



GOSPEL NEWS IN AFRICA



April - June 2010 A News Magazine of The Apostolic Faith Church in Africa Vol. 11, No. 2

The Fruit of Salvation

By Florence Crawford

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (1 John 1:8).

There are many would-be preachers who say that you cannot live above sin and they say that the Scriptures bear it out. But they fail to quote the next verse which says:



"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

There is no need of going into error, excusing ourselves because we are trying to cover up some sins in our life; for we cannot do it under the light of the Word of God.

"MY little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" (1 John 2:1).

You cannot say that you are all right and do not have to repent and confess your sins to God. The moment one sins, he is cut off. But the Word says, "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

Now we skip to verses 8 and 9 of 1 John 2.

(Continued on Page 7)

New Superintendent for West and Central Africa

Just as preachers strive to be messengers delivering God's message, we have prayed that this announcement be of God's making rather than of our own.

God gives the assignments. God called Moses at the burning bush, Gideon as he threshed wheat and David as he tended his father's sheep. In New Testament times, the Lord appointed the 12 and called the 70. After Pentecost, the Holy Ghost separated Paul and Barnabas to take their first missionary journey.



Rev. Adebayo Adeniran

With these words, the General Superintendent of The Apostolic Faith Churches, Reverend Darrel Lee, on

May 23, 2010, announced the appointment of Rev. Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran as the District Superintendent of The Apostolic Faith work in West and Central Africa. He succeeds Reverend Paul Ogechukwu Akazue.

Rev. Lee explained that the Spirit of God has ways of conveying His will as it relates to God's work continuing according to His plan.

"When I visited here (Nigeria) last November, I had the opportunity to suggest to Brother Paul that we temporarily appoint someone to take charge so that he could devote his energy to fully recuperating. As we talked, he gave me
(Continued on Page 2)

Africa's Former Helmsman Goes Home

It was a glorious exit for Reverend Paul Ogechukwu Akazue on May 21, 2010, when The Apostolic Faith members the world over, and friends of the Church, bade the immediate past Africa Overseer farewell at the Anthony Village Headquarters of the Church. The funeral service conducted by the Superintendent General, Reverend Darrel D. Lee, was attended by delegates from within and without the continent.

Students of The Apostolic Faith Secondary School in Anthony Village, Lagos State, and their counterparts from Egos, Kwara State, staged plays and rendered inspiring songs as part of the prelude to the service. Earlier in the day, there was the lying in state of the remains of Reverend Akazue at the Tabernacle

Extension.

Reverend Lee charged the congregation to be of good cheer and not grieve like unbelievers, pointing out that Reverend Akazue had gone to be with the Lord. He emphasised that the best honour anyone could give as a legacy for the love shared with the departed, was to live in the fear of God.

Reverend Akazue, he said, was an evangelist per excellence and would want his funeral evangelistic. The Superintendent General admonished anyone who aspired to be where the deceased had gone, to seek the forgiveness of his sins.

Quoting from 1 Thessalonians chapter four, he stressed that at the Rapture, the



(Continued on Page 3)

Time to seek the Lord



Rev. Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran

The signs of the times – global warming, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, storms, floods, love of money, disobedience to parents, and men turning into lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God – point to the fact that we are

in the end time already.

For the heaven-bound Christian, it is time to get closer to God, and bathe in the Blood of Jesus Christ. Yea, redeeming the time is an assignment we all need to take up seriously.

God, in this special edition, has a table set before each reader. In the old-time way, the founder of The Apostolic Faith Churches, Sister Florence Crawford, reminds us of the fruit of salvation. What an instruction at a time like this! Really, salvation is everything!

Has there been any other time Christians were challenged to pray than now? Everything around us these days calls for serious prayers. The Bible states, **“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”** This was proved in the life of our Church recently when our former leader, Brother Paul Ogechukwu Akazue passed on to glory and the entire congregation had to pray for a successor. God answered in a wonderful way. Two weeks after Brother Paul’s passage, God appointed Rev. Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran as the District Superintendent for West and Central Africa.

Also in this edition, Rev. Dwight Baltzell sheds light on the need for the power of God to be the rudder of our lives. God bless you as you read.

IN THIS ISSUE

The Power of God Newsline

4

8

GOSPEL NEWS IN AFRICA is a quarterly publication of

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH, Africa Headquarters, Anthony Village, Lagos, NIGERIA.

