

# DREAM



**EXCLUSIVE**

**GOSPEL'S THOKOZANI & BONOLO**

**NOW FOR OUR HONEYMOON BABY!**

**NO ELECTRICITY - COMMUNITY UP IN ARMS**  
**DEMONS OF THE DARK CLAIM 50 LIVES**



**EXCLUSIVE**

**GENERATIONS' ZAMANI IS BACK! I WAS FIRED, LOST EVERYTHING, BUT NOW I'M ...**

# HUMBLER, WISER - AND A DAD!

**KING OF POP'S LETHAL POTION**  
**HOW MIXING MEDS CAN KILL YOU**

**BEST ADVICE**  
**\* Consumed by bitterness?**  
Turn your head around!  
**\* High blood pressure?**  
How to lower it

**\* REACHING FOR THE MOON: GARDENER TURNS SPACE BOFFIN**  
**\* SHAUN WRIGHT-PHILLIPS: SKY BLUES' TINIEST STAR**  
**\* YFM'S SEXY SIZWE DHLOMO**







# OUR GIFT FROM GOD

**EXCLUSIVE: GOSPEL STARS  
THOKOZANI AND BONOLO  
NKOSI CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME  
THEIR HONEYMOON BABY  
INTO THE WORLD**





MAIN PICTURE: They started the year off on a high note with their fairytale wedding in January – and before the year is out Thokozani and Bonolo Nkosi will welcome their first child into the world!

BY TSHOLOFELO SEGAGE-MODISE  
PICTURES: ER LOMBARD

A

SURLY security guard is stationed at the front gate, making it an exercise in charm and persuasion on the part of any visitor to get past him and onto the property. But it's more than worth it – because two people are waiting at the front door, ready to welcome you with tea and cake while insisting you stay for a lunch of roast lamb chops with all the trimmings.

Come in, come in, Thokozani and Bonolo Nkosi say, leading us through French doors into a stylish open-plan living area. The gospel power couple apologise for making it so hard to enter their home in Randburg, Jozi, but after they had their third burglary in a year Thokozani insisted on improving the security.

And he has more reason than ever for wanting his home to be safe now, of course – he and Bonolo will be welcoming their first child into the world in a few months' time.

"All the security has become a necessity," he says. "I want to make sure our baby comes into a secure home."

Nkosi Jr is a real honeymoon baby – he or she was conceived while the couple were enjoying themselves on a romantic Caribbean cruise after they tied the knot. Now Bonolo is sporting a neat bump and counting down the days until she becomes a mom.

The last time we saw the two was on the second day of their fairytale three-day wedding at Velmore Estate in Erasmia on the outskirts of Pretoria (Our golden day of romance, 8 January) and, while the occasion was all they'd hoped it would be, they couldn't wait to get away for some rest and relaxation.

"We were so tired after the wedding we had to rest for three days before we could leave for our honeymoon!" Thokozani laughs.

When they got back home they quickly settled into their normal work routine: he in his role as owner of Eclipse TV, which produces such shows as Rebecca Malope's Gospel Time as well as live concerts by some of the biggest names in SA gospel; she as a presenter of SABC 1's Agape and co-presenter of The Good News Hour on Radio Pulpit, SA's national Christian radio station. Bonolo is also in her third year of a degree in psychology, Hebrew and Biblical studies at the University of Joburg and runs an events company that's involved mainly in Christian circles.

The lady of the house ushers us into the dining room, where tea and cake are waiting on the glass table. Everything in the house is elegant and understated – much like the couple themselves. They bought the land here a few years ago and built a three-bedroom house with a swimming pool, patio and built-in braai.

Bonolo had plenty of help from Thokozani and a decorator when it came to furnishing and painting the house. The interior is done in cool, earthy tones that complement the peach colour on the outside walls.

The living room is one of the Nkosis' favourite spaces to hang out and, with its comfy corner couch, ottomans, plasma-screen TV and surround-sound entertainment centre, it's easy to see why.

(Turn over)

FRANCIS: WALTER GERALD; HIRI: DRESS: TOSHINO; CARICAN AND GANGES: THUMBOGITHI; BUCKLE UP: TONY PERCINELLI; SHOTS: SHUTTERSTOCK; ZACHARY: DEBORAH THOKOZANI; GOLD SHIRT: THOMAS; HATS: HANS; LEAS: JACQUES; AND SHIRT: MARIANNE

HAIR: JARIL STONE; AND LUCAS'S: SANDRICH; MAKE-UP: ENRIQUE



BONOLO – PINK  
COCKTAIL DRESS,  
JO BORKETT; GRAY  
CARDIGAN  
AND SHOES,  
TRUWORTHS;  
NECKLACE,  
FOSCHINI;  
THOKOZANI – BLUE  
GOLF SHIRT AND  
JEANS; LEVIS;  
SNEAKERS;  
MARKHAM

(From previous page)

All they need to complete their home now is the sound of small Nkosi feet pitter-pattering through the rooms.

