

THAT "WHEN" CONDITION!!! April 23 2013

I must have been in Form 3 or 4 at SBC when BONGOS IKWUE and THE GROOVIES released their popular record called "STILL SEARCHING". I loved the song then and still love it now because, besides the beautiful melody, the lyrics were also right on point. I know that not everybody reading this knows the song, and that, those who don't must already be wondering WHAT this musician could possibly have been searching for. Well, he was searching for "TRUE LOVE"! Now, I know I have made somebody go "WANDAFUL! So while everyone else was searching for an EDUCATION and other innocuous things like "ONE BITE", BANGA SCHOOL, STRETCHING COMBS & PLAINTING PARTNERS, Ma Monjimbo be don go e far, sotey e be dey find na "True Love"!!! Ah beg oh! The part of the song I consider "RIGHT ON POINT", which gets me to say "NANU KOTI, MOLA!", is the part where he says:

**"YOU KNOW THE BIBLE SAYS,
IF YOU SEEK YOU WILL FIND
AIN'T NO DOUBT THE BIBLE MUST BE RIGHT
SO I'LL KEEP RIGHT ON WITH MY SEARCH"**

Yep! The scripture I believe he is referring to here is the MATTHEW 7:7 part of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus does say:

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

However, even though I would not dare refer to ANYTHING Jesus said as "Up-Up", I daresay there is a more expounded, explanatory and deeper version of the whole "SEEKING & FINDING EQUATION", (especially when it comes to SEEKING GOD HIMSELF), in **JEREMIAH 29: 13** which says:

13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Very obviously, there is a CONDITION attached, and the CONDITION ACHI VERY CRITICAL, INDEED!!!

What is clearly implied here is that our being able to FIND GOD does not depend on just any kind of nonchalant, "hong-hong-hong", "anyhow-anyhow", "ma-heart-no-really-even-dey-inside" and "sleep-dey-do-me-seff" search oh! In fact, here is what the AMPLIFIED version of that same verse says:

13 Then you will seek Me, inquire for, and require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

This is talking about some real, EARNEST, DILLIGENT, "last belleh" search y'all!

You know a GREAT example of this kind of search that immediately jumps to my mind like a Three Corners Bambui "mungwin" (as in grasshopper)? The kind displayed by **THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH** who was witnessed to and led to Christ by Sango PHILIP, that dear apostle whose

willingness and efficacy when it came to carrying the gospel message across racial boundaries ought to be a model for some of our churches today!!

The story, as recorded in **ACTS 8:26-40** says that Ba Philip was told by an Angel of the Lord to **“ARISE and go”** (which gives me the impression that poor Ni was chilling him oh!) and meet this Ethiopian Eunuch who was traveling back to his country – Modern Day Sudan, from where? JERUSALEM!!! My Sistahs! These “little” details never used to strike me as a child and even if they had, there was no technology available at the time, to do a proper investigation and get the facts which make for a far better understanding of some of these Biblical Stories with which we have become so familiar, that they have ceased to inspire us. Well, you bet that as soon as I noticed this “Geography” matter which even Pa Tambe could not have explained, I went a-google-ing, and here’s what I found:

Distance from Jerusalem to Khartoum (Capital of Sudan): 1,815.4 km / 979.6 Nautical miles

Approximate FLIGHT duration time from Jerusalem to Khartoum: 2hrs 31 mins

Ah clap ma hand! This means that this man must have spent WEEKS, to get to that Jerusalem oh! And why did he go to Jerusalem, in the first place? The Bible does not leave us guessing! Here are verses 27 & 28:

This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

It is also important to see what kind of man he was, because person fit hear “Eunuch” so, e start membah say na just any kind man. DEFINITELY NOT!

- Look back at the verse I just quoted. Where was he sitting? In A CHARIOT! Abi na "beg and bluff" or "Rental Chariot" (like some of us use rental cars to impress all our kontri people when we show up for our various “-CUDAs” – as in MECUDA & BACUDA Conventions, leaving our eketehs groaning, straining, rusting and rotting away behind with the mechanic, attempting to make people think that the rented car is the actual car we drive)? NOPE! The Chariot was HIS! If you are tempted to think just about everyone back then had their own chariot, then please tell me why Ni Philip had to “RUN” wit e own 2 (tanga) back foot dem, to meet up with and overtake the chariot? (v. 30) Obviously, the guy was "loaded" - as in RICH!!!

- Furthermore, it is also clear what the man’s position and rank were! Verse 37 says he was ***“an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”)*** De man be be BIG-BIG man for e kontri oh!

