

Ye Must Be Born Again

For whatever reasons, midwives' logic of inviting men to stand by their wives during child delivery continues to puzzle many. However, those who have shared such moments know the experience gathered is unforgettable.

The father-in-waiting prayerfully stands by, agonising with his wife, while the woman writhes in pain as the child, 'which has lived in a world of its own' for nine months, seeks an outing into a new world, the planet earth. It is sure a battle for life, but as soon as the baby comes out



and cries, the pain of delivery ceases and joy untold begins.

This physical birth graphically illustrates the spiritual birth. No wonder, Jesus, in John 3:7, told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." Why born again? The person who needs to be born again had lived in a world of his own, kicking "against the pricks." It does not matter if he is a child, youth, or an elderly person. The social status makes no difference either, as long as he lives in sin, he has

missed the purpose of God for his life.

Surprisingly, anyone born of a woman, who has not at any time come to grips with the fact that he is a sinner, has not got the point. Prophet Isaiah declares, *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way"* (Isaiah 53:6).

Has any man a way of his own? It is possible. The Scriptures state, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." The flesh here represents sin. It is carnality; it is the way of Satan. This is why the Bible warns:

(Continued on Page 2)

Spiritual Captives Regain Liberty Across Africa

An all-round revival swept across Central and West Africa recently, with hundreds of souls being born again and divine healing experienced.

The manifestation of God's power drew songs of praise from the beneficiaries, who were participants at the country and regional camp meetings and Easter Retreats organised by The Apostolic Faith. The meetings were held in Kinshasa, Republic of Congo; Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire; PK 14, Djéffa in Republic of Benin; and Bangem in Cameroon. Other venues were Lagos, Ibadan, Akure, Ilorin, Ado Ekiti and Abeokuta, Nigeria.

The meetings provided veritable platforms for participants to listen to

soul-stirring music and the undiluted Word of God. The old-time altar of prayer, where seekers converse directly with God, was an additional motivation.

God did not disappoint the seekers, as manifold blessings were poured on the faithfuls. At Kinshasa, 10 souls were saved, four sanctified and three baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire.

In a moving testimony, a man who contracted the

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) before coming in contact with the Gospel, narrated how God mercifully healed him after his salvation.

"I went for medical test in many hospitals and the result was surprising. There was no trace of the disease in my body again."

(Continued on Page 3)



**Healed
of a
Dreadful
Disease
P. 3**



**The Law
in
the Heart
P. 4**



**Delivered
from
Worldly
Pursuits
P. 8**



Rev Paul Oge Akazue
Africa Overseer

The Born-Again Experience

Pressmen often ask questions about why we hold our special meetings: music concert, camp meeting, retreat and rally. My usual response is that we want souls to be saved, that is, born again.

How to obtain the genuine born-again experience and strict insistence on obedience to the Word of God are the remarkable factors that differentiate The Apostolic Faith from other denominations.

We tell the world the essence of experiential salvation at every service, outreach or special meeting. It is not the duty of our ministers to tell you when you are saved or to ask you to raise your hand to signify that you are saved. You must make your peace with God. The Bible states: "The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16).

The born-again experience opens the door to God's blessings. You automatically become a new creature, safe and secure in the hollow of God's hand, and are kept permanently under His canopy, if you obey His Word.

The saved person becomes better for it, because His new experience brings about love for the things of God and His Word. Besides, his life pursuit is centred on pleasing God. He bears the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

The experience of people who have tasted salvation is that they have never experienced anything similar to their new life. What an experience! The joy of Heaven cascades the heart in a manner that makes the environment wear a new look.

The born-again experience is worth having. You can never regret you do. Imagine the hope that Heaven is waiting for you! You have a walk with God! Your life takes a new, positive turn! Can you afford to refuse? The door to salvation is beckoning. It is the only way out.

