

DEEP

INSIGHT

MONTHLY GAZETTE

DON'T KEEP IT

GIVE THE KNIFE

**HOMESICK
LESSONS
LEARNT
IN 2021**

UNTOLD STORIES OF
2021



Positivity Pledge

I pledge to live a life worthy to be emulated by carrying the lessons and not live in yesterday's successes and failures. So, help me, God!

Note from the Editor

TEA

A long ago day in November, I was having a quite interesting conversation with Rutendo—the inspo behind this note—where I subconsciously threw in an expression about tea that left us in stitches. Two minutes later, it got me thinking...

I am yet to ponder on what led to my tea escapades. You see, I was never really a tea person but the countless times I have drunk tea towards the end of this year certainly qualifies me to rub shoulders with the High Tea committee, if there is one. Perhaps, the weather contributed to the formation of this habit that I slowly became acquainted with. Drinking tea is an adventure! I find myself drinking all sorts of tea; green tea, lemon, ginger, apple...anything tea.

Tea being tea has a slangy meaning attached to it. Tea in a non-contextual meaning is gossip, story, or news. For the love of tea, this very last edition for this year is giving tea. Not in a gossip kind of manner but rather in an educative one. Just as there are various flavors to tea, our distinguished writers stepped in to serve you tea or rather insights. You might want to sip tea as you leaf through this one! (smiles)

I have got no favorite flavor, yet. Some days I am more of a green tea person than a ginger one. These teas have got distinctive tastes which makes them fascinating. Drinking tea has many health benefits and Honourio has got you on this one. Likewise, there are great lessons in people's experiences. Cheers to all tea-lovers out there!

And the storytellers!

So many untold stories occurred in 2021. I have some that I will gladly tell in the future. This year has taught me lessons in ways I never envisaged. They had a more profound impact on my thinking. In retrospect, I'm confident I'm not the only one sailing on this boat. As we are constantly becoming, certain events of our lives fuel our metamorphosis. Are they always sweet? No! Some are bittersweet but you know what, you get to draw strength from the zero hours. You begin to discover how tenacious, strong, and faith-driven you are! Admirable!

As you sip in the tea, I pray you borrow a leaf from the lessons in these stories. I would be glad if they happen to enable you to turn over a new leaf. May you receive deep insights on life issues. Most importantly, may you live to tell stories of how you conquered those mountains! The size doesn't matter, the conqueror in you is what's worthy of celebrating.

Conclusively, it would be an error on my part to not take this opportunity to thank every person who poured into Deep Insight from its inception till now. My team and I are forever grateful. May the Lord bless you for enabling the enlightenment of a dozen souls globally. You are loved and celebrated!

With love



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DON'T KEEP IT

By Tapiwanashe Matorevhu

The ending of something announces the beginning of another. When one door closes another one opens. Just like the normal procession of things. As the year ends we tend to rush through the year's resolutions and the goals we wanted to achieve. Maybe we do have goals that came to pass and we are celebrating. Then we get busy drafting and writing the next year's resolutions. I think that it is important to take some time and think over how the past year has been. This is because many moments get overlooked, memories are already forgotten. As we celebrate the ending of

the year and the coming on of a new one, it is also good to look at those uncelebrated moments, unforgiven hurts, unhealed wounds, the discarded processes that brought valuable lessons in our lives. By doing this we will be able to celebrate or appreciate those forgotten moments, heal from those hurts and forgive. We always like to hear a happy ending, but there are a lot of things we do not get to hear, stories that go untold year in and year out.

As this year ends, let's try to celebrate and see the beauty in the stories that we never shared, the experiences that we never

talked about. The untold stories. Stories of how much we cried this year. How hard and trying some times and situations were. How hard it was that at some point we considered throwing in the towel. How painful it was that we almost gave up fighting.

We often love to hear and also share stories of how we overcame. How we got a job, how we got married, how we got a scholarship. But not always is the background story of how it all came to be shared. There is beauty in success, but there is much more beauty in the story if we shared the parts that we usually hide from the world or



do not like talking about...The untold stories. Stories of the late nights and very early mornings. Stories of prayers upon prayers made to God. Stories of having faith as the only thing we had to hold on to. Times when we questioned ourselves on whether it was worth it or not? Wondering how it was going to end. When we were so anxious about what was going to happen next. Sometimes it's good to bare our souls and share some truths with people. Sometimes it is the truth and the realness of a story that brings real change in a person. Transformation can take place by just sharing how vulnerable we were at some point even though we got to succeed

in the end. The rawness of a story touches a deeper part of a person's heart. A person can identify with certain paths of our process and be able to go on and face their process, brave enough to live out their own story. They can be able to embrace both the good and the bad and have confidence that no matter what happens things will always work out for good.

