Lesson learnt: never stop pursuing a vision because you are not seeing the resources, be it finance, human etc.

-Do not limit God by trying to figure out how and through whom He will provide because He is limitless.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit (Psalm 147:5).

-In Psalm 105:42 we see water gushing out of a rock! Impossible. He provides in unlikely ways from unlikely sources.

-I remember my good old days in ICT Industry in Zimbabwe, we could offer you internet connection through fibre, WiMAX, ADSL or VSAT depending on your geographical location. These were the only access technologies we could provide. But hey, God has limitless ways of giving you access to whatever you desire and it does not matter where you are. His divine power has given us everything we need to fulfil our visions.

Action Point:

-What can we say to our limitless, mighty King of Glory? All we have to say is Thank You Lord!

Week 3: 15-21 February

At The Edge Of Your Breakthrough: 1 Kings 18:43 (KJV2000)

"And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times."

Devotional Thought:

-Circumstances may seem to be contradicting purpose but purpose will always prevail.

-The Psalmist says; "My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, 'Where is your God?'" Does this sound familiar?

-The battle is the Lord's. It is not your concern how God will do it; whether He hurls large hailstones from the sky like in the days of Joshua (Joshua 10:11), or opens the earth to swallow them (Numbers 26:10), or set ambushes against them (2 Chronicles 20:22) or cause the enemy to hear the sound of chariots and horses (2 Kings 7:6). He will fight for you at the edge of your breakthrough where the battle is most fierce.

Exhortation:

You might have gone through the months or years and seen nothing, have not got the results you were expecting; Don't give up, don't quit; Go up one more time, a cloud is rising, great rains are coming. See it, Receive it, It is here!

Week 4: 22-28 February

He Will Finish What He Started: Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Devotional Thought:

-In the time of creation, God saw all that He had made and it was very good (Genesis 1:31). His creative work was completed-and it was absolutely perfect. It did not have to be recreated, repaired or revised.

-He is going to finish what He started in you with absolute perfection. Just trust in Him with all your heart.

-Redundancy or back up links for failover should the primary link be down are good for our unreliable systems but not so with God, if He started it- you will not need a backup or redundancy link because success is guaranteed on the primary-100% uptime.

*I had a privilege to have a chat with Healthage Zimbabwe (www.healthage.co.zw) Founder and CEO, Mr Raymond Chakweva. He shared with me how Healthage project started and finished with zero capital and how he was miraculously connected to skilled experts because of the confidence he had that He who planted that idea in his heart was going to finish it...Amazing!

Exhortation:

Every good and perfect gift comes from God. Be strong and courageous, He who began a good work in you is able to complete it.

MARCH- PRAISE HIM CONTINUALLY

Week 1:1-7	Praise As You Pass Through Baca
Week 2: 8-14	Praise In The Mountaintop
Week 3: 15-21	God In The Mountain
Week 4: 22-31	He Is Still God In The Valley

Week 1:1-7 March

Praise Him As You Pass Through Baca: Psalm 84:6(KJV2000)

“Who passing through the valley of Baca makes it a well; the rain also fills the pools.”

Devotional Thought:

- You are not in denial, you are not pretending as if the challenges are not there but rather you see your powerlessness to go against the vast army and focus on God who is able to fight and breakthrough for you.
- You are assured God will make a way for you through the Valley of Baca and as you pass through, you make it a place of springs as you praise Him; the autumn rains also cover it with pools.
- When the righteous pass through a time of suffering, they turn it into a time of refreshment. They go from strength to strength, they that wait upon the Lord...In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:37).
- Circumstances do not affect you, when men are cast down then thou shalt say there is lifting.
- A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand but it shall not come near you.

Confession:

It is well with my soul!

Week 2: 8-15 March

Praise In The Mountaintop: Deuteronomy 8:10 (NIV)

“When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land He has given you.”

Devotional Thought:

- What shall I return to the LORD for all His goodness to me? Lest we forget to give thanks to the Lord for all His benefits... In Psalm 116:12-19, the Psalmist poses this question and then proceeds to give the answer. ‘What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?’
- First, he will accept the blessing joyfully; next, he will ever continue to call upon God (vs 13; 17); thirdly, he will pay his vows openly in the temple, in the presence of the whole congregation (vs 14, 18); fourthly, he will offer continually the sacrifice of thanksgiving (vs. 17).
- Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not all His benefits. In everything we must give thanks. When the Lord has remembered us with favour and promoted us, let’s not forget to give thanks.

Action Point:

Why don’t you take this time to praise Him for all His benefits in your life? ‘Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not His benefits (Count the blessings, name them one by one....)’

Goodness&Mercy Devotionals

What follows you? Psalm 23:6

Week 4: 22-31 March

He Is Still God In The Valley: 1 Kings 20:28 (NIV)

“The man of God came up and told the king of Israel, “This is what the Lord says: ‘Because the Arameans think the Lord is a god of the hills and not a god of the valleys, I will deliver this vast army into your hands, and you will know that I am the Lord.’”

