

VONINGA

MAGAZINE

**Intuition
leading to
purpose**

**MARCIA
MASHIGWANE**

**Mommy's Club
with Boitumelo**

**GBV
MYTHS & FACTS**



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WHAT HOLDS US UP TOGETHER?
DAILY BLOG FROM SABOTEURS
OF YOUR DESTINY BY KURHULA
HLOMANE



From the Editor

I am very excited to introduce the second edition of Voninga Magazine! What began as a step of faith continues to grow into a platform for storytelling, connection, and impact. The fact that you are reading this means you are part of the journey—thank you for walking it with us.

In this edition, we remain committed to amplifying voices as we celebrate two incredible community impacters: Marcia of Be Still and Know Conferences and Boitumelo of Mummy's Club. Their work continues to uplift, inspire, and create meaningful spaces for many.

We also introduce a blog from my series, Saboteurs of Your Destiny, with a new post you can expect daily. May this edition remind you to rise, believe, and continue becoming all that God has called you to be.

Editor-in-Chief

K Hlomane



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Intuition leading to Purpose

MARCIA MASHIGWANE



A RADIANT PRESENCE

Radiant skin, beautiful eyes, and a pervasive smile – these are the outward layers covering the petite body structure of Marcia Mashigwane. Inside these layers lies a great leader, full of conviction to gather fragmented souls into wholeness.

Through the intricate yet simple key of listening to her intuition, Marcia has risen to become a geologist, a speaker at Women in Mining, and a co-founder of the Be Still and Know Conference – a platform that champions women empowerment gatherings throughout South Africa. These conferences feature guest speakers on mental health, GBV advocacy, entrepreneurship, and career guidance.

What started as a girl-to-girl telephone call with her friend during a season of despair became a reminder to never walk alone but to carry others along. It ignited the fulfilment of her vow to God – to become a labourer in His vineyard.

EARLY LIFE IN TURFLOOP

Marcia spent the first eleven years of her life at her maternal grandmother's house in Turfloop, Limpopo. She lived with her older brother and cousins, being the first girl grandchild among many boys.

The family structure impressed upon her the importance of community and togetherness. This became clearer when she later transitioned from her grandmother's full, lively household to her mother's quieter home. In her own words, she says:

“*Being with many people in the house meant you had a better support structure to help you out with chores, and you were never alone.*”



A Girl Who Played Beyond Boundaries



Marcia developed a strong gender perspective at an early age, blending in effortlessly with the boys at home. She never paid attention to societal norms that create barriers for girl children – dictating the games they play, the clothes they wear, or the interests they should pursue.

She wore matching basketball clothes with her older brother but also enjoyed her girly two-piece outfits. All was available to her, and she embraced every part of who she was.

A talented athlete in primary school, Marcia won numerous medals, proudly displayed in the principal's office. Yet, her greatest joy came not from winning but from participating. However, when she reached higher primary school, she began to feel the pressure to fit in with her peers – a shift that ended her athletic journey.

From then on, she joined the school choir, where she formed strong friendships that lasted throughout her high school years.

A CALLING DISCOVERED

Marcia's career choice was sparked during her matric year when she came across a newspaper advertisement for a geologist position and was intrigued by the remuneration. That day, she told her mother with conviction that she would become a geologist – a promise she kept.



She enrolled at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) in Pretoria, where her journey of self-discovery truly began. University life shaped her identity through both challenges and victories. It was also where she was introduced to leadership and politics, joining SASCO, a student organization at TUT.

FAITH ON THE ROAD TO THE WESTERN CAPE

One of her most defining moments came during her in-service training – a mandatory requirement for geology students. She had applied to Modikwa Platinum Mine in Burgersfort and was told she would be contacted to start. When no call came after weeks of waiting, she followed up, only to learn that the company had assumed she had declined.

Determined not to lose time, she approached Namakwa Diamond Mine in the Western Cape, convincing them to let her work voluntarily – becoming the first trainee they had ever taken. With unwavering faith, she packed her bags and travelled overnight, without food for the road, believing all would work out.

Arriving at 3 a.m., she realized she had no cellphone number for her contact – only a landline. Just when panic began to rise, she felt a gentle tap on her shoulder: the official had been waiting for her at the bus station. Overwhelmed with relief, she was reminded that God never forsakes His own.

Her faith and courage were rewarded. She was featured in a local newspaper as the mine’s first trainee, and the company even surprised her with a stipend, though none had been promised. Later, she was transferred to the Northern Cape to complete her training at Transhex Mining Company.

Despite the delay it caused in her academic timeline, she remained steadfast.

“We should never be afraid to take the next step; help will always come for us.”

THE POWER OF INTUITION

After graduating with her diploma, Marcia began the difficult journey of job hunting.

