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Filename: Simon030915  
Diarist: Simon

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Date: 15<sup>th</sup>/09/03  
Situation:

Yesterday on 14<sup>th</sup>/09/03 I went to the funeral and I was at the graveyard where people were working. Then some people were working, digging and shoveling sand out of the grave and some sat somewhere along the Tarmac road chatting and I went to sat there as well since the grave was about to end/finish digging it. And when I went to sat there where people sat alongside the road chatting I went where my friend Jason sat with some people and I saw that my friend Jason was speaking and people like the Abrahams and Bulawayo (just a few) were listening.

When I sat there listening, I heard that there were talkings of what friend Jason learnt from his three days seminar at C\_\_\_ Primary School. The first person I heard speaking when I sat there was Lodi\_(nickname...well known to this name). Lodi said: "Indeed up to that extent?" Jason agreed and said that yes indeed and people were just laughing. I asked "What were they laughing?" Jason began recapping all of what he was telling them. He said that he went to C\_\_\_ school (primary) where he had a seminar of three days. I asked him what kind of seminar was that? He said that he is in a certain group chosen in the village the group is known as VAC and they were forty in total and they were called at C\_\_\_ primary school to learn what the group is all about and I asked what VAC mean? He said that VAC means Village Aids Committee. And I asked what did he learn there at C\_\_\_? He said that he/they learned more about AIDS and those who were teaching came from Balaka.

He started laughing and I asked him what he was laughing and he answered me accentuated with a light laugh saying that those people who were teaching them at the seminar were much open and did not hide anything at all. They said that hiding things is what really makes people especially we the youth to go to the grave very fast. He talked and talked but [did] not come to the point of what he was saying. He said that the point of them going there was to learn about AIDS, how they can live in villages with those suffering from with AIDS and helping the orphans. And I asked him what really were they told there with regards to AIDS? He said that they were told how to avoid contracting AIDS by being faithful enough to our spouses and those who are not married should learn how to abstain from sex and girls should know how to say NO! NO! NO! to a man proposing her. He went on saying that if a single man and woman or a married man or woman can not abstain or he/she is unfaithful it's better for them to use condoms. He said that during talking of condoms and how to use it to avoid contracting AIDS, they were given a condom each one of them and at the front of them there was a desk where they put an artificial (man made wood) male member. (He said: *chosema bwino kumaliseche amwamuna bwino bwino*). He said [that] while laughing and he said that

one of them (those who came from Balaka (men) who were teaching them) brought a well carved curious male member showing the member and together with the testicles attached to it and well erected. Therefore one of them told the house, the Audience gathered there, saying: “who can come in front here and wear rather put a condom to this man in front here?”. He said that the man who was speaking said that the person to come there should be a woman rather a girl because it’s a world of gender. He said that sometimes in this world of gender a woman is responsible for putting [it] on to a male member – putting [it on] her husband or her sexual partner sexual partner. He said that the people the participants were just watching and laughing but no woman went in front to do the job of putting the condom on the curved thing. He laughed and said that the man just went straight to a certain beautiful woman who sat in the middle of the congregation/audience and put that thing on her desk and told her to open her condom which she received and put that to the member in front of her. The woman was just laughing and reluctant to do so, friend Jason said. He said that people were just laughing until another woman offered herself to put the condom to that artificial male member and the whole house was uproared with laughing and whistling. We also laughed listening to friend Jason. Lodi asked again: The woman correctly put the condom? Friend said that she had correctly put but she made the mistake of not first of all squeezing the front of the condom to squeeze out the air found in front of the condom. Jason said that after the woman had finished, the man congratulated the woman for offering herself among the group and corrected her saying that she had out it at least she had tried but the only mistake she made was that she did not squeeze the front of it to exclude air found in it. People said that not all people really knows about it, they said people just put the condom without excluding the air. Those men who came to teach said that it’s really true a lot of people improperly use and added saying that they put while Abraham is not erected. He used the word John meaning a penis. Jason said that the man, another man from Balaka said that there is no need to be using the word John because probably among them in that audience there is a man known as John and it will be like insulting him but there was a great need of mentioning real names there both members (private parts) as well as female private parts. Abraham whom we had been together listening to our friend Jason answered saying that indeed it was good to be mentioning real names than using our names. We laughed.