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(Continued from Page 1)

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

But there is a way out. The child that is to be born has to wriggle itself out of the mother's womb through the power of God. A sinner too has a duty to perform. He has to come out of sin, by acknowledging he is a sinner, confessing the sins, renouncing them, and pleading the Blood of Jesus for pardon. Childbirth begins with labour pains. Similarly, the born-again experience begins with godly sorrow. Paul said, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death" (2 Corinthians 7:10). Moreover, Isaiah gave a proviso:

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6,7).

Sometimes, man unwittingly yields to satanic promptings. Some would argue, "I am not too bad," even when the Bible states: "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." But Jesus Christ "is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

For many, the hindrance is that they think there is too much to give up or forsake, like the rich young ruler in the Bible. But Jesus asked a pertinent question:

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Some people have not had the born-again experience because they are not sure Jesus Christ would accept them. Is that Biblical? Jesus said, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

A few say, "I am afraid of what others might think." For this category of unbelievers, Jesus gives a warning: "But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me" (Matthew 10:33,38).

When labour pains set in, a woman finds solace in God and His promises. So it is with the sinner under conviction. He finds solace in God's promises for his deliverance.

Just as childbirth takes place in a pool of blood, the spiritual birth also takes place when Jesus' Blood of Atonement cleanses up a man's sin. "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without the shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22).

For a sinner to be born again, he has to do the following:

- Listen to the Word of God
- Have godly sorrow for having sinned against God
- Confess his sins
- Renounce the sins
- Plead the Blood of Jesus
- Believe that through Christ's death and resurrection, he could be saved.

□ Jesus Christ spoke of the efficacy of His Blood over sin when He declared, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).

When the Blood purifies the heart, the Spirit of God bears witness with the spirit of the newly-born that he has become a child of God. In that instance, the burden of sin rolls away, the joy of Heaven flows into the heart and there is no more condemnation.

As people rejoice when a new child is born, the angels in Heaven and the saints on earth rejoice when a soul is born again. Even now, the angels are waiting to rejoice over a soul that is ready to return to God.

Won't you return?

IN THIS ISSUE

The Law in the Heart 4

From the Quarterlies 6

From Worldly Pursuit... 8

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Spiritual Captives Regain Liberty

(Continued from Page 1)

"I went for medical test in many hospitals and the result was surprising. There was no trace of HIV or AIDS in my body again. God has now blessed us with three children. The eldest is 14 years. We are in perfect health; none of the children has ever shown the symptoms of the terrible disease."

A similar gale of revival swept across the Republic of Benin, when members of The Apostolic Faith in that country held their fourth Annual Camp Meeting, April 5 - 19, 2009.

The theme of the camp meeting, **Awake Unto Righteousness**, was the fulcrum upon which other messages rested.

In a sermon, the Africa Overseer said "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." He then charged everyone present to confess their sins and allow Jesus Christ make necessary changes in their lives.

The Spirit of God worked mightily throughout the convention. President Monsieur Yayi Boni of Republic of Benin, sent a special delegation for the opening ceremony.

On Wednesday of the second week, during the evangelistic service, the Spirit of God took control after the special song,

seekers at the altar.

The children's programmes were spirit-filled. In all the presentations, the message drew tears and consecration from the audience.

The youth staged **The Passion of Christ**, bringing out in vivid forms, the sufferings, humiliation and agony Jesus Christ went through to save humanity from sin.

At the end of the convention, 183 souls were saved, 109 sanctified, 49 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire and 23 healed of various diseases.

The revival wave was also felt in Yamoussoukro, Cote D'Ivoire, where 69 souls were saved, 49 sanctified, and 27 endued with the Holy Ghost and fire. Three persons were healed.

The Africa Overseer, Brother Akazue, was joined by Brother Akwasi Badu-Debra, the Overseer of The Apostolic Faith in Ghana, Brother Marcellin Houmenou, the Overseer of the Republic of Benin, and the host, Brother Ezekiel Ojo, for the one week revival.