Telephone: 234-803-380-0179, 01-7450644

E-mail: afm@apostolicfaith-ng.org ISSN 1596-0412

Website: www.apostolicfaith-ng.org

Head for West and Central Africa

(Continued from Page 1)

even more confidence that extraordinarily capable individuals, who were already bearing the load, surrounded him.

“Suddenly, Brother Paul said that he had not forgotten what I had proposed to him during my February 2005 visit. I remembered having suggested that he prayerfully communicate to Dwight Baltzell or me a confidential recommendation of succession in the unexpected event that he was suddenly rendered incapable of serving.

“I told Brother Paul that one man struck me in particular. This man’s quiet, unassuming, yet strong and fervent spirit captured my attention. Brother Paul asked me who this man was, and I gave him the name. Brother Paul was startled, and firmly declared, “That is the man!” It was the same man that Brother Paul had on his mind to recommend. These were some very private and even sacred moments between Brother Paul and me.

“It is more apparent now than ever that God used that time to provide clear guidance that we would soon need. My communication with Brother Paul and subsequent conversations with your board members confirmed that God has chosen the mantle of leadership to fall from Paul Akazue to Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran.

“This appointment is wholeheartedly endorsed by your board members, as well as by Dwight Baltzell, Director of Africa work, and I, as the Superintendent General.”

Brother Adeniran was immediately anointed and prayed for by the elders with rapturous “Amen” resounding from the congregation.

Earlier, Brother Baltzell had charged the ministers and later, the congregation that no one knows the mind of God or God’s time. “But we know about the faithfulness of God. He proves it to us from time to time.”

He noted that God always provided leaders for His work whenever needed and as appropriate, saying, “The work of God requires leaders who will continue to expand God’s territory. As the work is progressing, God is appointing leaders to lead, such that when we look at the road map and the atlas, we see how the Gospel is expanding to cater for souls that are hungry and thirsty after righteousness.”

“The challenge of caring for hungry souls,” Brother Baltzell explained, “led the Church to restructure its work across the world and in Africa in particular. When we look at it, we found that the vision envisaged by Brother Timothy Oshokoya was wider than what we have this time.

“I have read many of his correspondence to Sister Ruth Ashwell, and his cries for the work of God to expand in Africa, we thank God it is so, notwithstanding the difficulties. Again, God is able to provide a new Church structure. We are in position to ease the work thereon.”

By the restructuring, Africa has been divided into two districts: *West and Central* and *South East and South Africa*.

Brother Adeniran, who confessed to being overwhelmed and like the Biblical Solomon, a mere child, wept for most part of the service. When he rose to speak, his words were solemn.

“The ways of God are mysterious. His conception and enforcement of His will are mysterious. How can God lift a child, tender, weak and with no strength, from the miry clay to a position like this?” He asked rhetorically.

He confessed to being alarmed when the appointment was whispered to him by Brother Lee. “I was alarmed and devastated,” he said.

“In my prayers, God told me He never makes mistakes. With

(Continued on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 1)

trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall rise first, and the living saints will be changed in the twinkling of an eye, to live with Jesus Christ throughout eternity.

The burial which took place at The Trumpet Shall Sound Cemetery, Faith City, Igbesa, Ogun State, amidst solemn musical background, ended the three-day programme, which began

on Wednesday, May 19, 2010, with a service of songs at Shonibare Estate, Maryland, residence of the Akazues.

Students of the Crawford University, on Thursday, held a special commendation service for the departed Overseer. The Campus Association of Visiting Secretaries, an evangelistic wing of the Church, provided music interspersed with funeral orations.

In the evening of the same day was another service of songs at the Anthony Village Headquarters Church of The Apostolic Faith. A documentary on the life and work of Reverend Akazue was also relayed.

As pall-bearers lowered the white casket, sighs and pathos rent the air as the people realised they would be going back to Lagos without Brother Paul in their company.

"I want to meet you at the Rapture. I have prayed for 100 per cent Rapture. Please be sure you make the Rapture." These were the common words of Brother Paul Ogechukwu Akazue, who slept in the Lord on May 7, 2010.

His emergence as the third Africa Overseer on October 3, 1999, was as sudden as his departure. He was far from public glare before he became the Overseer of The Apostolic Faith work in Ghana.