And Jason said that there was no hide [hiding] they were mentioning male and female members as if they were talking of fruits he laughed and then finally they said that everyone should open his or her own particular condom and everyone opened. He said that the man who was directing rather instructing them said look here! All of them look in front and he said that everyone should be rolling down the condom by putting on ones left finger and taking a finger as a penis. People were doing that, before they begun rolling down the finger they were told to squeeze out the air and then all of them begin rolling down the condom down ones left finger.

And Mr. Bulawayo asked: Is that the way of trying to make rather aware people of AIDS or encouraging them to continue doing prostitution because that’s telling them not to be abstaining but rather telling them to go ahead with sex because they will be depending on condoms yet the way he had heard it he said that he heard that condoms are not safe

enough and that's what really plays a great role of spreading AIDS. Lodi agreed with that and said that it's the aim of the government after seeing that they are trying their best to sensitize people on the dangers of not practicing family planning to minimize the rapid population of the people here in Malawi but still people don't do that, they don't practice family planning and as the result people are like encouraged to go ahead of having many children. Mr. Abraham said that those doctors who encourages people to practice family planning are the ones who doesn't practice and they do have a lot of children that may help them in the future and be trying to tell others not to have children so that they should not have anyone in the future to help them. Lodi said that he has 8 children and all of them are daughters (females) and he is certainly knowing that he has a lot of people including the in laws who will help him in the future.

We all agreed and Mr. Bulawayo said that all these clubs if they are many in this Malawi they are certainly going to destroy the whole Malawi? I asked him: How? He said that because especially women will be added an advantage of being unfaithful. He proceeded saying that women were born very unfaithful and when they are going to be told that they should be using condoms if they can not abstain instead of teaching them spiritually and be proclaiming the word of GOD and encouraging them to still abstain from sex and not telling rather teaching them to be trusting a condom, some married women will be having sexual partners. He concluded saying that he can not allow his wife to attend such meetings. He said that they are taught bad things especially producing that artificial thing resembling to a man's member and why not a female? We laughed.

Jason agreed and said that indeed this particular VAC (Village AIDS Community group) he is belonging he had noticed that really will encourage people to go ahead with sexual intercourses. He said that, for instance, himself when he was learning there he was greatly sexually attracted rather desired and when lunch hour came and they were given each one of them K90.00 (ninety kwacha) and they were going to lunch everyone was talking of the condoms and the artificial thing and be laughing and some of his friends were also commenting that they were sexually attracted and they said that even women they were also sexually attracted in the way they were laughing. And Lodi said that people coming from there after knocking off from the meeting since it's a mixture of women and men than people will be raping one another using the condoms they receive and later on ignores the use. Lodi went on saying that sexual relationship[s], they are teaching of AIDS but it's like encouraging the spread of it since they will be claiming that they want to have a proof to the use of the condom to see if they had really get whatever they had been learning. Abraham said people could likely be having sexual partners indeed and said that it could have been told men alone in one class and females in one class not mixing them. Lodi agreed.

Jason said that those issues were raised by those people who came to teach them that they had been teaching various groups regarding AIDS to various VAC's and some people were complaining that it could have been better that they should be separated women and men to be taught separately and they had been answering then that hiding things like women be taught separately from men which can not help but bringing up both sexes together they make something concrete because there is a great interactions from both

