

Grodya's Story

My name is Timon Grody Dhego, I am a born-again Christian, a Congolese by nationality, living temporarily in Kampala, Uganda. I was born on 10th March, 1967 in Lubumbashi in the Katanga Region, situated in the south east of D.R.Congo. I am married to Chantal Sifa and we are blessed with 5 children, 2girls & 3 boys: Sifa 13, Solomon 9, Reuben 5, Ephraim 2 and Esther 1.

By the grace of God, I was born into a Christian family. My parents are now very old, but I thank God they are still alive and are saved. I thank God for them because they taught me His Word since I was very young.

I grew up having an idea about the love of God, but I had a wrong understanding of salvation. I thought that Jesus was a kind gentleman, who wanted to make friends with some good people like me. I thought if I could just get committed to do some good works in church, get baptised, give offerings and so on, I would make it to heaven by pleasing him that way. In this way I thought I would escape from the eternal fire and obtain eternal life.

I decided to join the choir. I became a good singer and guitarist. In 1978 I was baptised and I was really convinced that I was saved.

In April 1982, a group from the church were selected to attend a training seminar organised by LIFE MINISTRY. In that seminar we were taught about how to bring somebody to salvation in Christ. After we completed the training session we were sent out for practice into the streets. The banners used for the advertisement and the tags we wore had this written in Kiswahili:

“NIMEPATA NAWA UNAWENZA KUPATA PIA”
Meaning: I HAVE FOUND, AND YOU CAN TOO.

As I was leading people to welcome Jesus into their life, I came to realise that I was telling them to do something I had never done in my own life.



I was so disappointed and almost cried when I discovered that I was standing on the wrong foundation, I also realised that salvation is not about good works you are doing in church, or how long you've been a member of a church etc.

At the end of that day I decided to also welcome Jesus into my life as Lord and Saviour. It was a great joy but it did not last because I fell away one year later. I was tempted into fornication and all kind of sins. Satan had used a strong weapon called 'Fear of people' to pull me down and keep me down. Whenever the Holy Spirit convinced me about my sins, the devil was telling me, if you confess that, what will people say? He taught me to live in hypocrisy. Remember all unrepented sin is a bondage and slavery.

I remember a challenge which I had in 1989, when Doctor Graham Toulmin told me that the purpose for which God had brought me to work with him was not only physical but spiritual as well. Those words kept on ringing in my ears but I failed to make my way through until April 1999 when I went to a youth conference in Kigali, Rwanda.

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ESTHER'S ACCIDENT



It was Sunday 30/04/2006 at 10.30am. We were in church for the first service (we normally leave some children at home for security purposes and they go to the second service when we return). That day the youngest, Esther, stayed with her elder sister and one of her brothers. Her sister was cooking

beans on a charcoal stove, and she had just put the big hot saucepan with the boiling beans down while she was adding more charcoal.

While she was getting the charcoal Reuben was playing with her sister in the dining room and they came running into the kitchen and Esther fell backwards and sat in the boiling saucepan containing the beans. Her sister rushed to rescue her but it was too late. Esther had already got burned from the buttocks to the front part of the genitals.

The same day I was intending to travel to Nairobi for my application for the Australian Visa. It was not an easy decision but I had to trust God for everything so I went with Baliesima and came back three days later.

We are so grateful to BFA for the financial support which has enabled us to handle the medical bills. We thank God because she is now discharged from the hospital and according to the doctor's instruction we will continue with the dressings at home.

Thank you all once again, may God bless you!

Baliesima & Grodya ... **July 6 – August 12**

Ise-somo (to be confirmed) ... **October 20 – November 30**

Baliesima's Story

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At the moment I am overseeing 1 hospital, the preparation of 2 referral hospitals at Kamango and Mabalako, and 51 Health Centres.

