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# A Special Day

Samoy Monique Mainda  
*Pioneer Memorial Church*

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## A Special Day

*On Saturday, January 30, 2010, Samoy Monique Mainda stood before the congregation at Pioneer Memorial Church as she was accepted into fellowship by profession of faith. We share her perspective with our readers—Editors.*

BY SAMOY MONIQUE MAINDA

**P**raise be to God on this beautiful and special Sabbath day. To most people in various cities and other parts of the world this day is just another Saturday, but for me it is a special day and will remain so for the rest of my life. I say so because it is marking a new beginning in my life. The calendar page of my life has been turned.

A little background of my life will give you some insight into where I have come from.

I grew up in a wonderful and loving Christian home during my early childhood. My parents gave me a wonderful upbringing and instilled values in me that I have cherished till this day. At the age of eight, my mother used to tell me to always stay on fire for God, love Him continually and never give up on my faith. That brought joy to my heart. However, my nice, warm Christian home experienced family turbulence. My parents separated, my father moved to Washington, D.C., and my mother, sisters and I stayed in South Carolina. I continued to have faith in God and prayed that He would intervene and my parents would reunite again.

Between the ages of eight and 13 years, I visited my dad and other family members in D.C. during summers. Things turned out for the worst during this growing-up period of my life. A family member started molesting me during those summer visits. I was crushed; I felt ashamed, disgusted and thought it was my fault. I contemplated suicide; and worst of all, I felt let down by God. I thought God would take care of me and help me with everything, but I felt He had not done that. I thought, *God has let me down. No one wants me.* The damage to my self-esteem was very severe. I was angry at God, bitter and scared. I never told anyone. I should have, but I was ashamed.

I tried to pray, meditate and petition to God for intervention, but that dark secret haunted me every day. On the outside I was a joy to be around; but inside, I was bitter and gloomy. When I was 19 years old, I finally decided not to let this beat me. God was on my side, and He helped me break the chains by telling my parents what had been going on. I started the healing process and began to read my Bible again. As part of my therapy, I attended many Bible study groups and was in the church choir. I was then baptized by immersion at the Refuge Temple in Greenville, South Carolina.

In 2003, I met Fred Mainda, who I came to learn was a Seventh-day Adventist. I told him of my religious background. I did not know anything about the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, but Fred constantly called me and explained about his church. The more we talked about God and His Sabbath day, the more I felt alive and at peace with God. I felt a breath of fresh air in my life. During our courtship, I learned more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but I was not ready to convert—even after our wedding. But, God was still working in me with my faith and beliefs.

Fred never stopped praying for me, and he encouraged me to search the Lord further. I then joined him here at Berrien Springs where he invited me to attend church with him on Sabbath. After awhile the Lord opened my heart,



*Skip MacCarty, associate pastor, read Samoy's testimony to her new church family at Pioneer Memorial Church, as they received her into fellowship on her profession of faith.*



*On the day of her baptism, Samoy Mainda shared, "I have come a long way from my dark days to this bright day full of hope and joy. I ask you to remember me and our family in your prayers to keep us strong in the faith." Pictured is Samoy's family. From left (back): Joseph, Hannah and Jerusha Mainda; from left (front): Fred and Samoy Mainda*

and I began to change. I felt wrong by not keeping God's Sabbath, for I understood that it is a special day. That was something my family couldn't understand or explain, though later they supported me.

I now stand before you with my loving husband who never gave up on me, our little girl, Hannah, my brothers-in-law, George Agoki and Philip Mainda, other family members and friends. I have come a long way from my dark days to this bright day full of hope and joy. I ask you to remember me and our family in your prayers to keep us strong in the faith.

I give special thanks to Skip MacCarty, one of the pastors, for giving me Bible studies, prayers, encouragement and guidance to this day.

There are a couple of favorite verses in the Bible I want to share with you and particularly those who may be transitioning or seeking to renew their faith with the Lord. These two verses encourage me on endurance.

"Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you

will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised" (Hebrews 10:36).

"May the Lord lead your hearts into a full understanding and expression of the love of God and the patient endurance that comes from Christ" (2 Thessalonians 3:5).

These verses encourage me on faith.

"Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him" (Hebrews 11:1, 6).

Faith brings joy!

"Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us" (Romans 5:1).

Thank you all.

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Samoy Monique Mainda is a new member of the Pioneer Memorial Church family.