

SALVATION

1 We hear or read the “Plan of Salvation from a messenger. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ and we chose to invite or reject Jesus. Our decision to invite Jesus into our heart and make Him Lord secures our eternity with Him in heaven. Our rejection of Jesus secures our eternity in hell with Satan. We are flesh and spirit. Scripture states that our flesh will die, but our spirit lives forever. Psalms 14:1 states that “A fool has said in his heart that there is no God.” Please pay close attention to slide two and chose eternal life with Jesus.

2

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE** “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” – Romans 3:23; “God be merciful to me a sinner.” – Luke 18:13
2. **REPENT** “Except ye repent, you shall all likewise perish.” – Luke 13:3; “Repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.” – Acts 3:19
3. **CONFESS** “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” – 1John 1:9; “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.” – Romans 10:9
4. **FORSAKE** “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return to the Lord...for He will abundantly pardon.” – Isaiah 55:7
5. **BELIEVE** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.” – Mark 16:16
6. **RECEIVE** “He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” – John 1:11-12.

WHY NOT MAKE YOUR ETERNAL DECISION NOW? “Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins and I ask Your forgiveness. I receive You now as my personal Savior and invite You to manage my life from this day forward. Amen.”

SALVATION TESTIMONY

3 Full Gospel businessmen use their personal testimonies to introduce and lead people to Jesus Christ. Listed below is the format used by our “Fire Teams.”

Establish...A Testimony (Revelation 12:11)

Empower...The Holy Spirit to reveal the Savior (Jesus).

Evaluate... What you were like-25%, your **JESUS** experience-25%, changed life- 50% (Acts 26).

The cross purchased our Salvation.

Execute... Acceptance prayer for salvation, and prayer/hands to receive Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Emulate... Repeat and reproduce

Please listen to Ralph’s testimony.

I grew up as Douglas said, with the most incredible life you could imagine. I had the burdensome task of providing the meat for a hospital in Southwest Tanzania where my father was a medical doctor. The hospital had 92 beds, but we usually ran about 400 patients. To provide an adequate supply of meat, I had to go big game hunting four times a week. For a teenager, that was a tough task; but I endured the hardship. Because the hospital was short of medical staff, my father taught me how to perform hernia operations when I was 15 years old. We had many awesome times together.

It still thrills me to go back to Southern Tanzania. These were places that we never thought there would be an expansion of the gospel like there is today. But when you go there, village after village displays the sign of the cross, What an awesome thing. I used to run with the Masai people when I was a kid. In fact, I was a blood brother to a group of them which was a great honor to me when I was growing up.

We don't hunt in America. Hunting is when you go after Cape buffalo with spears. Now that is hunting! We usually won about 15% of the time and the buffalo won about 85% of the time. We usually said that the buffalo won after about the fifth guy got a broken leg or broken arm. It was magnificent to have grown up in such an environment, and I've been blessed by these experiences. Like a lot of people growing up in Christian homes, you never really knew what you had, until you realize what a non-Christian home is like. I thought my home was just like the homes of others. I heard my parents talk about the Lord, and I learned all the language. I never made it real in my own heart. How many of you know you can say all the right words and miss God? And you know whom I admired?

I used to go big-game hunting with a guy from New York. He was a rich, old guy who had about a dozen high powered rifles, and I thought, man, that's really living. He is the only guy I knew that would fly his own motor home to Africa so he could go big game hunting. He would employ me as his game scout, and I thought man this is it.