Devotional Thought:

- On verse 23 of our scripture this is what the advisors of the Arameans had said, ‘Meanwhile, the officials of

the king of Aram advised him, "Their gods are gods of the hills. That is why they were too strong for us. But if we fight them on the plains, surely we will be stronger than they.' How foolish.

-And yes God being God delivered them in a most miraculous way. So you see, the God on the mountain is still God in the valleys.

-God's wondrous acts and victories are not determined by geography or any circumstance, he defies nature and all created things.

-He created all things for His pleasure and all comes to be and stands firm at His command.

-Lynda Randle expressed this in a song: "For the God on the mountain, is the God in the valley.

When things go wrong, He'll make them right. And the God of the good times is still God in the bad times. The God of the day is still God in the night."

Action Point:

Read Psalm 46 and rest in His strength wherever you are.

APRIL- HAPPY EASTER

Week 1:1-7 Behold The Lamb Of God

Week 2: 8-14 No More Condemnation

Week 3: 15-21 What A Friend We Have In Jesus

Week 4: 22-31 Let The Redeemed Say So

Week 1:1-7 April

Behold The Lamb Of God: John 1:29 (NIV)

"The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

Devotional Thought:

-What is sin red as crimson against the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

-He came to seek and save the lost, whosoever (me, you, whoever) believes in Him will have eternal life.

-The debt was paid for in full by Jesus precious blood. His blood was shed and made us overcomers.

-Elvina M. Hall in 1865 wrote this hymn which is a refrain of this truth, 'Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe, Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.'

-We were rescued from the dominion of darkness and brought into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Confession:

Amazing grace! But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect.

Week 2: 8-14 April

No More Condemnation: Romans 8:1 (NIV)

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

Devotional Thought:

-If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, old things have passed away, behold all things are new.

-It is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me, Christ in me the hope of glory.

-The blood of Jesus that speaks of better things cleanses us from all sin, as Paul exclaimed, 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. (1 Timothy 1:15).' There is power in the blood to cleanse the most stubborn spots and make them become as white as snow.

-The Lord is calling even today saying, come let us reason together even if your sins are as red like crimson they shall be as white as snow. Will you respond to His call?

Confession:

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us.

Week 3: 15-21 April

What A Friend We Have In Jesus: John 15:13(NIV)

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”

Devotional Thought:

-Giving up one's own life? For me and you? Who does that? This is love indeed--we did not love God, but He loved us and sent His Son to be an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

-A very few cases like that of Damon and Pythias have occurred where a man was willing to save the life of his friend by giving his own.

“What A Friend we have In Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear.....”, penned Joseph M Scriven; an accompanying poem to his sick mother back in 1840s unknowing that it will be one of the greatest hymns of all times. He is a friend who sticks more than a brother. Where will I be without Jesus?

-What manner of love is this? I cannot think of any higher expression of love than this.

Action Point:

Thank God for this indescribable gift of love!

Week 4: 22-30 April

Let The Redeemed Say So: Psalm 107:2 (NIV)

“Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story-- those he redeemed from the hand of the foe.”

Devotional Thought:

-Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad, let them all say to the nations, my Redeemer lives...

-Tell it to the nations, do not remain silent, tell your story to your generation-how were you redeemed from the hand of the foe?

- Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? O what a God we serve! He is in charge, He reigns.

-Was it not the Lord who delivered you from the rivers when you were about to drown, how about the fire that you went through without being set ablaze, not forgetting how you were saved from the fowler's snare that was meant to trap you?

-Join the heavens to declare the glory of God. With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him?

Action Point:

Sing with me: Let the redeemed of the Lord say so; I'm redeemed, I'm redeemed, praise the Lord!

MAY- NO MORE INSECURITIES

Week 1:1-7 **Overcoming Insecurities**

Week 2: 8-14 **Overcoming Fear**

Week 3: 15-21 **Overcoming Low Self Esteem**

Week 4: 22-31 **Overcoming Failure**

Week 1:1-7 May

Overcoming Insecurities: Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Devotional Thought:

-Have you ever avoided responsibility because you felt inadequate? I have done so, countless times. I remember how I used to avoid responsibility at work, would drag my feet when asked to pioneer projects because I always thought others were better so let them do it, who am I?

-Every person, even the most self-confident person, at some point in their lives will experience feelings of insecurity. Insecurity is defined as lacking self-confidence or self-doubt.

-God has called you for a reason. He called you for who you are, and for what you are, for the personality

that you have.

-Many people are insecure about who they are and what they are doing and many a times it is because they cannot see or accept what God has for them.

Action Point:

God wants you to place your confidence in Him, not yourself. Read Exodus 4vs1-16 and live your purpose driven life.

Week 2: 8-14 May

Overcoming Fear: 1Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

Devotional Thought:

-What are you afraid of? You don't know, am I right? I am sure I am.

-Opportunities elude us because we are afraid of the unknown. Afraid to tread new territories because we don't know what to expect there, sometimes scared to death to blaze new trails or even to confidently pursue one's vision.

-Again there is this fear of people in authority, some people stop breathing when the boss or anyone leading them in any setup shows up. But what does Paul say in the book of Romans 13:3, 'Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.'

