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# Days of Elijah

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August 30, 2010  
Maputo, Mozambique

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**“I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us... according to His compassion, according to the abundance of His steadfast love. For He said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them...”**

**Isaiah 58:6-9**

*These verses were given to one of the missionaries by the Lord as a picture of how He looked upon us as we gathered in solemn assembly in a very difficult situation. Here is our story...*

**T**hese are the days of Elijah. These are the days where we are seeing the contrast between light and darkness as never before, and a clear distinction between “the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God and the one who does not serve Him.” (Malachi 3:18) Never did I see such a clear picture of this as I saw this past Saturday at Praça de Paz (Peace Plaza) here in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.

When we scheduled this date for our solemn assembly, we did not know that August 30<sup>th</sup> was the national day of witchdoctor medicine. Furthermore, we had no idea that the largest organization of traditional medicine doctors (witchdoctors) was planning a huge “health fair” in cooperation with the Ministry of Health for the same day and place of the solemn assembly. And they definitely had no idea that a bunch of Christians were planning a day of fasting and prayer and repentance for the Living God to break the power of witchcraft in the nation in the same place as their unholy “health fair”! In the end, Some One knew, and it seems He brought us face to face with the enemy (not the people, but the things controlling them), to have a very clear picture of what we were interceding for.

## The Battle

As I had shared previously, we had received official, written authorization from the municipal government to use the Plaza for our solemn assembly on August 28<sup>th</sup>. The witchdoctors’ organization was denied. At that point a great war ensued, and we felt it big time in the spirit Thursday and got a

prayer chain going throughout the night. Friday at 2pm, after cleaning the Plaza and our large tent being mostly set up (a job that took the workers hours), the director of the municipal government gave another letter canceling our authorization and called Celia shouting at her to take down the tent immediately or he was sending police. She did not! As I arrived at the Plaza again that afternoon what a scene—government officials, police, witches all over the property and two VERY OPPOSITE “events” being set up at the same time. The witches were doing their curse thing and we were all walking around discreetly praying. It was truly a Mt. Carmel moment.



Many hours of debate ensued, and in the end we were not going to be able to use the Plaza or our tent until 1pm when the other event ended. After hours of debate with the government representatives and with our team, we were firmly decided to continue our solemn assembly as planned at 9am, but in the soccer field right next door, which no one could prevent us from doing. At 1pm we would move into the tent. They would be using the space under our tent for that time as well, as we were told that the Ministry of Health needed all of the space! Unbelievable. We could have taken it down, but that would have meant

losing it for the full week of evangelistic events after the solemn assembly. Since that seemed like a bigger loss, we opted to pray and believe that the One True King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the Great King above all gods, JESUS CHRIST, would have prevailing influence in the heaven-lies over that place. We took everything out from under the tent but the grass, and we anointed that place with our prayers for about 4 hours, cutting all communication with darkness in that place, and declaring that there would be such a presence of the Lord there that all in that tent would HAVE TO KNOW JESUS. I prayed that the skies would be like brass for the witchdoctors.



## Army in the Desert

So the big day came. EVERYTHING we needed came through in the end---chairs, ushers, everything! I arrived at 7am to place our ushers at all the entrances to be able to direct our people back into the soccer field, as it could not be seen from the street. The solemn assembly began and for the first 5 hours there we were, a band of about 200, praying and fasting and crying out to God in the hot blazing sun and in the dirt, most people not even drinking water. We could not use our sound in the soccer field, but we released the sound of Heaven with our cries and tears, our prayers of repentance, praise and worship in that place. What a sight---at the very same time we saw the smoke of the witchdoctors' drums coming up from next door. They had rented a big sound system for playing music, but some of the speakers burnt out and

broke. The guys packing the equipment later were overheard saying they couldn't figure out how that happened. We know how it did, and we know who is going to have to pay to replace those expensive speakers! The witchdoctors weren't getting anyone for their "free health consults". They heard we were still having our prayer meeting next door and one of them said, "That's why we are not getting any consults!" and they had the police remove our ushers! We don't know how many people we lost because of this, as they did it within the first hour. But we do know that those that were there were serious, and they were ready to fight---and that is what we were aiming for, as this was to be a day for a righteous remnant to do battle for the nation.



