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Christian Children's Songs In Zambia

Erin Black Senior Honors Project Messiah College: 2007 Dr. Dwight Thomas, advisor

Introduction

The Christian children's songs contained in this book have been collected from the Brethren in Christ community of Sikalongo, Zambia. Sikalongo, a small village in southern Zambia, was home to one of the first Brethren in Christ missions in the country. The lyrics of these songs were collected by the community's nursery school teacher, Pauline Muleya, in 2005. Her singing was recorded that same year by Erin Black, under the supervision of Dr. Dwight Thomas; the songs were later transcribed by Erin and other members of the music department of Messiah College.

These songs are mainly considered children's songs, though in Zambia they would be sung by entire congregations of believers. Zambians do not make the same distinctions between children's and adult songs as do Westerners; a group of Zambian adults would have no qualms about using motions and dance in worship.

Pauline Muleya collected the lyrics for nearly ninety songs for Dr. Dwight Thomas throughout the early part of 2005. That summer she sang forty-eight of the songs to be recorded for the sake of transcription. Pauline teaches approximately twenty children in Sikalongo's nursery school, introducing them to English letters, numbers, and words, as well as teaching them songs in both native languages and in English. She is an active member of the Sikalongo Brethren in Christ Church, singing in the choir and helping behind the scenes at church functions. She lives with her husband and children in Sikalongo.

Because these songs are taken from a rich oral tradition, their versions may vary slightly depending on both singer and context. The transcriptions found here are the versions sung by one woman on one particular day; thus they are representative of the oral tradition. Different versions would be heard in different Zambian churches. Pauline Muleya generally sang in the keys of A or Ab; the songs have been placed in the octave most comfortable for a wide range of singers. The original recordings are an octave lower than the notation seen here,

On each page is listed both a book number and a CD track number. These numbers correspond with the original book in which Pauline Muleya collected the lyrics, as well as with the CD containing all of the songs recorded in the summer of 2005. A copy of the book of lyrics written by Pauline's hand can be found in the Archives of Messiah College. For each song she lists a title, its English translation, the source of the song, and its language. Though the source is listed as unknown for nearly every song, she sometimes mentioned song sources during the recording process. Certain songs she remembers learning from Western missionaries, for example. Others she learned as a child.

The CD is included with this song collection, and contains forty-eight tracks of songs. Also included in each track are Pauline's own words about the songs. Ambient background noise on the recordings, such as children shouting and playing or chickens squawking, simply reflects the context in which the recordings were taken. Pauline sang at the kitchen table in the mission house in Sikalongo as everyday Zambian life continued all around.

All forty-eight of these songs have yet to be transcribed, as this is an ongoing project. Twenty-three of them are included here in order to provide a glimpse of Zambian children's music. It is obvious that some of the songs are Western creations. For example, *Ndasala Kumutobela Jesu* is simply a Chitonga language translation of the hymn *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*. Others, though, are strikingly Zambian. *Samba*, *Samba*, for instance, reflects complicated African rhythms and meter changes and is likely an authentically Zambian song. Other African musical ideas, such as call and response and polyrhythm, can be seen throughout this collection.

Chitonga Language

The people of Sikalongo, known as the Batonga people, speak Chitonga, one of seven major languages spoken in Zambia. The songs found here, as well as the vast majority of songs collected by Pauline Muleya, are written in Chitonga. Much more information about the language can be found in the book *A Practical Introduction to Chitonga*, by C.R. Hopgood (Zambia Educational Publishing House, 1992). A basic overview of the language will assist in these songs' performance.

Vowels

A = ah E = eh I = ee O = oh U = oo

Consonants

Chitonga consonants are very similar to those of the English language. K is softened, falling somewhere between the English K and hard G sounds. C is generally pronounced as J. L and R are nearly interchangeable.