Brother Paul, as he was fondly called, was a man in a hurry. Courageous and visionary, he was dogged when it comes to Gospel work. He was a "Paul" indeed. Brother Paul was a vocal evangelist. "This is my Gospel, is it your Gospel? Like Apostle Paul, for me to live is Christ and to die is gain," he once told the congregation at a camp meeting.

Before his appointment as an overseer, he pastored the branch church

at Ifo, Ogun State, Nigeria. It was at this suburb he witnessed the power of God to fight battles on behalf of His children. The Church had scheduled revival services, but like a bolt from the blues,

masqueraders from the area declared a curfew to allow their cult hold sway. Brother Paul would not be quiet over such a thing. He and

members of his congregation went on their knees to report the confrontation to God. As a result, God confounded the cultists. At the end, the cultists publicly apologised to the Church for the embarrassment.

Brother Paul's pauline disposition was visible shortly after his appointment as Africa Overseer. As part of his missionary endeavours to some countries in West Africa, he visited So-ava, a settlement on one of the archipelagos on the West African coast.

He was hardly tired of visiting Churches in Africa to encourage them to serve God. It is on record that with him, there were no dull moments. His strength rested on his revivalist mien and his love for Africa. It was on this note that he composed the song, *Africa Must Be Saved*, during a trip to Lake Victoria.

Like the Biblical Paul the Apostle, he took his evangelistic acumen to the high and low. He visited presidents, governors, kings and nobles. He also visited the rural areas for village evangelism.

He was on missionary trips to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Cameroon, Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia, Liberia, Ghana, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Niger, Benin Republic and the Gambia.

One of Brother Paul's missionary journeys, which was tagged "Revival Train," covered some West African

countries in 2007. The entourage brought back reports of salvation, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Ghost, healing, and victory.

On assumption of office, God gave him a vision to introduce a new dimension in evangelism through the establishment of educational institutions. This gave birth to The Apostolic Faith Nursery / Primary Schools, Secondary Schools (AFSS) located in several parts of the country, as well as the Crawford University, named after the Founder of The Apostolic Faith Mission, (worldwide) Reverend Florence Louise Crawford.

As part of his strategy for evangelism, he pioneered a radio outreach programme, "Jesus the Light of the World," on Eko FM 89.75. His desire was to reach everyone with the Gospel message using every facility available.

Barely three years in office, he, out of conviction that God led him, moved the campground from Anthony Village to



Rev. Akazue bids the world goodbye

Faith City, Igbesa. He told the congregation that God had instructed him, "Take my people to Igbesa, and I will heal them."

His constant refrain, "I love you my people," would be missed by many. Though he passed on like a candle in the wind, Brother Paul would be remembered as an 'Apostle of Love'- love for the Gospel, love for fellow pilgrims, and love for the Kingdom of God. ■

The Power of God

From a Sermon Delivered By Brother Dwight Baltzel

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16).

True Christianity is not some cult. It is not just an ordinary course in this world. It is not simply for a weak person who cannot get along in life without some kind of help and without some kind of crutch. Salvation is the power of God! Those who perish may think it is foolishness. Oh, we know it is the power of God. May God help us to cling to it. It is what man needs first before anything else. Many times, it is easy to miss the power of God that is right before us.

I have heard many people standing on their feet to give testimonies to the power of God. Someone said, “I used to carry two big guns, I held up people even to the point of killing them but even after that, God saved my soul and changed me.” It takes the power of God to do that. Another testified that he had a wife and family on the east coast of the United States with a good job, but lost all because of alcohol and ended up as a bum. God saved him and brought his family and respect back. It takes the power of God to do that. I have heard a child say, “My parents said the others were better than me, then I prayed with all my heart and God changed me.” I heard a brother who would often testify that he was rich, he had a big ranch and decided to take a tour across the country in his big twin-car. He came to Portland and heard the Gospel. After he was saved, he did not even go back, he sold all he had by telephone, stayed in Portland and became a stalwart in the Gospel. This is nothing other than the power of God.