## An Unsolicited Assignment

What happened on Saturday gave a clear picture of where things are at in Mozambique, and how pervasive is the influence of witchcraft even at the highest levels of government. As someone said, "We didn't have to go out and find an example of what we were interceding for, because it was right in our face!" While I don't yet have a full interpretation for why things happened as they did, one reason that I believe God allowed this was *to provoke the church to action and as a wake-up call* for the believers to get serious about God. I also believe He strategically placed us there *to create massive interference with an event that would have released much darkness in this city.* If we had gotten the plaza, they would

have done their event somewhere else. However, as we did not get it and did not know until it was too late to change things to somewhere else, we were there right next to them just like Elijah was on Mt. Carmel with all the prophets of Baal. At the end of the day one of pastors said to me, "I have read about the dual of the gods in the Bible, but I had never seen it in person until today!"

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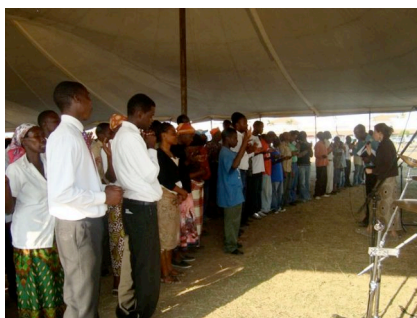


## The Shift

The turning point of the day was when we moved into the tent and connected our sound. In the end we were the ones left standing, and they had all gone home, most certainly disappointed at the lack of clientele. Celia got up and with her Brazilian fire led us in war to clean that place with our prayers and our praise before we continued to do business with God. Within the next hour or so things felt SO different. I can't quite explain it, but both Celia and I described it as

this feeling as if all the other stuff had never even happened at all! Mario Casquinha, a Mozambican leader who has been in many of my updates, led everyone in prayers to renounce participation with witchcraft in their lives. He then shared how the government has gone to the witchdoctors as their “priests” instead of the church because they have not found it in the church. He shared about the restoration of the priesthood, and declared that God is raising up a new generation, and the church will be a voice in this nation like Samuel had been in the nation of Israel.

Many of you don’t know that when I first came to Mozambique, I had written a paper on Hannah for my missions school application with Iris Ministries. Over time the Lord has given me more understanding and for a while now I have been praying for a Samuel generation to be raised up in Mozambique and beyond. I could just about say I feel like that is my main purpose for being born, to see such a generation birthed through my prayers and my life. Samuel was a Nazirite. When Mario shared about the new generation, I felt in my spirit at that point to do an altar call for Nazirites. I shared about the life of John the Baptist and Psalm 24, and many came to the altar to commit their lives to be consecrated to the Lord. All the internationals came up to lay hands on them and we prayed for His fire to fall and consume their hearts with passion for Jesus, to be able to live lives that are truly holy—clean hands, pure hearts, free of idolatry—a generation that will ascend the hill of the Lord.



Altar Call for Nazirites

## Two Towers

I want to end this story by sharing a dream that a Mozambican leader had a couple of days before the solemn assembly. He was in a tall building and a woman was giving birth. Suddenly another tall building, like a twin tower, came and crashed against the one he was in. Everything shook, but the other one fell while the one he was in was left standing.



Leaders Repent at Front of the Assembly

This dream speaks to me regarding the heart and prayers behind this solemn assembly—for a new generation in the spirit of Psalm 24 to be birthed. Many things tried to take us out. We know that the will of the witches was to totally stop our solemn assembly. But they did not succeed! Satan is always after the seed of God and launches his greatest onslaught on any activity that is for the birthing of this seed. We see a picture of this in Revelation 17, where the woman is crying out in birth pangs and the dragon is sitting there waiting to devour it—but her child is caught up to God and to His throne! But nothing can stop the birth of this generation, for IT IS WRITTEN AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, in every nation, every tribe and every tongue-- God will have a generation that is completely His! In the hits we took and the shaking, in the end we were left standing, and I believe that a Nazirite generation was called forth out of the midst of a day of battle. I do believe something was birthed, and I wait to see the fruit of this solemn assembly in the days ahead.

