



Women

— OCCUPY YOUR —

GOD

G I V E N S P A C E S

REV. LUNGA SONGCA



WOMEN OCCUPY YOUR
GOD GIVEN SPACES

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AUTHOR PROFILE



At a very early age while listening to the Nativity story, Lunga's heart was touched and she accepted Jesus, the Christ as her Lord and Saviour. Her call to ministry of Word and Sacraments also came at a very early age. Her studies include a Degree in Communication Science and Psychology (UNISA), Clinical Pastoral Education, and Chaplaincy (Groote Schuur), Dip Theo (JB), BA Hons in Pastoral care and Counselling (UP).

She has served in a number of churches including: Langa Methodist Church – Cape Town, Ikageng Methodist Church – Potchefstroom, Trinity Methodist Church – Linden JHB, Libode EC, Butterworth EC & East London. She is married and blessed with many children including

INTRODUCTION

As a minister I have the task of walking with God's people on the journey of grace, the journey of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Through what I minister, people must make meaning of the gospel and have it make an impact in their everyday existence.

As Christians we are not only called to worship and pray, we are called to live; to live a life of impact that demonstrates our calling as the salt of the earth.

Women while the pillar of the church sometimes struggle to find their space in the universe; which manifests in them being unable to find meaning and peace in their existence in their homes, workplaces and society in general.

This compilation is intended for any woman seeking to find meaning and their place in the universe to know that they belong in whatever space God has given them. All that needs to happen is for them to find the courage to occupy the space.

Reverend Lungca Songca
Bryanston Methodist church.

OCCUPY YOUR SPACE

Women occupy your God given Spaces is about the spirituality of creating opportunities that ignite the awareness of women to their God given power to be and to do. It is about their role as influences and is essentially faith in action.

The gospel is meant to empower women to be actively present in all areas of their lives.

The reality is that sometimes women get consumed by negative identities and narratives.

It is therefore important for women to equip themselves with God's word, experience, tradition and the determination to change the negative narratives that have limited their meaningful participation in different spheres of life.

This narrative has reduced women to a point where their minds, hearts and bodies are perpetually weeping as a result of the insurmountable challenge of defining, let alone occupying their God given spaces.

In the midst of tears and seeming death, Jesus asks: "Woman why are you weeping?" John 20:15

Woman hear your name being called by the risen Lord. Heed the mandate to go and announce ascension. For you are created to occupy spaces of hope and life.

The world tends to stifle women by keeping them in weeping mode. On the other hand, the risen Jesus is questioning the weeping of each woman and is calling every woman by name and sending her to go declare ascension. This is a direct call for a woman to occupy spaces that declare spectacular things of God.

When women, even if a minority show up to reclaim the Shalom for women, it is an act of faith that affirms their contribution to setting the church and the world free to achieve God's purpose of realising Shalom (blessings) for all.

To achieve this, women need to consciously connect woman to God, woman to self, woman to woman, women to men. This must happen in order to co-create formidable spaces of empowerment and development for women in all spheres of life.

It is my privilege to invite you on this journey and I believe that God will open up doors, create opportunities and enable us to assist each through our Lord, Jesus Christ, to discover and reclaim our God given spaces.



Women hear your name being called by the risen Lord. Heed the mandate to go and announce ascension. For you are created to occupy spaces of hope and life

WOMEN: IT'S TIME TO SHOW UP!



THABISILE PHUMO

Every woman needs to assume that it is a fact that God legitimises their occupation of spaces that best serve their destiny.

This is important in allowing women to free themselves from self-limiting beliefs, that they don't belong or remain guests in areas which are seen as the domain for men.

This narrative is perpetuated by the unfortunate reality that sometimes women have to lose themselves to become what the world expects as 'normal' for them. Women have to be affirmed in whatever spaces they endeavor to occupy.

It is my belief that it is only when women understand who they are, that this journey can in earnest begin to gain momentum. Women like every other form of creation, are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14

We are divine creations that are made in the image and likeness of God. It is within us to become the light and harness the power within, to occupy our God given spaces, with the boldness and understanding that we are the children of the Almighty. If we believe that God our father is a King, we are by divine proclamation, princesses in his kingdom. And therefore, it is our birth right to 'reign' over any space that God has destined for us.