As we celebrate the ending of the year 2021, let's not forget to celebrate the stories that helped us to be where we are now. We all like a happy picture, we like being strong, we sometimes wish we had it all figured out.

There is nothing wrong in admitting that at some point we had it bad, but we continued fighting and eventually won. Some fights are still ongoing, some stories are still being written. But as they unfold let us not withhold them from others. These are the stories that usually do not get shared but they are what can change a person's life. The stories of the night before the breaking of a new dawn, before joy comes in the morning. Always know that there is beauty in our untold stories, they hold a power that can transform someone's life. Don't keep it, share it!!



MY UNTOLD STORY

By Rutendo E. Mafemba

I've lied to my parents that I have a graduation to attend in South Africa just so that my pilot crush (almost boyfriend) could fly me across the country, only for me to find out that I was just his side piece.

There was a day where the first encounter I had with my mum was her yelling at me, that day was my birthday and she had forgotten. Sounds hectic right? But it's not as hectic as the emotional garbage I experienced in 2021. It probably sucked more than it was supposed to because I was intentionally trying to be the best version of myself, lead a quiet life, mind my business etcetera, etcetera.

I survived backstabbing, pressure, heartache, and everything in between. If God had told me that I was going to be tried by fire in every area of my life, I'd have politely declined and happily offered to just stick around a little while in 2020. Whatever

that means.

I could tell you the story of how I was convinced that 2021 was the year somebody's son, anybody's son, was going to get down on one knee and propose, or how I thought it was the year where I was going to be rolling in dollars and build a lit studio for my ministry or how I almost fell for a guy that could have ruined my destiny because he offered to come to pick me up in his Benz and take me out for dinner in a time where I was emotionally unstable...and hungry, really hungry, and lazy to cook lol. Well, how was that going to ruin my destiny? He was a bad boy in every sense. You fall for a bad boy/girl, you get a bad outcome. Nothing more.

Here's my story, THE untold story. The one that almost took me out. It was a beautiful day... lol, cringe. I'm kidding.

I'll change some of the details because I know he'll read this.

I met him in a mutual place of work. He kept his distance for a while, studying me. Then one day we called, about business of course. It was during that call that I made up my mind that he was not the one for me and unfortunately that was the day he decided that he would pursue no one else but me; no matter what it took. It was in this period of my life that I realized that when a man hunts, he aims to kill.



He knew who I was close to so he'd be on his best behaviour around them just so they could put in a good word about him. He'd serenade me with small gifts and make sure that as long as we were in the same space, I was taken care of. It sounds sweet right? Ladies, who doesn't like a man that protects them? Was this the somebody's son, the beat to my heart, the one I was waiting for?

Well, he sounds all sweet and romantic until that man is ready to kill even a fly that lands on you, keeps his eyes on you like a hawk, speak on your behalf, or tells you what to say...controls you, manipulates you with words that would be normally

profound if not used out of context...And then he'd snap back to being sweet like everything was normal. *screams internally*

What's hard about giving someone emotional access is getting it back. Fast forward to December and well here I am, surprisingly standing. I had to dramatically rip myself out of the webs turned into chains. How I got out was the most dramatic thing I've had to do in a while. Maybe it'll be My Untold Story Part 2, who knows?

Of all the untold stories I could have shared, why this one? Because I learnt my biggest lesson through it. Firstly, here's an observation I've made overall: we grow the most when we go through the most. It's okay if the things you were expecting don't

turn out as planned; just don't settle. You're better off that way because at least you've grown (an assumption). Settling nullifies this growth and makes you worse off. It leaves you with harder and irreversible consequences to bear than not having to have gone with the option at all. It takes one bad decision, one moment of crumbling and succumbing to pressure and that's how you alter the course of your destiny. I'm not saying bad decisions are the death of you, although some are, it's better if they are avoided. Make Discernment your friend, your destiny heavily relies on the quality of your decisions. Oh and stay away from psychos kids. No matter how perfectly packaged they look, run!



GIVE THE KNIFE

By Ivy S. Chiworeka

2021 was the best year for me. It developed me and presented some lessons that I will forever be grateful for. By the way, I was contemplating on going against the instruction from the chief editor; she gave me a word limit to my article. I guess she now knows I can go on a writing spree and get carried away... (laughs). Well, it is what it is; so here is my story in a nutshell.

