**MY FATHER’S DEATH AT AGE 6 MONTHS OLD.**

The death of my loving dad whom I had never known came too soon than imagined by anyone in 1976 December when he met his death through brutal murder at the North coast of my country where he worked as a truck driver around 1000km from my capital city which is 300km from our rural home. Shortly after his murder the house we lived in was torched by unknown people and reduced to ashes which left us with the only clothes we wore as the only wealth at hand.

 I was 6 months old with my twin sister Dorcas and my elder two sisters were both 6 yrs. and 3 years respectively. Our mother a standard six drop-out due to poverty and whose father had died at 8yrs of her age had a burden of responsibilities to handle including a two months pregnancy for our last born. Having stayed in town my late father had no single room to call home/house and even his burial took place in the bush.

After the burial of my late dad, all the mourners left to their homes leaving us under a certain mango tree where we called home for over two years. Immediately my mother made us suck clothes and sack bags where each of us would fit at night as we spend on the floor under the mango tree. Life took a deep, hurting and painful direction and nothing was the same. After the birth of our last born [now a secondary school teacher] my mum took up to make approximately 50 bricks a day so that one day she could build us a house no matter how small.

My father’s brothers [now all dead] were busy ensuring that they sell the small land he had left and take our mother back to her people but every time they tried she followed them and brought us back. I clearly remember one day at age 6 or 7yrs when God appeared to me in the middle of the dream and said” IAM THE LORD AND YOU ARE NOT ORPHANS” it was so real but I jokingly asked God to show me a sign that He was God coz I was too young to understand Him. So I clearly remember the same voice asking me to close my eyes and when I opened I had moved many miles from where I was and had been placed on top of a hill. I was so frightened that I asked Him to take me back to my mum and when He ordered me to close my eyes, when I opened I found myself back home on the exact place I had stood before it happened. Then I got out of the dream but for many years this has never left my mind it’s like it happened yesterday. Though I never knew God in depth but the words that YOU ARE NOT ORPHANS MADE ME KNOW THAT SOMEONE IS ALWAYS WATCHING OVER US.

I must admit nothing was easy from eating to dressing to schooling. For example we could eat left-overs from dustbins, do hard jobs to earn living like I can remember when I was 8yrs the only way to earn money was by selling stones and each day we could break one trailer of tones which was selling at 100 shillings and we could use harmers and heavy stones to do the job. This is basically men’s jobs but since we had no father, no brother, of course we had no choice. I recall another time when there was bad drought and even if u had little money there was no food in the markets and people could die of anger with money on their hands. My mum and other villagers would camp in the town for weeks or months awaiting government relief food. This time round they camped for a week and there was no food forthcoming and I clearly remember we had not eaten for 6days or so and we had no strength left so we were lying down on our final stage to die. I could hear some voices from a distance which I learned later it was for our villagers who thought we had died and they were discussing of what could be done. When my sister coughed they were shocked and seeing that each of us has a little life left, they rushed and made porridge and assisting each of us, we were reinstated back to life. I bless God for neighbors and later it took my mum many painful tears to see how she could easily have lost us but she had no much choice about the situation.

That night again the Lord visited me in a dream and there was a big river and floods which had covered the whole earth and swayed many living beings but I was floating on water like moving on a dry land. I got so shocked and woke up yet the dream is so fresh in my mind but never got the interpretation to date but it remained so clear that God was with us.

 **SCHOOLING**

Our schooling was as a dead dream and at the time my mum had taught us how to make baskets for sell of which one could face 15.00-20.00 shillings at the market and a times 5 shillings .it could take each of us three days to make one and the market day was on Friday so mostly the days we were at school were Monday and Tuesday and the rest we concentrate on making baskets to take to the market. This saw us get many names from our school mates and hatred from teachers but we had nothing to do about it. Our school was 10 km away and we could walk all the day both morning and evening.

As far as I can remember, there is no day I ever had lunch during my school days from class 1-6 or wore shoes or untorn uniform but in class 7-8 there was relief food and sometimes we could get lunch which served the purpose for supper till the following day we get lunch at school and to us this was a great miracle coz most of the kids from well-up families couldn’t eat such food so we got plenty and a times carried some home and this helped us so much and also made us try to be at school even when we are busy making baskets since there was provision for food. At class 8 our first born dropped and so was our second born and both had babies and it wasn’t that they couldn’t have made it but it happened.

Seeing that I remembered the two great visions and realized I had to walk with God whom by then had heard much about Him and had noted what He could do in people’s lives. I promised myself that I will do my heart in school and leave provision for fees to y mum.SO we worked so hard with my twin sister and our last born and later emerged best candidates in our school and we all secured places in national schools but POVERTY AGAIN there it was staring at us and saying we can’t make it. Later I joined a local new upcoming secondary school with my twin sister and our last born joined a national school and our mother embarked on brewing traditional beer to see us through secondary education.

