

About me

My testimony: A servant of Christ.

I am Dickson Wasake, a servant of Jesus (the Christ). I live in Jersey, UK and attend [Lighthouse Christian church](#) from where I also became baptised a second time in May 2017 (see my baptism testimony and invitation in *Appendix 1*).



I am a chartered accountant (FCCA) (see my profile in *Appendix 2*) and I am married to Brenda (nee Kyomugisha) also a disciple of Christ.

Until I recommitted my life to Christ and I lived a wild hedonistic life. I lived a comfortable life and by world standards, you could say I had “arrived” – having moved from a modest upbringing including childhood poverty from my original home in Uganda and onto the Bahamas and then Jersey, UK where I live (February 2018). Jersey’s gross national income per capita (income per person) is one of the highest in the world – about \$57,000 (2005).ⁱ

While my career was thriving and I am for example a Director (“partner”) in an international accountancy firm – this doesn’t mean someone is living an “abundant life”.ⁱⁱ Jesus once famously asked:

“What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world and lose their soul?”ⁱⁱⁱ

In a way, prior to meeting Jesus I was therefore in the wilderness. Then Jesus created a road in my life. The same Jesus who says: “Behold I am coming soon.”

He anointed my head with oil, his Holy Spirit. The same Spirit who had led me “out of my grave” where I had been captive more than 20 years. I was not always captive. I had first become “born again” at around the age of 13 and then I became a prodigal son. It was about 20 years in the wilderness but I was home again. I obeyed his call, I took up my cross and I am here now. He called again. “Who shall we send?” Like the Prophet Isaiah, I responded, “Here I am Lord, send me!”

I felt God put it on my heart to start as a home church or “cell group” ministry – which this online platform/website is supporting.

I asked him what I should say, he told me, it would be like John the Baptist crying out that we prepare a road for the Lord in the wilderness. His Word and his Spirit are one and never contradict and so He directed me this way:

“A voice was saying, “Cry out!”

Another said, “What should I cry out?”

“All humanity is grass, and all its goodness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flowers fade when the breath of the Lord blows on them; indeed, the people are grass. The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.”^{iv}

And in another place a warning and a heavy burden to carry:

““But you, mortal man, must not be afraid of them or of anything they say. They will defy and despise you; it will be like living among scorpions. Still, don't be afraid of those rebels or of anything they say.

You will tell them whatever I tell you to say, whether they listen or not. Remember what rebels they are. "Mortal man, listen to what I tell you. Don't be rebellious like them. Open your mouth and eat what I am going to give you."

Me – as professional in the financial services industry.

My wilderness spiritual experience notwithstanding, I am exactly where God wants me to be and this includes my professional experience as a chartered accountant (FCCA) which has spanned about 22 countries including Uganda (my original home), the Bahamas and the UK.

- Chartered Accountant (FCCA) about 15 years' experience - Big 4 trained (PwC). *Top 10* experience
- Director (equivalent to a "partner") – act as engagement leader on engagements.
- Broad international experience including The Caribbean, Europe and Africa.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- *Top 10 global accounting firm*, Jersey, UK (2008 – present)
- *Pricewaterhousecoopers* (PwC), Bahamas (2006 – 2008)
- *PWC*, Uganda (2003 – 2006)

See *Appendix 2* for more of my professional profile.

Disclaimer: *This website and the content herein represent my personal views on faith matters and not necessarily those of my associates including employers, my professional colleagues or family and friends. The topics on this website can be challenging to understand and so if there are any matters you do not understand, I am quite open minded and we can talk. Otherwise, seek professional advice from someone you trust and who is knowledgeable of your particular circumstances or the areas of difficulty. This might include seeking advice from a spiritual advisor.*

Appendix 1: Invitation to my 2nd baptism!

