

The Dream that Changed Grandfather

by Bongani Ndlovu
Family Ministries Director
Zimbabwe Union
Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Some years ago in a farm there lived a boy with his grandparents. His name was Musa (Moo-sah). He was a very lonely boy because he was the only boy at his home. Musa had a neighbor friend, George, who was a year older than he. The two boys attended the same school and were good buddies. These boys loved playing games together, singing, going to church and working together. Their parents were proud of them. Musa's grandparents were not Christians, but they didn't mind that Musa went to church with his friend George.

The boys were part of a singing group comprised of other teenagers their age. Sometimes the singing group travelled to do programs outside their church. They were good singers and were invited to many events in churches and in the communities nearby. Christian and non-Christian crowds came to hear them.

As the boys grew older, they loved studying the Bible together. Musa went to George's home often to play and to listen to George's father tell stories. He was such a good storyteller and he loved children and young people. Musa learned a lot of things from George's dad. One day Musa asked if he could be baptized in the church where George and his family attended.

Musa's grandparents were not happy. They tried hard to discourage him but they could not. They liked George and all the good things he did, but they didn't like his religion. Musa's grandfather threatened to beat him up if he accepted this new religion,

but Musa was more determined than ever. Grandfather threatened to disown him—to put him out of his family—if he got baptized. But Musa believed it was God's will for him to be baptized and so he was.

Grandfather was angry! He said he would throw Musa out of the house. Musa was worried. What would he do? He nevertheless continued going to church with his friend George. Grandfather told Musa he was no longer his grandson and he had to leave their home. Musa didn't want to leave, but one night without telling anyone he left. For a few days he took refuge with another family in their neighborhood.

Musa decided he should go to town and look for a job where he would be able to take care of himself while attending church freely. The neighbor who had sheltered Musa told him good-bye and wished him well. Musa stopped at a shop and bought some bread and hoped to board the next bus to town without anyone he knew seeing him.

As he left the shop Musa met his grandmother who had been searching for him since he left home. Musa was afraid and wanted to hide, but he knew it was too late for him to hide from her. Grandmother had been afraid something bad had happened to Musa so she was very happy to see him. Grandmother pleaded with Musa to come back home with her, but Musa did not want to go, especially when he thought of all the things he had suffered because of his grandfather. His grandmother told him how worried grandfather was about his safety and

how sorry he was for the decisions he had made and how he had hurt Musa.

Grandmother told Musa that everybody in the family was busy looking for him. She also told him that the night he left, his grandfather had a terrible dream.

This is Grandfather's dream that Grandmother told Musa.

Musa and Grandfather were walking on a road when they suddenly saw a big snake coming straight at them. Grandfather and Musa ran away in different directions. The snake went after Musa and got him. The snake wrapped itself around Musa, crashing his ribs and swallowing him. When Grandfather saw what the snake had done he turned to charge the snake, but there in front of him appeared an old man who laughed at him and said, "Why worry? Isn't this what you wanted for your grandson? Isn't it good riddance? Ha! Ha! Ha-a-a-ah!!!" The old man continued to laugh until he disappeared. Musa's grandfather was confused and didn't know what to do. Grandpa started crying and hitting his head against the nearby trees.

Suddenly he woke up from his sleep only to discover he was just dreaming. Grandfather

was wet with sweat, puzzled and frightened. Grandfather couldn't sleep the rest of the night and in the morning he discovered that Musa had left home. Grandmother told Musa that they had been searching for him ever since.

After hearing about Grandfather's dream and knowing they had been worried and searching for him, Musa felt sorry for his grandparents, especially Grandfather.

Grandmother was happy since Musa agreed to come home with her. When Grandfather saw Musa he was very happy too. There was great joy and happiness that Musa was home safe. Grandfather apologized to Musa for the bad things he had said and done. He also gave Musa permission to go to his church and told Musa he was welcome to come back and live with him and Grandmother in their home.

After seven months, Grandfather and Grandmother started attending church with Musa. Four months later they were baptized. Musa is a happy young man now because his grandparents go to church with him and they worship God together.