**B**ONOLO started to feel “a little funny” soon after they returned from honeymoon but put it down to something she’d eaten. Little did she realise she’d come home with more than just romantic memories!

When she told her mother, Boitumelo Mathlaga, she wasn’t feeling well her mom suggested she go to the doctor for a pregnancy test. “I thought she was overreacting so I ignored her,” Bonolo admits.

But her body kept telling her something was up. “I started feeling nauseous and decided to go for a checkup.”

Her mom was right: she was pregnant. She rushed home to tell Thokozani who insisted she go to a gynaecologist to make doubly sure. He went along with her to the appointment – and when the gynae did a sonar scan and the couple heard their baby’s heartbeat for the first time they were overwhelmed.

“You should have seen Thokozani – he had this really silly look on his face,” Bonolo recalls.

“Ja,” her husband shakes his head, “I don’t normally react very much, but hearing the baby’s heartbeat . . . it just got to me. I can’t even explain what it was like. I freaked out. It’s very exciting.”

The first three months of Bonolo’s pregnancy passed without a hitch – she had no morning sickness or weird cravings although she ate enough ham, cheese and tomato sandwiches “to feed an entire school”, she says, and couldn’t get enough ting (sour porridge).

But at five months things took a turn for the worse. “I got contractions, then I started vomiting,” she says. “It was really scary.”

“That’s when you suddenly remember at two in the morning all those family members who are in the medical profession,” Thokozani says.

Their relatives advised him to take Bonolo to the emergency room and she spent two nights in Parkmore Hospital as doctors tried to figure out what was wrong with her.

“We prayed and prayed and prayed,” Thokozani recalls.

“Yes, I think my mom had everyone who knew us praying for us,” Bonolo adds.

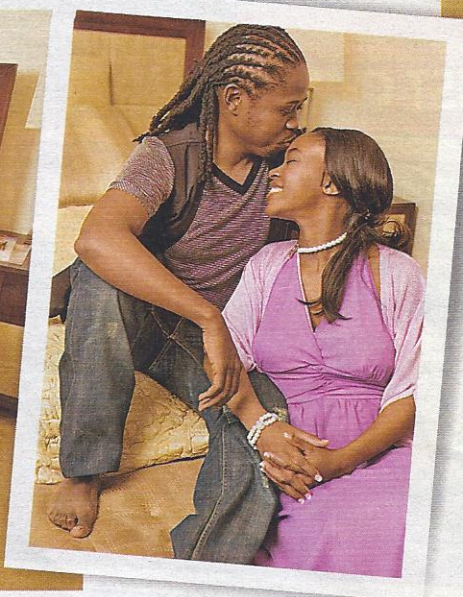
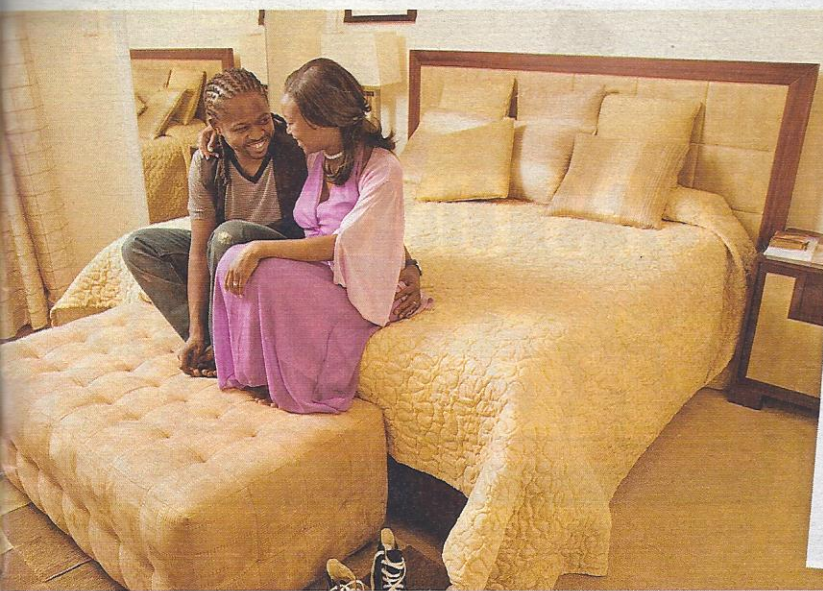
The doctors who treated her still aren’t sure what went wrong but her condition stabilised and she was sent home under strict instructions to take things easy for the rest of her pregnancy.