## Plans

I am in a time of processing everything and want to gain more understanding about all that happened

and I ask that you pray with me to hear God’s heart and receive His perspective. I am quite drained at the moment—it’s been a really intense 3 months. I had those 6 weeks of travel in Mozambique, returned to the States for the intense 3 weeks of intercession school with TheCall (and lost my luggage on the way, but it has finally been found, praise the Lord!), and then came back here for all of this. I am in Maputo through this week to be part of the evangelistic events involved with Mission Africa, which this solemn assembly was in cooperation with. I fly back to the States September 6th and will be making a visit to see my family and friends in Wisconsin, and then will be heading back to Kansas City for a 3-6 months internship at IHOP to build a deeper connection there and possibly become staff.

I am prayerfully planning a return to Mozambique after this to go to work on the preparations for another solemn assembly next year, which will be in conjunction with a bigger evangelistic outreach called African Enterprise. There is much vision being released over all of us for how to build this movement, and it involves much more than the solemn assemblies themselves. Please pray always that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. I have an eye to the future but am really taking things one step at a time. **To be honest, as much of an honor it is to be a part of what the Lord is doing here, what takes precedence for me is my intimate life in God.** I am really crying out in my deep places to get beyond where I have been and to really know a place of abiding union and intimate connection with Jesus, and to develop a greater love for His Word. I want all that I do to flow from that as being a reality in my life. Please pray for me in this always!

## Gratitude

The most heartfelt thank you to all of you who stood with me in prayer in the midst of a very intense season of my life and an intense spiritual battle.

You are all so much a part of what God is doing here and you share in my reward-- I thank Jesus always for your love and support. Thank you to the handful of you that committed to specific days to pray for me, covering me every single day and sticking to it! I don't know how things could have been had I not had you standing with me in the Spirit.

Thank you to all who have been giving to me financially—your gifts have been perfectly timed according to my needs and I thank God always for you and how through you He shows His provision for my life. It's now been 4 years since I left an official paying job to become a full-time missionary. Ever since I have been trusting God to provide all my needs as I obey what I feel He is telling me to do, without formally raising support. He always provides. What a testimony that He is a Faithful Father, and that I am His adopted daughter!

In Love With Jesus,

*Melissa*



**Ushers Re-direct The Army**



**The Battle Cry**



**Turning Up The Heat**



**Creative Kneeling**



**Brokenness In The Tent**



**Responding To The Nazirite Call**



**Mario Casquinha (L) and leaders of Mission Africa**



**Celia (L)—I Praise the Lord For This Comrade And Couldn't Have Done It Without Her!**



**Touching God's Heart**



**Rosa da Glória (Rose of Glory) from Mozambique House of Prayer—a Moravian-type African Prayer Movement**



**Dinis Matsolo (R), President of Mission Africa Planning Commission**



**Missionaries Get Behind Mozambican Leaders—It's Time for the Mozambicans to Rise Up!**

## Prayer Requests

***For safety and protection during travel back to the States and to Wisconsin and then back to Kansas City.***

***Pray Colossians 1:9-12, that I would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, and that I would **move in union with His Spirit** over these next months of internship at IHOP-KC and to know His timing for return to Mozambique.***

***Plead **THE BLOOD OF JESUS**—continual protection over my spirit, soul and body.***

***To continue to develop teammates and deep friendships to walk out together His purposes in Mozambique, and that the Lord would put together a more cohesive team on the ground with the Mozambicans I am meeting.***

***For God to raise up in Mozambique a truly consecrated generation in the spirit of Psalm 24, that would give themselves to united and continuous prayer and fasting for their nation.***

***John 15: My heart's cry in all things—to learn to abide in Him!***

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Make checks payable to CHRISTIAN NET WORKS, and WRITE IN THE MEMO "MELISSA MOZAMBIQUE".

**Send to:**

***Christian Net Works  
3188 W. Allerton Ave.  
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All gifts are tax-deductible. Any questions regarding donations or tax receipts should be directed to David Pitzo at [ddpitzo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ddpitzo@sbcglobal.net)

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These donations are **NOT tax-deductible**.