-God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So what more do you want? God's presence is Power. When I am weak then I am strong. Charles Spurgeon says; 'Pharaoh had more reason to be afraid of stammering Moses than of the most fluent talker in Egypt, for what he said had power in it, he spoke plagues and deaths.'

-Dare to be a Daniel. I will trust and not be afraid. Be afraid to be afraid. Have a victor's mind. The battle is fierce but we know how it will end, we will emerge as victors because with our God we can advance against a troop.

Exhortation:

Be Strong and Courageous!

Week 3: 15-21 May

Overcoming Low Self Esteem: Exodus 3:11 (NIV)

“But Moses said to God, 'Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt.'”

Devotional Thought:

-Slow of speech? Slender? Short? Tall? Dark? Light? You come from the secluded, remote village of Maphane, Kweneng Village in Plumtree which does not even appear on google earth? Is that why you have low self-esteem? But you have God.

-Bought with the Saviour's own blood, cleansed from all sin, new creation, royal priesthood, peculiar nation, God's own people, Spirit filled with low self-esteem? It can't be.

-Crucified with Christ, Christ living in you, doing all things through Christ, branch of Vine (Christ) with low self-esteem? Aah aah!

-Blessed in the city and blessed in the country, head and not the tail, above only and not below, with low self-esteem? Let God be true all man liars.

-Low self-esteem is a killer, you look down upon yourself, you see yourself as good for nothing, and feel like hiding from the world.

-Arise, shine for the light has come. Your experiences and background do not define who you are. You are who that God say you are.

Action Point:

Search online the scriptures on God's promises about your life, declare and establish them in your life today.

Week 4: 22-31 May

Overcoming Fear of Failure: Proverbs 24:16 (NIV)

“For though a righteous man falls seven times, he rises again, but the wicked are brought down by calamity.”

Devotional Thought:

- There is this saying that failure is just an event, it's not a person. Easier said than done right?
- There are things that you have tried in your life and failed, what then happens is if you are not careful, you cease to try out anything new because you tried it before, it did not work out. As they say you cannot do things the same way you used to do them and expect different results. Like sons of Issachar some instances call for us to understand the times and know what to do; what project to embark on, who to partner with in business, who to marry, the list is endless.
- Sometimes all you need to do is to gather adequate information before embarking on anything and not perish or fail because of lack of or inadequate knowledge.
- A righteous man may fall seven times but will rise again. Zig-Ziglar says, 'Falling is a given but getting up is a choice.'

Confession:

Do not gloat over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will rise. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light. (Micah 7:8)

JUNE- AVOID DANGEROUS DECISIONS

Week 1:1-7	Don't Take Matters Into Own Hands
Week 2: 8-14	It's Too Costly, You Can't Afford It
Week 3: 15-21	God Of Restoration
Week 4: 22-31	My Hope Built on Nothing Less

Week 1:1-7 June

Don't Take Matters Into Own Hands- 1 Samuel 27:1 (NIV)

“But David thought to himself, 'One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand.'”

Devotional Thought:

- In Year 2013 had an interesting read from David Roper's Overcoming Failure Booklet. Something struck home about David's dangerous decision according to 1 Samuel 27:1. I realized that I had made dozens of such in the past because of pressing excruciating circumstances.
- In the past David inquired of the Lord but on this occasion, David didn't ask the Lord or his counsellors, he 'thought to himself.'
- He looked at his circumstances, took counsel of his fears, and fled to Philistia. He believed it was the best thing to do under the circumstances.
- I wonder how many have walked away from ministries because of weariness and discouragement. Walked away from good jobs in a fit of momentary frustration? Given up on good and promising business because of temporary negative circumstances? Given up on marriages or relationships when at low ebb? How many single people have decided in a moment that they cannot handle the thought of loneliness, so they settle for someone who makes their lives even more miserable?

Exhortation:

We are most vulnerable to bad choices when we make decisions down in the dumps. Check with God always, He will never let you down! Psalm 46:10

Week 2: 8-14 June

It's Too Costly, You Can't Afford It: Luke 14:28 (NLT)

“But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it?”

Devotional Thought:

- It is wisdom to count the cost related to any aspect of action. The most expensive thing you can do is to take a step without God. I know this from experience; you cannot afford it-It's too costly.
- From our last week Devotional, we see David heading for Philistia which 'looked' better than the shadow of God's invisible wings. He does not go alone but takes his family and six hundred men with him.
- In Philistia, whenever David was asked where he went raiding, he would lie, 'I've been raiding Israelites...' 1 Samuel 27: 9-10 reads; “So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath...Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites...When Achish asked, “Where did you go raiding today?” David would say, “Against the Negev of Judah...”
- Consequences of going alone without God are very costly; you find yourself lying in self-defence, complaining, grumbling, and the people who look up to you suffer because of your decisions.

Action Point:

-I had the privilege to attend STOP to START seminar on Personal and Organisational transformation. If you discover that you took a wrong turn-STOP, go back and START afresh. It might appear like going back but it's just one step backward and ten steps ahead. Why don't you stop to start?

