

## ASSIGNMENT 7-1

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Family Background regarding cultural influences;

First of all I want to give glory to God for saving me from all the darkness that trapped me in the name of honoring culture at home and in the church and brought to His marvelous light . Scripture reading ; Colossian 1;13

Martenal Side:

Both my mother and my father came from Mozambique they were both born in Mozambique. Then it was called Lourenco marques now called Maputo

Coming from the same culture they shared same family of ancestral worship mixed with Christianity. This practice carried on for about fourth generation, and I have seen this plaque in the entire family cousin's, uncles, aunties and so forth.

When trying to get-out of it you meet such a great opposition to an extent, they will tell you that you want to leave like a white person or else you are being labelled a witch and those that are practicing witchcraft are deemed to be having an extraordinary gift and they are respected

This culture is so strong and subtle cause people are just so relaxed and comfortable in it.

They were both from Roman Catholic Church which allowed ancestral worship this made them comfortable as there was no opposition. Having said that we as the kids we automatically became Catholics. My mother was also a staunch catholic and belonged to the order of Sacred Heart of Jesus attending various meetings.

Me, being a dedicated youth, followed the order of Mary and we wore blue and white in her honor. From my household I think was the only who went to that length. All my other siblings did not join but were church goers they had no choice, my father was very strict, we could not question anything else. With such a history it shows that I was always a churchgoer up until I became born again in my forties. A precursor for me being born again into a Pentecostal church was not an easy one God had to allow situations that led me to that church as I was desperate otherwise, I don't think I would be where I am today.

My mom was a stay home mom of 5 kids, and my dad was a teacher in Inhambane one of the rural villages in Mozambique in a protestant school. Having said that I think that made him to be more receptive and accommodated Protestantism later in life.

During those having multiple relationships was not frowned upon that much as long as you had the means you could as many as you like. Having said that my dad had a

relationship with another lady and they had 2 boys with her. These two boys when my dad relocated to South Africa brought them along with us. This happened after we were the first ones to arrive in South Africa.

My dad would not have relocated to South Africa in Pimville Soweto but because his dad who was in South Africa then and working in the mining industry had a property with had many rooms which he used to rent out passed away and he was the only one amongst his siblings with his education that could take over the property. It did cause contention amongst siblings which is what I am experiencing with my stepbrother and we are in an out with the lawyers

It really became a very busy house as we had to accommodate each other and there was a lot of fighting and bickering as you would imagine being stepsisters and brothers and jealousy was rife.

His dad was also a Roman, a very staunch one also with multiple relationships. When my dad arrived in South Africa his education was limited simply because Portuguese was the medium of instruction. So, during the apartheid era he could not teach any whereas Afrikaans and English were the main language to be used. He ended up being a security guard augmenting the money he used to get from renting out rooms. He was a hard worker, I guess he had no choice had to care for his extended family.

We had a good stable but still little finances to live on. We could be graded below poverty line.

His influence in education was big and tried teaching our stepbrothers who had limited education because of Portuguese language apart from that they were also older than us which also caused a course of concern because they felt that were favored over them. They were also scorned at home and school as they were older than other kids in their classes. The older brother was very aggressive and used to fight with us and other kids from our neighborhood.

We were never very close with my other siblings only later in life we became close and Huggy. I think it was we were losing other siblings by then in the 90s about three of them had died one shot and getting murdered by the police during an unrest in Soweto. Our elder brother was ran over by a car and 1982 it was a good Friday .First girl died because of sickness was 5 years then that was in the early 50s between 2008 my sister who came after passed on because of sickness.2013 my dad passed away my other brother passed away 2017 my stepmother passed away 2019 lastly my other young sister passed away in 2021.My stepmum came into full picture after my mum passed away 1965 had only one son with my dad . but as it is he hates me with passion as I was not supportive of him involved in ancestral worship. Now another biggest issue we are fighting over our home, my parents did not make a will. My rother believes that as a male child he should be the one inheriting the property as he carries the Dose surname.

He is big in witchcraft the whole family of 8 his wife is a witchdoctor same as their firstborn daughter

My dad had an affair with my stepmum while my mother was still alive hence there was a myth amongst the family that she had bewitched or poisoned her because she was big in witchcraft and was also a Roman catholic member also of the order of Sacred heart. I don't know about the details of being poisoned or being bewitched but my aunties used to say that about her. Hence the relationship was not good

We suffered the consequences of that from her. Becoming born again was not an easy journey this happened also when I was on my wits end with a tumultuous relationship between me and my late husband because of infidelity again.

I have two kids, a boy and a girl who are both married with three kids each. They are born again Christians attending church regularly but rejecting the sabbath the state of the dead and they acknowledge speaking in tongues hopefully that one day they will observe it by the grace of God. I'm also praying for the whole family as it is riddled with witchcraft for them to be saved. As for me and my family it was just the grace of God that we ended being saved. When I got born again when I told my dad he was very happy I guess now that he suffered stroke could not move much I happened to lead him to pray sinners prayer and accept Christ as his savior and I was leaving in another location it was not possible to him take him out to other church my mother would bring S members to pray at home. I lead two of my aunties to pray for salvation. My husband working as a soldier and was also a Roman Catholic before he passed away had a chance of accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior got born again too. Hoping the rest of the family may have had an encounter in their lifetime as I have heard many stories about them which make me to believe that God willing, we shall see each in glory.

That is my story which is humbling cannot be proud but will continue praising God for his love and mercies of what He is about to do in future. My prayer is to see the rest of the family that continue to get saved not lose their faith in this journey

What I have retained from my family is the fact that much as we were Roman Catholics we always upheld the Christian standards we prayed and did the good works which of course are filthy rags in front of God. I for one I got better every day as God made my path like the shining sun that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day [proverbs3;18].

There is also one thing that I have realized where ancestral worship is rife sexual perversion of all kinds prevails also prevails. God allows them to be given in all sorts of passions. I saw that in my family and relatives. It is because they live in rebellion, and we know that having a religion like RCC also fuels it. According to 1 [Samuel15;23] Rebellion is as sin of witchcraft and transgression is wickedness and idolatry You refused to do what God told you. so God has decided that you cannot be a king

'TO GOD BE THE GLORY'