Once in Africa there was a lot of turmoil in the eastern part of Zaire, which is now the Republic of the Congo. The rain forest gets about 400 inches of rain per year. Everything grows huge in that place where the gorillas live. There was also an enormous quantity of natural resources, including diamonds. I had heard that they were mining diamonds in the region. I decided I was going to make my fortune in the diamond mining industry. It didn't take me long to find out that it really wasn't a place a young kid ought to be because it was a rough and tough life. It was the first time I had ever seen a place that had a military perimeter. I should have known that this was not a good place to work. But, I had heard about those diamonds and how you could get rich quick mining diamonds. They needed workers and supervisors for those mines. And so I went to the mines and they ran me through the paces, kind of put me in a few menial jobs, gave me a better job, and finally they put me in charge of one of the mines. We were mining and hauling diamonds. The company was flying jet planes from who knows where to haul out the diamonds every day.

There was a group of people who were called mercenaries; they were based out of Madagascar at that time. They had worked for the President of Zaire. They had put down what was called the Simba Revolution in Sudan. By the way, they had slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Christians, a terrible massacre in Southern Sudan. The president had hired the mercenaries to go up to Southern Sudan which they did ruthlessly.

Some of these mercenaries were hired as employees of the diamond mines. Everything was going along well until the mercenaries got involved in a pay dispute, and so the mercenaries decided they would pay themselves by taking over the mines and mining these diamonds in this region of Zaire. They figured they could whip anybody in Africa, which was probably true at that time.

So I was working for them and knowing it wasn't the right thing. Then one night at about 2:00 in the morning, bombs and grenades started going off and the whole world seemed to explode. I looked outside to see tracer bullets flying through the air. At that time, nobody in Africa knew how to do a "High Altitude, Low Opening" (HALO) approach. This means that you skydive at nighttime over the African Jungle and open your chute about 200 feet off of the ground and hope you don't misjudge. Only a few of the special ops teams can do this. It is very dangerous to do, but is very effective because it is a surprise attack. The President of Zaire had made a pact with the Belgium paratroopers who knew how to do the HALO approach. All of the sudden, they made a HALO approach; everything was exploding. Bullets, guns-- I had never seen anything like that. I did the intelligent thing; literally, I dug a hole and got in it.

There were about 550 mercenaries, and only 48 of us survived. We were all captured. They rounded us up, very angry as you can imagine. Most of the Belgium troops pulled out and left the slaughter that had taken place and the mercenaries that were in jail facing judgment. And it was typical, if you have been in a lot of the parts of the world where there are no human rights. It is just anger from one side to the other. We were given a brief trial and were told, "See that wall over there?" There were already bodies lying at the bottom of the wall where the Belgians had come up and taken the wounded and executed them. The Belgium leader said, "Tomorrow morning, you will never see the sunrise, because all of your bodies are going to lay crumpled in the heap at the bottom of that wall."

Then we were put in prison. This was the first prison I had ever been in, just a cell. Crammed in there, most of the guys were wounded. This was the first time it had ever occurred to me that I could die. When you're young you just don't think of that because you have your whole life ahead of you. It had never occurred to me that I wasn't going to have a long and happy life with time to make decisions. This was a real wake up call for Ralph. There were fights that night in jail. People were angry, and one of the Cuban guys was sitting over near the wall with half of his leg blown away. He came up to me and said, "Do you know God?" I said, "I know about God." He said my mother told me I was going to die like this. He quoted me, "He who lives by the sword dies by the sword." He said "I didn't believe her, but somebody told me you had missionary parents. Would you tell me about God?" I said, "Senior, you are going to have to give me a little bit of time, because I have to get right with God first myself."

I was so embarrassed because I had no excuse. None. I had all the privileges to know who Christ was, more than anybody on the face of the earth, but I had never made Him Lord. Beyond anything else that I say this is the most important thing. Get straight with God. You can fool everybody else, but you can't fool God. I fooled everybody else. Everybody that knew me would have said, "O yeah, Ralph's a Christian." But I knew I wasn't. I intellectually believed in Christ; I just didn't believe it with my heart. I hadn't given my life to Him. I got down on my knees and started praying. I asked God, "Forgive me for being an embarrassment and making such a horrible waste of my life." A guy came over, one of the mercenaries, and started urinating on me while I was praying. He said, "You little pansy, what's wrong? Can't you die like a man?"