This year was more of God winning compared to the past years. I turned 21 last month on the 6th. I was more than ready to expose my toxic persona but I asked myself, "Is this my battle?" After much thought and with the Holy Spirit's guidance, I concluded it wasn't. I moved to South Africa this year in January and en route, I spent four days on the border because of the lockdown unaware of what awaited me. Before I proceed with my story, let me digress

a bit...

So what does this title mean? Let's look at it from this viewpoint. Have you ever trusted a friend with a secret only for them to use that secret to knife you out? That's what happened to me but I chose to give God the knife, meaning everything I would face I would surrender to God. I wasn't going to allow myself to retaliate. No retreat, No surrender. Who holds the knife of your life then? Mine is with the Lord.

Back to my story, upon my arrival in SA, I stayed with my aunt till March then I decided to move out. I made this move for myself not anyone. I fell into a deep depression and all I wanted was to start on a clean slate alone. The events that preceded my relocation were so bad that they caused a lot of linkages. Word had it that I was a destroyer, a

conflict agent. To make matters worse, the audios I listened to confirmed the rumors. My mind became a raging battlefield; I spent two months contemplating how I was going to survive alone in a foreign land without any aid. It is during this time that I learned to pray more and complain less. I dedicated my time to the one and only God and surely, He showed up for me.

It wasn't easy to start my life afresh; I experienced challenges along the way. I vividly remember crying to God asking Him why I was going through such a hailstorm. Life was throwing curveballs so hard that I had wounds all over. At one point in time, our workplace stopped operating, and we were told to stay home till further notice. It was so hard waking up to nothing. I was idle but I vowed not to become the devil's workshop. South Africa is not just an easy country to be. Those who are familiar can relate. But so long you let God guide you

and He knows your story, then you are safe. I did not inform my parents or my sister about my situation because I knew their faith would faint and seeds of doubt would be planted into my head. During these trying times, I had to hold onto my faith and that I made sure of. One of my prayers was asking God to open our workplace as I needed to pay my rentals and utilities, and yes He answered me with a resounding voice. We were called back to work a week before my due day. I am convinced this was a battle I could not have won alone. They say patience is the key, and it works hand in hand with faith; believe me, it's true.

There was a time I even thought of getting a boyfriend to lessen my worries and carry some of my burdens. Now, dear, that was the devil trying to plant some weeds in my field. The devil was trying to pounce on me and so sneaky was he. You see what he does; he uses the people around you

to accomplish his mission, what a lousy copycat. One of my associates brought news that a married friend of hers who was way older than me was interested in me. I got angry at myself and I remembered who was in control of my life. After my friend gave the guy my tags, I did a prayer that he should not even make any move. Lo and behold, my God, the holder of my knife, the King of Kings replied with a roar and put a stop to the advancements.

My word to you is trust works where there is no possibility. We often fail in our lives because of pride and ego. If only we can learn to trust in God. In 2021 I learned the hard way out of life, tears went away and as I was fighting battles, God was holding my hand and guiding me to the end. Listen, pray, speak, prophesy and take by force. My friend, Cliff once told me that the moment you work on proving your enemy wrong is the moment you lose the battle so what you need to do is to take charge in the spirit!

LESSONS LEARNED IN 2021

Flashback to 31st of December 2021, the New Year's sensation had taken over, I could not contain it.

I had so many laid plans that induced some sort of giddiness. Amid my euphoria, I joined my fellow brethren for the end-of-year prayer meeting which will again be held this year on New Year's Eve. I go to Alighthouse by the way (smiles).

So I prayed and got into the New Year, 2021 with a great sense of determination. I had my ducks in a row, thinking it was going to be easy

We set some goals and hope we attain them as easily as possible, worse if we don't apply principles that make those desires come to fruition as taught by Apostle Anyi Obi. I am not saying all things are hard to come by but I believe you do get the point I'm trying to drive here.

As excited as I was, I entered 2021 oblivious to the fact that I was about to become a student to life lessons. Had I known, maybe I could have bought a uniform or some pencil sets or something like that (laughs). Life has gifted me with cherishable lessons but this year had a lot to dish out and the lessons which I would later on share based on my experiences. I could have dwelled on the tea

gentle reader but let's serve it in finer China in the future!

Drumroll...and these are the lessons learned in random order;

Number 1- It's okay not to be okay

You are not made of metal! You are a human being and that means you have got emotions. When life happens, it's okay to cry, laugh, or even be sad. However, you should not be overtaken by those emotions. They shouldn't imprison you and just so you know, you are not alone. Some people conquered that which you are going through, so you will overcome. Sadly enough,

peasy. Don't we do that?



there are some pains that we eventually learn to live with. Life!

