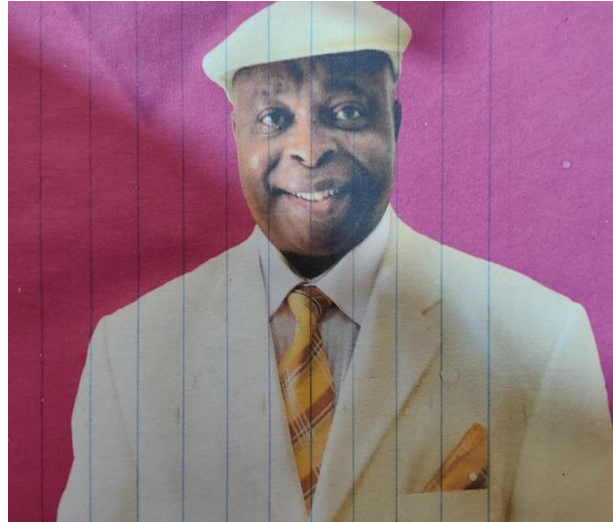


**From Ombe GTC to Dallas, Texas:  
A Journey of Growth and  
Reunion**



A Keynote Speech Delivered at the Ombe OOSA North American 3rd Annual Convention in Dallas Texas on August 10, 2024 by Engr./ Minister/ Life & Spiritual Coach;

Mola Samba William Monono, Author of "So The Answer is in The 10 Commandments, God's (GPS). (Ombe Class of 1969)

Greetings to all my fellow alumni, and especially to all the invited friends, and esteemed guests present in the house with us!

It's truly a privilege to be here in Dallas, reminiscing about our wild and formative years at Ombe GTC. I am truly humbled. Can you believe it's been 55 years since I graduated from Ombe? Are there any of my classmates in the house?

Back then, one very memorable event has stayed in my memory all these years! Fueled by youthful exuberance and, shall we say, a less-than-stellar dining hall experience, we embarked on a legendary adventure. Yes, you heard that right! We marched on foot for a good twenty plus miles, all the way to the Ministry of Education in Buea, to, ahem, "discuss" the finer points of the school food program with the good Minister A.D. Mengot (He was the West Cameroon cultural delegate and also the minister of education).

Let's just say it was a big learning experience for everyone involved!

Now, our esteemed Principal S.P Fortung, bless his heart, tried to prepare us for

this inevitable discussion. He wasn't exactly thrilled with our impromptu field trip, but he was a man of wisdom. In fact, he issued a rather unique pre-meeting assignment: to read the entire book of Ecclesiastes!

Looking back, I have to admit, Principal Fortung was a visionary. Ecclesiastes, with its introspective look at life's fleeting nature and the challenges of the world, was surprisingly relevant to our teenage angst over our perceived reduced quality of the school food program. And then the post-meeting lecture. After the Minister and Principal had their little chat, Principal Fortung gave us a piece of advice that stuck with me all these years. He said, with that booming voice I remember. "you think I'm unjust? Just wait until you graduate. You will discover that the whole world out there is ruled by injustice".

Well, guess what? The old guy was right! Life isn't always fair and sometimes the metaphorical dining hall food leaves a lot to be desired. But hey, that twenty-mile march to Buea taught us resourcefulness. The book of Ecclesiastes offers perspective and principal Fortung's blunt honesty, well, prepared us for the real world in a way no textbook ever would.

These experiences, both humorous and thought-provoking, shaped who I am today. They taught me to question, to persevere and to find humor even in the face of adversity. And as we gather here today, reminiscing about the good old days, let's not forget the valuable lessons learned along the way.

Let me officially introduce myself. As a child whose parents could not afford to send him to secondary school. Ombe was a perfect answer. Everything I ever wanted to learn in secondary school, I got in Ombe and more. We built and electrified the Ombe rocks club and I hear it is still standing. In 1969, I graduated and did 3 months of free work in Pamol Lobe industrial experience. Next, I worked with Powercam just 6 years after Ombe, then I crossed the Atlantic to the United States. I obtained a degree in Electrical engineering. Today I wear several hats: CEO, Nurse, Minister and a certified life and spiritual coach. I also recently became an author: my book "the answer is in the 10 commandments.

Fellow alumni, we all crave success in life, a sense of fulfillment in life.

However, in order to really appreciate what it means for a man or woman to live a successful life, we would need first of all understand where we come

from, the purpose for which we are here and our destination after our journey on earth is over. What defines our success in life vary greatly. Many focus on acquiring material possessions, power and titles. But what if there is a deeper meaning in living a successful life?

Let's consider a different perspective. Imagine ourselves as spiritual beings. We may have originated in a place of peace and perfection, but now we are on earth for a reason. This temporary dwelling place serves as a learning ground, an earth school. Our purpose should not be all about accumulating wealth. It should be about developing our talents, overcoming challenges and growing as individuals. Just like a young plant needs wind, sun and rain to mature, we encounter experiences that shape us- joy, sorrows, and everything in between.

Think of nature. It is governed by laws. Observing these laws from seasons to cause and effect can help us understand our place in the world. We are not just visitors; we are part of a vast interconnected system. So, what constitute a truly successful life on earth? It is about the progress we make in our spiritual development, the choices we make based on higher principles and the positive impact we leave on the world around us, A successful person is someone who strives to constantly to be better. They use their free will to align with universal laws, God's laws, acting with love and leaving a positive mark on everything they touch.

I hope these words are thought-provoking enough for you to reflect on life in general as we continue our sojourn in this world.

Thank you for your time.