Part 1: The basics

Invitation from:	Dickson E Wasake Esq.
Date:	28 May 2017
Time:	11.00 am
Venue:	<p>Rozel Camp Site <i>La Grande Route de Rozel,</i> <i>St Martin,</i> <i>Jersey,</i> <i>Channel Islands,</i> <i>JE3 6AX</i> <i>Telephone: 01534 855200</i> http://www.rozelcamping.com/index.html</p>
Hosted by:	<p>Light House Church Jersey http://www.lighthousejersey.com/</p>
Food? Anything else?	There is a BBQ. Carry your food/meats and a deck chair. The church provides the Barbie and the love.
And your 1 st baptism?	I was younger and it didn't hold the same importance as this.
What is this Baptism all about?	<p>To Baptise is a Christian rite following the command of Jesus (the central figure of Christianity who calls all – Jews and non-Jews). The bible says that it signifies: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. At Baptism, in going into the water and coming out - we “die and bury the old life” and “resurrect with Jesus in the new life”.</p> <p>“Baptise” is a transliteration of the original Greek word baptizw (baptizo). In turn, baptizo comes from the root word baptw (bapto), a term used in the first century for immersing a garment first into bleach and then into dye, both cleansing and changing the color of the cloth.</p>
Why on earth would someone do something “weird” like this?	If you have read this far... then you can read a few more pages of whether there is a “method to the madness” .

Part 2: The basis of my baptism

What it means to be a true “Christian”.

I am a “chartered accountant” which means after studying appropriate exams you became a “member” of an accountancy body. As part of this membership, there is a “code of ethics”.

This is similar to many other professions and occupations – for example as a stone mason (there was historically a “guild”) or as a “golfer” – there are “club rules” (such as for the legendary *La Moye* with its 30 year waiting list).

A “Christian” is a “follower of Christ” – this Christ being Jesus, the “anointed one” who was sent by God to save man from Sin – which we are all guilty of. None is good, not one. The bible is the “code of ethics”. Everyone is welcome and there is no waiting time once you believe in Jesus.

This same Jesus came – as an Act of Love of God and the bible says in a popular verse:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son [Jesus], that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life”.^{vi}

This Jesus, in around 33 AD in order to fulfil God’s purpose to save us from the penalty for sin was crucified under the command of the Romans (who ruled much of the known world, including Britain as well as *Judea* –present Israel, Jesus’ birth place). He died that day and was buried. He by an Act of God was risen from the dead (resurrected) 3 days later- as he had predicted on several occasions.

Is this belief in Jesus not rubbish? A Myth with no historic evidence?

The legend of King Arthur is widely believed in Britain and elsewhere to be true despite there being very little historic evidence of it being fact or only a few sources indicating his existence.^{vii} The first account of King Arthur only appeared 300 – 400 years after his supposed existence. By comparison, Jesus having been a REAL historic figure **is doubted by few genuine historians**. Early written evidence started within 25 years of his death^{viii} and even Roman records of the time (which were not religious) make mention of him.^{ix}

*Which means that when you look at it, this all comes down to faith – you either believe or you don’t believe - **BUT** “faith comes from hearing....” Such hearing being hearing (or reading) the word of God – the bible.*^x

How can you therefore believe, if you don’t hear? This letter is providing that “hearing”.

What happened to us in the UK?

As a fellow friend and partaker of this Jersey land in these British Isles, I have lived here for over 9 years and I am also a keen observer of this society. The sad bit is that Britain now appears to be firmly “atheist”.^{xi}

In a span of just 140 years or so, it has changed from being the country that found as part of the duty of empire, the need to spread Christianity (including to Uganda, my original home) – to one that doubts the bible. Is it a coincidence that the decline in Britain is tied to the decline in the fear of God?

The bible says – “The Fool says in his heart - there is no God.”^{xii}

But this same bible says, in many more places things such as “God is love^{xiii}” and “the Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.”^{xiv} This bible is therefore ultimately a love story and not what it has been painted to be “*something for the intellectually inferior*”, “*the poor*”, “*about a merciless God*”- As many people (including many eminent scientists) think of those of us who believe in it. To many, science is the “light” and we ignore God who uses nature, science and knowledge – as a testimony of how Great he is.

I have been asked many times “How can someone as smart as you believe in the bible?”

Far from being “deluded” or “a fool”, time and time again, it has been proven (including by people on their death beds) that the biggest regrets in life are not about things (money, career etc).^{xv}

They are about dreams and hopes and wanting to spend more time with others, and this is consistent with what the bible says. It says that there are 3 things which remain forever – Faith, Hope and Love. Of these three, Love is the Greatest.^{xvi} If God is love, then it follows – God is the greatest!