Week 3: 15-21 June

God of Restoration: 1 Samuel 30:6.8 (NIV)

“...But David found strength in the Lord his God...and David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?” “Pursue them, “he answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.”

Devotional Thought:

- David awakens to a moment of truth. Every wrong step and decision that one takes has consequences, it's inevitable. Going back to God is undoubtedly the way to go.
- I can picture David going to God and boldly exclaiming ...'The Lord is my shepherd... The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me, you prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies... I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my buckler, horn of my salvation, my high tower... Surely goodness and mercy follows me all the days of my life...' Alleluia!
- And yes this time around he inquired of the Lord and our merciful God responded to say, 'Pursue them, you will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.' Glory be to the Most High God!

Action Point:

-There's surely future hope for you, God is merciful, He never refuses his help even when we have brought ruin upon ourselves. Like David you can strengthen yourself in the Lord. Go back to God's promises of forgiveness and restoration. Read Psalm 55:16.

Week 4: 22-31 June

My Hope Built on Nothing Less: Psalm 125:1 (NIV)

“Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever.”

Devotional Thought:

- The refrain of "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less by Edward Mote" refers to the Parable of the Wise and the Foolish Builders and builds around the metaphor of Christ as a rock (1 Corinthians 10:4).
- Trusting yourself or other people does not work. People change their mind and have limitations. I have been disappointed and have disappointed people too because of unfulfilled promises. Even Jesus would not entrust himself to men, for He knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man (John 2:24). Why do we run to neighbours when God can hear when we call? How about

trying to scheme and invent plans that will bring nothing?

-The Psalmist exclaims in Psalm 9:10, 'Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you.' How He will save me; I cannot guess, but I know He will.

Declare it:

My hope is built on nothing less. On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand! I trust in the Lord, I am like Mount Zion which cannot be shaken and endures forever.

JULY- NON-SITUATIONAL INTEGRITY

Week 1:1-7	I Want To Know Christ
Week 2: 8-14	Be Holy For I am Holy
Week 3: 15-21	Walk Before Me and Be Blameless
Week 4: 22-31	The Grace To Say No

Week 1:1-7 July

I want to know Christ: Philippians 3:10 (NIV)

"I want to know Christ--yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like him in his death."

Devotional Thought:

-There's no point that you can reach where you say I am done and dusted, I now know God in and out.
-Here is Paul, a man who laboured and toiled and had often gone without sleep, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again, been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from his countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers, faced daily the pressure of concern for all the churches, caught up to the third heaven, caught up to paradise, heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell (2 Corinthians 12:1-4) and he says he wants to know Christ. - As I studied about his life I would have expected him to have said, 'I know Christ...' but NO, he says he wants to know Christ, amazing! Every day with Jesus is a day of discovery, new revelations, more knowledge, fresher communion, the list is endless.

Prayer:

-Lord my deepest desire is to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I pray that you may give me the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that I may know Him better! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Week 2: 8-14 July

Be Holy For I am Holy: Hosea 7:8 (NIV)

"Ephraim mixes with the nations; Ephraim is a flat loaf not turned over."

Devotional Thought:

-Imagine one morning you wake up having seen Hosea 7:8 and the word; 'Be Holy for I am holy.' You go on to read the contents of the scripture expecting some other revelations only to see such sharp rebuke. That was me! Instead of acting on the word I started praying asking God to reveal who the word is for. Thanks to our wise leader in the Still Standing/Prov31 Harare Chapter, Priscilla Chinhengo, who when I shared with the group quickly pointed out that there's nothing to pray about, I should act on the word-honest assessment of my life.

-After doing an honest assessment of my life, I noticed that there were so many things I have taken to my own hands that were not pleasing to the Lord though I had first justified it all to the root.

-For the first time ever since I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour I fasted for repentance. I did a study on Holiness. You won't believe that wherever I went that year or was invited the preaching was on holiness, in and outside Zimbabwe.

-Mixing with nations can denote many things that we find ourselves doing that do not bring glory to God. The worst you can be is to be like a half-baked cake, not suitable for anything.

-God calls us to be holy just as He is holy, lives worthy of our calling, lives of non-situational integrity. No blessing can come to us through dishonesty. If integrity does not make us prosper, trickery will definitely not.

Action Point:

Read 1 Peter 1:14-15. You might want to study Holiness as a subject this week.

Week 3: 15-21 July

Walk Before Me and Be Blameless: Genesis 17:1 (NIV)

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless."

Devotional Thought:

-Some months later after the incident in July Week 2 Devotional, there came another word, 'Walk before me and be blameless.' Aaah! This time around I did not waste time but acted.

-There's nothing as beautiful and priceless as walking before God, walking in His presence like Noah and Enoch and other heroes of faith who walked with God. Moses understood this and said to God, 'If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?'

-In John 15:7, Jesus says, 'If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.' Then ask whatever you want and you shall have like the Noahs and the Enochs who walk with the Lord.

-When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes his enemies be at peace with him. Imagine lions being companions to Daniel in the lion's den.

Challenge:

Paul in the letter to the Thessalonians says, 'finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.' In the same I urge you to do this more and more.