Number 2- Entry and Exit — people

You don't own people! People come and go. The same way you outgrow certain clothes is the same way you outgrow people. Your life is like a book with chapters, innit. Each chapter has got its story and lessons to carry through in life. You've got to allow the chapter to close. It hurts, I know, but I can assure you, God has people lined up for you.

Number 3- Don't let people define you

People are like books, you have to read and understand them with certain knowledge and/or revelation. For some, the more you read, the more you comprehend them. Some books you won't even like them and they can make you feel some type of way, that's the same with people. Some books are revised constantly, so are some people. It's called an upgrade or transformation. Don't let people define you using the old version

of you as a guide-map. They've got to keep up with the transformed you for them to attest they know you. The stumbling block on their side is proximity. Nota bene: You can never fully know a person.

Number 4- Define relationships

Not everyone holds the same position in your life. I love what Prophet Makandiwa said, "If you cannot pay your workers the same, don't expect me to treat people the same." I resonate with this and I'm sure you too can. You should know where people stand in your life and vice versa.

Number 5- Set boundaries

This links with number 4. When you know your place and their place, you can set boundaries. This can help develop you as a person and formulate healthy relationships with set boundaries.

Number 6- Develop a relationship with God

When you become one with the spirit, you begin to see things from Baba's viewpoint. Certain things are avoided too and allowing the Holy Spirit to become your teacher enables him to guide you in all things. Don't shut him out! Endeavor to become intimate with Abba, Father. Before and after all is said and done, He knew you even before you were formed in your mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5) thus He holds the keys to your life.

I could go on and on, but I will leave you with this: As you enter into 2022, I pray you receive a clear vision of your purpose and set goals to achieve it (Habakkuk 2:2). Your purpose will help you establish relationships, formulate behaviors, and et cetera. Knowing it is vital because, "Once the essence of something is not known, abuse is inevitable," Apostle Anyi Obi.

By the grace of God, we will be sharing untold stories again.

Sincerely,

millicentropafadzo

A white ceramic teapot is tilted, pouring a stream of golden-brown tea into a white ceramic teacup with a gold rim. The tea is already in the cup, and the stream is creating ripples and bubbles on the surface. The background is a plain, light color.

BENEFITS OF TEA

With HONOURIO HEALTHY KITCHEN

Tea is loaded with antioxidants and essential compounds like polyphenol and catechins that help to get rid of free radicals and decrease chronic disease risks. Tea usually contains lower levels of caffeine than coffee.

Black tea



- Is rich in flavonoids
- Is good for gut bacteria
- Lowers stroke risks
- Is good for heart health

Green Tea



- Helps in digestion
- Boosts cognitive function
- Reduces diabetes risks
- Improves heart health
- Soothes the stomach

Ginger tea



- Has anti-inflammatory properties
- Boosts immunity
- Aids in weight loss
- Is used in the treatment of nausea
- Alleviates menstrual cramps
- Prevents indigestion
- Helps fight bacteria

Chamomile tea



- Helps in taming skin problems
- Contributes to better sleep
- Manages digestive problems
- Reduces blood sugar

Peppermint tea



- Aids in digestion
- Helps in freshening the breath
- Eases menstrual cramps
- Improves nasal airflow
- Boosts the immune system

Rooibos tea



- Is high in antioxidants, vitamins, and anti-inflammatory properties
- Boosts the immune system
- Promotes weight loss
- Reduces weight loss



HOMESICK

By Anesu G. Mubaiwa

This year has been quite a year. It was better than 2020 definitely because everybody had gotten used to the Covid-19 pandemic. The major setback of this year for me in the context of the pandemic was the travel restrictions. Surely after surviving what seemed to be an apocalyptic viral attack in 2020, the one thing you would want is to spend some quality time

with your family.

My experiences this year taught me to appreciate life, specifically the gift of life. I learned to cherish the precious moments shared with friends and family. In a way I guess I got the opportunity to experience the true meaning of the statement 'life is not measured by the number of breaths you

take but by the moments that that take your breath away'. Human beings are not solitary organisms. The cordial warmth of companionship is very important to the maintenance of our sanity. I had moments where I felt alone during this year. The feeling of loneliness that I was experiencing can be attributed to a lot of things but the quarantines and lockdowns played major roles.

What helped me cope and get through my loneliness was just going down memory lane and thinking of the fun moments I once had with family and friends.