A brief history of how I came to be a Christian

My maternal grandfather, Koliabu turns 100 years on the 27th of July 2017. I do not expect that he will jump out of a window of his house^{xvii}, far away from his long suffering wife of 70 years **Ludiya (Lydia)** to go on some ill-advised adventure perhaps to rekindle his lost youth.

I also do not expect he will receive a congratulatory card from **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II**. Were he to surprisingly receive such a congratulation, I expect it will read thus:

“I am so pleased to know that you are celebrating your one hundredth birthday on 27th July 2017. I send my congratulations and best wishes to you on such a special occasion. Elizabeth R.”

This grandfather of mine was in 2015 made a “canon” in the church (a title in recognition of his dedicated service). He has for example been a choir master since 1977. He still does this!

But before that recognition he has had to keep the faith.^{xviii} This included him being chased away from his father’s home when he was young. He persevered, got an education and passed on the faith to his children, including his 3rd born – my mother, who planted the seed of faith through taking me to church. At the age of 13, I decided to read the bible for myself in detail to explore “the God question”.

I became a Christian, but I have stumbled many times, brought shame to Christianity, in my actions and thoughts and still God never gave up and now he has called me again – hence the baptism.

Meanwhile back to my grandfather. This “faith” he received had come as a result of the work of two pioneering English missionaries who were sent to Uganda in 1877. The missionaries were actually responding to a letter published in the “Daily Telegraph” by an American journalist called Henry Morton Stanley.

Previous to this of course there was no country called “Uganda” and neither did the people of that region have “English” names – or in my case, a Scottish surname “Dickson” as a first name. In those days, you were simply, “Shibuta son of X” hence my ancestors only had a surname.

What next?

If you feel the call of God, do not resist - weighed down by pride, peer pressure or even fear.

There are millions who are here now (Christians) and elsewhere (in heaven), waiting to cheer you on, not counting Jesus our Saviour himself. Waiting to support you, to walk with you.

I urge you that just as you would diligently research something new with an open mind – do the same for this. Seek God and you will find him. Draw close to him, and he will draw close to you.

There are some 6 suggested steps^{xix} as you start a Christian journey. These steps in brief are:

1. [Begin reading the bible](#)
2. Begin praying
3. Become baptised

4. Build friendships with other Christians, join a church
5. Help others (God commands us to love our neighbours)
6. Tell someone about your faith.

Becoming a Christian starts with confessing that Jesus Christ is Lord (Master, Saviour, Messiah, and God), believing that:

“Yet to all who did receive him [Jesus], to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.”^{xx}

God further says in His Word in that:

“If we confess the Lord our God and believe in our hearts that God raised His son Jesus from the dead, we shall be saved.”^{xxi}

If you believe, then pray a simple prayer (**pray it loud or silently**) to ask Jesus to save you. The prayer can be as simple as this below:^{xxii}

Prayer of confession and faith in Jesus

Jesus, I know that I have sinned and am in need of a Saviour.

I believe that when you went to the Cross, you went there for me and all my sins.

I trust You to save me right now. I give you my life.

Today, I know I’m saved and that You forgive me, but help me to understand what it means to live for you every day. Amen.

Appendix 2: Profile (2018)

PROFILE

- Chartered Accountant (FCCA) about 15 years' experience - Big 4 trained (*PwC*). *Top 10* experience.
- Director (equivalent to a "partner") – act as engagement leader on some engagements.
- Broad international experience including The Caribbean, Europe and Africa.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Top 10 Global accountancy firm, Jersey, UK (2008 – present)
- Pricewaterhousecoopers (PwC), Bahamas (2006 – 2008)
- Pricewaterhousecoopers (PwC), Uganda (2003 – 2006)