“Making job applications is hard and requires funds. Whenever you have an opportunity to assist a graduate to apply, do so.”

She persuaded her mother – who initially refused – to pay her B-Tech fees while awaiting feedback from NSFAS. Knowing that most employers required this qualification, she pushed forward.

Back in Pretoria, she stayed with a friend while attending block classes and looking for work. She soon landed a learnership opportunity at the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy (DMRE).



However, just two days in, she had to resign after learning she would not be allowed to attend her B-Tech classes, despite her prior request.

Offered a position that required full-time work and frequent travel to Cape Town, she faced a difficult decision: keep a beautiful office job or follow her intuition. She chose the latter – to complete her studies and trust that something greater would come.

“You must always make your vision known.”

Her patience paid off. While attending classes, she received two job offers almost simultaneously – one requiring her to start the next day, on the same day her final assignment was due. Initially hesitant and fearful, she realized she was reacting from fear, not faith.

“God will not answer at our convenient time, but in His time.”

She had her assignment submitted on her behalf and took the job. Two months later, she received another offer – this time from Exxaro Matla Coal in Mpumalanga. Though it came with a lower salary, she followed her conviction and accepted it.

Her obedience to intuition brought growth and stability. Eventually, she earned a permanent position, leading her to rise to Mine Geologist at Foskor Mine.

Leading with purpose

Today, Marcia holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Mineral Resources and is pursuing a Law degree. She is deeply passionate about education for the girl child and uses her platform as a Women in Mining speaker to mentor graduates and young professionals.

Through the Be Still and Know Conferences, she continues to ignite her spirit and empower women from all walks of life. The initiative features deliberate and powerful speakers on mental health, GBV, entrepreneurship, and career development, offering women opportunities to connect, grow, and thrive together.

“The enemy likes to isolate us and accuse us in our corners. You should never be isolated. Be with other people.”

Be Still and Know is a programme that embodies her life philosophy – to never rise alone, but to lift others while rising.





Community Care

M U M M Y ' S C L U B

Boitumelo

Founder of Mummy's
Club

Voninga Magazine

April Issue

Boitumelo

MUMMY'S CLUB

Background and Early Life

I'm Boitumelo. I grew up in Limpopo Province, where I completed my primary schooling, and later moved to Gauteng Province for high school. Growing up, I was quite an antisocial child. I took pride in learning and focused most of my energy on improving myself academically, especially in English. I did not participate much in physical games, as I was often bullied—even teased about how I ran.



Because of this, I made a decision early on: I would excel academically and become the best. And I did. I became one of the students most liked by teachers. Even though I was shy, I found the courage to perform poems in front of the entire school.

Finding My Voice

In varsity, I became more social. I participated in evangelism at church, which helped me grow and become more confident. Although I found community in church, I still felt the need for deeper connections beyond structured gatherings. I once organised a ladies' outing with women from church, and we bonded in a beautiful way—calling each other “Daughter,” a memory that still warms my heart.



“ Because of this, I made a decision early on: I would excel academically and become the best. And I did. ”

Loss and Breaking Point

In 2019, my father was diagnosed with cancer after years of illness without answers. He began chemotherapy and treatment, but by 2020, his condition worsened.

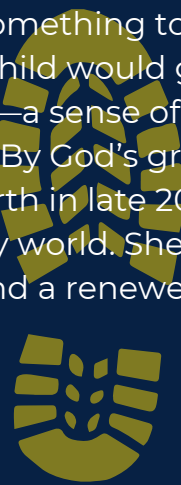
In July 2020, he passed away. That moment changed everything. I lost not only my father but also my sense of purpose. I sought comfort from the church, but I did not receive the support I needed. That experience broke me deeply. I questioned everything—my faith, my sanity, and my reason to live.

Even therapy didn't seem to help. Eventually, in February 2021, I made the painful decision to leave the church—a place I once loved.



A New Beginning Through Motherhood

In my grief, I longed for something to hold onto. I felt that having a child would give me a reason to live again—a sense of purpose and connection. By God's grace, I fell pregnant and gave birth in late 2021. My daughter changed my world. She brought me joy, peace, and a renewed sense of purpose.



The Birth of

Mummy's Club

SUPPORT | INVEST | CONNECT

[SEARCH FOR COMMUNITY CLUBS](#)



The Birth of

MUMMY'S CLUB

During my postpartum journey, I realised how challenging motherhood can be—especially without emotional or financial support.

In January 2022, I created a poster for a simple meet-up for mothers. The idea was to gather, eat, and talk. With the help of a friend, we shared it on Facebook—and the response was overwhelming.

Our first meet-up brought together over 10 strangers who connected deeply. That's when I realised this was more than just a gathering—it was the beginning of a movement.

THE HEART BEHIND MUMMY'S CLUB

Mummy's Club was created to provide a sense of belonging—especially for women who feel isolated.