ideas. He proceeded saying that there are other perceptions they normally hears from women saying that the condoms have oil which causes diseases to them when used. Friend Jason went on saying that they said that oil which is found inside the condom doesn't cause any disease what so ever but it only helps to lubricate freely on the female private part to make it sort not so dry that a male member should be penetrating so easily. We laughed. Lodi asked: They were even saying that up to that extent? Friend agreed and he said some old women were just bent their heads down since it was new and he caught/quote someone saying that had it been he knew that they were called for that she could not have come, that's stupid. He said that to her it was her first day to know about the condom and touching it by compalsaty [?] like that and be fooling her wearing it on the finger. Mr. Bulawayo agreed and said that now the government has reached a certain point of now fooling people a lot, there was no these before and AIDS came long time ago but not that even old people were treated like that giving them the condoms. There are other faiths that hate even touching the condom itself and touching it really means a sin towards GOD. I asked him what kind of a faith are you trying to mean? He said that for example the Islamic faith are the ones who hates the use of the condom. Friend Jason said that but not nowadays of AIDS, these faiths [beliefs] are now ignored now the Muslims are fast in using condoms and touching it or not using it it's history, people are now aware of what is going on if people are dying it's because they neglect the use of the condom. And he proceeded saying that they were also told that the oil found on the condom also helps both of you feeling sweet and during the demonstration of how to properly handle, they all of them having oil on their hands after touching the opened condoms they all of them went to reach on to where the yellow buns (small bread) and without washing on their hands, start eating the buns to prove before people that the oil found in the condoms are not harmful at all.

We chatted and chatted and we were just laughing and then one asked saying, but people are really eager to continue with that group after trained like that? Friend Jason said that indeed people, a lot of them are eager to continue with the group first of all because others finds the advantage of learning of whatever they were not knowing for example concerning the condoms and issues like what they were talking rather teaching like telling people on how they can come to know if their daughter is now grown up and has started going around with sexual partners due to her behavior. Mr. Bulawayo asked him what kind of behavior does she exhibits? Friend Jason said that they were taught that if one has a daughter for example, and to that particular person to know that his daughter is now grown up and has started going around with sexual partners one should look for the following things:

- 1) She grows black hairs at her private parts (MAVUZI – Chichewa)
- 2) He said that another thing is that she develops an attitude of not understanding what any advice she is advised.
- 3) Her breasts become well protruded and prominent.
- 4) Another thing is that her hips become very broad.
- 5) Starts grooming herself and develops shyness.

He went on saying that after learning then they also said rather taught about males. He said that they also said that men become very aggressive whenever advised and they tend

to walk at night and girls tend to walk with men most of the times. He went on saying that boys also becomes [begins] sleeping away from their mothers or parents houses and build their *piera* huts to be sleeping alone and in order to be talking rather bringing their love affairs and be sleeping with them. He went on saying that he also starts hoarse voices and then grows beards on their chins and some hair on their chest. He also went on saying that after parents have seen all of these signs to their sons they said they know their sons are now grown ups and they need to be advised before they can contact AIDS.

He said many things and these are the ones I really remember right now. He said that him as a secretary he was writing everything and he has kept the records and said they were taught like they were in class. We laughed. And him being my neighbor I told him that I will come and borrow his notes he was writing there at the seminar for me to believe what he was saying is true. He agreed and emphasized really that indeed he was talking true and the reality. Someone there known as Mr. Bulawayo said he will also borrow and read. Friend said that what really emphasized on his notes was only about AIDS, how to prevent, how to care those who are suffering form this disease AIDS and given [giving] civic education to other people that they might not keep on spreading it and those who doesn't have it should keep on preventing from getting it (AIDS). We chatted and chatted and it ended and there that tomorrow on 15<sup>th</sup>/09/03 I should visit him and borrow the notebook of where he was writing of AIDS through his group VAC (Village AIDS Committee).

Then the subject immediately changed to another topic. Friend asked me: "Friend, have you heard that the husband of Ulasypi (name) is now returning to back to his previous wife he divorced? I said NO! I didn't hear anything about it only that I heard that the husband had left rather divorced his wife and that he wants to return back to her. I did not hear that at all. He (Friend) laughed that he heard that from the sister of Ulasypi last night when he went to chart with his another friend near her who also chatting at that time with her friend to where he was chatting I asked him what time was that night. He said around past 8PM. Mr. Bulawayo asked "Why [did] the man divorce his wife?" Jason said while broadly smiling, he said that the man, his best friend, divorced his wife because one day when the man was at his family at M\_\_ Village to attend his grandfather's funeral and the same day there was an initiation ceremony at C\_\_ village young boys and girls were coming from the initiation and a lot of people both married and not married ones went there to attend this initiation ceremony. Jason went on saying that after the man went there at the funeral the wife thought that the man will not return until the next day as it normally happens. And the wife was told not to go with him but she should take care of the children and other house properties at home and not to go to the initiation as well since in ceremonies like these people especially thieves gets an advantage to be stealing in the houses they know that the owners are away to the funeral or at the invitations. We all agree and Mr. Abraham said that indeed a lot are crying found that all their properties have [been] stolen when all of them were away. We agreed.