The Annual Camp Meeting of The Apostolic Faith in Bangem, Cameroon, was in the same fashion, with manifold blessings trailing each service. At the last count, 11 souls were saved, nine sanctified, and 10 baptised with the Holy Spirit and fire. About 22 persons experienced divine healing.

Nigeria was not left out of the mighty revival. In Lagos District, the residential Easter Retreat was another opportunity for God to move among His people. Students, artisans and people from all walks of life attended the retreat. 65 people were saved, 9 sanctified, 4 baptised with the Holy Ghost and 30 healed of various diseases.

In Ondo State, a woman who had

backslidden for 27 years, came back to the Church during their week-long camp meeting. She prayed through to salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In the same vein, a man came back

after 25 years of backsliding and prayed through to salvation and sanctification.

Records showed that 240 souls were saved, 142 sanctified

and 72 endued with the Holy Ghost and fire. Also at the meeting, 122 people testified to having been healed by the power of God.

The change of pulpit was the means God used to trigger off the revival fires in Ogun State. The exercise, which cuts across all the branch churches, resulted in 92 persons praying through to salvation, 56 sanctified and seven people filled with the Holy Ghost and fire. A total of 28 persons confirmed healing through the power of God.

In Oyo State, a change of pulpit prepared the ground for Easter activities. The Easter programme itself was with a difference. Seminars were organised on marriage, home management and career choice for the benefits of the retreaters. Twenty-seven souls were saved, seven sanctified and two baptised with the Holy Ghost. The icing on the cake came during the Easter music concert when one of the visitors was saved and sanctified.

In Ekiti District, a change of pulpit was a precursor to the retreat. At the retreat, 139 souls were saved, 62 sanctified, 30 endued with the Holy Ghost and fire and 62 were divinely healed.

In Kwara District, a change of pulpit also preceded the Easter Retreat. During the retreat proper, activities included film show, Bible studies and a symposium on marriage. At the end of the programme, 50 souls were saved, 28 sanctified and 14 were endued with the Holy Ghost. A total of 19 persons were healed by the power of God.



Rev. Paul Akazue preaching at Congo, Kinshasa Camp Meeting

which was a solo. Immediately after the song, seekers rushed to the altar of prayer to seek the mercies of God. The minister assigned for the evening service was astounded and could only assist the

The Law in the Heart

From a Sermon Delivered By Brother T. G. Oshokoya on January 1, 1979.

We are thankful to God that we are starting the year, 1979, with God. Our prayer and wish is that we may end it with God.

At the time the ministry of Moses came to an end, God called Joshua, the servant of Moses, who succeeded him, and gave him the secret of what was going to make him and his ministry successful.

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Joshua 1:7, 8).

These verses were words of encouragement and exhortation from the very lips of God unto Joshua. Joshua must have been full of anxiety as to how he would be able to accomplish the gigantic task before him. But God made him understand that all he had to do was to take heed unto the laws and precepts which were written by Moses.

There may be those who argue today, that God has given them very wonderful revelations which may not be in accordance with the precepts in the Word of God, but claim that as God dealt with Paul the Apostle personally, so God is dealing with them too. However, these verses of the Scriptures have made them liars, because God told Joshua that he must meditate upon the Law, and not turn to the right or to the left.

"The just shall live by faith" was the summary of the sound doctrine that was propounded by Martin Luther. This was a testimony of the change of heart, the regeneration, which he experienced through the saving grace of God. He experienced this after the Dark Ages. Luther opposed the ceremonies and forms of worship, which those who were supporters of false religions of his own day, were practising. Because of his stand for the Truth, he was persecuted and his official rank within the church was reduced to almost nothing. He, however, preached the Word of God that it was necessary for people to be born again, and have a new heart. This is made possible through the grace of God, by the application of the Blood of Jesus Christ, upon the heart of the believer after the confession of his sins. 'It is by grace we are saved through faith; and that not of ourselves: It is the gift of God, lest any man should boast.' This brought about a mighty revival

worldwide at the time. It was the origin of Protestantism.

