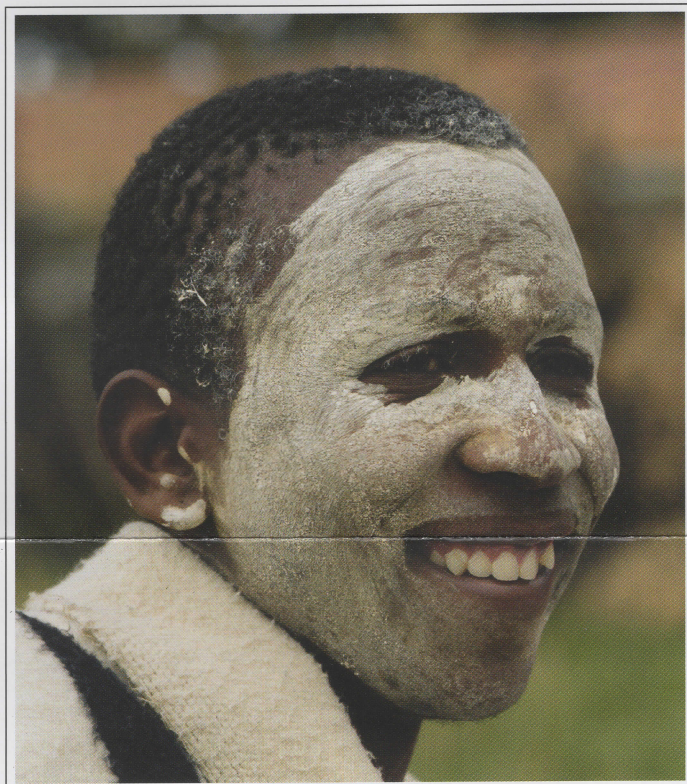


There are many costs over the weeks of ulwaluko, which the families usually pay because this is a sacred cultural ceremony for BECOMING A MAN. I share with Sizwe that the Bible says that you do not have to be circumcised to BECOME A MAN or to be a Christian. Sizwe responds by saying, "that maybe true, but to get a job in the mines or factories I NEED TO BE A MAN." To pay lobola (bride price) for a wife, I must first BE A MAN. To be part of an indaba

and be heard by the village leaders I MUST FIRST BE A MAN. To be married I MUST BE A MAN. To be able to preach the Bible I MUST BE A MAN. It doesn't matter how old I am; but if I haven't been a ulwaluko, I WILL NEVER BE A MAN". I ask Sizwe how much does the ulwaluko cost?? He is quite for a long time, trying to add all the costs. Then he says approx. \$3800. To some people, this might not sound like a lot, but this is more than most uneducated Xhosa would make in several years. Even to me being a 'bush missionary', this amount is way beyond our means.

Just then Dular begins to pray for Sizwe. As we are praying and asking the Lord for answers, I am interrupted by my cell phone. It is Kathy calling me. As I answer the call, I walk to the kraal to speak with Kathy privately. I ask Kathy if we have any extra money to help a young Christian leader. Kathy shared that she has secretly been saving up to surprise me in buying me a more functional prosthetic leg. I ask Kathy, how much does she have saved?' She says almost \$4000. I tell Kathy that I can manage on my older prosthetic leg because there is a young Xhosa leader that needs to BECOME A MAN, in order to be fully accepted among his people and to take his rightful place, as someone who can speak with authority. I ask Kathy is she would be willing to sacrifice her savings to help this orphaned Christian leader to BECOME A MAN. Kathy asks for some time to pray about this need.



When I finish the phone call with Kathy I go over to the side of the mud hut and I opened my Bible and shared with Sizwe that God tells us in His Word that "when someone enters into a new life in Christ, and all things are past, and you would BECOME A NEW MAN". God tells us in His Word, to "become the NEW MAN, which was created according to God." (Ephesians 4:24). I tell Sizwe, that when he chose to accept Christ as his Savior, he became a (new) MAN. The Lord will make him into a MAN of God, if Sizwe choose to let Him.

As I continue to share the Word of God with Sizwe, my cell phone once again starts to ring. It is Kathy again. I know that Kathy would not be calling twice in a day, unless it is important. When I answer the phone, Kathy is convulsively crying. In the midst of her sobs, Kathy tells me that the Lord wants us to give our savings to allow Sizwe to BE A MAN and to become the Christian leader whom the Lord has called him to be. I share the good news with Sizwe, and he too begins to cry. This is a huge answer to prayer. As Dular is a tribal headman and a strong Christian believer, he can be trusted to make sure that Sizwe BECOMES A MAN and is qualified to share the Gospel throughout the Bomvana region, and beyond.

As Timba and I return to the construction of the children's shelter, I realized that the Lord had called me to Bomvana for a greater purpose than building another shelter to feed the hungry and hurting, but the Lord was looking to build His Kingdom. And He is using you and I/us to bring hope to the hopeless and to reach the hidden-half of this world. Thank you for joining us in the quest to bringing the Light to where there is darkness. We could not be doing the work here in Africa, if it were not for your prayers and support. We trust the Lord to bless you for your faithfulness to Him.

God bless you.

Kelly and Kathy

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