EXPERIENCE

- **Leading larger/more complex audit clients** - Including: \$13bn SEC registered/PCAOB investment fund, £1.3bn investment vehicle for High Net Worth Family, £300m London Stock Exchange (LSE) listed fund, £600m housing company with 4,500 houses, Government Internal audit, several AIM listed mining groups (AIM is part of LSE), a Central Bank and several financial services vehicles (private equity, SPVs, Investment managers et al) in Europe.
- **Head of Business development and marketing strategy.** Supervising marketing agency to execute the firm's digital marketing strategy and responsible for review of external marketing communications including proposals. As a result, responsible for significant wins including: an \$85m Russian Private Equity Group, a £600m social housing provider, a £91m diamond conglomerate and a £9m financial services group.
- **Head of accountancy line** of service - signing partner/responsible individual.
- **Responsible for quality assurance** -liaison with regulators and quality reviewers.
- **Company secretary** for the firm.
- **Mergers and Acquisitions** - Led over 9 Financial Due Diligence (FDD) transactions (buy side) in the £8m-£21m range.
- **Internal audits and investigations (incl. fraud)** - Specialist audit background means have intricate understanding of controls required and procedures.
- **External financing or fundraising.** Having had a number of clients in the financial services space including Private Equity as well as Investment Holding (for example a \$1.3bn fund and a \$13bn fund), understand investors and lenders' needs. This is key when a company needs to fundraise for expansion.
- **Liquidations/winding up.** Acted as a liquidator for several Jersey/Guernsey entities.
- **Attention to detail while working under pressure** - including for listed (LSE and AIM listed) and high profile clients (e.g. a Central Bank, a Listed Financial Services Group, States of Jersey and a £600m social housing provider in Jersey).
- **A high aptitude to learn and innovate.** Won awards for economics, drama and swimming. Published poet.
- **Attended several technical and soft skills training** and notably an executive style MBA programme from *Chicago Booth School of Business* (which has been ranked no. 1 business school in global MBA rankings per *The Economist* and *Bloomberg*).

EDUCATION

- 2004-2006 *Association of Chartered, Certified Accountants (ACCA), UK*
- 2003 *Makerere University, Uganda*
Bachelor of Commerce – Accounting (Upper second Honours)
- 1999 *Kings College Budo, Uganda, A Level. (1A, 2Bs, 1C)*
- 1997 *Kings College Budo, O Level. (7 Distinctions, 2 Credits)*

LEISURE INTERESTS

- **Author/writer** - Author with 5 published books covering Young Adults, Autobiography and poetry. Private writings include on doing business in Uganda and poetry.
- **Debate** - Enjoy a good intellectual debate. Was an active member of the Budo Debating Club for 6 years and a chairperson of Budo's senior debating club in 1998/1999.
- **Drama** - Enjoy plays and acting. Was an active member of the Budo Drama Society, playwright and director. Wrote 4 plays for both house of residence (Mutesa) and the Budo Drama Society including a best play in 1998.
- **Swimming.** Won 3rd place certificates in school (A level) for breaststroke and back stroke. Now swim occasionally.

NOTES

- ⁱ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_Jersey
- ⁱⁱ John 10: 10: I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- ⁱⁱⁱ <http://biblehub.com/matthew/16-26.htm>
- ^{iv} <http://bible.com/1713/isa.40.6-8.csb>
- ^v Ezekiel 2:6-8 GNT <http://bible.com/68/ezk.2.6-8.gnt>
- ^{vi} John 3:16
- ^{vii} http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/anglo_saxons/arthur_01.shtml
- ^{viii} <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/14/what-is-the-historical-evidence-that-jesus-christ-lived-and-died>
- ^{ix} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historicity_of_Jesus
- ^x <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+10%3A17&version=NKJV>
- ^{xi} <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/23/no-religion-outnumber-christians-england-wales-study>
- ^{xii} <http://biblehub.com/psalms/14-1.htm>
- ^{xiii} http://biblehub.com/1_john/4-8.htm
- ^{xiv} <http://biblehub.com/proverbs/1-7.htm>
- ^{xv} <http://www.businessinsider.com/5-things-people-regret-on-their-deathbed-2013-12>
- ^{xvi} http://biblehub.com/1_corinthians/13-13.htm
- ^{xvii} https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hundred-Year-Old_Man_Who_Climbed_Out_the_Window_and_Disappeared
- ^{xviii} <http://www.lulu.com/shop/http://www.lulu.com/shop/koliabu-m-maswere/keeping-the-faith-autobiography-of-a-100-year-old-ugandan/paperback/product-23181680.html>
- ^{xix} <https://www.gotquestions.org/new-Christian.html>
- ^{xx} John 1: 12-13
- ^{xxi} Romans 10:9
- ^{xxii} <http://howtoknowjesus.joycemeyer.org/>