



77 ❖ A virtuous woman

The life of Elisabeth Nzuji bears witness to God's sovereignty, to God's power to reveal himself in many people without regard to gender, race, profession, or origin. This revelation is a grace that he bestows on every person: to know him deeply and intimately and to experience his glory in all of life.

Born in Kitanda in 1943, Mama Elizabeth was married to Elie Kitambala. Of their five children, two became pastors, two married pastors, and the other became a doctor. Elizabeth was known as a woman who loved Christ and as a faithful wife, hardworking and kind to everyone in her household, until her sudden death in 1993.

She was a fervent choir member all her life. She loved to praise, adore, and thank God for his goodness and love through hymns, which she considered great prayers to God as well as acts of grace for her own life.

Despite her modest means, she contributed to the construction of the church through regular offerings. She participated effectively in acts of charity that the women organized within the congregation, such as aid to widows, orphans, prisoners, and the sick. She also showed abundant generosity to strangers and visitors.

She was a true aide to her husband, a medical worker who was constantly being transferred. Elizabeth's presence brought him stability and moral balance in this difficult task he performed for society. She contributed to honoring her husband through her actions,

photo—Elizabeth Nzuji

which are responsible for the fact that he is to this day a devout Christian. She raised her children in the fear of the Lord, and they in turn became a great source of blessing and pride for the family.

Elizabeth was sweet and calm. It was next to impossible to catch her using inappropriate or strong language in front of her relatives and husband. She was a good counselor to other women, young and old. She would fit the description of the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31.

Elizabeth's physical beauty did not leave men indifferent. The witness of her husband and church sisters take note of her victory over seduction, which Elizabeth displayed at various moments throughout her marriage. For example, after several transfers the couple arrived in the Belo sector of Idiofa territory, where Elie Kitambala became a public health agent. There a local priest tried to cause Elizabeth to fall into Satan's trap. She was able to resist this temptation and even to denounce her tormentor to her husband. After that, the priest did his best to disrupt the couple's marriage and have them evicted from the post under the pretext that they did not belong to the Catholic religion.

Despite all these vicissitudes, Elizabeth and her husband held firm in their marriage with love and fidelity until death separated them. She owed that strength of character to Mennonite doctrine and her determination to be always in service to the Lord. It was a lesson she left to other women.

Thus is manifest the hidden power of God in the individual. This power gives us peace in days of torment and distress. It makes us light in a world invaded by shadows. It also makes us victorious in a world full of failure, deception, and bitterness. This grace is the person of Jesus Christ, only Son of God.

May the Eternal raise up in our society such steadfast, virtuous women as Mama Elizabeth Nzuji to serve as examples for others.

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