We also heard, as years went by, of another man in the continent of Europe, by the name, John Wesley. He was the son of a pastor and also a chaplain in their church. He bravely

preached the Word of God. He went further to proclaim that it was only the pure in heart who would see God. He made them to understand through the Scriptures that it was necessary after one had been regenerated, to press on and pray for an experience, whereby the "old-man" is destroyed and the sin principle eradicated. One is then entirely sanctified and becomes pure in heart. Wesley had followers who believed him. Some people, however, did not feel happy about his preaching and he was expelled from the church.

He, however, continued to preach the Word. As a result of the teaching of this man of God, there arose groups that preached against drunkenness, smoking, and many other vices of the society. They also preached the need to dress modestly. All these teachings were from the Word of God. Later, many sanctified people all around the world, started praying their way through to the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It was after this that there arose a lot of revivalists, and those who preached on restitution.

Some people may say that the Word of life was meant for men of ancient times only, and that times have changed. They do not believe that the Word can apply to those of modern days. However, the Word of God says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. You should know that it is human beings who change; God never changes. Thanks be to God, the Word of God never changes!

God says that if you dare change or alter it, if you dare turn to the right or to the left, you are not going to prosper; it shall not be well with you.

"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

"Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

"For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

"Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

"Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

"Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil" (Proverbs 4:20-27).

This was God's Word to Solomon and the Word, which he was told to incline his ears unto, was the Word of God, the precepts of God. He was expected to meditate upon it, to make sure that he understood it, to think about it and put it into practice. If he obeyed the Word, it would be health unto him, it would grant him peace and it would be an everlasting treasure unto him. "Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart."

You remember that at the time you were seeking salvation, you had no desire for any other thing than to obtain the experience. It was uppermost in your heart. If you had sought God half-heartedly, you would certainly not have received any

blessing from Him. That is why we are told to meditate upon the Word: to speak, think, and ponder on it. "For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

No sinner has the breath of life. The breath of life is that breath which God breathed into Adam, and he became a living soul. He had the image of God and all round him was the perfection of God. When Adam disobeyed God, he became a cursed person. The image of God was taken away from him, and that was why he had to be driven away from the beautiful Garden. All the seed of Adam, who were born by women, were also born in sin. They are only capable of doing evil. But the moment a person reconciles with God and believes all His Word, God dwells in him. The glory and beauty of God show on his countenance, and from that moment, he has a change of heart, a change of personality. He is a new person. He does not steal any longer, nor tell lies, and he does not fight. God removes the desire to indulge in sin completely from him. Old things have passed away and he is now a new creature in Christ.

If he had been having bad dreams before, he will not experience them any longer; he will not suffer from nightmares any more. When we go to God in penitence and make peace with Him, good things happen to us. When a person becomes a new creature in this way, he finds that God is able to talk to him, and he is also able to talk with God. All his crooked past he would, by the grace of God, straighten.

This new spirit, the new breath of life, must be guarded very jealously. The work of grace that has been wrought has got to be kept very judiciously. Do not give room to lying, or anything which is going to tarnish your testimony. Make sure you keep your heart from evil or from any wrong thing. Make sure you do not open yourself to the temptation of the devil. Do not give any allowance to the flesh, evil, or the world. Do not allow anything to come between you and God. Deceit should be removed far away from you.

"Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

"Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

"Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."

Some people embraced the Gospel and were up and doing for the Lord, very fervent in the work of God. But because they looked to the right and to the left, they are no longer fervent for God. Without actually repenting and doing the first works, making sure that they turn away from all the past wrongdoings, so that they can move close unto the Lord, they may find out that it will be trouble on every side. Every day, one problem or the other will continue to overtake them and affliction upon affliction will be their lot. The worst of it is that, some people who will not change, line up with the Word of God and retrace their steps, crave for money, children, houses, and the material things of this world. They are very crazy in their desire for a husband or wife, and those things constitute a weight, which will not allow them to line up with all the precepts of God. My prayer

is that God will deliver us from such a deadly situation!