When I was growing up, I loved power. As a teenager, I got a small motorcycle along with some of my friends in the Gospel. We tried to make it as fast as we could. I thought that when I grew up, I would buy the most powerful car in the market. It was the mercy of God that I was not killed. Oh, I thought I enjoyed that power and tried to take away my mind from the things of God. But one day, at the age of 18, I knelt by a bench and I found power than I ever knew existed. The power of Heaven came down and changed me completely.

How can I tell of my excitement when I talk about the power from Heaven? God could use this power for many things. God does not use this power to entertain us. He uses the power from Heaven to draw everyone on earth unto Himself. We thank God that His power has always been and always will be. On this earth, powers rise and powers fall. God is always the same and His power is always available. The Bible from cover to cover is the power of God. Take that out and you have nothing.

One time, the Children of Israel were in captivity in Egypt, they were in terrible distress and needed deliverance. There was a man named Moses who was an Israelite, but instead of being a slave, he was raised in Pharaoh’s court. His mother taught him and he knew the power and love of God. At first, he tried to deliver Israel in his own strength. We cannot deliver ourselves from bondage, we need the power of God. So, Moses ran away and hid himself for years. But God revealed His power when he saw the bush that was burning but was not consumed.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ‘Moses you are on a holy ground, remove your shoes. It is you I want, to deliver my people.’ God can do anything He likes when He wants to use people, if they allow Him. Then His power will be there to help. Moses went before Pharaoh and said, “Let my people go!” Pharaoh’s heart was hard and he gave them the task that was much more difficult for the Children of Israel. Then the Lord God told Moses, “Now, you will see what I would do to Pharaoh! With a strong hand will he let you go.” Moses must have buried himself in the power of God and I am sure, he remembered the burning bush. Moses was leaning on the power of God, not his own strength. He went before Pharaoh and had a demonstration of the power of God by having Aaron throw his rod down, which became a serpent. Some of the magicians of Pharaoh imitated the action. The serpent from Aaron’s rod swallowed those other serpents. Egypt suffered the ten plagues, and God delivered Israel. What we do on our own cannot be equal to what God alone can do for us. They came to the Red Sea and said, ‘What do we do now?’ They saw an impossibility. But then, even though nothing yet had taken place, Moses looked at the Red Sea and saw the power of God. Oh, how different! What a difference it makes in your heart and mine when, in spite of all difficulties and above them all, we see the power of God. Moses told the people, “Stand still and see the salvation of the LORD.”

Remember, Paul the Apostle told the Corinthians that faith is the power of God unto salvation. The more we experience the power of God, the more we see it before it even takes place. That is called faith. We cannot make faith, God Himself plants it. Except God's Spirit calls us, we are not capable of even coming to Him. When we try to respond, then He plants faith in our hearts. It is nothing of ourselves, it is the power of God.

As Christians, we do not even know how to pray as we should. We need the power of God in accessing Jesus Christ. It requires the power of God to make your prayer go all the way to Heaven. The power of God brought the Children of Israel all the way, they crossed the Red Sea, and He led them to the borders of Canaan. God led them by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night. He gave them food and water in the middle of nowhere. He gave them the Ten Commandments as well as all the instructions on how to worship Him when they would be all by themselves in the Promised Land. They did nothing; they just experienced the power of God and His salvation. Moses sent twelve spies, one from each tribe, to

find out what God had for them. The spies came back with different reports. Ten said, ‘All we saw was impossibility. Yes, the land flows with milk and honey, the vineyards and houses have been built up already. We saw giants, impossible! We saw high-walled cities, impossible!’ But the two other spies said, ‘All we saw was the power of God. God has prepared the place for us, we do not have to build anything, we do not have to plant anything, we are just going to take it, because He brought us here, and He is giving it to us.’

All I see is the power of God. That is the side we want to be on. This is a sad story because they should have gone in, but they did not. They tried to tie God's hands, but God's hands can never be tied. He is all - powerful. Only we can limit the power of God. He will not override our will. We must come to God when we hear His call so that each of us can say, “Lord, I believe you. Lord, I want to see Your power even in the impossibilities.” So, they wandered for forty years in the wilderness, toiling unnecessarily. The power of God was

placed on hold, for they were doing their own foolishness. Do we place the power of God for us on hold? Do we say, “Well, Lord, maybe I know what is there for me, but right now, I am going to do my own thing?” Their only hope to every gift in the Promised Land was being ready to possess the land with the power of God. Our only hope to go from this earth to God's Heaven is through the power of God. It cannot be accomplished by ourselves. But then, God in His loving mercy, waited when they wandered. Oh, how God wanted to lead them into the Promised Land! It was His joy to bring them in there. But they had to wander round in disbelief while the power of God was waiting. Is God’s power waiting for you today? What does God want to do for you today? We do not want to go in another direction; we want to move on in.