I miss the occasional scolding that comes from parents and the giggling and laughter that follows when they mispronounce a word because of anger. I miss the fights with siblings and how irritating it is when your bigger brother eats your leftover food that you had planned to eat the next morning. I realize now that all those fights were in a way a reflection of the care and love that they have for you. I got tired of thinking of what to eat every day and missed those days where you'd just hear your name being called with the words come eat beside it. I miss those family reunions with cousins that you know whenever they open up their mouths, they will be about to tell a lie. I miss the aunties and uncles with their pestering phone calls where they ask too personal questions about things you don't want anyone else to know.

I miss the moments that matter most to me, family evening devotions. After running around all day in different busy schedules,

coming back to the warmth of sitting around the couch listening to Dad's jokes and mum's wisdom before saying a prayer that concludes the day. Imagine the challenge of fending for myself emotionally, having to rely on the illusion of audio calls, video calls, and texts. I discovered this year that it can only be helpful if at some point during the year you're looking forward to seeing them in person and that one long lingering hug will just make the feeling of missing each other throughout the year go away. Unfortunately, I did not get that opportunity.

I miss the weather, culture, and scenery of Zimbabwe. My taste buds long for the traditional foods and fruits that you just have to dig underground or climb a tree to get. I miss seeing children play outside, I miss hearing their shouts and screams when an aircraft flies above them or when there is a power cut. Surely, it is a true saying that no matter where you go remember the road that will lead you home. I really need to find that road right now because I quite miss home...

LESSONS FROM SQUID GAME

1) Smart work vs Hard work

We have been told to work hard all the time, but most rich people work smart and yet some of the people who work hard are not rich. In the series where the players were tasked to cut the sugar candy into the right shape, Gi Hun managed to work smart. Inasmuch as hard work is important, working smart save time and energy.

2) Trust

Just because you have known someone for quite some time doesn't mean you should instantly trust them. In the pebbles game, Ali trusted Cho Sang and that cost him his life. Had he not trusted him, he would have survived.

3) Be kind

The reason Gi Hun won was that he was kind to everyone. He always put everyone before himself which made him choose the last number during The Glass Tile Game. Kindness will always take you places and it's a likable trait.

4) Patience

Gi Hun taught us that being patient is a virtue. Like a true leader, he felt that giving opportunities to others is the right thing to do. And this saved his life till the end. He was patient and willing to sacrifice short-term validations. We've so much to learn from him.

5) Gambling

Despite many winning, the probability of winning in gambling is slim. Most people have gone broke because they keep trying their luck. The wisest thing would be to invest in something that has high chances of multiplying your finances.

6) Unpredictability of life

No one expected Oh Il-nam (player 1) to be the one behind all the games. In life, we should be expectant of change and willing to adapt to it. People and things can change overnight.

7) Be a team player

Gi Hun's team was always sticking together in every game. During the night when



there was an attack, they all risked their lives to protect each other. Same with us, in life, we always have to protect and care for those around us. No man is an island. We need to be there for each other.

8) Money doesn't buy happiness

All the 456 participants were competing to win the cash prize. They all had plans of what they would do with the money if they won and having

that money would make them happy. However, when Gi Hun won the money, all it brought to him was stress and depression to the extent that he did not use it for a year.

9) Greed lead to destruction

The contestants' desire to continue the game demonstrates their greed: they were willing to risk their own lives and those of other competitors for the chance of becoming rich.

10) Choices

What we choose today will affect our tomorrow. All players risked their lives to win the cash prize. Because of these choices, almost all of them ended up dead. Endeavor to make choices that will not lead you to regret in the future.

HISTORIC EVENTS IN 2021

Jan 14:

Uganda elections re-elect President Museveni (in power since 1986), with main opposition presidential candidate Bobi Wine disputing the result



Feb 22: Wife of drug cartel boss “El Chapo” Emma Coronel Aispuro arrested in the US on drug trafficking charges and conspiring to free her husband from prison

Mar 23: First ever tweet by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey “just setting up my twttr” sells for \$2.9 million in digitally autographed version



Apr 29: World’s longest pedestrian bridge at 516 metres (1,700 feet) opens inside northern Portugal’s Arouca Geopark



May 4: Malian woman Halima Cisse gives birth to nonuplets (nine babies) in Morocco, in only third known case worldwide



Jun 14: Cristiano Ronaldo removes sponsors coke bottles from his press table at the European Championships, prompting the company share price to drop \$4 billion



Jul 11: Billionaire Richard Branson flies to the edge of space on his Virgin Galactic rocket plane in space tourism test

Aug 15: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani flees the country as Taliban forces enter the capital Kabul and take control



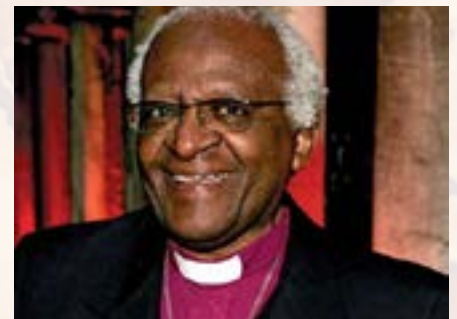
Sep 4: Nigerian government announces an indefinite suspension of Twitter after it removed a post by President Muhammadu Buhari



Oct 4: Global outage of Facebook and its apps, including Instagram and WhatsApp, for six hours.