Take, for example, a 17-year-old girl who falls pregnant. Society often isolates her. She may feel judged at church and disconnected from both her peers and older women.

Mummy's Club becomes that safe space—a place where she can belong, be supported, and be encouraged to continue her journey in life.

WHAT IS MUMMY'S CLUB?

Mummy's Club is a movement that emotionally supports mothers as they navigate the journey of motherhood.

It is not just a social club—it is a community.

Our Two Main Activities:

- **Mummy's Club Meet-Ups:** Safe spaces where mothers gather to eat, talk, rest, and share openly.
- **Mummy's Club Drives:** Community outreach initiatives where we support other mothers with love, encouragement, and basic assistance.

Community Developers

Support
Invest
Connect

Why "Mummy" and Not "Mommy"?

The word "Mummy" represents inclusivity. It includes:

- Women with children
- Women who have lost children
- Women struggling with infertility
- Women hoping to become mothers

It is about the heart of motherhood, not just the experience of giving birth.

CREATING MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

At Mummy's Club, we create experiences that go beyond survival. We take mothers out for fine dining, giving especially young mothers a chance to experience life beyond their circumstances. We also organise activities like hiking to promote wellness and connection.

GROWTH AND REACH

What started in Olievenhoutbosch quickly grew beyond expectations. Women began joining from Pretoria, Centurion, Boksburg, KwaMhlanga, Hammanskraal, Mamelodi, Atteridgeville, Mabopane, Tembisa, and Soweto.

I truly believe this is God bringing people together.

Impact Stories

One mother who attended our first meet-up had dropped out in Grade 11. In 2024, she returned to school and completed her matric. In another instance, we supported a pregnant mother who didn't have a hospital bag. As a group, we contributed and bought her a new one along with baby essentials. These moments define the heart of Mummy's Club.

Challenges Along the Way

One of the biggest challenges has been changing perceptions. Mummy's Club is not about appearances or competition—it's about growth, support, and empowerment. Another challenge is not always having the financial means to support every mother as much as I would like.



A child is a blessing from God. He is the giver of life, and He will take care of His children.

Personal Growth Through the Journey

Mummy's Club has helped me grow as a mother. I learn from other women in the community, and my child benefits from the friendships formed. What keeps me going are the testimonies, the connections, and the sisterhood being built.

The Vision for the Future

I believe Mummy's Club will expand beyond South Africa, reaching more women who feel judged, excluded, or alone. While society may judge young mothers, I believe life is given by God—and it is not our place to condemn, but to support.

Faith and Final Reflection

A child is a blessing from God. He is the giver of life, and He will take care of His children. These are the words I live by. They help me release guilt, trust God with my child, and walk in purpose with faith.



Shine
YOUR LIGHT

Podcast



What an incredible time we had as we shot our first Voninga Network Trauma to Triumph Podcast with the amazing Morapedi, Apostle Lofty, Masu Mathye, Benevolence Mphuti, Office of the Public Protector and our highly respected GBV survivors and First Responders.

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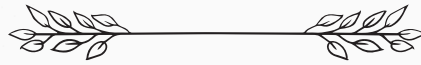
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WHAT HOLDS US UP TOGETHER?



SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE

1 JOHN 4:18 | 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

Faith, hope and love are the three cords in our lives which holds us up together. If they are intact, they create room for us to dream and become our best selves. We are whole when these three cords are knitted together. To be whole simply means to be yourself without rehearsing it.

When fear takes control of our lives, love has no room. Love and fear cannot reside in one place. The bible says **Perfect Love casts out fear**. When discouragement comes into our lives, it takes away our ability to hope for anything good, therefore we stop dreaming and having any vision for our future.

Doubt on the other hand, which is often propelled by our constant looking at hindering circumstances, takes away room for faith. While faith is the transport for every human being. The bible says WE WALK by Faith. Without faith you cannot make bold moves, you become stuck.

If your vision for the future is blurred as you read this, and the wheels of faith are dysfunctional, chances are, the cord that holds you together was broken. Your walk in love was sabotaged.

May your light begin to shine as you choose to walk in love TODAY!

Myth or Truth? Let's Fact Check!



MYTH

Gender Based Violence is violence against women



TRUTH

Gender Based Violence is violence against any person as a result of their gender

Myth or Truth? Let's Fact Check!



MYTH

GBV is only physical abuse



TRUTH

GBV is any form of abuse e.g
Financial, Emotional, Religious, as
long as that abuse is propelled
by your Gender

Myth or Truth? Let's Fact Check!



MYTH

People who call their partners stupid, when they fail to deliver their expected duties are helping them grow



TRUTH

Using derogatory words on our loved ones is an act of emotional abuse as it breaks them emotionally