With Joshua there now in charge, they were going to cross over into Canaan land and it was still going to take the same thing – the power of God. They still had to cross River Jordan, and the Lord opened the way for them. The high-walled cities, and the giants, were still there. It is not that those things will disappear, but it does not matter, we have the power of God. God delights to show His power to those who will follow and love Him. They had called the walled cities impossible, but God took it down with just marching around and shouting. What great thing did they do? They simply gloried in the power of God.

Now, power itself can be frightening. I discovered there was an earthquake in the northern part of the country of Chile and it sent a great tsunami wave into Japan. The country of Haiti suffered terribly from the power of an earthquake. Power can be very frightening, moreso when you talk about the power of God itself. Sometimes people scoff and say, “Show me the signs of the power of God,” even when that power could be going against them and judging them. But this is the wonderful part of God's power; He chooses to take the power which we cannot comprehend and places it behind love. We cannot comprehend that kind of love with the full power of God behind it. He would have died for you if you were the only person on earth when He came. We so thank God for His power because He can do anything with it. He takes that power and puts love inside it and sends it in all directions. We are greatly privileged in that we are in the position that we can look on this and properly understand it.

The learned men in their ignorance told Christ, 'Show us the signs of your power.' The power of God is not a magical show. The power of God is placed behind His salvation for us. God can dazzle us or destroy us, but all He has chosen is so much better. So, He said, 'No sign would be given this generation except the sign of Jonah' – signs of Himself, His death and His resurrection; because His power towards men is all about His love. He has shown His love towards us. We do not ask God to move a mountain to entertain us, but God will move a personal mountain for you. God's power is controlled by His love. We have the right to say thank God over and over for His great power and love.

He says there will be signs in the last days. You want signs? There will be signs in the last days. Signs of all the things that will come up in the earth and are coming right now. We are experiencing turmoil continually and it is escalating. We see economies failing, people vying for power. Earthquake is escalating more and more every year. But we thank God we can see above that; we can see the power of God. He says these are the signs you should look for and when you see them, know that your redemption draweth nigh. You will see Christ coming in the clouds. Oh, His power is not for our entertainment – it is for our redemption!

This is the kind of power we need from God. You can do so many things with it. For instance, you can use the great power to praise God. What is the power of God to you? Is it unto salvation or to place God on hold? Are you trying to serve God or just keeping God on hold? Let Him build you; let Him give you faith; let the Arm of God from Heaven be placed on you. God has armour for you. By His power He will lead you. Has He sanctified you wholly? Have you been endued with power from on High? Can you look unto the Lord and say, “Lord, I’m watching for your coming; I’m ready”? We cannot wait for His coming to have His power. We are going to have it right here today. God's mighty love is heading your way. Let it overflow you.■

Rev. Baltzell, the Director of Africa Work at the Portland Headquarters, preached this sermon in Lagos, Nigeria, on February 28, 2010.

Head for West and Central Africa

(Continued from Page 2)

the help of God, I will honour God and I submit myself for service as the District Superintendent of West and Central Africa.

"Today is Pentecost Sunday. I have a burden and I have a heart's cry. The voice of God is clear that we need to prepare for Home. 'Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed.' The focus and direction of this Gospel cannot be better appreciated than now - that we need to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

"I am not under any illusion that I am stepping into an office but into an inheritance, a **holy inheritance.**"

He expressed appreciation to Brothers Lee and Baltzell, and the local Board of Trustees, "who nurtured me in this Gospel and who said they were ready to work with me. They are still prepared to mentor the next generation. I am still a boy, I am still a child; I pray God to help and lengthen their days. I pray the great God will continue to sustain this work in peace.

"I covet your prayer every second, every minute of the day, every day, every week and every month of the year. May God make us ready for Christ's Second Coming!"

Meanwhile, the newly appointed District Superintendent of The Apostolic Faith work in West and Central Africa, Brother Adeniran, has spelt out his mission as that of rallying or assembling candidates for Heaven.