But I was committed. I was so committed to changing my life that I wasn't going to let anymore excuses stand between me and my God. You see, there are plenty of hypocrites in the world. If you let a hypocrite stand between you and God, that just means he's a little closer to God than you are. "O somebody did me wrong!" --That's no excuse. The whole thing is about what you are going to do about God. That night, I asked Jesus Christ into my heart and into my life. I asked him, Lord these few hours I got left, I want to live for you. I turned facing Manuel, and told him I was ready now. It wasn't long before Manuel was on his knees, and we had to pretty much hold him up because one leg had been half blown off. While he was praying one of the other guys came up and slugged him in the side of the head. That was about the way things went -- back and forth all night. Later that night, they brought in four more guys who had been hiding. This brought our number up to 52 guys. Out of this group, eighteen professed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We got in a little huddle, and pretty much everything was settled. Eighteen had made their decision. We were ready for death. For the first time in my life I could face death, and I wasn't afraid. It was an amazing transformation. I was thinking; every thought was about my impending death. I didn't have long to live, and I have been an embarrassment to God on this earth, He's going to let me into His Heaven!

Dear friends, even though you don't think you have time to witness to somebody, take the opportunity that is available. It may be at work, it may just be a few seconds that you have with somebody. You never know what it will mean.

I didn't find out until a year later that my parents had gotten up in the middle of the night, led by the Holy Spirit, and got on their knees in prayer. They didn't know where I was because I didn't tell

them where I was working. I knew they wouldn't approve. But they walked with the Lord so closely that they knew something was wrong. God still does take care of His own.

A man came to the back door of the prison cell and things had degenerated. We tried to pray, but things were degenerating faster. He looked like he was wearing a white Belgium pilot's uniform. He touched the cell door, opened it, walked into the cell, and motioned for me to come out. Some of the others in the cell said, "Don't go, it's a trick, you're an American, they'll let you go out and then shoot you in the back and claim you were trying to escape."

I thought, so I'm going to die an hour earlier? When you die in Christ, it makes you dangerous to Satan. You can live boldly. You can risk what nobody else is willing to risk because you know that God is with you even unto death. He motioned for me to come out and I did. I went outside and he said to me the strangest words, "Your life has been spared.

Live it for Him." I knew exactly what it meant. People can say angels don't exist here on earth, but I can tell you I think I met one. But I wasn't really sure because he told me to go down to the river and I would find a canoe. So I went down to the river and, sure enough, there was a canoe, and I paddled cross the river. When reaching the other side, I climbed up the plateau and heard airplane engines. Right there was one of those DC3's. I went up to the plane and the little doorway was still open so I went inside. On the folder, on the side of the plane, was a blue passport, an American passport, my passport. I looked at this passport and I thought, well that wasn't an angel. That was one of these Belgium pilots. Thank you Lord.

I walked into the cockpit to thank the pilot that had gotten me out prison. One of the pilots said, "Who in the heck are you?" I had never seen either one of them, They had never seen me. Another pilot said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "What are YOU GUYS doing here?" The pilot said, "Well, we got lost and we had to land our plane here to refuel. We're about to get out of here, do you want a ride?" I said, "Yes sir." We flew to a place called Gaboo, one of the armpits of the world. The next day the headline in the newspaper read, "52 mercenaries executed in Zaire."

I was the fifty-second prisoner. I think about it a lot of times. Who took my place? And the answer is so plain. Of course, my Lord took my place. He took every one of our places. When we deserved to die, he stood in our place. Now that you have heard an incredible testimony, it is important that we ask Christ into our life. It is important for us to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. We can ask to receive the Holy Spirit according to Luke 11:13, and God will give it to us. Scripture also tells us that the Holy Spirit was given to believers through the laying on of hands. The empowerment for witnessing enabled the speaker to lead eighteen others to Jesus Christ.