

FROM HERE TO THERE

Zachariah 4:6- Then he said to me, “this is what the lord says to Zerubbabel: It’s not by might nor by power but my spirit,” says the lord almighty. What are you, O mighty mountain| Before Zerubbabel, you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of God bless it! God bless it!” then the word of the lord came to me, the hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundations of this temple; his hands will also complete it. Then you will know that the lord almighty has sent me to you. Who despises the day of small things| men will rejoice when they see the plumb-line in the hands of Zerubbabel.

This excerpt is set around the time of captivity of the children of Israel. They had just come back from Babylon and were under the political leadership of Joshua and spiritual headship of Zerubbabel. So, to go out to their spiritual heritage, they set out to rebuild the temple which had been desecrated by king Nebuchadnezzar. As they were rebuilding the temple there were so many frustrations so they had become feeble and discouraged to the point the work had stopped. God came to his servant through a prophet to encourage him because the work of rebuilding had stalled sixteen years.

Through a prophet, God encourages Zerubbabel who had laid the foundation saying that he (Zerubbabel) who laid the foundation of the temple will complete it. In other words, God was encouraging him, because he had the passion to complete building the temple that he would finish it, saying to him it’s not going to be by might or by power but by my spirit. In other words, God will finish that which he started through you.

When we broke ground in 2014, this excerpt was the inscription we did on the capstone at the site. Looking back, we can truly say God has been our Ebenezer. Surely, where the sanctuary stands if it were not God’s spirit we wouldn’t be here. We had so many false starts and frustrations. The first architect passed on before any work could begin and we had to go back to the drawing board to find another architect. After a lot of back and forth, we got our first contractor, who struggled through the project and we didn’t know what to do because we were stuck with him since there was a contract. We were in a corner. The guy couldn’t deliver on the project and on the other side we couldn’t release him because it would result in breach of contract.

Thankfully, the contractor himself gave up on the project and for us that was answered prayer. That meant going three steps back to find a new contractor. The result, a year went by without any work being done. It that duration, we discovered that it was very difficult to find a contractor to come and build on another’s foundation. Most of those we found said they would rather start their own foundations and get rid of the initial foundation, which by the way had cost the church millions of shillings. But last year, month of May, God answered our prayer, and another came and brought up the building on the same foundation.

But it hasn’t gone with its’ own challenges, some months ago the supervisor of the project tumbled all the way from the top balcony and within an hour he was dead. Looking at that, I know it’s been difficult and challenging even as the pastor trying to keep the momentum going. Most times, I have spent sleepless nights wondering what will become of the project. Are we going to be ridiculed by people passing here seeing a white elephant project? Developments synonymous with most places in the country that never quite come to completion. Are we going to become the laughing stock? People who

started a project they couldn't finish? But today we can look back and truthfully say, it's not been by might or by power but by the spirit of the living God.

Building this project hasn't been because we've had so much money as a church, it's only by the doing of the lord- that I can attest. I remember during ground breaking a servant of God came and saying I believe the lord wants me to give you this scripture-that is what we subsequently engraved on the capstone. I have held on to that scripture till this very day. When difficult times came, and amid many discouragements, I never knew I would be here to this very day, but God reminded me that the hands of Zerubbabel that laid the foundation shall finish it.

This goes to show that if God has set you on a path to do something great and to bless you-challenges will come along the way. God blessing us has no guarantee we will be trouble free. I have discovered the more God wants to bless you the more trouble you will have up your alley, people will hate you and talk behind your back and finances will dry up. To remind you, as we make this transition, your hand laid the foundation of that project and your hands will complete it. God will complete that which he begun in you in the name of Jesus. I know you are here feeling discouraged-do not be dismayed. Time is coming when everything he started in you will be completed. You are not going down, or becoming a laughing stock for in the name of Jesus all the back stabbing shall turn around because the hands of Zerubbabel shall finish it. It's not because of our education, money, connections or who we are, it's by the spirit of the living God.