Nov 24: Sweden's first female Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson resigns after 12 hours in the job after her coalition government falls apart



Dec 26: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and veteran of South Africa's struggle against apartheid dies.

Source; onthisday.com



REMAIN STEADFAST

By Ropafadzo K. Banda

“No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you, I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land, I swore to their ancestors to give them.” Joshua 1:5-6

Right now, you might be wondering, “The year is almost finished, what have I done? I have accomplished none of my plans yet I wrote them down at the beginning of the year. I was supposed to be at this particular stage but it seems as if I haven’t ticked anything off the list...” Do you need a sign to keep moving? Well I’ve

got you reader and I’m taking you through this article based on the above quoted verse and to let you know God isn’t done with you yet.

One of the things you should know in life is that, when the year starts every goal getter set their goals for the year and sometimes it’s not everything that they accomplish. Some fail and accomplish them maybe in the next coming year or two to five years to come. A very good example is that of the creator of “SQUID GAME”, Hwang Dong-hyuk, who wrote the script in 2008 but was rejected by studios for 10 years. Imagine if this was you, would you have soldiered

on? I guess some would have given up along the way. The lesson from his story is that today’s rejection can become tomorrow’s praise. The show reached over a hundred million views globally making it the most successful series ever launched on Netflix.

It’s never too late to achieve certain things no matter how long it’s going to take. It took forty years for the children of Israel to reach the Promised Land and God was with them as He had promised that if he was with Moses so He would be with them. Just trust the process and to never give up because if you do it’s not going



to happen. Success and goals have no age, you might have a big dream today and the possibility of it to take time is very high. We all know that great things take time so what's making you doubt now? Come on, **KEEP ON MOVING!!!**

Remember you were born to make an impact, so if you stop now because you have failed once or so, then who is going to do it for you? Focus on upgrading yourself by creating value to make it happen. If it takes you to learn more till you make it happen then do it, take all the NO's as YES'. See good in every challenge, that's how you grow and become strong. One day you're going to stand in front of the world and tell them how you became that person you're going to become. There is no reason to be worried, be calm and confident, live each

day as it is. Maintain the way you think and the way you view things because your mind is the central processing unit.

Dear reader, I don't want you to lose your focus because you have failed to reach the target of a, b, c, d, and e. I want you to believe in yourself that no matter how long it's going to take nothing will stop you. Believe me you GOD can make things happen and He can change all that in the blink of an eye. If that dream was going to take ten years to accomplish, He can reduce it to two years or even a month because He is a God of impossibilities.

Whenever you feel like giving up, refer back to this article. I need you to know that you're the best and no one has power to make you feel bad, sad, or quit. You have a different finger

print to everyone, that's one of the signs that no one can be you. Let's get ready; it's not yet over until we win. The fact that you're still alive is a sign that you're not done yet. You have so many untold stories that the world is yet to hear from you.

The same God who saved you from the pandemic is the same God that is going to make that vision to come to pass, those targets that you doubt if you can make them happen. Therefore, I urge you to stop worrying and start focusing on God, and adding up value upon yourself. Remain steadfast; it shall be well with you. Take note; winners endure through the struggles and rise like a phoenix from the ashes of failure to be reborn and conquer the world.

Self-Love All the way

By Hazel Maseko

It's been a rough year for me and I barely made it this far...it was never an easy road. I got roughed up by everything whenever I tried my luck. At some point, I even thought nobody loved me. I felt so alone and got sick of it that it felt like a waste of breath. Eventually, I then got to realize that if I let myself down nobody would pick me up. Inasmuch as people would try to help, at the end of the day, it would be up to me to grab the rope and come out of the pit.

Though 2021 was a year filled with heartaches, having lost a lot of people to Covid-19, one thing I learned was self-love. I am still struggling to forgive those who did me wrong but I am certain one day, I will. I learned not to sacrifice my happiness. Loving yourself is all about knowing your self-worth.

My journey to self-love started by me falling in love with myself, my flaws, and embracing my failures. I realized how being

kind to oneself goes a long way. Accepting my insecurities and letting go of ships that constrained me fueled the drive to start living for me. I made it all about "me for me" and figured out what exactly I am capable of with or without anybody. I showered myself with love and affirmed positivity all the time and fell in love with myself more.

