

28th August 2021

Thank you Juliana, and thank you worship team.

My message today is entitled: **LAT@7: Celebrating God's Preservation Against Existential Threats**

On 2nd November in the year 2000, while I was still a student at University, the Lord spoke to me concerning the work I was to do for Him. He spoke to me from 1 Chronicles 22:5 which says: **"My son Solomon is young and inexperienced, and the house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations."** By that scripture, God was telling me that a day was coming when He would use me to build Him a church, (not a building), that would be a great spiritual spectacle in the world.

Fast-forward, 14 years later on 31st August 2014, the construction of that house of God that would be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations began. It was on that day, seven years ago, that we held our first service.

Today's service is a celebration of the fact that God has preserved us against all evils which threatened our existence in the last 7 years.

There are three major existential threats that LAT has faced. Any of these three could have wiped LAT off the map, hadn't it been for God's preservation. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 33:6: **"Let Reuben live, and not die, Nor let his men be few."** This blessing that Moses pronounced upon the tribe of Reuben perfectly captures God's will concerning us and how He has preserved us. He protected us from extinction and He plans that we do not remain few but rather become numerous.

The first major threat to our existence came in early 2015 when we were just five months old! As most of you are aware, by the time LAT opened in August 2014, I was not only Elvis Mbonye's right-hand man, but also a leader in his fellowship. Five months later in January 2015, I resigned my position there because Elvis had decided to do something in the leadership which God was totally against (because-- a year or so earlier -- He had warned Elvis and I never to do that thing). Now, since Elvis and I did not disclose to the fellowship the reason for my resignation, room was created for wild speculations, and the enemy used this to his advantage. How? You may ask. A section of the leadership that I left behind clandestinely embarked on dangerous moves to empty LAT of all its members. In fact, back then, Dr. Dennis Mugimba had a dream in which God showed who those people that wanted to completely destroy LAT were. It was really sad to know that most of these people had been, only a few weeks prior, my close friends and pioneers of LAT. Worse still, I had done no wrong. In yet another dream, Dennis saw large guard dogs in LAT that were there to keep out those who had turned into enemies of God's work.

Thanks be to God for He preserved us against that first major threat to our existence. Psalms 18:16-19 says: **"He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He**

delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me." God preserved us because He delighted in us. We were doing His will and we did not fight in the flesh with carnal weapons when we were attacked. For that matter, and as the psalmist said, God delivered us because He delighted in us. Hallelujah!

The second major threat to LAT's existence came in 2018. This was at the height of my God-sanctioned warnings to our fellow church members to flee from Elvis Mbonye because he had irreversibly turned his back against the Lord and was therefore working to lead many souls to eternal damnation. As you are all aware, many of our fellow brethren sadly chose to continue walking with Elvis and they left LAT. And, when they left, they zealously joined the efforts intent on LAT's extinction.

Once again, God preserved us. Hallelujah! The scripture we read earlier in Psalm 18:16-19 applies here too. It reads: **"He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, From those who hated me, For they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me."** God preserved LAT because He was delighted in our obedience unto Him; and we did not retaliate against our enemies. It was during this time, when we had been left extremely few in number, that our own Sandra Kimenyi had a very encouraging dream in which LAT was once again filled with more people. It was also during this time that another dream came from God revealing that: in a few years to come, we would become the largest congregation in the city. Once again, the blessing of Moses upon the tribe of Reuben comes to mind – God was not going to let us become extinct and he had plans of making us very numerous. Glory be to His name!

The third major threat to our existence as a church came in 2020 and is still with us even to this day. I am talking about the Covid-19 pandemic and the resultant ban or suspension of all church gatherings. The combination of these two has the potential of completely wiping many churches off the map, especially the very small ones like LAT. However, this has not, and will not happen to us. Why?

You may all recall that on 27th October 2019, during the special praise and worship service that God asked for, He made an oath to us that LAT would by all means become everything He had ever promised it. He used the oath He swore to Abraham in Genesis 22:16-18 when he figuratively speaking sacrificed Isaac, to swear to us as a church. God said: **"By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing (the worship service), and have not withheld your son, your only son (the great worship in LAT) -- blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; (LAT will become so large) and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed (we shall indeed become God's house of great magnificence and fame and splendor, in the sight of all the**

nations... why?), **because you have obeyed My voice** (we obeyed God when we offered Him our best worship that Sunday)". Glory be to His name.

Therefore, because of that oath, Covid-19 and the ban on church gatherings, has not, and cannot, exterminate LAT before all the promises God gave us are fulfilled. You know, an oath is different from a typical prophecy or promise. A prophecy or promise can -- for various reasons - fail to come to pass, but not an oath from God. An oath was made to us; therefore, even the threat of Covid-19 to our existence is just that -- a mere threat.

Interestingly, just after that oath, I remember telling someone that: since God has given us His oath, it could be indicating that a very tough time is coming for LAT. It is said (and it is true) that, oftentimes, when God gives a very clear and undeniably true promise, it is because you are going to experience tremendous demonic resistance; and you will need that undeniably true promise to remain steadfast in faith. When, therefore, Covid-19 and the lockdown came in March 2020 (just five months after the oath), I was like: "Uh. This is most probably why God made the oath. He foresaw Covid-19 and the ban on church gatherings and gave us an oath, way in advance -- to the effect that, when Covid-19 comes, we would be confident that we are not going to become extinct, but remain on the scene, until all His promises to us have come to pass". Hallelujah!

Psalm 105:8-12 says: **"He remembers His covenant forever, The word which He commanded, for a thousand generations, The covenant which He made with Abraham, And His oath to Isaac, And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, To Israel as an everlasting covenant, Saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan As the allotment of your inheritance," When they were few in number, Indeed very few."** Now, also in our case, when we were few in number, and indeed very few, God made an oath and will always remember it to multiply us. Amen.

In Genesis 28:14-15, God told Jacob that: **"Your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."** On our part, God will neither leave us nor allow anything to destroy us, until He has done what He spoke to us.

Therefore, today we celebrate our God who has preserved us against the schemes of the devil. The psalmist says, **"I shall not die, but live, to declare the works of the LORD."** In the same vein, we too believe and therefore speak that as LAT we will not become extinct, but shall live to declare the works of God. Based on the oath God gave us, we can confidently affirm that He who began a good work in us will complete it.

I thank all of you for the various ways you have allowed God to use you to ensure that LAT continues to exist. Many of you have given your money to LAT. May God bless you for that. May He also bless you who pray for LAT. And may He bless our great administrator Rachel, and her husband Mark, for their dedicated service. May God especially bless our worship team, which is

here with me today. This team, as you know from various dreams, is highly esteemed in Heaven.

Let us keep united in purpose, to serve our good God, as we remember that Reuben's blessing is God's will for our church. That blessing once again says: **"Let Reuben live, and not die, Nor let his men be few."** In the same vein, God who preserved us against existential threats will not keep us few. LAT will live, it will grow large, and it will declare the mighty acts and goodness of God.

Happy 7th anniversary LAT.

Pastor Moses B. Musinguzi