 **BEER AND JAIL [TRIALS]**

This was another trying moments in our lives and though we were in school and most of the times found ourselves home for fees, the traumatizing thing was when our mother was taken to court many times and jailed for illegally brewing traditional beer. Villagers advised her to stop educating girls and live at peace but she wouldn’t listen to any. Many men showed up to ask our hands in marriage so that we can relieve our mum of such burdens but no one would agree. I clearly remember in 1993 when I was in form two and had been sent home for fees and on arrival found my mum had been taken by police three days ago. It happened that the president was passing through our area and since I was very active and organized school choir, the head teach came to pick me so that I can organize for this event and have some girls sing for the president. A strong spirit came in me and I knew in a way I will safe my mum from jail she had been sentenced for 3 months sleeping in a floor that was full of water. Willingly I followed my head teacher who had bought me some rubber shoes since I was schooling with slippers and it would appear funny for me to appear before the president in slippers.it felt so good for the first time to wear closed shoes and this was yet another miracle.

So as usual with champions when my fellow students saw me they knew we would entertain the president so well. So time came and the president arrived and stopped to wave to school kids and receive our entertainments. I stepped forward and addressed him on the needs of the school and my personal needs in form of a poem that I can’t remember sitting down to write. When one of his escort came to draw me away from him, the president asked him to leave me alone and on my knees I went begging him to ask his police to release my poor mother. It surprised me how this got into his heart and immediately my mother was send for 70km where she had been detained and no other school entertained only few speeches were done as we waited and wow” there was my mother brought forth her clothes full of water and she sobbed bitterly. Of course it was a shame but what mattered to me is that she wasn’t going back to jail. The president gave my school 40,000.00 which the head teacher divided half and made sure my fee balance and that of my sisters were cleared. Though my mother continued brewing beer for sale, for quiet sometimes she wasn’t arrested in fear the president is following on my education and some officials could be in problem in case it happens as it had happened.

Though the president asked the MP by then to follow up on my education and ensure that after school am taken to the state house, it never happened but at least it relieved my mother from going to jail again and this was another miracle. We went through secondary education with my twin sister and our last born went through university. All my sisters are there and blessed with kids and our dear mother is there too and we take great care of her to date and many people learned to respect her.

After form four I got a job though wasn’t well paying but it made some of the dreams come true in our family. I advance in education and now I have four Diplomas .though I never landed where my dream was, I must admit I can’t complain since am still here and knows God has good plans for me.

* Diploma in freight forwarding
* Diploma in public relations
* Diploma in Airport operations
* Diploma in Forensics and criminal investigations among many certificates.

 **WORK AND MUSIC**

My job is security related and very involving but have always created enough time for my job, kids and my Music for serving God to me is a calling. Have always learned to walk with God and have noted that He is real and true. I decided I want to tell the world about the doing of the Lord through my music and preach the gospel as far as God would take me. I must admit where we are today, it’s by God’s grace and nothing is impossible with our God. A times I don’t have the right words to describe God in His Uniqueness and Love but what I know is that He is our God and will never leave us nor forsake us. Have done two albums first called **SINA SHAKA [I** **HAVE NO DOUBT**] the second one called **MOYO WANGU [MY SOUL]** and in both have featured the great deeds of the LORD in our lives. Am blessed with two sons ELIJAH AND EMMANUEL of whom I do my music with they have done a song called **LORD YOU AMAZE ME** in my second album.

 Am looking forward to writing a book about this because what have outlined here is a small fraction but in God’s appointed time. God has spoken to me about many things and I learned His voice and understand clearly when HE talks to me. Am trusting God to go full time ministry when all works out well for my music so that I can support my kids and my loving mum because my calling is great and needs full time devotion. I can’t tell when or how but I know it will happen.

The following are some of my music you can get on youtube

* Mapenzi yako [ your will]
* Naomba niwepo [ I pray to be there]
* Mwanadamu [ human being]
* Mtakatifu [ Holy Holy Holy]
* Vala numite [where I have come from]- when you type any of the above songs by OCS you will find them in YouTube and can be blessed.

 **ENCOURAGEMENT**

I want to encourage any person out there who might be going through what I went through because its true have heard people talk about their past and still look at my experience as the most painful and hurting one. God began with me before I was born and so he is doing with you out there. When everything is gone the way our dad was gone and house torched and lived under a mango tree, He is watching and has good plans for you.

Have noted that God is not limited by how much we are looked down upon or where we are today. I can remember the 8yrs time when He appeared to me and understand what He was talking to me about and so my dear friends, God has a final say about your life and nothing can change His plans for you. In another song that I haven’t posted called **I GIVE YOU ALL THE GLORY** say that our God is not like a human being that He may lie to His people. Most important is trusting Him and the world should know that our God is able to safe, keep and sustain.

God bless and share with others and together lets worship the true and living God.

SHALOM, SHALOM, SHALOM AND SHALOM