Week 4: 22-31 July

The Grace To Say No: Titus 2:11-12 (NIV)

'For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and Godly lives in this present age.'

Devotional Thought:

-Some things that we learn every day! So my colleague and friend invited me for lunchtime prayers at her church in the Harare CBD, then came this other day in closing, the leader read from Titus 2:11-12 and we prayed for the grace to say No to ungodliness. I know I had read the book of Titus before but guess had missed it. What an amazing revelation it was. From that day onwards I don't forget to say, 'God give me the grace to say NO to XXX (whatever habits that are not pleasing to the Lord).

-The scripture is clear about fleeing the evil desires and pursuing righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Some things you just have to take the practical action of avoiding and running away, it works, have tried it before after of course having prayed for this grace to say no to ungodliness.

-We cannot continue sinning. Crucified with Christ and Christ living in us? By no means!

-We thank God for His grace that teaches us to say NO to ungodliness. It has been freely given, so freely receive your portion today and live a life that's pleasing to the Lord.

Exhortation:

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

AUGUST: DARE TO EXCEL

Week 1:1-7	Do All Things Well
Week 2: 8-14	Finish What You Started
Week 3: 15-21	Confess Your Position
Week 4: 22-31	Check Who's In Your Circle

Week 1:1-7 August

Do All Things Well: Matthew 7:37(NIV)

"People were overwhelmed with amazement. 'He has done everything well,' they said."

Devotional Thought:

-Mark frequently reported the amazement that Jesus' teaching and actions produced. In these instances it was Christ's inherent authority that amazed, because His authority was direct from God.

-Those who heard His teachings were completely amazed (Mark 1:22); Some exclaimed-'we have never seen anything like this, Where did this man get these things? (Mark 2:12);those who saw His actions were completely astonished (Mark 5:42), the disciples were even more amazed at His words (Mark 10:26), even the ones in authority like Pilate were amazed (Mark 15:5). I am astonished too. Are you not?

-This same Jesus said to His followers,'...anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these...' (John 14:12). That's you and me.

-Dare to stand out, do everything well in all the spheres of your life.

Challenge:

Your community needs you to stand out and execute whatever you put your hand on with diligence and excellence, doing all things as unto the Lord. Create a positive difference in your community!

Week 2: 8-14 August

Now Finish What You Started: 2 Corinthians 8:11(NIV)

"Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means."

Devotional Thought:

-In the chapter of 2 Corinthians 8, Paul addresses the question of the collection of money for the distressed believers in Jerusalem, which the Corinthians had started but not completed.

-Ever heard of talks about projects being started with a burning desire but derail, slow down or come to a standstill? I have heard and have experienced it.

-TD Jakes-in his book Can You Stand To Be Blessed- says, 'A terrible thing happens to people who give up too easily and do not finish the work -REGRET. The problem is not failure, it is when we fail to complete tasks and question if it was lack of commitment that allowed us to forfeit an opportunity...' He goes on to say, 'There are obstacles that can trip you as you escalate toward productivity. I would rather nearly drown and have to be saved than play it safe and never experience miracles.'

-There is always this great satisfaction and reward in completing tasks; be it work, family, ministry, or business related tasks.

Action Point:

Reflect and Take Stock of the daily, weekly, monthly, yearly, ten year tasks/plans that you set in any sphere of your life; how many of those have you completed? If you have completed all-Congratulations! If not, I urge you by the mercies of God...'Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.'

Week 3: 15-21 August

Confess Your Position: Matthew 12:37 (KJV)

"For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Devotional Thought:

-When the script for our 2014 Devotionals was ready to be printed, we had no money for it. That was so disheartening. After all the hard work from the team of writing, editing, proofing, designing, prayers etc., all done with undeniable and undisputable diligence.

-We tried all avenues where we could get money but in vain. All we could do was pray the more and believe God to surprise us. It came a time when we wondered if something was happening then I got a message from Rev Absalom Sibanda on Facebook who was not aware of the project and challenges. The message read, 'Ntando how are you? I have been praying for you, expect a surprise from God from things that you have been praying for or just a good thing from God that will surprise you. God bless you do not lose hope, someone said confess your position in the Lord not your condition right now, consider what God says about you. (Rom. 4:18-23).' That could only be God who sent him! All doubts that were starting to creep in disappeared, shared the message with the prayer team and we started doing thanksgiving confessing our position not condition.

-Your guess is very correct, God came through for us in a few days providing from most unlike sources in the most unlike ways.

Exhortation:

I do not know what you are believing and waiting for in prayer; 'God bless you, do not lose hope, someone said confess your position in the Lord not your condition right now, consider what God says about you. (Rom. 4:18-23).'

Week 4: 22-31 August**Check Who's In Your Circle: Mark 5: 37, 39-40 (NIV)**

"He (Jesus) did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James...He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was."

Devotional Thought:

-The people you are exposed to determine your climb (2 Kings 6:17). God has already prepared such to elevate your climb but you cannot take everyone to where you are going because some do not understand your destiny.

-Jesus could have raised Jairus' daughter in the presence of such but He showed them the door.