Jason then went on saying that after the wife/woman saw that her husband will not turn up the same day, she locked her children in the house and left them while asleep and went

to where drums were heard at the initiation ceremony within her village C\_\_\_\_. He proceeded saying that the way he heard from his best friend whom he was chatting with that night (the one already written) he said that he heard that they agreed [with] each other before dark that they will meet at the ceremony and that's why the woman locked all her children in the house and went away. He said that after he reached there at the ceremony they meet with her extra marital partner where they agreed to go to the woman's home because she said her husband was away at the funeral and they went indeed there and upon arrival the woman opened the radio and be listening and her real husband then where he was decided to go back to his home/house to verify if the woman indeed did not go to the initiation ceremony or if she did go. Then when arriving at the door of his house he noticed that there was a sound of radio and some people whispering and he noticed that it was a voice none other than a man. He went [to] nearby houses and awoke all the people and told them that in his house he's hearing the sound of the radio as well as the sound of a man talking with his wife. His in laws especially men came out and then the owner of the house knocked at the door and she answered while trembling. We laughed and said indeed guilty conscience really attacks you and preferred the Earth can just split and you just go down the pit but it fails to do so. (And we continued laughing). Friend Jason said that then the husband to the wife just told her to open the door and he said he wanted to see who was talking with her but the woman (his wife) was very reluctant to do so and she was just crying and then the man started to beat the door and wanted to destroy it and it's when she opened the door and then the man just went straight into the house and caught the man and brought him outside to where his in laws were and began beating and fighting him this time the woman had already run away into the bush with half petticoat and not wearing anything meaning that they only finished their game (sexual intercourse) We laughed and friend went on saying that these men were 3 of them who were beating the man caught in somebody's house and they were beating him using tools like rods until he could faint and it's when the father of the wife came to rescue him and take him and hide him in his house and pleaded [with] the 3 men who were furious enough to just wanted to kill him.

Mr. Bulawayo said that the man caught had lucky and have many days that GOD had written to him because [one] can not be beaten by the rods (steel rods) and come up alive and be rescued for instance. Lodi said that he heard this story as well few weeks ago. Mr. Bulawayo asked: The one who rescued the caught man is the owner of the woman run away? Friend just agreed. And he asked again that [whether] the man was practicing *chikamwini*? (The title given after if the man is married and is liking rather stays with his wife at the woman's house/compound). Abraham said that he's also practicing *chikamwini* but he is not happy of that since cases like this are commonly happening but he didn't have any proof concerning that but if GOD will grant him an opportunity then it's when he will find out what's going on in his family. Lodi said that those who are like him practicing *chikamwini* are the ones who are under high risk of contracting AIDS because since your wife stays at her house/compound with her relatives, then even if she will behaving [with] other extra marital partners besides her husband, but they can not reveal her since it's their own daughter but the goodness is *kulowola/lobola* (which is paying dowry) and said that because you stays with the wife at your house/compound where she will be critically checked and supervision by your parents and relatives and she

can not either attempt of having an extra marital partner due to afraid [fear] that people will come to discover hence you are greatly prevented from catching this *chirombo* (Chichewa) which is claiming a lot of peoples lives. (NB: *chirombo* he said meaning the fearful animal *chirombo*,Chichewa within this aspect means the VIRUS which causes AIDS)

