

OUR CHURCH VISION : TO BE A GLOBAL CENTER FOR DIVINE ENCOUNTERS

Title: "Divine Encounters: Becoming a Global Center"

Series 1: Understanding Divine Encounters

Welcome to our exploration of divine encounters! Today, we embark on a journey through sacred scriptures, delving into moments where individuals encountered the divine and were forever changed. These encounters aren't merely stories of the past; they are invitations for us to anticipate and embrace encounters with the divine in our own lives.

- **What is Global?:** Worldwide, all Nations.
- **What is Center?:** Precise location or middle or point of meeting.
- **What is Divine Encounters?:**
Encounter means to meet somebody or something usually unexpectedly. An encounter is an unexpected meeting; an unplanned meeting. Divine encounter therefore means man experiencing the power of the almighty suddenly.

- **Let's start In John 5:2-9,** we see the story of a man who was in a terrible situation for 38 years. This man was on the same spot; He needed divine intervention in his life. He was in the company of the people that could not help him. This sick man was not expecting anything from Jesus when Jesus approached him. He had lost all hope and there was no faith left in him and yet on the day that he encountered Jesus; **He got a pleasant surprise.**
Before the end of this year, God will give you pleasure in Jesus name.

- **In Genesis 28:16-17,** Jacob, a man on the run, filled with uncertainty and fear. We witness his encounter with God at Bethel. Jacob lays down to rest, using a stone as a pillow, and dreams of a ladder reaching from earth to heaven, with angels ascending and descending. In this dream, God stands above the ladder, affirming the covenant with Jacob's ancestors and promising **His presence and protection.** Jacob awakens, declaring, **"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!"**

Imagine the profound impact of this encounter on Jacob's life. From that moment on, he's a changed man

—marked by a deeper awareness of God's presence and purpose for his life.

Now, let's fast forward to Moses at the burning bush in **Exodus 3:1-6.** Moses, a shepherd in the wilderness, encounters a bush engulfed in flames but not consumed. As he approaches, God speaks to him, commissioning him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. In this encounter, Moses is

confronted with the holiness of God and his own inadequacies. Yet, he's also empowered by God's presence to step into his calling as:

a leader and liberator.

These encounters weren't isolated events confined to ancient times. They're reminders that God continues to reveal Himself to us today. Just as a man of 38 years of suffering, Jacob and Moses experienced divine encounters that transformed their lives and impacted entire communities, so too can we.

So, what does this mean for us? It means we should anticipate and seek encounters with God in our lives. It means cultivating a position of openness and expectancy, knowing that God desires to meet us right where we are.

- **It means allowing these encounters to shape and mold us, propelling us forward in our faith journey.**

As we journey together in this series, let's remain open to the possibility of divine encounters. Let's expect God to meet us in unexpected places, transforming our lives and the communities we're a part of. **Are you ready to encounter the divine?**

God bless you all.

Rev Didier Kalombo.