-It doesn't mean that you cannot reach your destiny with such but the last thing you want is to waste so much time and drain so much energy explaining yourself so much.

Take Stock:

Who do you spend most of your time with? Who do you eat lunch with? Who does your hair/nails? Who do you play golf with? Who do you watch soccer with? Who do you chat the most with on Facebook, Skype, What's app or Viber? Are they adding value or draining you? Are they elevating you to excellence or pulling you down? Do they understand where you are going or you spend so much time explaining yourself and trying to win them over?

Action Point:

1. Connect with the right people.
2. Show some the door.

SEPTEMBER: GOODNESS AND MERCY FOLLOWS YOU

Week 1:1-7	Nothing But The Grace
Week 2: 8-14	Nothing But Goodness and Mercy
Week 3: 15-21	Nothing But the Blood of Jesus
Week 4: 22-30	What Manner Of Love Is This?

Week 1:1-7 September

Nothing But The Grace: Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”

Devotional Thought:

-There's no free lunch; what's the catch? What are the hidden costs? These are some common responses from people when offered something for free. It's always suspicious.

-God is amazing -Heaven is a free gift (Romans 6:23)-no catch there; no amount of personal effort or good works can earn a place in heaven for me and you. By grace we have been saved through faith, and that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works. Imagine!

-I had a privilege to attend the 2013 Evangelism Explosion (EE) Graduation Ceremony in Bulawayo. I could not help but remember doing my EE training back in the days, reciting the outline with passion. The two questions still very fresh in my mind: Do you know for sure that you are going to be with God in heaven? If God were to ask you, why should I let you into my heaven, what would you say? It is nothing but His grace.

-Talk about grace to my brother Siphon Ntebang, you will get a million testimonies of the grace of the Lord in his life and our family-this Amazing grace, how sweet the sound! And indeed by the grace of God we are what we are, and His grace to me and my family was not without effect. (1 Corinth 15:10). If I tell you where this grace got us from, you will be too shocked for words.

Action Point:

-Evangelism Explosion 111 International-May I ask you a question: Do you know for sure that you are going to be with God in heaven? May I ask a second question: If God were to ask you, why should I let you into my heaven, what would you say? (Ephesians 2:11). Ask God to create opportunities for you to share about this grace to others.

Week 2: 8-14 September

Nothing But Goodness and Mercy: Psalm 23:6 (KJB)

“Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.”

Devotional Thought:

-So many things happen and many thoughts creep into our minds when in the valleys. Some get depressed, demented, stressed and wonder why me, is it something I did? Many questions and sometimes without answers.

-There I was in my lowest, deepest valley ever since I was born, little did I know where I would be catapulted to in the midst of it all. Encouraging messages came from friends, brethren, colleagues and it was good. Among the messages that were sent, one text message from Bishop Brighton Nkokha read, ‘Shalom Sisy Nto. We have heard of what happened to you. The Lord of Hosts will fight for you. What follows you? Psalm 23:6.’ That message changed my life and my perspective and this I can testify to that in the valley or mountaintop, what surely follows me is the goodness and mercies of God, nothing less, it's nothing but His goodness and mercy.

-I got up, wiped off my tears, looked back in the years and all I could see through all my life's experiences is the twin sisters-goodness and mercy in my life-I looked ahead with this new confidence and my life was never the same again. So in the valley or mountaintop, what certainly pursues you is the goodness and mercies of God.

Confession:

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Week 3: 15-21 September

Nothing But the Blood of Jesus: Hebrews 12:24 (NIV)

“...to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the

blood of Abel.”

Devotional Thought:

- The blood of Jesus speaks of better things-reconciliation and forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.
- It's the blood that washes from sin and makes one whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus.
- There is no guilty that the blood cannot remove nor the sin that it cannot wash, no matter how red as crimson it is, the blood of Jesus has the power to wash it whiter than snow.
- He washed my sins, translated me from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light and the blood never loses its power.
- There are so many things we battle with, ranging from some sinful habits to generational curses but there's nothing that the blood of Jesus cannot solve. Jesus cancelled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross (Colossians 2:14-15) and has redeemed us from curses (Galatians 3:13).
- There is nothing that the blood of Jesus cannot do. Just come as you are.

Action Point:

The blood of Jesus is healing, salvation and eternal life. Where will I be without the blood of Jesus? You might want to embark on a study on 'The blood of Jesus' this week.

Week 4: 22-30 September

What Manner Of Love Is This? 1 John 3:1 (NIV)

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!”

Devotional Thought:

- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. How great is this love we have been lavished with?
- It is within our human nature to want to be loved, to belong; God loved us before we knew Him and demonstrated His love by sending His only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins so that we may be reconciled with Him. Amazing!
- Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? I have lived, experienced this and that, stumbled and fallen, gotten up and learnt that nothing shall separate us from the love of Christ. I concur with Paul that, 'And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.' (Romans 8:38).
- We are loved unconditionally, we love Him because He first loved us.

Action Point:

What shall we say to all this? How about a 'thank you Lord for such an indescribable gift of love.' Take time to share with others on the love of God (John 3:16).

