



Standing on the Shoulders

Introduction

Today we are here to celebrate the ordination of Bishop Elton Mahangu to the General overseer of Holy Cross Pentecostal Church, and all the Pastors, Reverends, Bishops, and leaders who were ordained today.

Congratulations and well done! And we pray that God will use each of you mightily in His Kingdom, never forgetting that you/we are work for Him and His Kingdom, it is not about you or your ministry, God never called us to build a ministry or church but he called us to build His Kingdom here on earth.

Standing on the Shoulder

Let us read **Hebrews 12:1-2** *"¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*

Today, I want to remind everyone here that the Holy Cross church did not start a few years ago, I have been a part of this ministry for over 13 years and yet even that was not the beginning of the Holy Cross church, to get to the beginning we need to go right back to the late 1950 to a young man name Sam Gama who together with his two friends Larson and George started a church called the Holy Cross church and they sweat, they hard work, their sacrifice, they preaching and teaching and a lot of effort, praying, giving, teaching, walking, riding and other things made the church what it is today.

Yes as the church grew, the people who had the same calling as the leaders started to get up and work to build the Kingdom of God further, men like Elton, Geroge, Genesis, Brono, and so many more, but they did not start at the bottom, they build on what was already built but the Apostles.

Then some men of God left Holy Cross and started other ministries. It was tough, they hurt us, they took from us, they aid terrible things about us, but we carried on, we forgave, we forged ahead and did not stop but carried on doing what God called us to do.

Then we started to lose the older generation of leaders, Apostle Larson, Apostle Sam and they hard work and perseverance gave us the leaders we have today who can take this church still further and further and build the Kingdom further for the next generation.

Today we stand on the shoulders of what Apostle Sam. Apostle Larson, and all the leadership has built, and we can just continue doing what we learned from these men and women of God and continue to build.

The church does not die, but it continues on and on until Jesus Christ comes to takes in the Rapture.



Cloud of Witness

This passage talks about us being surrounded by a Cloud of Witness', and we are all a witness to what these men and women of God did, this has nothing to do with ancestral worship but the fact that Apostle Sam, Larson and other men and women who worked for the kingdom here in Malawi are aware of what the fruits of their labour are, and everywhere we go, and we can see these fruits, a church here, an orphanage there, a group of leaders here, a ladies meeting there, all bearing testimony of these great men and women of God, and remember it is not only the leaders but the members to who gave they time, money and effort to the Kingdom.

I have only been here a few days, and I remember so many things about my trips since 2011, that witness to what Apostle Sam and his friends did here in Malawi. What they built so that I could minister with freedom and unhindered in Malawi, the teams they setup, the structure the wonderful leaders they choose, men and women of integrity, many of them sitting around us today, I see you, God sees you and you are acknowledge for being the men and women of God you are because of the ministry of these men and women of God.

Everywhere I go, I see a witness to great men and women of God, I remember, I remember Apostle Sam went everywhere with me, whether driving in the car to another place to minister or just walking with me on a dust road because the car was too heavy to carry all of us. He and I would get out and hobble together down the dust roads, Apostle never complained he was always with me, if I walked, he walked with me, if I got tired, he made sure I got rest, he sacrificed so that I could have something. He was like a father to me, a spiritual advisor and a mentor and he even tried speaking Afrikaans, saying Baie Dankie – Thank you, God is goed, God is good.

I saw him getting older as years went on, but he was always strong but in 2023 when I was here I saw a change, Apostle Sam had got incredibly old, yet he still rallied up and came with and minister with us, walking the dusty roads of Dowa and Kasungu with me.

There have been many men and women of God, some I never knew, some I just met, all who have toiled and worked to build the Kingdom of God and specifically the Holy Cross church.

Today the whole Holy Cross church, we are standing on the shoulder of these might men and women of God who went before us as pioneers to laying the foundations and groundwork of the Holy Cross church in Malawi.

Men like Apostle Sam, Apostle Larson, Apostle Oupa George and so many other pastors, reverends, leaders and men and women of God who have all run their race and are in heaven right now.

We are able to stand on their shoulders and reap the fruits of their ministry and works for the Kingdom of God and today as Bishop Elton takes over the reigns of the Holy Cross he is standing on the shoulders of so many great men and women of God, reaching ever high and the works of others.



Throw off the thing that hinders you

So, we have a group of men and women of God who have laid the foundation for the work of the Holy Cross Pentecostal church and we as leaders, members, friends of the Holy Cross Church need to throw off the things that hinder us, the things that stunts our growth in Jesus Christ, that stunts the growth of the church of God.

We need to throw off sin, through off any weights, weights of sin, weights of unforgiveness, the weight of pride, arrogance, weights of bondages of any form. There is no place for any weights in a race, and we are each in our own race that God has ordained for us to run.

Do not look at others, do not point fingers, put your head down and run your race.

When we were born, God knew us and had a plan for our life (**Jeremiah 29:11-14**) and we each need to discover that plan for our life, what God wants us to do and then do it because when we do God will reward us with the Victors crown.

Running with purpose

We also need to run this race with purpose and sacrifice so that we can obtain the reward.

If you are not disciplined to going to church, having a quite time with God, praying, reading your Bible and doing hat it says and growing spiritually you might not reach the finish line and therefore not win your crown, yes you will be saved from the fires of Hell but you will not have the victors crown.

Fixing our eyes on Jesus

The race is not easy, and we need to make many sacrifices to complete the race but never give up, God wants to help you, and He is only a prayer away.

We need to fix our eyes on Jesus, look at the life of Jesus in the Bible, it was filled with prayer/spending time with God, ministry/teaching/discipling, prayer/spending time with God, sleep.

Jesus is our foundation; we need to build on this foundation that he laid and sometimes we have the privilege to build on this foundation that others have already built on and we can just continue build and taking the Kingdom to greater heights.

When you know who you are in Jesus Christ, when understand what He wants you to do, when you are humble, submissive and under authority of men and women of God you will succeed.

Conclusion

This is a different message that God gave me in March 2024 while preparing another message on Hebrews 12, I trust that as each one of you go forward in your Spiritual walk that you will build on what Apostol Sam and so many men and women of God have already build, you do not have to start again but build on what is already built.

As I close, I want to echo the words found in **Josuha 1:1-3** "After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses."



I want all the leadership of Holy Cross to stand now, please!

Apostle Sam, Apostle Larsen are dead, Bishop Larson, Bishop George, and the leadership of Holy Cross Church, I charge you today to rise up and cross the river, cross over what Apostle Sam and Larsen and others have built and run the race set before you and the ministry.

Every place where you go, God will grow to the ministry of Holy Cross into something better, bigger, and stronger so that the future generations can have a basis to build their ministries and so that multitudes of people in Malawi will come to the saving grace of Jesus Christ and grow His Kingdom.

Amen!

Let's pray...

So,