We all agreed and Lodi asked Jason: “And you have said that the man now wants to remarry his wife whom he caught her red handed in his house?” Jason answered saying that yes he had heard that he said that but if he is going to remarry her then he is a very stupid man. Mr. Bulawayo rejected him and said that it’s not stupidity at such but because of love he has upon her since love is blind and love is blood. I agreed with him as well. Jason said that it’s true but the way the man divorced the woman was not of polite, he took all his belongings in the same night and his children slept with their grandparents (the parents to his wife caught). Jason went on saying that at the same night he begun destroying his house and until he leveled the whole house and his in laws were just watching him doing that. Jason went on saying that he went to sleep at the funeral where he was sleeping and early in the morning he came again and found that his wife had not returned to where she run after and the man caught had already released to be going when he was away, he then begun to pile all his wife’s clothes and spread paraffin and lit the whole clothes his wife had. He cultivated cassava but he begun uprooting them before time in January and February which helps a lot in times of hunger/famine. Mr. Bulawayo then said that indeed he is a stupid man because he could just have divorced the girl rather than leveling down the house; he was thinking as to where his own children will be sleeping? Uprooting all the cassava he cultivated thinking as to what his children will be eating. Jason said that he did a very bad thing even, he said that he heard that by the time he caught her with the man he had 10 bags of maize. All the maize he transferred to his real compound at M\_\_\_ and he sold all the bags furiously and planning to go to V\_\_\_ to start business but all is in vain.

He went on saying that after he had completely divorced his wife while she was away to unknown place where she fled then he married the daughter of Mr. Alli and Lodi said that he knows Mr. Alli as well he stays at N\_\_\_ village and belonging to C.C.A.P. church and he has many daughters and asked which daughter? Jason said that the one who was staying in trouble at M\_\_\_ trading centre. Mr. Lodi (nickname) exclaimed: “The one who is a prostitute?! I know her and she has/had seen her moving around with various men (sexual partners) and concluded not all the sexual partners she had had been moving with are safe from AIDS.” We all agreed. Jason said that he heard that the man had only married her (the prostitute girl as they call her) for one week only then he heard from his other friends, the best friends of him and it’s when he had just decided to divorce her as well. Abraham also said that the girl’s healthy wise nowadays is completely changing and fading and indeed very thin than compared to when she first landed there rather after she had visited in the village. Lodi said if he had entered into marriage life with the Mr. Kachepa daughter and if the daughter had the disease then certainly the man has contracted it even divorcing her or not makes no difference at all. He said that if he is returning back to marry her then he will give his woman to be come very proud as if she is the queen [more] beautiful than any other person. We all agreed. And I said that may

be it's because he has children and he knows that if he goes away and marry another one as he did his children will be lacking support and he will be helping other children he had found them in another wife form another husband. Abraham agreed and said most of the times what gives them an opportunity to be remarried is because of children. Jason agreed as well.

Then Mr. Bulawayo said that is not the time that when for instance a man has caught his wife red handed with another man and be continuing living with her. He proceeded saying that this is the time of AIDS and these type/kinds of women who wants to be double crossing their own husbands need to be given the lesson like what [that] man has done leveling down the whole house he built, uprooting all the staple food cassava he grew and snatching all the maize he grew and lighting/burning all the clothes he had been buying for her. We all agreed and he added saying that he is making the mistake of wanting to remarry her again because it means his wife had started that system of double crossing her along time ago and when he will remarry her he is just wasting his time since his wife will not stop doing that. Lodi said that women are like children, they are not either satisfied of what they have at mean time but wanting all the things to be theirs. He went on saying as of him when he can catch his wife red handed doing sex with another man he can not waste his time troubling the man but treating the wife very accordingly because she is the one who make it possible, for example accepting the man because a man was born proposing anyone whom he admires and it is due/up to the faithful woman saying that she has another man rather someone had already admired her and married her. He said that if the woman is married and she is faithful as other women they don't accept the man's proposal but is the woman is not faithful and was born like that like the incidence of what we talked about there (about *Ulasypa*) then she accepts another man's proposal.

