

Zion Tuma

Sabatino Mangini Life Choice Memoir Draft 3

English Composition 1

### Awaken Memoir

Thomas theorem- “If men define situation as real, they are real in their consequences.”

I was in a chapel surrounded by my peers and elders from the neighborhood area, and I could think of nothing to say. So I let the priest explain my acceptance to the Lord's people by baptism. I was one of many which were baptised. The walls of the chapel from what I remember was yellow and there was a studio on the left hand side of the chapel, the baptism pool which was in the background of the stage had a mural of a river. The Pews were filled by the congregation. I felt comfortable accepting the Lord at that time. The water was warm and the priest asked me if I was willing to accept the Lord in my life I said, yes. I felt like I was in a different status than I could think of at that time.

Oneida Baptist Institute is a boarding school in Oneida, Kentucky, to be particular Clay County but it was in the middle of nowhere. Nonetheless As I was looking at the scenery of the boys and girls dorm that spanned to the “bank” , and the girls dorm. I had to make a choice, if I would like to stay at Oneida Baptist Institute a k-12 Christian Boarding school, I thought I was to

say yes. I had this energy inside me where I thought it would be a good decision because I felt compelled.

Since OBI is a church school they love to take the time to honor our Lord and Messiah, around 12 pm of the school day. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Messiah that came through the Holy Mother Mary for the forgiveness of sins to cleanse those who are sinful and the lord also bring our lord's tidings of a new covenant by his son. So OBI would rejoice in that honor to be able to praise the lord and teach children of all ethnicities like Ethiopian, Nigerian Philadelphian and a Japanese student the way of the Lord.

I was inquisitive to find out what the pastor would talk about, I was wondering how one could just have a spiritual awakening and know the Lord. As I walked towards devotions with my peers to the chapel, which was located on top on the main office, the building is below a steep hill that leads to a grave memorial. The main entrance was located at the back of office building that had stairs toward iron maroon doors. Inside the Chapel there was a stadium that was covered with a carpet that spread to cover the chapel floor. The wall was beige on the top half. Wood covered the bottom of the wall, and on the window they hanged transparent cotton window shade. Facing the stage we could see distinguished alumni pictures that were honored athletes left and right. On the back walls beside the soundbooth are lined with metals from scholastic, and athletic competitions. Were hung to show the lord his blessings.

In the Chapel I felt like a small fish in a pond. I did not know anyone at that time so was a little lonesome. I came to realize that when it is God's will it happens, I started to make friends all of a sudden, it started at the cafeteria where there were tables in a horizontal pattern. The group of high schoolers called me up to sit with them. Randy is her name and she started to get me talking to people. I felt a little more safe than before, because at first I had nobody to play with. God had nudged me in a right direction to find friends. When I was studying at Penn Wood we did not have access to courses that helped us learn more about the Our father in heaven, specifically the new testament. I was looking for school that was ideal for me but I did not know what was missing, in OBI I felt like I had found a community and spiritual growth. One way I would get to know my peers better was during devotions, my teacher mr/mrs Bunch guide students during devotions which were on Thursdays would help use concentrate on the word and devotion. The meeting was held in a conference hall that was to the right hand side of the school's chapel building.

There was a gazebo that was made by wood, and they had a long wooden seat that could fill up to 25 people sitting on it. There was also five rocking chair, all various colors. In the conference room the Bunch's would give sermons of our Lord's gospel and sermons of how to practice the Lord's will. The Bunch's would also run events that would engage student and off campus life by: christmas caroling, babysitting night, praise, and worship. During Devotions, I

felt very connected to the spiritual environment, my peers and my teachers made me feel like I belonged in the environment I lived in.

Many teachers at OBI felt a close connection to the Lord because of their experience with him. They always felt a need to communicate in fellowship, praise, and worship to Lord. OBI teachers really tried to make the boarding experience really comfortable, simple, and less apprehensive. Some of these teachers were really close to me, these teachers were also my coaches or farm team leader, and event coordinator, one of them -Ms.Kelly- sewed my jeans. To be honest I was inspired to get baptised by how the love of the Lord surrounded my teachers.

OBI teachers during praise and worship would testify their life in the journey of christ. I am very happy that OBI was a way for me to understand the Lord and how much he loves. I was able to find my religion due to the conditions Oneida Baptist Institute had through the knowledge of how the lord works in the world. I was able to decide in myself to get baptised to be with the Lord's people.

My spirit felt the need to join the Lord's people and continue my journey with supplications to the Lord at Oneida Baptist Institute. My spirit was uplifted with a testimony from a Fat red headed woman, who testified in the chapel. the woman, had many tangles in her life when she was growing up. It was hard for her sometimes, she said. When she would live in her youth she was a little depressed, but In her isolation she was able to find the Lord. The Lord

untangles her messy situations. When I heard how she was able to have a spiritual awakening and felt more and more compelled to praise the Lord, my faith suddenly trembled. At the Chapel I heard a testimony of a woman who was severely depressed and she did not know how to cope, she hung out with the wrong crowd and got herself into very troubling self realizations. Until she had a revelation to love herself in the way the Lord loves her.

At the end of her story she told us to close our eyes, and if there was a conviction to follow the Lord then the member should stand up; whether it was to accept our Lord or to renew our faith in the word. As I closed my eyes I felt my heart telling me that it was the right time to recognise the Lord. So I stood up in an earnest acceptance of the lord and the suffering I have to endure. I saw in the womens eyes that even though she had been depressed for a while, she was filled with joy in the Lord's grace/mercy and I could see my suffering is ready to begin in this world.

I wanted to be able to be able to recognize the Lord Jesus Christ in my life like she did and my faith pushed me to be baptised in the neighborhood chapel. The chapel was down the hill of the boys dorm. Such a tremendous atmosphere to praise and glorify the Lord. The congregation would sing hymns and pray to the Lord. When I got baptised I saw that my life had gotten a little brighter because of how the light shined through the window to brighten up the chapel. Well around the month of Passover, Mr. Bunch were talking about the passion of the

cross. Which is the trail, death, and resurrection of the messiah Jesus Christ, for the deliverance of the worlds sin. Well in that week of passover Mr. Bunch also spoke of the work Martin Luther did for the church. Where he thought that the faith in Jesus Christ was enough to relinquish our grip on death, he argued with the catholic that it is not the lineage or good works but in the love for Christ.

As I was about to get baptised I thought to myself , I long to be protected by the lord for he did give himself up to the those who want to be free from the suffering, Sin, and death. For our Father let Jesus Christ came to show mercy and peace in the first coming.I felt my heart make a decision that stood its ground. I did not know what to do when I was standing in the neighboring Chapel getting prepared to get baptized. I just felt really calm and ready to be one of the Lord's people.

