



**“Shaking the foundations of your prisons”** by Mr Mboneni Rathiyaya at **Tshikota PHC**, Sunday Service, the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2012.

Scripture reading: **Acts 16:16-20, 30 and 31.**

*“16 Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. 20 And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city;" Acts 16:16-20, NKJV.*

*“30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." Acts 16:30-31, NKJV.*

In this book we read about the arrest and torture of Paul and Silas, their transgression being that Paul cast out a spirit of divination from a young woman. It appears there were people that were making money out of this young woman's misery. The bible tells us that her masters were very furious with what Paul had done, so they ordered that they be arrested.

Paul and Silas were beaten and locked up and the jailer was threatened with death should these men of God escape. In the middle of the night, regardless of the pain that Paul and Silas were in, they stood up, worshipped and praised the Lord. In the midst of darkness, without any promise of light, they stood up. In the midst of all pains that they suffered from



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the beating, they stood up. Despite being put in the inner (maximum) prison, which in South Africa you may compare to C-Max, it didn't deter them from praising God.

In the middle of the night, God is looking for people that can stand up, in the middle of the night, and praise Him despite their problems, despite their worries, despite being jobless, unmarried and no man looks at you, barren womb and all your in-laws including your husband and all your close relatives looking down at you, calling you names and telling you how much useless you are. In the middle of that darkness, through it all, in the middle of the night, God is looking for people that can stand up and say *"You are Holy Lord!!!"* O ya *halalela!!! Vha Mukhethwa Yehova!!! It is well, I thank you for this situation."*

Maybe you've been told how worthless you are by people close to you, worship and praise the Lord in that situation. The bible says Paul and Silas worshiped the Lord until the foundations of the prison were shaken and prison doors opened. The people that are needed are those who can praise and worship the Lord until the foundations of their prisons are shaken. When the foundations of your prisons are shaken, everything becomes loose. The structure of your prison gets out of shape, the frames bends and the doors of your prisons open up.

My friend, I don't know what is imprisoning you. You know in what prison you are. In the middle of the night, God is waiting for you to praise Him, to worship him. Forget about your problems and worship the Lord and you shall see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, so says Moses to the children of Israel. The bible says ***"17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!" Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you."*** 2 Chron 20:17, NKJV.

Glory to be to the Most High God, the creator of Heaven and earth and all that lives.