"STAND fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage" (Galatians 5:1).

Do not attach yourself to crooked teachings. Let the sound Word of God, with which you are being fed, suffice for you. When you go and attach yourself to a false teaching, the little which you have got will be taken away from you. You will become an unbeliever, and find yourself at crossroads, not knowing which way to take any longer. You will be one of those who are like a wave of the sea being tossed here and there, not knowing where

they stand. Therefore, you have got to stay in the freedom which Christ has given unto you. Do not go here and there, because if you do, you will make a shipwreck of your faith. God has given us the Scriptures we embrace here; therefore, make sure you attach yourself to the sound Word of God.

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

"For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock" (Psalm 27:4, 5).

There are some whose sole purpose would be to pursue wealth. Some may want to follow the fads and fashions of the world. There are those whose affections would be after property, and there are others who would have other ambitions. But David avowed to God that, the one thing he desired of the Lord was to be in the temple of the Lord, not just for one year or for a moment of time, but all the days of his life. There may be those who, in their prayers, ask only for children, money, houses or some other things of the world. But David prayed for one thing and only that one thing: that he might dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life. It is those who dwell in the house of the Lord who will be blessed of Him. The Scriptures make us to understand that we should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto us. It is those who are living in the secret place of the Most High and who are abiding under the shadow of the Almighty, who will not be touched by the hands of the evil one. It is those whose eyes are fixed upon the beauties of the Temple of God, who will not be employed by Satan. It is those who are living in the House of God and dwelling in His Temple, who are going to be surrounded by the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is such people who will be sheltered by Him. When He comes back, He will rapture and take them unto Himself, so that they will live eternally with Him.

My friend, do not forget that Satan does not want you to dwell in the House of God, he does not even want God to dwell in you. David's prayer is my wish this year. When this world comes to an end, it is only God Who can usher us into His Home. Won't you come to the altar of prayer and make a vow unto God as to what you want your life to be? God is ready to go into a covenant with you.

An Exhortation on Obedience to God's Law

At the borders of the promised Land

The Israelites were at the borders of the Promised Land, the place toward which they had looked for many long, weary months and years. Sin, rebellion, and disobedience had caused them untold suffering. They had wandered in the wilderness until everyone who had come out of Egypt at the age of 20 years or over, with the exception of Joshua, Caleb, and Moses, had died. We have seen that the causes of Israel's delay in entering into their inheritance were disobedience and rebellion against the Word and commands of God.

Disobedience and Rebellion

Disobedience is a terrible sin. We are told in I Samuel 15:22, that it is better to obey God than to offer sacrifices. And the sacrificial worship eventually became one of the most important things in the lives of the Israelites. Rebellion is also a grievous sin. This same passage of Scripture tells us that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. The Law stated that anyone guilty of witchcraft was to be put to death.

To disobey a command of God is to say that our mind is greater than God's mind, that we know more than He, that we can see the far-reaching effects of our act where He cannot. It is denying His omnipotence, or almighty power. It is setting aside the fact of His omnipresence, or the attribute of His being in our midst at all times. It is denying His omniscience, or infinite wisdom.

When we disobey we say, in fact, that God does not mean what He said, that

He does not know what He said, that He cannot know the effects of what He said, that He is not able to sustain or carry us through when we do what He said we should do, or that He is not interested in us at all. It is saying that He does not regard His own Word.

But the Bible tells us that God's Word is forever settled in Heaven and that not one portion of it will pass away until it is all fulfilled. It is a fearful thing to trifle with, or disobey, even one command of God, for to do so is to be guilty of them all (James 2:10).