“I’ve had to really slow down. I don’t even go into the office anymore. After the baby is born I will take two or three months off,” she says.

She’s hoping to have a natural birth without much medical intervention but her protective – and totally







**MAIN PICTURE:** Gospel heavyweights Thokozani and Bonolo Nkosi are delighted to be expecting their first child. **FAR LEFT and LEFT:** The couple in their bedroom; sharing a tender moment.

BONOLO: PUJOLE PRESS; STITTAFORD'S PUJOLE; CARDOGAN; FOSCHINI; THOKOZANI: VIKTORIJA; WALSICANI AND SNEARLES; MARRIHAM; JAMES; LUIS

## “ HEARING THE BABY’S HEARTBEAT . . . IT JUST GOT TO ME. I CAN’T EVEN EXPLAIN WHAT IT WAS LIKE ”

besotted – husband has other ideas. “I say they must pump her with as many painkillers as possible!” he exclaims.

Bonolo isn’t sure whether she’ll go to her mom’s house or have her mom stay with them after the baby comes.

But she does know both the little one’s grandparents will be very involved in his or her upbringing. She plans to get a full-time helper to look after the baby when she’s at work.

**I**T’S time for lunch. Bonolo has roped in her friends and colleagues Faith Mokale and Anda Moyake to help her cook for the DRUM team and a feast is laid out for us: lamb chops, creamy mashed potatoes, fresh Greek salad, and lemon cheese cake and a peppermint pudding for dessert.

As we tuck in the conversation turns once again to the upcoming addition to the Nkosi family. Everyone is so excited about the baby, Bonolo says. “We went straight to tell my parents after we found out I was pregnant and they just smiled and smiled.”

Her sister, Boitsheko (18), must have been eavesdropping because a few seconds later she walked into the room, grinning from ear to ear.

“She’s so excited she’s already knitted two hoodies for the baby. She loves babies so she’s our official babysitter,” Bonolo says.

Next they went to Thokozani’s parents, Philemon and Martha. “Thokozani’s mom is not often expressive but she was very emotional that day. She got up and hugged and kissed us. She’s very excited,” Bonolo says.

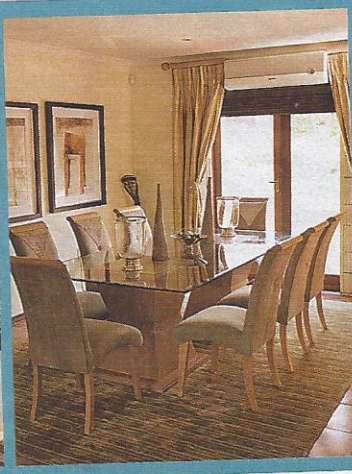
“Yes, you could tell my mom you’d won the Lotto and she would probably just say something like, ‘Well done, praise the Lord,’ very calmly,” Thokozani laughs. This will be the Nkosis’ fifth grandchild.

Although the couple can’t wait for the baby to come they haven’t prepared a nursery yet. They aren’t revealing whether it’s a boy or a girl nor will they divulge any names they’re thinking of for their child. “All we can say is we’re definitely not naming the baby after anyone,” Thokozani says.

He’s reluctant to buy anything in case they get things wrong, he adds. “For the first three months of my life everything I had was pink,” he chuckles. “I don’t want something similar to happen to my child.”

In the meantime Bonolo is putting together a time capsule for the baby. “She puts all the important things in there, like scans and photographs,” her husband explains. “We’re going to give it to our child when he or she turns 21.”

It’s time to leave the pair in peace – Bonolo needs her nap. And besides, our stomachs are so full we’re starting to feel a little sleepy ourselves. Now, all we need to do is get past the security guard and we’ll be on our way. □



**LEFT (from left):** The living room is Thokozani’s favourite space in the house. He loves the unusual CD rack on the wall; one of the many decorations that add character to the Nkosi home; the warm colours create a welcoming atmosphere; the elegant dining area. **RIGHT:** The dining table centrepieces.