OCTOBER: CREATE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN YOUR SPHERE

Week 1:1-7 Make a Difference in Someone's Life

Week 2: 8-14 Have Compassion

Week 3: 15-21 Light Of The World

Week 4: 22-31 Vehicle Of Destiny

Week 1:1-7 October

Make a Difference in Someone's Life: John 3:16 (KJV)

Make a Difference in Someone's Life: John 3:16 (KJV)-'For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'

Devotional Thought:

-If you love, you give...

- You have something to give; time, money, word of encouragement, compliment, smile, knowledge, skill, testimony, the list is endless. It doesn't matter if it's the only thing you have, like the widow in Mark 12:41-44, or the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17: 11-16); God is faithful, he will multiply it back to you.
- For leaders and aspiring ones: Strive to be a Level 5 leader as defined by Jim Collins in his book Good to Great; Level 5 leaders share (give) knowledge to their subordinates (followers) and develop them to a management team as opposed to comparative leaders who are just the geniuses and all they produce are capable helpers, the moment they die or leave everything crumbles.
- Giving does not take away anything from you but rather it multiplies back... (Luke 6:38)

Challenge:

Will you make a positive difference in someone's life from now on? Who are you targeting and what are you waiting for? **Prayer:** Lord we thank you for the opportunities you create for us to give because by so doing you multiply everything we give back to us. Amen!

Week 2: 8-15 October

Have Compassion: Luke 7:13(NLT)

When the Lord saw her, his heart overflowed with compassion. "Don't cry!" he said

Devotional Thought:

- Jesus has compassion. He identifies with people's needs and demonstrates His unfailing love.
- We see the Good Samaritan also on his journey who sees and assists a wounded man on the road. He was not obliged to assist, he could have gone on his journey and said it is none of his business but he took it upon himself to assist.
- All around us are people who need the compassion of Christ. They need you to see their pain as an opportunity to serve them.
- Sometimes we get too busy to even notice such; let us not be too busy to show kindness. As we have opportunity, let us do good to all men.
- And remember this, 'A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.' (Proverbs 11:25)

Action Point:

Ask God to show you the ways you can show His genuine compassion to others.

Week 3: 15-12 October

Light Of The World: Mathew 5:14-16 (NIV)

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Devotional Thought:

- We are the light of the world and our light must shine brighter if we are to make a positive difference in our communities. You might be tempted to say your faith is a private thing but it is not because light is valueless if hidden.
- Light dispels darkness, where light is, there's no darkness and Jesus is our power source that never runs out, we just have to be connected and there is no reason why the light should go dim.
- Make it your ambition to impact positively your family, community and the world at large.
- Have a shift from a dependence syndrome to an 'I am responsible' mentality. If your light is not shining brighter than whose light will shine to reach out to the world?
- Arise, shine for the light has come, the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
- Let your light shine bright before others and positively impact their spheres. What good is light that is not shining?

Confession:

I am the light of the world!

Week 4: 22-30 October

Vehicle Of Destiny: Ephesians 6:7

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.”

Devotional Thought:

-Use your vehicle of destiny to impact communities. We all have our gifting according to the grace given us.
-Serve with diligence as unto the Lord in the area of your talent. Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord. Take delight in your work. Do not give your leaders or people around you a hard time of having to beg you to serve in the area you are gifted in. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
-Do not neglect your gift, fan it into flame by serving and using it.
-We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. (1 Corinthians 12: 6-8)

Exhortation:

Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them. Do not become weary of doing good...

NOVEMBER -THANKSGIVING

Week 1:1-7	It Is Fitting To Praise Him
Week 2: 8-14	Declare the Glory of God
Week 3: 15-21	How Awesome are Your Deeds
Week 4: 22-30	Proclaim His Love and Faithfulness

Week 1:1-7 November

It Is Fitting To Praise Him: Psalms 147:1 (NIV)

“Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!”

Devotional Thought:

-Its good to be a warrior, to love warfare, taking the bull by its horn and fighting; like the Psalmist declares; 'He trains my hands for battle, my arms can bend a bow of bronze.' Having said that, I have found praise to be one powerful warfare weapon.
-Are you drained of binding, loosing, rejecting, subduing, arresting, nullifying, rebuking, refusing, releasing, cancelling, sending confusion to the camp of the enemy, commanding stars to go to war and heavens to fight on your behalf, commanding the earth to open and swallow the enemy, declaring, decreeing, asking, knocking, confessing, sending back the arrows; sending thunder, lightning, hailstones, coals of fire, arrows; smiting with blindness, commanding the path of enemy to be slippery, reversing, silencing evil cries, pulling down, destroying, fighting; paralyzing, claiming, hammering, transferring, rendering naught, breaking, dashing, slaying, tearing down etc.??? Why Not, like me and Jehoshaphat, TRY PRAISE-(2 Chronicles 20:1-30).
-I have found praise to be more refreshing. We praise Him because it is fitting to praise Him!

Action Point:

When was the last time you raised your hands and shouted “Praise the Lord!” Maybe this week is a good time!