All of these steps I took in loving myself came from a place of knowing what I would want from other people. Most importantly, what I would want to give to others. If you know who you are, you won't tolerate certain people, behaviors, or things that can be toxic to your mental, physical or spiritual health. What you carry is what you give. If you want to give love then you need to start by loving yourself first. This goes with any other positive attribute that you would want to give to others.

Most people believe that if you love yourself then you should





make yourself the priority which is so true because, at the end of the day, it's you who is going to suffer the consequences of sacrificing yourself for the wrong reasons. Also, knowing how worthy you are will make you an empath. The decisions you make will be based on how you would feel if the tables were turned. That way, you won't

make decisions that will hurt other people but rather, every step or decision you take is made with self-consciousness. 2021 has taught me how to love and most importantly being myself. All these lessons came whilst experiencing pain. Sometimes we learn a lot when we are going through the most.

Pain comes with so many effects, for example, weight loss, depression, and all but in my case, I discovered myself and learned to love myself.

All in all, self-love goes all the way. I mean it helps you grow in many ways without you even noticing. Try it.



FROM SUCCESS TO SIGNIFICANCE

By Tanaka M. Chigomba

Over the past few weeks I struggled to find a success story to tell because these stories were not good enough, they seemed to lack something. I had many achievements that I could count but I could not pick one. Perhaps I was measuring my success against other people's accomplishments. I completely forgot the hard work and effort that I had put in accomplishing those

goals for some time till I met some people who felt inspired and motivated by what I had achieved. I then realized how big and significant my achievements were not only to me but to the people who were looking up to me for inspiration, hope, and motivation. I also learned that success is not a success unless it inspires and tells a story that motivates someone. To me, significance now matters more than just

the accomplishment.

You do not have to be silent about those success stories, tell them as they are. Every person has got a personal story to tell. The stories may be similar but there is always an individualistic difference in them. That should give you the courage to share and make a difference in the world.



I once heard someone saying you should care more about the impact you make on others more than just your successes. Success is usually individualistic whereas significance speaks more about your impact on others. The day I met some girls and their mothers telling me that I'm an inspiration to them, I was so ecstatic. It helped me to see that success is not just achieving great and sophisticated goals but our small accomplishments

attained through hard work and determination mean a lot to us and the people around us. There is a sense of fulfillment that comes with knowing that you are an inspiration and your achievements incite hope in others.

In an African setting or a society that upholds the Ubuntu value system; one man's success is the whole community's success. This value system makes a lot more sense to me because we

usually feel exultant when we succeed in certain things that others did not do so well in. Success is worth celebrating when it is not self-centered on one person but for the good of the whole community. Do not wait until you turn forty or when you get older to start thinking about your legacy or impact but make every accomplishment an opportunity to make a positive impact.

MY UNTOLD STORY

By NaNa Mpunganyi

I had a difficult year. So difficult that I couldn't write for the most part of the year.

See, I'm one of those people who journal and write out their emotions. I go in deep—input my all into my words and express myself fully and completely!

My year started with me desperately needing a job. I was so broke that I almost got into a relationship just to be taken care of. Listen, I am team self worth and independence so you must understand that I was at my lowest. I quickly made up my mind that I wasn't about to be that girl who takes the easy road. If it meant I had to make some lifestyle changes, so be it! So I found myself having to let go of two things I desperately wanted in my life, to be loved and to be financially taken care of and okay...

I remember soon after leaving a comfortable and stable romantic situation that came with a bae allowance, a friend of mine decided to go to a nice fancy restaurant for her birthday lunch, gosh I made a brave decision and decided YOLO. I enjoyed every bit of it, brokenness aside! And for that month I put aside my data needs and

I still survived. I went without certain things so I could enjoy other beautiful aspects of life as well.

I then found myself again compromising on my standards relationship-wise. Coming from a girl who believes it is better to be single than to be loved wrong, this was another very low point. But I was so lonely and just needed to be loved. I didn't want to be alone, I wanted to be loved and loved right, but the latter was a fantasy. There are things I just don't like in a man, but here I was making excuses for him. Suddenly the color red became my favorite color or I became color blind, but this girl ignored the red flags!

I found myself in yet another toxic work situation. At this point, I was just about done with it all. I broke down!!! I cried so much this year, I don't remember a year I cried more! The very first time I remember my heart wrenching cries was in February. There was a guy I liked and long story short, my heart broke. It was raining so my cries were muffled by that

but I'm sure my family would have responded to my wailing.