So this wealthy and important official took his SEARCH FOR GOD SO SERIOUSLY, that he left his own home to go worship ALL THE WAY IN JERUSALEM, whereas e dey almost wan pass me for entah inside moto wit air condition, drive 10 minutes go Church for ma back door here!!! No wonder the Angel of the Lord sent Philip to meet him!

Now you might think the Eunuch made all this effort out of DEVOTION to a God he already knew well, and not really because he was still searching. Well, you would only think so if you were unfamiliar with the rest of the story which went this way:

Sango Philip don tear track finish, land for corner Massa Eunuch e Chariot, no be so? E wan hear, de man dey read de book of Isaiah. What I find funny and intriguing at the same time is that, this Philip, who must have been panting time no dey after that 990 run and who must have been covered from head to toe in dust, wit plenti desert sand-sand for eye, dared to boldly ask dis BIG man say: "Ah say eh? You dey undahstand ting wey you dey read so??” Haba!

Between de kontri Philip and GRAND E. Na who be likely “get sense” pass e friend? Isn’t this

kind of like some Village boy in Misselele asking Oga Shakespeare himself if he understands what he is reading?; say na who know de grammah pass? Point though is: **Bible mattah no be palava grammah oh! Na MULEMA issue**, as that Jeremiah verse says. **YOU FIND HIM WHEN YOU SEEK HIM WITH ALL YOUR HEART**, not with your Ph.D, and not with 3 kwata of your heart either!! Thank God too sey unlike most of us Book People who never want to admit that we don't know or understand something, this **HUMBLE** man did not hesitate to admit to "duhty" Philip, that he did not know "A"! Here's what he said to Philip de "Shapiro" who had dared ask him if he understood what he was reading. Eunuch mona:

31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" And then what did he do? He INVITED Philip to enter his Chariot with him and explain the scriptures to him! And that's who FINDS God oh! A person with a **HUMBLE, EAGER** and **TEACHABLE** attitude! It is no wonder then that, just a few verses later, it is again the EAGER Eunuch who, after hearing the Word explained to him, instead of saying, "Okay; Ah don hear. Make ah go back for Ethiopia check de plaba fine. When ah cam next year, we go see ...", says:

"Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"

"Noting oh, Ma Brohda", is my concurring answer to his question!

And here's the conclusion of the story:

"And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him."

No "Prrosponing" till "later" or "tomorrow"!

But wait a minute! Does this whole "entah wata" thing not remind you of another OGA in the Old Testament with a TOTALLY DIFFERENT ATTITUDE????!! Have you guessed who? Of course, I am referring to POMPOUS, NAAMAN!!! Remember he was this BIG-BIG COMMANDANT for Army from Aram, who was struck with leprosy, and whose maid told him to go see Prophet Elisha in Samaria. Prophet E tell'am say make e go dip e self inside River Jordan and what was his reaction? COMPARE & CONTRAST for yourself:

11 But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. 12 Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

And this is just the attitude that will keep us from FINDING and TRULY KNOWING GOD! An attitude of ENTITLEMENT and ARROGANCE!

One more tiny example which I only noticed just this past Easter, as I read what I call "The Other Resurrection Story", i.e. The story of Jesus Meeting and Talking to the Two Disciples who were walking, all DISAPPOINTED and DOWNCAST, to Emmaus. Here is the verse that took on a fresh, new, different meaning for me, and which I believe is tied to our (in)ability to FIND God.

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him. 17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

May be I am making too much of this, but something tells me that, the fact that these 2 men were actually talking and discussing matters to do with Jesus and His Ministry played a part in Jesus' appearance to REASON WITH & EXPLAIN THINGS to them! Somehow, I cannot help feeling that if they had been discussing sheep, cows, eru and wata fufu, it just may not have been quite the SETTING for Jesus to show up and fit right into their conversation. They were making an effort to try to figure things out; their baffled minds were DESPERATELY trying to

make sense out of what had just happened, and that was when – “**AS** THEY TALKED AND DISCUSSED THESE THINGS”, Jesus Himself showed up!

By way of a conclusion, I think this HILARIOUS but PAINFULLY SAD picture that Ma Bee Westerman shared recently on Face Book speaks volumes about why, in our “Modern Day”, it is difficult to SEEK GOD, much less FIND HIM and MAINTAIN AN ONGOING, GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM! FOOD FOR THOUGHT abi?



My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.
- JOHN 10:27 NIV

YOU TUBE LINK TO
"IF YOU SEARCH WITH ALL YOUR HEART":
<http://youtu.be/XAuYTsUhfZE>

YOU TUBE LINK TO
"STILL SEARCHING":
<http://youtu.be/e8ETfjEj9b0>