Those who do will most surely be compelled to wander in a spiritual wilderness until they have repented of their disobedience, or until they have expired, never having come into the land that God had promised them.

God has given us the written history of the Israelites, together with the admonitions of His prophets, Apostles, and ministers of all ages, to remind us of the serious danger of either of these two grievous sins: disobedience or rebellion.

The Blessings of Obedience

What joy there is for the person who will obey God's Word! What a satisfaction is given to each one who honours God enough to follow His will! What rich blessings are in store

for everyone who trusts God for everything, who takes God into consideration in every plan of life! The world cannot duplicate those blessings, Houses, lands, friends, wealth, prestige, and power cannot give one small fraction of the reality that simple obedience to God's Word gives most copiously.

God's Yearnings for Israel and for Us

God loved Israel. He has also loved every man, woman, and child who has ever walked on this earth. It is not His

pleasure that men should die and be eternally lost. He has great pleasure in the death of His saints, but none at all in the death of the wicked. He gave the most priceless Jewel of Heaven to make provision for our justification, and chose the nation of Israel, because of the righteousness of their earthly father,

Abraham, to be the means by which the Gospel would come to all mankind.

Here is given us the secret of success in the Christian life: complete obedience. One cannot be a Christian unless he obeys what God tells him to do. One cannot continue in God's favour if he refuses to walk in the will of God and rebels at the command of God. Obedience is the keystone of it all, the one requirement which, if we carefully heed, will not only bring us to the "borders of the land" but will take us on over that we might enjoy the blessings abiding therein.

Trust and obey,

For there's no other way

To be happy in Jesus,

But to trust and obey.

Being Born Again Makes The Difference

By Mabel Odunsi

I grew up in a family that was completely foreign to Christianity. I was brought up in the midst of bickering, malice and hostility. It was not long before my father and mother separated, an act considered quite natural by me as a child. I found myself affectionately attached to my father. At school, when my mates spoke of the love in their families, I stood aloof as an unloved child. Life had no excitement for me until one day when I met the people of God at the children's Sunday School at The Apostolic Faith.

The story of Jesus Christ amazed me. His loving kindness toward mankind touched me deeply. I longed for an enduring friendship with Christ and looked to Him for the love I had missed at home. I was told it was only sin that could deny me this coveted love and I was ready to pay the price.

At the age of 13, I knelt and prayed during a camp meeting and God in mercy heard me. I was miraculously saved. The joy of God filled my heart. I heard Jesus say that my sins were forgiven. I was transformed and I knew it instantly. I felt light, I was free and it was as if I was flying. The desire to tell lies vanished.

In my ecstasy, I ran home and told my father of my wonderful experience of salvation. My father was sorry for me. He assured me that the experience I spoke about so lovingly would not last a year, after all. I was unmoved and to the glory of God, I can count more than a couple of decades of the born-again experience. God later sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost.

Sometimes, I wonder what my life would have been without Jesus. Though a muslim, my beginning was marked with the worship of Ogun deity (god of iron). I was being raised as the under-secretary for my father's venture of traditional medicine in which I had great confidence. At the instance of my redemption from sin, all my leaning toward voodooos changed.

Indeed, for me, the born-again experience made the difference. When I was newly saved, the recurring message in my heart was, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." God did exactly this for me. A Mulikat is now tied to the horn of the altar. I came to Jesus Christ without any certificate to my name but Jesus has given me

the best He has for me in university education and post-graduate studies.

Salvation changed things for the better in my life. Before I became born again, my father prepared a charm for me to quicken my brain; but I repeated my class the year I used it.

However, as soon as I was born again, I was coming first in my class. Within a short time, I became a scholarship student in the then newly created Lagos State. Even at the end of my secondary education, my sponsors sent me a cheque covering the balance of the scholarship funds.