Vocabulary

As these are Christian songs, certain words appear throughout the collection.

mwami = Lord Taata = Father

Jesu = Jesus Leza = God

julu = heaven mubotu = beautiful/wonderful/good

Aboola Mwami Aboola

Jesus is Coming



Aboola Mwami Aboola

Jesus Is Coming

v1 - Aboola mwaami, aboola Ajane twalibambila. Aboola mwaami, aboola Ajane twalibambila. He is coming, the Lord, he is coming.

- ch [Ayebo] Ayebo ulibambile [Amebo] Amebo ndili baambile [Toonse] Toonse tulibambile [Ajane] Ajane twalibambila.
- v2 Aseluka mwami, aseluka Ajane twalibambila. Aseluka mwami, aseluka Ajane twalibambila.

He has arrived.

This song is often sung in English as well, with the following lyrics:

When the Lord, our Saviour, comes, He should find us ready. When the Lord, our Saviour, comes, He should find us ready.

[You] You should be ready.[I] I should be ready.[We] We should be ready.[He] He should find us ready.

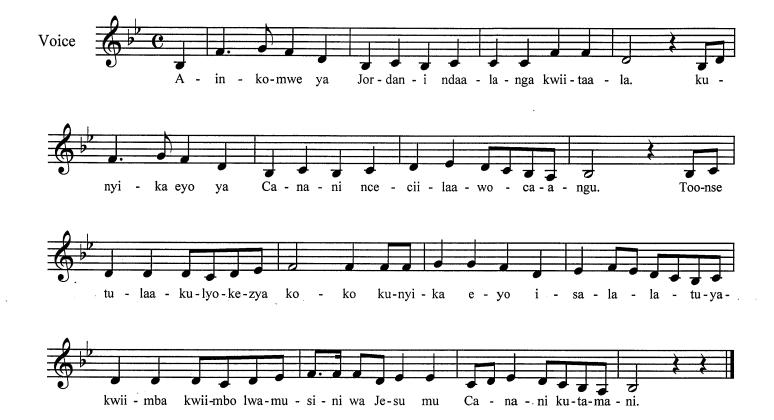
Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 28, 74

CD Track: 1

Ainkomwe ya Jordan

On the Mount of Jordan



Ainkomwe ya Jordan ndaalanga Kwiitaala kunyika eyo ya Canan Nceciilaawo caangu.

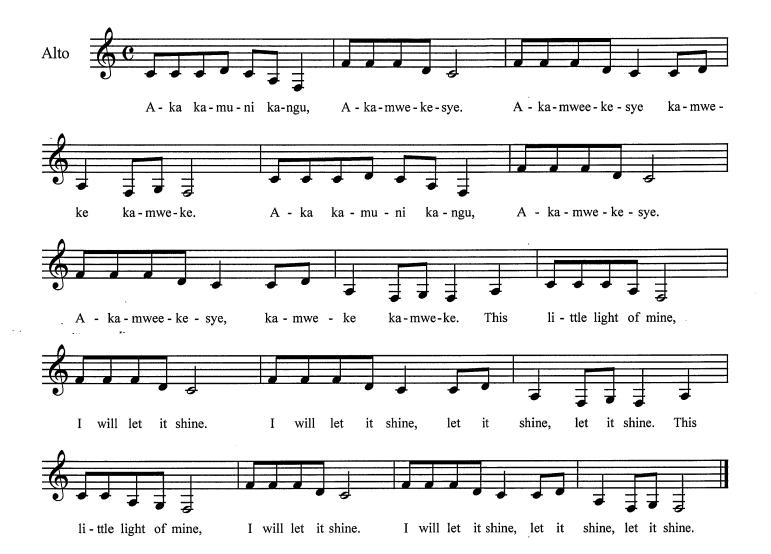
Toonse tulaakulyokezya Koko kunyika eyo Isalala tuya kwiimba twiimbo Lwamusini wa Jesu mu Canan kutamani.

Transcription: Artie Black

Book number: 39 CD track: 34

Aka Kamuni Kangu

This Little Light of Mine



Aka kamuni kangu, akamweekesye akamweekesye kamweke, kamweke.

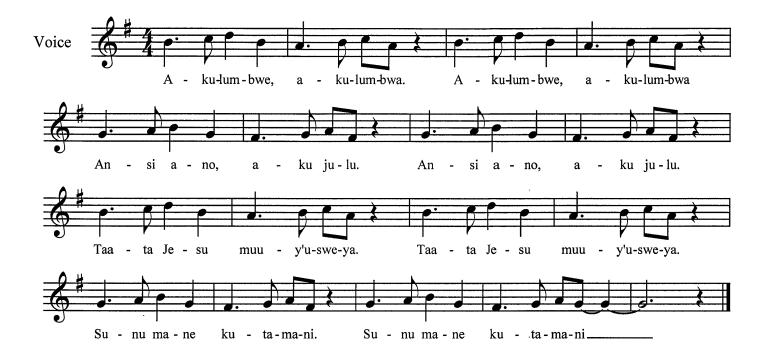
Aka kamuni kangu, akamweekesye akamweekesye kamweke, kamweke.

Transcription: Kaitlyn Campbell

Book Number: 19 CD Track: 46

Akulumbwe Akulumbwa

Thank You and Thanked



Akulumbwe, akulumbwa Akulumbwe, akulumbwa.

Thank you and thanked.

Ansi ano akujulu Ansi ano akujulu.

On earth and in heaven.

Taata, Jesu, muuya usweya Taata, Jesu, muuya usweya.

Jesus' spirit is good.

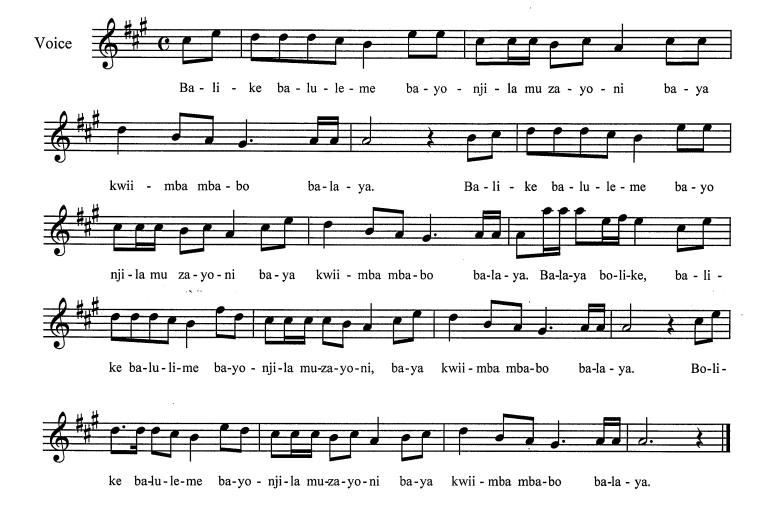
Sunu mane kutamani. Sunu mane kutamani. It won't finish.

Transcription: Kathryn Bodnar

Book Number: 8 CD Track: 2

Balike Baluleme

Only Christians Will Enter Heaven



- V1 Balike baluleme bayonjila muzayoni baya kwiimba mbabo balaya. Balike baluleme bayonjila muzayoni baya kwiimba mbabo balaya.
- ch [Balaya bolike]
 Balike baluleme bayonjila
 muzayoni baya kwiimba mbabo balaya.
 Balike baluleme bayonjila
 muzayoni baya kwiimba mbabo balaya.

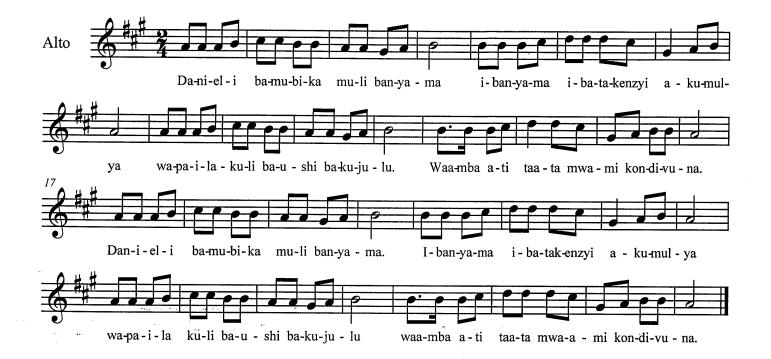
We will come in to Zion and we will sing.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number 54 CD Track: 35 This song is sung for encouragement. It is often begun after a particularly powerful sermon.

Daniel Bamubika

Daniel Was Put in the Lion's Den



Daniel bamubika muli banyama ibanyama ibatakenzy, akumulya wapaila kuli baushi bakujulu waamba ati taata mwami kondivuna.

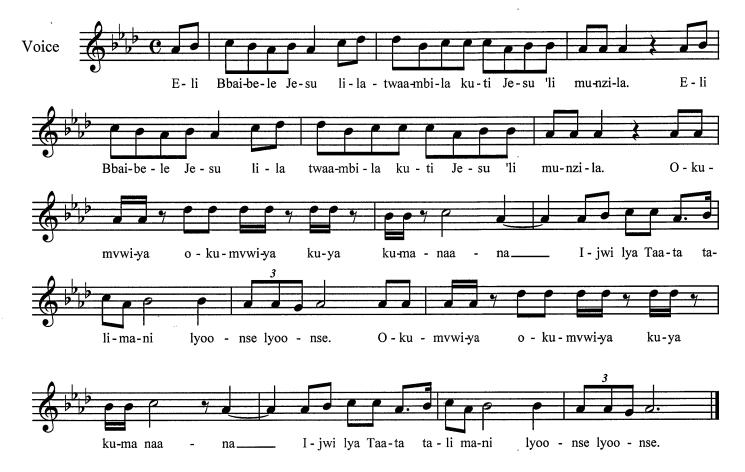
Transcription: Elizabeth Thompson

Book Number: 12 CD Track: 7

Eli Bbaibele Lyesu

The Bible Tells Us That Jesus is on the Way

swung 8th notes throughout



Eli bbaibele lyesu lilatwaambila Kuti Jesu uli munzila Eli bbaibele lyesu lilatwaambila Kuti Jesu uli munzila

Oku kumuwiya oku kumwiya Kuya kumanaana ijwi lya taata Talimani lyoonse lyoonse. Oku kumuwiya oku kumwiya Kuya kumanaana ijwi lya taata Talimani lyoonse lyoonse. The Bible tells us It is good; Jesus is on the way.

Transcription: Artie Black

Book Number: 25 CD Track: 39

Jesu Mubotu

Jesus is Wonderful



Jesu mubotu, Jesu mubotu, Jesu mubootu, mubootu.

Jesus is wonderful, Jesus is wonderful, Jesus is wonderful, wonderful, wonderful.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 27 CD Track: 23

Jesu Mufutuli Ugambya

Jesus is a Wonderful Saviour

swung 8th notes throughout



Jesu mufutuli ugambya uyokubwe za koonse Jesu mufutuli ugambya uyokubweza lyoonse! Jesu mufutuli ugambya uyokubweza lyoonse mane do inkondo ikabe aluzundo mwani uyokubweza.

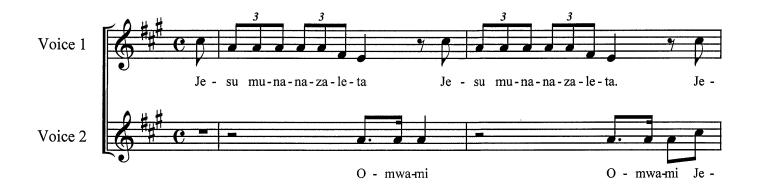
Omwana kwesu nyika ya kutenilwa uyobola Jesu mufuni wangu uyokusisa mumpangala yaabwe mumpangala yaabwe ibambidwe.

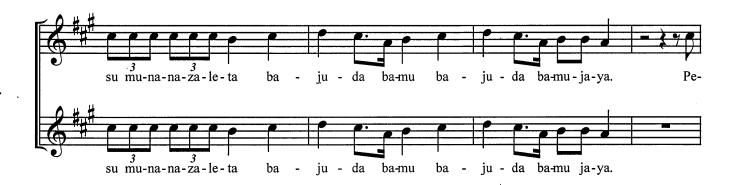
Transcription: Erin Black

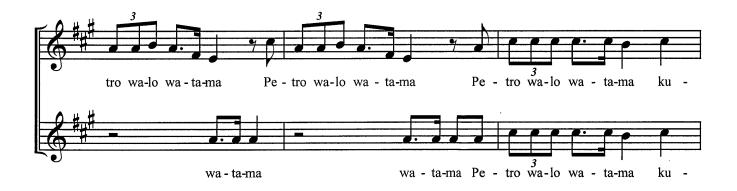
Book Number: 17 CD Track: 21

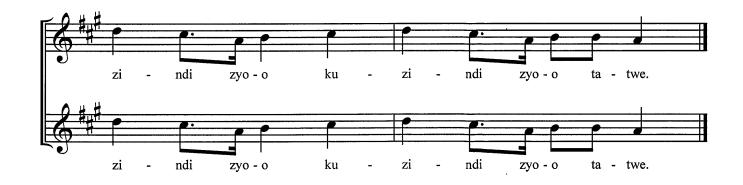
Jesu Munanazaleta

Jesus of Nazareth









Jesu Munanazaleta

(Jesu munanazaleta) omwami (Jesu munanazaleta) omwami Jesu munanazaleta bajuda bamu bajuda bamujaya.

(Jesu munanazaleta) omwami (Jesu munanazaleta) omwami Jesu munanazaleta bajuda bamu bajuda bamujaya.

(Petro walo watama) watama (Petro walo watama) watama Petro walo watama kuzindi zyoo kuzindi zyootatwe.

Jesus of Nazareth

mwami = king, lord Jesus of Nazareth is Lord.

Petro = Peter Peter denied Jesus three times

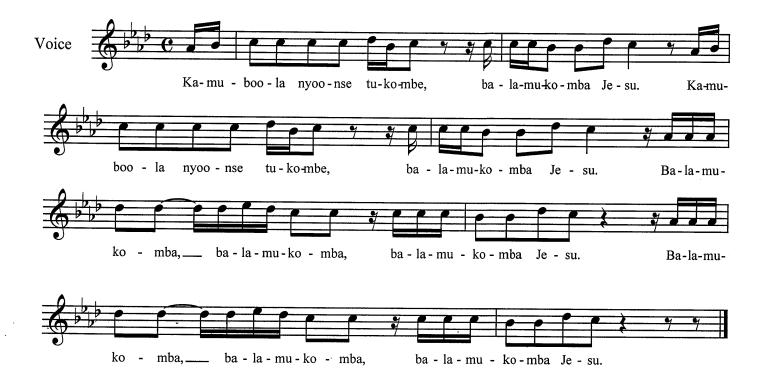
tatwe = three

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 16 CD Track: 20

Kamuboola Nyoonse

Come All and Pray



v1 - Kamuboola nyoonse, tukombe, Balamukomba Jesu. Kamuboola nyoonse, tukombe, Balamukomba Jesu. Come all and pray pray to Jesus.

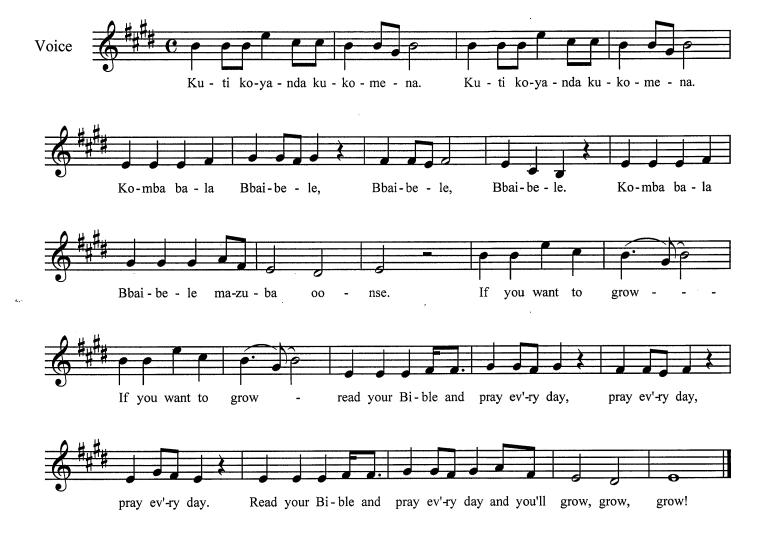
ch - Balamukomba, balamukomba, balamukomba Jesu. Balamukomba, balamukomba, balamukomba Jesu all pray, all pray, all pray to Jesus.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 6 CD Track: 5

Kuti Koyanda Kukomena

If You Want to Grow



Kuti koyanda kukomena Kuti koyanda kukomena Komba bala Bbaibele, Bbaibele, Bbaibele, Komba bala Bbaibele mazuba oonse

If you want to grow

pray, read your Bible

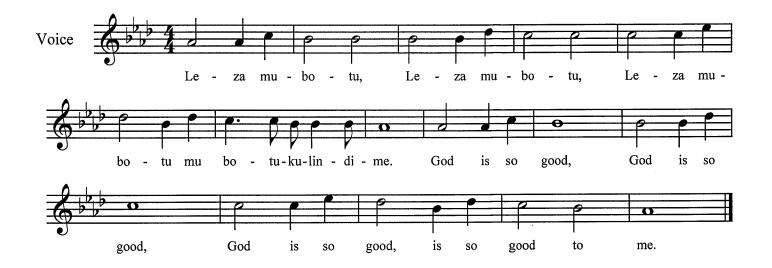
all days.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 2, 15 CD Track: 11, 12

Leza Mubotu

God is so Good



Leza mubotu, leza mubotu. Leza mubotu, leza mubotu. Leza = God, mubotu = good

Leza mubotu, mubotu kuli ndimwe.

Transcription: Kathryn Bodnar

Book Number: 24 CD Track: 10

Majwi Alubomba

Jesus Can Never Fail





Majwi alubomba, taafwi Majwi alubomba, taafwi.

Taafwi, pe.

Good words don't fail.

It won't fail.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 7 CD Track 24

Mumoyo Wangu

Come Into My Heart





Mumoyo wangu, mumoyo wangu, Njila mumoyo mwami Jesu. Njila sunu ndikuboone

Njila mumoyo mwami Jesu.

My heart, my heart

Come in - heart - Lord Jesus.

Come in today

Come in - heart - Lord Jesus.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 32 CD Track: 6

Ndaimana Milimo

I Have Finished All My Work



Nguni utindizabusye akalonga kamapenzi.

ye ku-li ba-taa - ta. Nda-i - ma-na mi-li-mo

Nguni utindizabusye akalonga kamapenzi.

Nguni utindizabusye akalonga kamapenzi.

Ndaimana milimo ndiye kuli bataata.

Ndaimana milimo ndiye kuli bataata.

mapenzi = trouble

I have finished all of my work.

ndi - ye ku-li ba-taa-ta. Nda-i

ye ku-li ba-taa-ta.

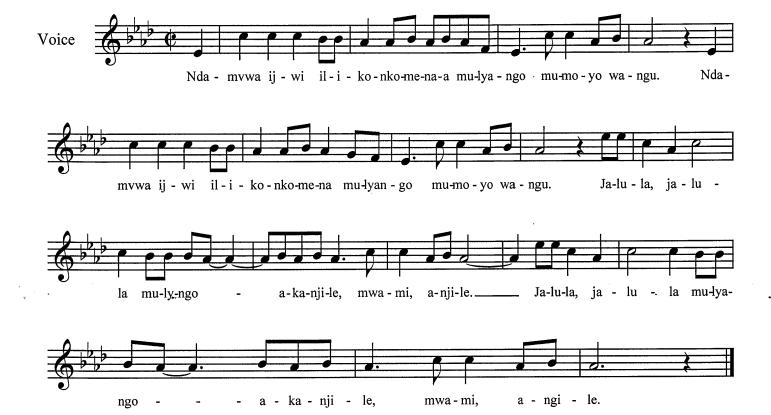
for the Father.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 57 CD Track: 15

Ndamvwa Igwi

I Can Hear a Voice Knocking on the Door



- v1 Ndamwa ijwi ilikonkomona amulyango mumoyo wangu. Ndamwa ijwi ilikonkomona amulyango mumoyo wangu.
- His voice is knocking on the door. of my heart.
- ch Jalula, jaluula mulyango akanjile mwami anjile. Jalula, jaluula mulyango akanjile mwami anjile.
- Open your hearts so the Lord can come in.

In Zambia, because many homes do not have typical doors, a person announces his presence by speaking the word "nkonko." Thus, a voice knocking on the door is a familiar concept.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 4 CD Track: 13

Ndayanda Kuya I Want to Go









Ndayanda kuya kujulu kujulu, kujulu nandafwa. Ndayanda kuya kujulu kujulu, kujulu nandafwa. I want to go to heaven, to heaven, to heaven when I die.

(Kujulu ndafwa) julu, julu, julu (Kujulu ndafwa) julu, julu nandafwa. (Kujulu ndafwa) julu, julu, julu (Kujulu ndafwa) julu, julu nandafwa. (To heaven when I) heaven, heaven, heaven. (To heaven when I) heaven, heaven when I die.

This song is often sung is English as well as in Tonga.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 5 CD Track: 8

Ndasala Kumutobela Jesu

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus



Ndasala Kumutobela Jesu

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

v1 -Ndasala kumutobela Jesu Ndasala kumutobela Jesu Ndasala kumutobela Jesu Nsikooyakupiluka pe.

I have decided to follow Jesus.

Nokuba endike ndiyootobela v2 -Nokuba endike ndiyootobela Nokuba endike ndiyootobela

I will never turn back.

Mebo nsikapiluki, pe.

I will never turn back.

Nyika munsi lyangu, cingano kumbele v3 -Nyika munsi lyangu, cingano kumbele Nyika munsi lyangu, cingano kumbele Nsikooyakupiluka, pe.

Sin is on earth, but _____ is for Jesus.

Even if I am alone, I will follow him.

I will never turn back.

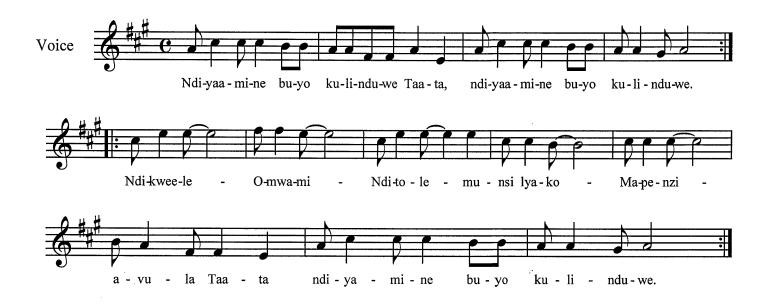
This song is a Tonga translation of the familiar hymn I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 10, 77

CD Track: 14

Ndiyame Can I Come Near You?



Ndiyaamine buyo kuli nduwe Taata, Ndiyamine buyo kuli nduwe. Ndiyaamine buyo kuli nduwe Taata, Ndiyamine buyo kuli nduwe.

Ndikweele omwami nditole munsi lyako, Mapenzi avula taata ndiyamine buyo kuli nduwe. Ndikweele omwami nditole munsi lyako, Mapenzi avula taata ndiyamine buyo kuli nduwe.

Transcription: Erin Black

Book Number: 30 CD Track: 4

Njila, Njila, Njila

There is a Room; Get In



V1 - Nkobuli busena mupobwe pati Mubuulemu bwa Leza mupati. pati = big Our God is big.

Ch - Njila, njila mpobuli busena Njila, njila mpobuli busena njila = come in

V2 - Mulyaango ngoyu ucijulidwe Fwambana njila nkobuli busena.

Transcription: Micah Fickett

Book Number: 45 CD Track: 42

Samba Samba

Wash Your Heart



Saamba, Saamba

- v1 Samba, samba, samba, samba mumoyo, Samba, samba, samba, samba mumoyo.
- v2 Sena baama mwakasaamba, samba mumoyo. Sena baama mwakasamba, samba mumoyo.
- v3 Sena Taata mwakasaamba, samba mumoyo. Sena Taata mwakasaamba, samba mumoyo.

Wash Your Heart

Wash, wash, wash, wash, wash your heart.

Mothers wash their hearts. Wash your heart.

Fathers wash their hearts. Wash your heart.

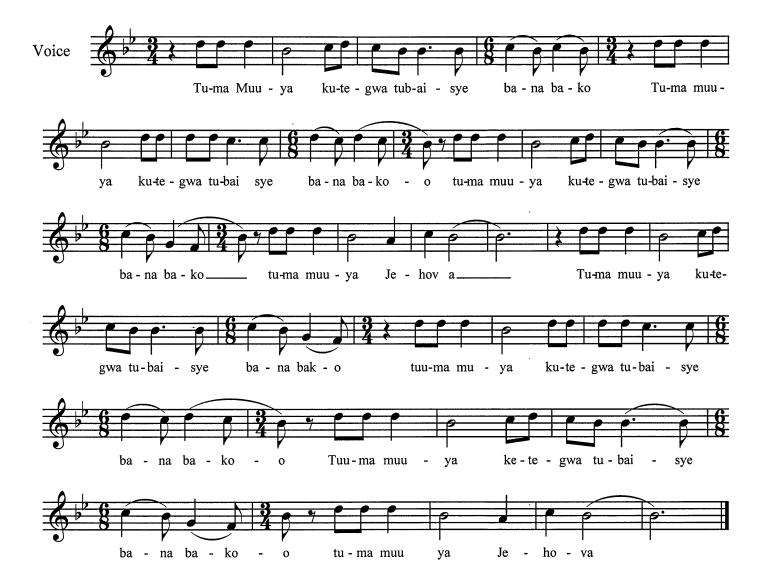
Transcription: Denny Daugherty

Book Number: 21, 40

CD Track: 36

Tuma Muuya

Send Your Holy Spirit



Tuma muuya kutegwa tubaisye bana bako, Tuuma muuya kutegwa tubaisye bana bako Tuuma muuya kutegwa tubaisye bana bako, Tuma muuya Jehova

Tuma muuya kutegwa tubaisye bana bako, Tuuma muya kutegwa tubaisye bana bako Tuuma muuya kutegwa tubaisye bana bako, Tuma muuya Jehova

Transcription: Denny Daugherty

Book Number: 42 CD Track: 38

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Finally, thanks be to our God for creating a body of Christ that encompasses so many cultures and places. Praise Him that we can worship in our own tongues, and yet be joined together by His grace.