"Nobody is in doubt that we are in the end time. We have had the benefit of a specific message from Heaven that Jesus is coming soon. Besides, the Bible is very clear on the Second Advent of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Paul specifically pin-pointed this fact when he said, "Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed."

The District Superintendent

emphasised that to achieve this goal, he would be leading The Apostolic Faith Church, within the district, back to Bethel. "Bethel is the place of prayer. It is a point of decision and a centre for



Rev. Adeniran, his wife, Josephine, Rev. Lee and wife, Debbie

prevailing prayer."

He announced that the new administration's mode of evangelism would focus on keeping the fold within intact, while reaching out to those outside through methodical means.

In his sermon on **Returning To The Lord's Heritage**, he said:



Brothers Lee and Baltzell with board members of the Apostolic Faith in Nigeria

Soyinka did, and after accomplishing his mission, left; Brother Paul Akazue knelt before that same seat and recently left; and each of them is now with the Lord.'

"Brother T specifically left a mark on me. Brother T appointed me a Sunday school teacher 28 years ago in the city of Jos. After my first day in the Sunday School Teachers' Conference, he invited me for a chat. During the chat, he suddenly looked into my face and said: 'Don't allow this Gospel to be corrupted in your own generation.'

"Here we are today, and we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Our

elders are here with us. They are watching how we are going to handle this sacred heritage they have protected over time, and handed over to us. We will never allow it to slip or be corrupted."

Brother Adeniran reiterated the need for prayers and waiting on God. He added that he would not know how else anyone would wish to be a Christian than by the way of prayer.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart. "We must go back to Bethel!" A call to which the eager audience chorused a resounding "Amen," and rushed to the mourners' benches to rededicate their lives to God. Rev. Adeniran until this appointment was the Overseer of The Apostolic Faith work in Abuja District.

Born on January 10, 1958, the former District Overseer is an education specialist. He is married to Sister Josephine.

Streams of Joy at Cotonou Camp Meeting

The 2010 Cotonou, Republic of Benin yearly camp meeting ended recently with participants praising God for the streams of joy that flowed in their deserts.

The convention, which ran between March 28 and April 11, 2010, was attended by delegates from Nigeria, Togo and Cote d'Ivoire. Other countries included Niger, Burkina Fasso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and brethren drawn from all the regions of Republic of Benin.

Children from the Elementary Sunday School Department went down memory lane in many of their programmes presented at the meetings, relating the promises of God to help people whose hearts are thirsty and hungry for the blessings of God.

One of the highlights of the convention was the inspiring testimony of Brother Pierre Houssa of how God can help in times of affliction. Pierre was paralysed for two years during which he consulted hospitals, traditional healers and certain churches, to no avail. God, however, led him to The Apostolic Faith where he was miraculously healed and saved.

Documentary evidence showed that 192 people were saved at the camp meeting, 117 sanctified and 65 were baptised with the Holy Ghost during the convention.

(Continued from Page 1)

“Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

“He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now” (1 John 2:8,9).

How many people hold things in their heart against one another! They say, “But I don’t hate them,” because they know Jesus said that hatred is murder. Under the Law, murderers were to be stoned to death. Under grace, if one hates his brother, he is a murderer. Jesus said so. You say, “Well, I don’t hate my brother, but I hold something against him, and I can’t forgive him.” Just be careful, for that borders pretty close to hatred, for if there were no hatred in the heart, there would be forgiveness.

It would be a terrible thing to have a grudge rankling in our heart. Certain people say and do terrible things against us, and yet we should entertain nothing in our hearts that would in any sense wish to get even, revenge or hate. It cannot be there, and it will not be there, if one is a child of God.

You can believe the doctrines, you can believe in the ordinances; but you have only a profession if you hate your brother. Hatred is the easiest of all sins to let slip into the human heart when a brother or a sister does something against you which perhaps he ought not to have done at all. But what does that child of God do? He forgives! What does the Word say? “Charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

“He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

“But he that hateth his brother is in

darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes” (1 John 2: 10,11).

Could it be possible that there can be anyone like that in the Gospel, with all the teaching and preaching that go forth, who could be blinded by that



***“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.
“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.”***

thing of hating his brother?

“My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

“And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

“For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things” (1 John 3:18-20).

