

SUNDAY SEMORN 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2017

GENESIS 12:1-4

My name is Grace Valentine Mokiwa, the wife of Bishop Valentine Mokiwa from the Anglican Diocese of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, I'm also a Mothers Union Diocesan president who acts as a chief advisor of the union in the diocese.

I am bringing warm greetings from the Diocese, the Mothers Union and from my husband Valentine, and from our children Jerry Richard and Joseph Eversley please receive them. I'm also so thankful for Rev. Celine and Dick Burke for inviting me to come to Oregon and to you all for a warm welcome and accepting me to be part of your church family here in Bend.

Today I want to share with you a reading from Genesis.

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make you of a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

So, Abram went, as the LORD had told him and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

I will give this sermon a title of THE CALL FROM GOD

The word of God tells us that GOD speaks to his people and directs us or guide us on what to do according to his will. Abram obeyed to the call from God, the same God is still speaking to us today, sending us to reach the people around the world who are in need.

Abram was sent to the new land, a land that he never knew before but due to obedience he agreed. Today our calling may not necessarily resemble the Abrams one but we may be called to help others.

This is like being sent to the new land. It's like being sent to the desert because the money and support we donate for the people in need, will disturb our budgets, it will stop us from doing something else we like most, but since it is a call from God we obey and give a priority to God's call.

It's not an easy task it really needs obedience to the word of God. Abram left his own land and go where God wanted him to be.

I will tell you If Rev.Celine and her lovely husband Dick Burke will explain to you how life in Tanzania is you cannot expect them living this holy land of USA and such a blessed State of Oregon and come to Tanzania; where the weather is very hot, rough roads, electricity problems, a place where standard of living is low compared to life in USA.

But because it was a call from God they obeyed and came to Tanzania, through their coming we are now serving lives of unwed mothers, we are serving the lives of women and girls, we are serving the entire community of Dar es Salaam.

Our Mothers Union members decided to take a risk and develop a home for unwed mothers. This was a great challenge for us. We had to raise money for this project even though our members could have used that money for their own families. But even though we are poor we still have a call from God to care for those who cannot care for themselves.

One of our ladies is quite poor. She is not educated and she lives in a poor village. Her husband is a priest and he does not get paid very much. She decided to take a risk and to find a way to make some money to help her family. She now makes popcorn and sells it to school children as they wait for the bus. Whenever she comes to a Clergy Spouse meeting she brings fresh popcorn for those at the meeting to buy. Because of her risk to make things better for her family she is call following the call of God.

We know that God expects us to work for what we have. We don't expect God to just have a money tree for us to go pick the money we need. We are willing to work not only for our families but for those who are too poor to work for themselves.

That is what the Mothers Union does. We are called to care for the poor, the sick, the elderly, the orphans and those with disabilities.

This is what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, sacrifice for others. Jesus Himself is a good example he left the Glory in Heaven and came to the world so that me and you can be saved. What a great love! Giving out his own life

The word of God is also reminding us about the advantages of obedience. We shall be made a great nation, America you are known for support for the needy people, are you not a great nation? Oh yes you are. "I will bless you and make your name great." Are not a great name?

Are our families not blessed? Yes they are .

We are also learning obedience character from our elderly parents, Abram was an old man when he set out for Haram. For the young generation let us take this spirit of obedience from our parents .

So my dear brothers and sisters in Christ let us choose the right path "obedience to the call of God, a call to his word, a call to his teachings

May our Almighty God bless his word and remind us to our calls, especially during this Lenten season as we remember a sacrifice Jesus Christ, son of God gave to the world leaving the honor and glory in heaven for our salvation..

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holly Spirit. AMEN.