The next time I cried was at work! No strong powerful woman no more... my heart was extremely torn. I had to leave but I just didn't have the strength because I was convinced that it would become a trend, but then God made me leave, and that hurt too.

Another time I cried a heart wrenching cry was about a month or 2 back, it was a trying week. I cried myself to sleep every single day! And I didn't know why, but my heart hurt. That was my most depressing time of the year.

And to top it all, there is a girl I met who showed me that we are truly a brood of vipers. I have never felt so alone in my life. In all this, I gave so much of myself this year to the extent that it hurt. It hurt and still hurts so much. I remember almost a decade ago while I was in high school I made a new year's resolution to be nicer and kinder to people. Year in, year out I made that resolution. It felt like a continuous and much needed

thing to aspire to. And I wasn't watching closely enough, but I became nice. But I still felt like I could do more, I still do because this is a continuous cycle of self improvement.

But I gave off so much of myself this year that all I want to do is to regain that strength. I learned this year that no one, NO ONE cares about me as much as I do, or at least should. See, we have been taught the gospel of selflessness so much that we end up losing ourselves. We lose our identity and we lose that which makes us the people we are in the first place. So for a decade I have given, and given, and given so much that I hadn't been looking around me. Only to realize that there is nothing left to give. I have nothing left to give. I've given and I've run out. I've run dry and low on whatever it is I was giving and with little to nothing to show for it.

On top of all this pain, I had a strong feeling of death weighing me down so very much. At first, I thought they were panic attacks and I just had to be well adjusted. But about a month later, it became so vivid and so real to me. I knew I was going to die before my 26th birthday. I walked around for months on end carrying a heavy spirit of death. I know as you read this

you think maybe spiritual death which is the greatest form of death, but I mean death in the natural as well. God warns those He loves. I prayed! Sheesh, I prayed! The more I prayed, the heavier it became. So much heavier that I had accepted that I was going to die... I was low-key preparing to die. Oh, what lies the enemy feeds us!!! I was distraught, I had prayed until I couldn't anymore and I had accepted premature death! I had accepted a terrible fate! I was afraid of telling my parents cause I didn't want them to be stressed. It's one thing calling my Dad crying to tell him I'm in a toxic work situation and asking him not to worry Mum and just tell her when I've left. And it's another texting Mama that I feel like I'm dying. And dying I was! See the 21 days of life I did on my podcast? That was a testimony. Cause I asked an amazing woman who has been carrying me to pray with me. For 3 months I could still sense the death hovering over me. Until one day I didn't. But it came back haha! Devil is a liar!!! That's when I stumbled upon that Bible reading challenge and I can testify, I am alive!!!

A bitter and extremely sour taste that 2021 has left in my life. I wish I could say I am all the better for it, but the truth is, I

don't know. Some days were extremely amazing! Great things happened like at the top of my head I remember representing my organization at COP26. I went through a writing mentorship, the Under 30 Writers. I went through a Women Ministers Mentorship which led me to do a Virtual Evangelism Crusade. And through all this, I was in the pits of sorts. Like how I did the Gathering of The Saints whilst fighting a serious physical, spiritual and mental battle. I remember even the Fervent 10 Days of Prayer touched hearts and created fellowship but I was at a point where I felt God doesn't answer prayers. And yes, I did The Art Of Letting Go, again how I look back at 21 Days of life and realize that I am alive only because of God's grace. This is just but to mention a few. I met some amazing people as well and had beautiful moments too! But a whole lot of me wasn't present in it all because I was suffering and just didn't have the energy to show up for most of my life.

So as painful as it has all been, as exhausted as I feel and as scared of the future and being a bit left right and center again in 2022, I am thankful for life. And I am hopeful for a better tomorrow.

THE LAST PAGES

By Trevor Mukarati

I have been staring on the wall for so long
I have these chains not on my hands
but in my mind
I wish I can break through
but these voices keep telling me I can't pass

I know of the guy who nailed it,
the guy who made the day at Calvary.
The guy with a hammer,
the guy who had his glory short lived.
It only lasted three days
and reality manifested itself.
Great is He who lives,
His spirit lives in us
so we can totally break through

I have seen almost half the story,
I've heard from many voices
sharpened my thoughts
and penetrated into the realm of intelligence.
I have accumulated wisdom
practiced caution
and acknowledged divine intervention
I know we will all make it to the other side

The last page is a prayer to my Creator
The last page is a pledge to my Owner
The last page is a call for help.
"My savior if you take me down
let my soul live,
let my spirit live to glorify your name forever,
let my faith continue in truth
and let my legacy live to inspire"



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