Week 2: 8-14 November

Declare the Glory of God: Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

Confession: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”

Prayer:

1. I join the heavens and skies to declare your glory and proclaim the work of your hands.
 2. Your law is perfect, reviving my soul.
 3. Your statutes are trustworthy, making me wise.
 4. Your commands are radiant, giving light to my eyes.
 5. Your ordinances are more precious than gold, sweeter than honey from the comb.
 6. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer?
- Amen.

Week 3: 15-21 November

How Awesome are Your Deeds: Psalm 66:3 (NIV)

Confession: "Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you."

Prayer:

1. How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you.
 2. You alone are God, all the earth bow down to you; how awesome are your works in my behalf
 3. You rule forever by Your power, your eyes watch the nations.
 4. Thank you Lord for preserving my life and keeping my feet from slipping and bringing me to a place of abundance.
 5. Your loving kindness is great; Praise be to you God, for you have not rejected my prayer or withheld Your love from me!
- Amen.

Week 4: 22-30 November

Proclaim His Love and Faithfulness: Psalm 92:1-2 (NIV)

Confession: "It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night."

Prayer:

1. I praise Your name, O Most High; I proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.
2. I sing for joy at the works of your hands, you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord. (Name them)
3. Your works are great, how profound are your thoughts! You are exalted forever.
4. Lord you are upright, my Rock, and there is no wickedness in you; Thy have made me flourish like a palm tree and grow like a cedar of Lebanon.

Amen.

DECEMBER- MERRY CHRISTMAS

Week 1:1-7	The Good News
Week 2: 8-14	The Word Became Flesh
Week 3: 15-21	In Him All Things Hold Together
Week 4: 22-31	Jesus Came and He's Coming Soon

Week 1:1-7 December

The Good News: Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means God with us)."

Devotional Thought:

- What a great promise and what great confidence to know that God is with us. What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31).
- Looking back in Isaiah where this name Immanuel is used, its set in the context of God's promised

deliverance of the Kingdom of Judah at a time of great national threat. Jesus is our deliverer, he came to seek and save the lost.

- When God sends Moses to deliver the children of Israel from Egypt, He says; 'I will be with you' (Exodus 3:12), same applies when Joshua succeeds Moses, He says to him In Joshua 1:5-6; 'As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.'

-He is with us up to the end of time, He never leaves us nor forsakes us.

Action Point:

Thank God for being ever present and for being with us always.

Week 2: 8-14 December

The Word Became Flesh: John 1:14 (NIV)

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Devotional Thought:

-The term 'Word' in John 1 is from the Greek word 'logos' meaning total message. The Word in the book of John 1 is referring to Jesus. Jesus is the total message: the way, the truth and the life.

-Because the Word became flesh Jesus was like us in every way except sin (Hebrews 4:15). He had the same emotions that we do. When John says the Word became flesh, he really means it; Jesus wept when Lazarus died (John 11:35-36). He enjoyed dinners (Luke 7:36; 11:37; 14:1), He had compassion on the people (Matt 14:13-14. He needed companions, so he took Peter, James and John aside with him on many occasions (Mark 5:37; 14:33), He was tired like all of us (Mark 4:38). In John 12:27, His soul was troubled. Imagine Jesus weeping, enjoying dinner, tired etc.

-God loved us so much and sent his son to dwell among us.

Prayer:

A prayer for you this Christmas- Ephesians 1:17-18, 'I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.'

Week 3: 15-21 December

In Him All Things Hold Together: Colossians 1:17

"He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together."

Devotional Thought:

-Colossians 1:16 says, 'For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.'

- All things being created by Him, were created for him; being made by his power, they were made according to his pleasure, and for his praise and glory.

-The earth is the Lord's and its fullness thereof. For he spoke, and it came to be, he commanded, and it was.

-He has the first and final say about everything, our times are in His hands.

Confession:

In Him we live and move and have our being!

Week 4: 22-31 December

Jesus Came and He's Coming Again: Luke 12:40 (NIV)

"You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Devotional Thought:

-Jesus came as a lamb and He's coming for the second time as a Judge. How does it make you feel? Does it frighten you a bit? Does it give you peace? That could reflect your relationship with God.

-Being ready always is the way to go because we don't know the hour nor the minute but it could be at an hour you do not expect. Let's live our lives with this keen awareness.

-One cannot afford to be going back and forth because the hour is not known, you might switch off then he appears then what?

-There have been many speculations about Jesus' return, but whether or not you are ready, He's coming soon.

Action Point:

I don't know where a message such as this finds you today.

- Have you received Jesus as personal Saviour?
- Receiving Jesus is like seeing for the first time.
- The scripture says; "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

Prayer: Dear God, I acknowledge to You that I am a sinner, and I am sorry for my sins and the life that I have lived; I need your forgiveness. I believe that your Son Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross at Calvary and died for my sins, and I am now willing to turn from my sin. This very moment I accept Jesus Christ as my own personal Saviour. Amen!

If you have prayed that prayer, congratulations! You are now born again. Fellowship with a Bible-based Church near you.

Send an e-mail with a subject 'weekly devotions' to devotionals@goodnessandmercy.org to receive weekly devotions.