The critical thing is for us to spend time discovering what God has planned for us and how he has placed us where we are for his glory to manifest through us.

Therefore, much effort should go into self-discovery and acceptance. We may all be women but none of our journeys are identical. We have to appreciate that while we may find ourselves in the same spaces, we have different divine assignments. This realisation must enable us to eliminate the unfair competition and support each other in our



*I am love,
the love i have is within
me and therefore, when i say
I love you, I am not giving you
anything, I am expressing who
I am*

Thabi Phumo

11 KEYS OF SELF-DISCOVERY

It is my view that in order to unlock the door to self- discovery and acceptance, we need to arm ourselves and apply the following principles:

- You can't become what you don't know, know yourself, your purpose and the value you wish to create for yourself and others
- You can't change your DNA, but you can position yourself in Christ
- Your mind is your weapon, use it well
- Your ears are precious, sift what goes through them
- Your mouth creates, guard your words
- Your heart is a muscle, it will be sore but won't break. Don't fear pain
- Fear is imaginary, dare to live
- Success is peace, worldly benefits are a cherry on top
- Forgiveness is a gift, be generous with it
- Failure is a friend, seek it if you want success
- Faith is your anchor. Learn to see everything and everyone through the eyes of grace

*Above all else, invite God into your
life and let HIS will to be done.*

VISION BOARD

A **vision board** is a life map, a visual representing of the life you are living or wish to live. It is a documentation of your dreams, your aspirations and the impact your wish to make in your God given space.

You are invited to make the time for a strategy session with yourself, the outcome of which will be a realistic and inspiring vision board



VISION BOARD

My Purpose

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My Vision

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YOU

My Values

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My Goals

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My Guiding Principles

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My Legacy

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 MY VALUES

My values are:

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 MY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

My guiding principles are:

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MY GOALS

My spiritual goals are:

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My health goals are:

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My relationships goals are:

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My career goals are:

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My financial goals are:

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My goals with my hobbies are

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MY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENTS

It is important to speak life into your goals and imagine the best version of their attainment

My spiritual achievement/s:

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My health achievement/s:

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My relationship achievement/s:

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My financial achievement/s:

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 **MY STYLE**

My personal brand is as characterized as:

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My motto is:.....

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My attitude towards life is:

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My work ethic is:.....

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 **MY RELATIONSHIP**

Partner:.....

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Children:.....

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Parents:

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Siblings

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Relatives:.....

Friends:.....

Colleagues:.....

Rivals:.....

 **MY PHYSICAL SPACE**

My Physical Aspirations Are:

YOUR IMPACT

At some point our journey will end. It is at this point when we will come face to face with our vision because our legacy will be called to question.

As you journey through your life, it should be about you making a mark for yourself in the present and for generations that come after in the future.

You therefore have an opportunity for a simple guideline. **Live your life the way you would like to be remembered.**

If you had the opportunity to stand in front of your grave and had to look back and sum up how you would like to be remembered, what would your epitaph say? At your funeral, what would you want people to say about you?

Take the courage to put it down. Talk about yourself outside your family, your qualifications, your relationship status and your work. See yourself as a human being, who were you and what will the world miss about you?

A great vision is support by a good life that affirms itself and impacts positively on others



*T*HIS IS HOW I WISH
THE WORLD TO REMEMBER ME :

“Once I have lived my best life and indeed conquered and occupied my God given spaces”

SUSTENANCE BY THE WORD

Personal Relationship with God

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."- James 4:8

Prayer

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Purpose

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."- Jeremiah 29:11

Health

"The Lord sustains them on their sickbed and restores them from their bed of illness."- Psalm 41:3

Relationships

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another— and all the more as you see the Day approaching." – Hebrews 10: 24 -25

Family

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good." – Romans 12:9

Finances

"Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth."- Proverbs 10:4

SUSTENANCE BY THE WORD

Work

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”- Colossians 3:23

Planning

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” – Proverbs 16:3

Decision Making

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.”
– Proverbs 19:20

Favour

“The Lord make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you.” – Numbers 6:25

Giving

“And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”
– Hebrews 13:16

Thanksgiving

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” - 1 Chronicles 16:34.

Trials and Tribulations

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
-Philippians 4:6-7

Women

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Bryanston Methodist Church
115-117 Grosvenor Road, Bryanston
Lunga@bmc.org.za