With Jesus in my heart, adulthood has been very exciting and great. God gave me a blissful marriage. However, I became a young widow without anybody except Jesus to lean on. With four children, God has not failed to take

care of us. He undertakes for my children's university expenses in His own economy.

Amidst the global economic meltdown, God recently changed my car for me. As if that were not enough, barely two weeks ago, somebody delivered a brand new generator to my doorstep. God has been very good to me.

My contact with Jesus was a blessing to my family. Surprisingly, my mother came and tasted of the goodness of the Lord. Even my father, who persecuted me sorely, found it glorious *to walk with Him, Whose Blood, has ransomed me*. Both of them are waiting for me in Beulah Land. My younger sister is happily married, serving the Lord with me in this blessed Gospel.

As a young girl, I was attracted to the Choir. The call of God came out to me loud and clear in 1968, when I saw the late founder, Rev. T. G. Oshokoya, conduct the *Hallelujah Chorus*. It was as if he was air-borne. There and then, I promised God that I would serve Him until the Rapture. He set to fulfill this in my life. Within a few months, I was playing the violin in the Junior Orchestra and barely a year later, I passed to the Senior Orchestra. Singing has been my joy all along.

God also gave me the privilege of learning the Word of God and imparting it to others.

Today, I am fulfilled in the Lord. How I long to meet my Saviour and all my loved ones who have gone to Glory. Salvation, sure, has made the difference.



From Worldly Applause to the Bosom of Christ

It is really surprising what the Lord can do. This guitar virtuoso came to The Apostolic Faith to seduce. She in the course met Christ.

I thank God for His transforming power over the sinner and His deep love for the lost sheep. My early life hardly prepared me for a walk with God, but God loves all men, no matter whom they are or how far they have gone in the expressway of sin.

As I grew up, I longed for and got more than just a bite of the worldly pie. To put it straight, I was on the fast lane of life with no thought of Heaven.

I had many dreams about how I wanted to spend my life, and of course, there was no consideration for God. Even at that, God in mercy still guided my footsteps. Somehow, I found myself studying music in a four-year programme in the university.

A famous artistic producer came down to the Republic of Congo from Germany with the aim of establishing an all-female orchestra in Bolingo. I was an easy choice along with some of my colleagues, having just finished school. The orchestra attracted quite a lot of crowd and attention during its public or televised performance.

We visited some foreign countries to perform. We also performed during special national events. We were common faces at the

official residence of the President whenever he hosted dignitaries or during his official tours. My beat was to man the guitar and play the percussion.



It did not take me time to get to the height of stardom and soon I had all the accoutrements worthy of a music star: money, clothes, fame, connection and more. But I had no peace or satisfaction. Instead, I was psychologically unstable.

“We also dressed in a suggestive way to attract and seduce men . . . But God decided to corner us up one Sunday.”

Besides, I was always skimpily dressed in shorts or mini-skirts with satanic provocation. I was devoid of control over the flesh, and Satan was my master and controller.

One glorious day, someone informed us (my group) about the Gospel and invited us to the service in The Apostolic Faith Church on Sunday.

We loved to arrive the service late. We also dressed in a suggestive way to attract and seduce men. Besides, we tried as much as possible to avoid the memory verse drill. But God kept a tab on me.

God decided to corner us up one Sunday and we all decided to change totally. Unfortunately two of my friends went to Italy in pursuit of their musical career. This opened for me an opportunity to get closer to God. God saved my soul. From then on, I had peace, joy and the satisfaction that my life as a music star and member of a famous orchestra could not give me. The shouts of fans or their applause during concerts, or their gifts and presents mattered but little to me, for Jesus became my Provider, my Comforter and my all in all.

Even though I am not very rich, I love very much my Christian life and my little family. The Lord saw my musical talent and He has helped me to train our choristers in notes. The result has been marvellous, for, already, they can play the violin, the cello, the trumpet and the organ.

Pray for me that one day I will see the angels play and above all, praise the name of Jesus Christ.



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