Mr. Bulawayo said that nowadays are not the days of lenient catching a wife with another man, the man should just know that he is no longer loved by that particular woman because had it been the woman was loving and trusting depending and satisfied by him she can not have the chance of be moving around with another man double crossing her, and such kind of a woman by all means should completely be divorced. We all agreed. He said that AIDS is a very dangerous disease and he doesn't know the reason why people are not getting what the radio says in each and every day about its danger. He saw that a lot of people are dying and when he can estimate the percentage it's like 85% those married ones are the ones who are critically dying of this disease than the single men and women. Jason said that because married people are get used to PLAIN SEX while those single women and men are also used to PROTECTIVE SEX like what they were told at their seminar by using the condoms in every sex they may happen to indulge. Mr. Bulawayo said that possibly can be true but not perfectly true that because they use the condoms but it's because of not choosing well rather poor selecting of sexual partner. He said that sometimes we men kill ourselves. He said that we normally see a girl not looking healthy and we tend to propose her just because she dresses very smart and she has a good face and walks very proudly and nice for getting the outcomes form her rather the consequences that may be resulted from her for instance AIDS, you never know

whether the girl is safe from AIDS or not but we men just tend to go for normal good lookings and wanting to satisfy the desire. We all agreed.

And Lodi said that sometimes we men tend to catch this AIDS because of our movements. He said women are very careful most of the times, not all women are women are unfaithful there are some women who are really faithful and we men because of our unfaithfulness we can also tend to catch this disease AIDS. He went on saying that he was the kind of man who had slept with many women and girls in this world and then he had come to conclude that women rather girls are not different [they] all are the same we only go for lookings alone and not that it's because of another new thing. Jason said that the man was saying the true and even at their seminar they went [to], those who were teaching them were saying the same that women are not different but only our mentality is what makes us to be thinking that women are different in terms of sweetness. He said that they said that there are some other men who says such a women *ndi amadzi* (Chichewa – meaning that the woman or the girl has more water at her private part when sleeping/having sex with her.) We laughed and Lodi agreed saying that its true that some women has water that when penetrating to them a man doesn't enjoy much as compared to a woman *wolama* (Chichewa – who has no water at all). We all laughed. And Lodi went on saying that these watery women tend to loose their marriages because the man get fade [fed] up of this and tend to go to marry someone *wolama*. Mr. Bulawayo also agreed and said that these water women *amanunkha chigolegole* (Chichewa – meaning they produce a certain bad smell known as *chigolegole* derived from the certain bird which when touching this particular bird it produces the very bad smell) and he also commented saying that indeed such kind of women have has lost marriages because of this reason which has no medicine since it's inborn, it's nature.

Jason said to us that these things were discussed at their seminar but those who were teaching them said that women are not different in terms of sweetness so as men. He said that they were told that women are the same but they were only born different some indeed are said to produces water but it's not water at such. This is indeed not water but vaginal fluids, some women produces a lot of vaginal fluids than others and these fluids are the fluids which helps a lot in the way that a man is able to penetrate easily into her, like it's a grease. We laughed. Jason went on saying that they were told that without these vaginal fluids a man may find it difficult to penetrate and small cuts will eventually occur on the male member as well as to the woman's private part. He said also that they were told that without using the condoms it can have great risk of bursting because the women *mavuzi* can cut the condom because the vaginal hairs which grows around the woman becomes very hard since there is not any fluid to lubricate the woman's private parts. (NB: *mavuzi* – Chichewa which means: hairs which grow at the private part.) We laughed. Lodi asked: Indeed they were not either shy mentioning *mavuzi*? Jason said yes they were not shy and he added saying that they did not either shy even knowing that there were women and men within. We laughed.

We chatted and chatted until we saw women coming with food to the graveyard for those who were at the graveyard to eat. (NB: Every chief imposes the cow that every individual person who knows that he will die after harvesting maize in the garden he/she

is supposed to go to the chief and take the container to put maize there and for everyone in that particular village to contribute and go with it/maize to the chief to keep on the granary/*nkhoswe* so that when the funeral happens/occurs in the village women should just be going to the chief and takes the maize and a little money that every house had contributed for example we had contributed K20 each house to use when any funeral had happened/occurred in the village to use the money for milling the maize at the mill and so that men working at the graveyard manding (constructing) the dead person's grave should not stay with hungry for the long time since morning to PM the time they may happen to bury the deceased person.) Then after women dropped the food (*nsima*) to a certain place under the shadow of the Blue gum trees then we went to eat *nsima* then it was the end of our chatting

THE END!

Bellos