Many times our hearts do not

condemn us as they should; but if God sees that our hearts need condemnation He will put it on. He has given us the Spirit of truth. He has given us the thing in our hearts that we cannot mistake.

If we cannot live together here in peace, we are never going to live up there. It is a glorious thing to have that grace in the heart of making peace instead of discord. If you cannot help to build up people, do not tear them down. Build up, make peace, make comfort, make things smooth!

We feel we can afford to go into some more of these portions of Scripture, examine our hearts and see if everything is all right.

“But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make

peace” (James 3: 14 - 18).

As I came into this tabernacle and looked from one to the other, I thought what a glorious thing it would be when the Books are opened, if there would not be one missing. What a wonderful thing that will be if we all make it; and we can by the grace of God.

Florence Louise Crawford was the founder of The Apostolic Faith Church of Portland, Oregon.

Newsline

Easter Retreat in Kwara District

The 2010 Easter Retreat for the Kwara District was held at the Headquarters Church in Ilorin from April 1 to 5. The programme included Bible study, film show, symposium, devotional, revival and evangelistic services. Two Bible study lessons titled: **Who is a Christian?** and **Resurrection: The Hope of a Christian**, were taken during the retreat. The symposium dwelt on Premarital Issues and Home Management. The altar benches were filled up after each of the activities. Seekers prayed earnestly to God. A seminar on **Vocation and Choice of Career**, scheduled for one of the afternoons, could not hold because the Spirit of God took total control; and the prayer session that started after the morning activities could not be stopped.

The peak attendance at the retreat was 1,724. From the record of blessings, 111 people were saved, 56 sanctified, 21 baptised with the Holy Spirit and 15 healed. ■

Camp Meeting in Uyo District

Preparations towards the camp meeting in the District heightened with the observance of a two-week prayer meetings. The camp meeting with the caption **Streams in the Desert**, was held between December 6 and 20. Worshippers experienced unprecedented blessings.

Eight hundred and sixty brethren took part in the Ministers and Workers' Conference held prior to the camp meeting.

Activities during the meetings included sermons, Bible teachings, musical concert, ordinances and extra curricular activities such as youth forum, seminars and drama.

Featuring during the meetings were testimonies of the saving grace of God and His power to keep, protect and heal.

The peak attendance at the camp meeting was 11,060. One hundred and thirty souls were immersed in water during the baptismal service, while 1,163 saints took part in the ordinances. Records of blessings at the camp meeting were: 225 saved, 75 sanctified, 13 baptised with the Holy Ghost and 114 healed. ■

Camp Meeting in Anambra District

A camp meeting with the caption: **Streams in the Desert**, was held in Anambra District between December 20, 2009 and January 3, 2010.

Preceding the meeting was a two-day Ministers and Workers' Conference. Topics of sermons and teachings at the camp meeting included: **Streams in the Desert; The Good Shepherd; Walking with God; The Good Old Path; Christian Living; Rewards: What Will They Be? Passing the Test; Love Not the World; A Veteran's Advice to a Young Warrior; and Promotion to Honour**. God revealed that the formula for receiving His blessings is tarrying in prayer until He answers. Seekers got hold of the formula and it worked for them throughout the meetings.

In one of the testimonies given, a backslider thanked God for bringing him back to the Gospel, and helping him pray through to the three Christian experiences.

At the last count, 61 souls were recorded saved, 43 sanctified, 28 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire and 24 healed. ■

Report from Ogun District

The 2010 Mother's Day was commemorated in some branch churches in the District. The children in the Elementary Sunday School Department spiced the day with recitation of memory verses, singing of songs and acting of playlets.

A young man, who, many years ago, had the opportunity of being brought to the Elementary Sunday School in our Church at Olugbo, recently took ill. He was taken by his parents to many physicians for healing, but all to no avail. It was then concluded that he would die in the sickness. However, the young man decided that even if he would die, he would like to go to Heaven because he had been taught in the Sunday school that there is a Heaven. He, therefore, came to the Church, prayed fervently and prayed through to salvation. Miraculously, he was healed from the sickness. The miracle of his healing led to the influx of many people from the town to the Church, including his parents.

For the months of February and March, a total of 76 souls were saved, 42 sanctified, 18 baptised with the Holy Ghost and 27 healed. ■