We are involved in the following activities:

- Rehabilitation of war-affected Health Centres
- The provision of drugs and medical supplies
- Training of HIV/AIDS trainers and activists
- AIDS and War Orphans support
- Psycho-social support to PLWHA (Persons living with HIV/AIDS)
- HIV voluntary testing and counselling
- HIV/AIDS school youth sensitisation

What are the joys and difficulties in trying to do your job?

Joys: I feel joyful to contribute in alleviating people's pains and suffering, and in contributing to finding solutions to people's health problems. I feel good when I help people who suffer, and restore their hope for the future.

Difficulties: I feel very bad and frustrated coming across orphans and other vulnerable children when I am not in the position to help solve some of their basic needs eg inaccessibility to medical care like Anti-Retro Viral medication for AIDS patients has been one of the biggest challenges making me feel I am doing nothing. I feel sad to see thousands of people dying from easily preventable illnesses.

What projects you would like help with?

The main ones I would really like some help with are

- Orphans and other vulnerable children Care and Support.
- Nutritional and medical support of PLWHA.
- Rehabilitation of war-affected Health centres.
- Providing clean water and sanitation.

Who has helped you in your work?

• A major supporter has been The Archbishop of Sydney's Overseas Relief & Aid Fund (ORAF). Both ORAF & BFA have provided us with funding to assist thousands of IDPs (Internally Displaced People) in Kanyabayongo and Kirumba in 2004.

- In 2005 BFA provided us with funding to help buy medicines for treatment of cholera cases in Kamango.
- BFA is supporting my visit to Australia.

Individuals in BFA and CMSA (the Church Missionary Society of Australia) are old friends of the Anglican Church of Congo in general and ourselves in particular. Dr Brett Newell, Dr Graham Toulmin



and Miss Maggie Crewes have played an important role in the genesis of the Medical and Dental work of the Anglican Church in Congo. Some of the members have supported us on an individual basis during the hardest time of this work in 2003. Spiritual support from BFA is contributing in blessing our work.

What do you hope to gain by visiting Australia for this Congress?

I am looking forward to the exchange of experience with other people involved in Health and HIV/AIDS work across the world. It is really important in developing ideas for the work we do and it also encourages us knowing we are not alone – that there are other Christians around the world who are interested in supporting us in this strategic work to which God has called us. I look forward to making new friends and partners, and strengthening partnership with our already-existing partners like BFA, ORAF and the Rotary Club. Finally I am hoping to make our work known to others who might stand with us in this difficult work of bringing health and hope to the suffering nation of DR Congo.

Grodya's Story

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As I heard testimonies of people repenting and being reconciled, and saw how happy they were, the Holy Spirit convinced me that if I also would repent, I would be forgiven and be freed from the bondage of my unrepented sin. I did that and re-dedicated my life to Jesus Christ.

Since that time I have had peace in Him. It does not spare me from difficulties, but still I have peace which does not depend on my circumstances. My advice to whoever might be reading this testimony is that if you are in a situation like the one I was in, please free yourself by repenting of your sins.

Read Roman 10:8-13 and may God bless you!

About my studies:

From primary to senior school, I studied in Bunia, in the north-eastern part of Congo. After that I went to the Medical School run by the Anglican Church in Boga for 2 years and received my first Certificate of Public Health (Nurse).

I was chosen to go to Butembo to learn and work in the Dental Clinic there with Dr Graham Toulmin. After 2 years I was sponsored by C.M.S Australia to study for 4 years in the Dental school of the Nyankunde Evangelical Medical Centre, where I got my Diploma of Dental Assistant.

I am trusting God to open new doors for me to further my studies in the future so that I might be fully qualified to practice and teach dentistry in DR Congo.



Brass For Africa is a Ministry of Springwood Winmalee Anglican Church and is administered by a voluntary committee made up of the Senior Pastor Rev. Graham Crew, Ross Hall (Chairman & Congo Support Director), Graham Toulmin (Music Projects Director), Neville Thomas (Honorary Treasurer) and other committed members associated with the church.



Some of the
2006 Committee

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