Many prayers have been said over this nation, people have cried over this country, right now it looks bad and we are at the edge of disaster, but I can tell you friends it's not going to be by might but it will be by the spirit of God. It's not about Nasa or jubilee it's by the spirit of God. The best days of Kenya are ahead of us not behind us. There's no way God can enable us to build a sanctuary like this and not allow us to worship in it because we've gone to war. He cannot bless us this much to see it being destroyed. He is a God who keeps his word. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. And when God is done doing what he will do, people will look and say this is the doing of the lord. Its' marvelous and perfect in our eyes in Jesus name. it's not so much about who you know or do not know, its' by his spirit says the living God.

As you witness the completion of this sanctuary, it is an encouragement says the lord that just as I have done it before your very own eyes I will enter your situation and do exceedingly, abundantly above all you can ever ask think or imagine. Your children will call you blessed, your spouse will glorify the lord because of you. Your relatives who despised you will look up to you for wisdom and guidance. You are not going down. Your project may have stalled or taken longer to start; maybe it seems like God has taken long in answering that prayer, but I am here to remind you that its' not by might. Your time is coming because God's ways are not our ways. You might have expected it last year, month, but it is on the way coming. Keep waiting. Keep hoping. Keep holding on.

We are reminded of Nehemiah who set out to rebuild the walls of Jericho, as he labored to build, he had a tool on one hand and a sword on the other. Why? The moment you decide to do something for the lord trouble will always come. The enemy never attacks anyone not going anywhere. The evidence that you are doing something great for the kingdom is the attacks you receive. No robber attacks an empty house. If you are doing nothing, rest easy. The enemy only attacks a people going somewhere. The moment you begin doing something grand for the kingdom, trouble abounds. But if you keep laboring, God will fight your every battles. The sword is one and the same as the word of God. We must continue

preaching this gospel and meditating on it. As you continue working never forget the sword of the spirit. You will use it to counter every opposition. Remember, no weapon formed against you shall prosper. Every tongue that rises against you, he will condemn in Jesus name. God has been on our side friends.

As we move from the tent to a good place, God is telling us not to carry along with us a tent mentality. When you move from here to there, it demands different things. You cannot put new wine into old wine skins. We need a mind shift, embracing everything God is in store for us for where he's taking us. We should move both physically and mentally. God has good things for you and I. the things God has laid for us, no eye has seen, no ear has heard, nor has it entered the thoughts of men the things God has prepared for us. There are things that we must leave behind. Leave your gossiping, bad attitude, bitterness, negativity behind. You cannot carry your old ways with you into a new territory. There must be a mind shift. As God is blessing us let us have a mental shift. Let us leave the old behind as we enter our inheritance.

As we do this transition, let us be reminded that in the journey of faith, transitions are not meant to bring us to a place where we can now slack and become passive. We must keep in step with what the lord is doing. Let us not get in there and settle down, thinking we have arrived. Even as the children of Israel crossed into the land flowing with milk and honey, God told them the land was full of giants. They were only given a portion of the land and told to expand. Unfortunately, the only time they got close to possess what was their inheritance, was during David's reign. But still it was only ten percent of the promised inheritance. They did that because of unbelief and to date they are still fighting even for that ten percent. Do not settle, ever in life. We should thank God for the new sanctuary, but then ask what else.

As my wife, daughter and I transition out of C.I.T.A.M Ngong, don't feel sorry for us. I am grateful for all the messages I have received from many quarters, appreciating us but please do not feel sorry for us. I was not building this sanctuary so I could have an office in it, there's a beautiful senior pastors' office in that sanctuary but as we were building, I had told my wife that I will not move anything of mine into that office. As far I am concerned my assignment here is done. Let another come and take you to the next level. If I stay it may not be good for you. King Hezekiah prayed that God wouldn't call him home when his time was up. He had done well during his time as a king. He cried bitterly, to the lord and God gave him fifteen more years. But as recorded in scriptures, he should never have prayed to stay, because in those fifteen years he undid all the good he had done. He brought forth a son, who became the worst king of Israel.

We should learn when to quit. Nobody has the monopoly of ideas. Let us quit while we are still ahead. Positions come and go, but they don't define who we are. Let be known my wife and I are happy. Pastor Jotham Munene is a great pastor and a great guy. We feel greatly privileged and honored to have been part of something great and grand here in Citam Ngong. It doesn't matter whether we are going to another Citam assembly, that is inconsequential. All that matter is this transition is important for Citam Ngong. Amen.