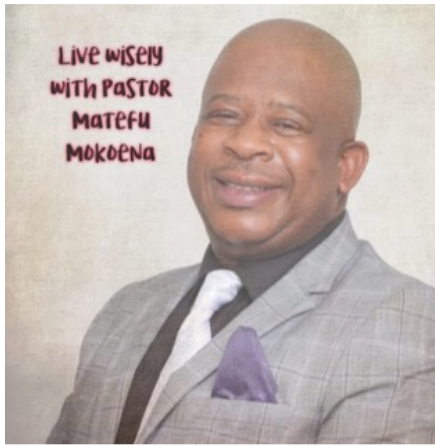


Rise above toxicity and the toxic environment, writes Pastor Matefu Mokoena



You may find yourself in a toxic and hostile environment today – negativity, gossiping, bullying, intimidation, abusive, infighting, plotting, scheming, harassment, intimidation, belittling, demeaning, deception and sarcasm. The list is endless. It is time to rise above the situation. Be strong, remain focused, know what you want in life, serve the Lord purposefully and live according to the word of God. Never allow yourself to be part of toxicity and to let what is toxic to poison you. In the book of Samuel in the Bible, we read about Samuel, himself, growing in a toxic house of Prophet Eli but he survived toxicity and became the most powerful prophet of God, who became instrumental in the anointment of David as a King. We read the story of Samuel in 1 Samuel 2. He found himself in

Toxic environments are sickening, destructive, stressful, intimidating, terrifying, scary, intimidating and frustrating. The moment you find yourself in this environment you feel like moving out of that town, section, street, school, company, department, church, organisation, home, friendship and relationship.

the midst of the corrupt sons of Eli. Verse 12 describes them as rogues, who had no regard for the Lord. They neither had respect for their father, Eli, and the worshippers, who always came to the temple to make sacrifices. They also slept with women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

The Lord was not pleased with them as explained in verse 17 that “this sin of the young men was very great in the Lord’s sight, for they were treating the Lord’s offering with contempt.” But as for Samuel knew why he was in the house of Eli – to serve the Lord and he did so diligently. “But Samuel was ministering before the Lord—a boy wearing a linen ephod,” states verse 18. Samuel became a breath of fresh to the worshippers and the people of Israel, who were belittled, undermined and scorned by Eli’s sons every time they appeared before the Lord at the Lord. He rose above toxicity and toxic environment. In verse 26 we read thus, “and the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.” You can also do so rise above toxicity and survive

the toxic environment. Never allow any negativity, belittling and demeaning to defocus you. Push forward. Reach out for better things, better environments and a happy life. Samuel chose to focus on his assignment and calling. He made the Lord his source of strength and refuge. He rose above toxicity and toxic environment. In verse 26 we read thus, “and the boy Samuel continued to grow in stature and in favor with the Lord and with people.” You can also do so rise above toxicity and survive the toxic environment. Never allow any negativity, belittling and demeaning to defocus you. Push forward. Reach out for better things, better environments and a happy life. Samuel chose to focus on his assignment and calling. He made the Lord his source of strength and refuge. **Pastor Matefu Mokoena is the Presiding Pastor of Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa, Batho Assembly in Bloemfontein. For prayer requests and counselling contact him on whatsapp – 083 563 5062. You can also follow him on facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/matefu.mokoena.1>**



Challenges of raising children with autism

Many parents are raising children with a challenge of ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) without knowing it. So said Zanele Mothibeli during autism awareness campaign held in Zamdela, Sasolburg, this past weekend. Mothibeli was the keynote speaker at the campaign organised by Tshepiso Hope Bheka eThembeni organisation to mark Autism day.

The purpose of the campaign according to Sister Boss from Tshepiso Hope Bheka eThembeni was to raise awareness to parents and families about Autism disorder. “Many parents are facing this challenge of Autism affecting their children without knowing, and have no idea on what to do,” said Mothibeli.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability caused by

differences in the brain. People with ASD often have problems with social communication and interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviours or interests. People with ASD may also have different ways of learning, moving, or paying attention. This year the theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2023 is “Transforming the narrative:



Contributions at home, at work, in the arts and in policymaking.”

The campaign was joined by various stakeholders including amongst them Social Workers, SAPS, His royal majesty-King Micheal Maliele, learners and teachers from various school as well as parents of children affected by Autism disorder and Founder of hope foundation and campaigns Lerato Charity Khauoe. Parents were advised on the signs of Autism and what to do. Some of



the signs of Autism disorder include children who are too hyperactive, children who cannot pay attention to what he or she is doing, interrupting other learners and children, not paying attention when speaking to.

A mother of children living with autism, Makatlego Lenkoane, said her life has changed since her children were affected. “My life has changed I’m always pained by the situation of my children and not knowing why they behave differently. I have to be constantly looking after them. I cannot attend to many things she used to such as Church, funerals and family gatherings. “I also get complaints about the behaviour of my children and accused of not raising them properly, but today I am relieved and thanks to Tshepiso Hope Bheka eThembeni for providing us

with this valuable information,” she said. Social worker Ntombizodwa Mothibeli, who deals with mental health, said they check signs from children in order to perform an assessment. She said some signs can be noticed from children who are six months old to six years of age.



Puisano news proudly displays the “FAIR” stamp of the Press Council of South Africa, indicating our commitment to adhere to the Code of Ethics for Print and online media which prescribes that our reportage is truthful, accurate and fair. Should you wish to lodge a complaint about our news coverage, please lodge a complaint on the Press Council’s website, www.presscouncil.org.za or email the complaint to enquiries@ombudsman.org.za. Contact the Press Council on 011 4843612. Also a member of:

