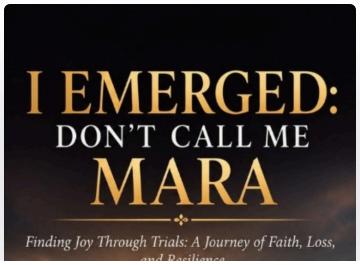


TWO BOOKS BY MINA KOMONIBO

Grief tried to rename me. I chose *joy.*

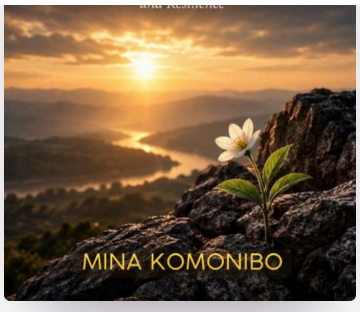
One is my story. The other is the toolbox I built while living it. Read a few pages of each below, then pick up your copy.

I Emerged: Don't Call Me Mara | Auntie Mina's Joy Toolbox



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A MEMOIR

I Emerged: Don’t Call Me Mara

Finding joy through trials: a journey of faith, loss, and resilience

When Naomi came home empty, she told the women of Bethlehem to call her Mara, which means bitter. I understood her. I survived the Biafran war as a child. I lost four babies before I could hold them. On a December night in 2002, I lost my fifteen-year-old son.

This is the story of how God refused to let bitterness have the last word.

Paperback and ebook

FROM THE BOOK

It was his turn to do the dishes.

We had come home from church that night, from youth drama rehearsal, where TJ had been playing the role of Jesus in the Christmas program. Fifteen years old. Strong and easy in himself in a way some boys that age are not. He loved soccer and he loved his family and he was not embarrassed by either of those things.

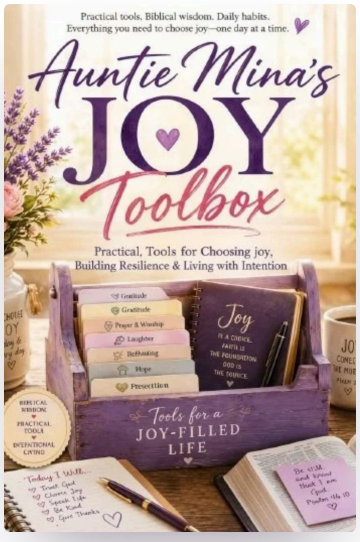
When we got home, I looked at the kitchen and I looked at him and something in me simply softened. It had been a long night. He was a boy. So I told him I would do the dishes. I told him to go upstairs and get ready for bed.

He went.

That was the last ordinary thing I did for my son. I did not know it was the last thing. You never know. The last conversation is just a conversation. The last night is just a Tuesday in December. The last ordinary act of mothering is just a mother deciding her boy has done enough for one day.

Continued in I Emerged: Don't Call Me Mara

> ***God had not forgotten me. He had simply not finished yet.***



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FAITH & PRACTICAL LIVING

Auntie Mina's Joy Toolbox

Practical tools for choosing joy, building resilience, and living with intention

Joy is not a personality type, and it is not reserved for the naturally cheerful. It is a set of daily choices. This book gives you the tools I have used for decades: Biblical wisdom, simple habits, and practices you can start today.

Paperback and ebook

FROM THE INTRODUCTION

May 1985. St. Louis Airport.

Ebi and I were walking toward the gate that would take us back to Nigeria, and I was trying not to look at anyone because I did not trust my face to hold itself together. I had no degree. I had no child. I had a God I was no longer sure was listening.

Just before the customs point, I turned around. I stood there in that airport corridor, people rushing past me toward their gates, and I heard something. Not a voice exactly. But words, clear as anything I have ever heard spoken aloud.

I will bring you back in a more glorious way.

I hung on to that promise for thirteen years. Thirteen years later, Ebi and I returned to the United States with five children.

Between that airport and that return, I had to learn something that no one teaches you in church: joy is not what happens when life finally goes the way you asked. Joy is what you build in the years when it does not.

That is what this toolbox is.

Continued in Auntie Mina's Joy Toolbox

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mina Komonibo

Mina Komonibo, known to many as Auntie Mina, is a retired nurse, Bible

teacher, and author of more than thirty books on faith, family, and joyful living. She lives in Houston with her husband, Ebi. She is a mother of five and a grandmother.

She writes for anyone walking through a hard season who wants to come out the other side with their faith and their joy intact.

From my heart to yours,

MINA KOMONIBO

Share this page with a friend who needs a word of hope today.