

*Children sound
an alert:
"Behold,
He cometh!"*

The children's programme yearly offers the Elementary Sunday School Departments from Lagos, Ogun and Oyo districts the opportunity to share the Word of God in their own way. Their preaching ability has always been overwhelming.

Sunday school children from Lagos District opened the floor on August 1, rehearsing the peaceful change of baton from Rev. Paul Oge Akazue to the incumbent, Rev. Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran. They reminded all that Brother Akazue, an advocate of 100 percent rapture, merely left the scene for the "Akowonjo" (Gatherer), Brother Adeniran to rally the Church for the Rapture. Vivid imagination, that is!

The children from Oyo District held the audience spellbound the second Sunday, through the presentation of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb where the faithfuls were rewarded. This illustration kept the audience glued to their seats, full of anticipation.

The Ogun District Sunday school children mounted the stage on August 14, to exhort the audience to get prepared to meet the Lord when He shall appear in the sky. The children went into recitation of
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The Ten Virgins Sleeping

His coming brings comfort

By Rene Cassell

And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God (Luke 13:11-13).

The unexpected happened to this woman who had had an infirmity for 18 years. Actually,

she was in this condition for about 6,600 days. She was so bowed that she could not stand straight, so bowed she could not look at the sky. She heard the birds singing on the trees, but she could not look up to see them. She heard people greeting her, but she could not look up to greet in return. You can imagine a woman so bowed that she could only look at her own feet. Maybe she had concluded that was the only way she would spend her life!

But as she got to church one day, she heard a voice. It was the voice of Jesus. As the woman walked toward Jesus, we could

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The Things We Have Heard



Rev. Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran

It is gratifying to know that the God of the Bible times is real, even in this end time. How great it is to know that His wondrous deeds are not limited to the past!

The 2010 Faith City camp meeting presented us, once more, with an opportunity for blessings. How the blessings poured! As God's children, what befits us is a heart of thanks and praises for the thousands delivered from the shackles of sin. What of the multitude healed? It is just wonderful!

But one thing we need to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard. There is a reason for that; they must not slip, for God requires obedience.

God wants us to keep the camp meeting teachings in remembrance. He says, *If the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation (Hebrews 2: 2, 3).*

The way out is to continue to pray, and work out our salvation with trembling. We need to strive to have the last grace to pass the last test, for the time is short.



Beho

Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen (Revelation 1:7).

This passage is a reference to the imminent second coming of Jesus Christ. We remember vividly that at the close of last year's camp meeting, our dear Brother Paul Akazue, said he hoped to see us in the sky. His last song was, *I will rest and tell the story.* Having his rest with the Lord was his heart's cry. It is the heart's cry of every believer too. Our veterans in faith, at their departure told us, "If you get to Heaven before me, tell them I am coming too." At his own time, Rev. Josiah Soyinka went ahead to inform us, "I've finished my course, mission accomplished!"

The theme of this camp meeting, Behold, He Cometh, was not entirely chosen by me; it was adopted. As Brother Akazue laid in his sick bed, he never ceased to think about the Rapture. His experience was similar to that of John the Beloved, whom the persecutors abandoned at the Isle of Patmos. Persecuted and afflicted, he was able to proclaim, Behold, he cometh. It is certain that Jesus Christ is coming again!

Jesus Christ, before His arrest and crucifixion, said:

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:1-3).

Some get confused when we talk about the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. The Second Advent would be in two phases. In John 14:3, Jesus said, **where I am, there ye may be also.** In that reference, Jesus promised to receive whosoever makes the Rapture unto Himself. However, Revelation 1:7 reveals that every eye shall see him. This has a different connotation from the earlier cited portion of the Bible.

And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him (Jude 14, 15).

When Jesus was speaking to the disciples in John 14:1, His mission was to comfort and encourage them. Jude went a notch higher, he said, if they knew that Jesus Christ was coming to take them home, they would need to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints. This would mean that they would continuously remind themselves: "There are things I cannot do, there are places I cannot go, and I need to get focused no matter the persecution or affliction, no matter the temptation in this world, I will constantly remember, Behold, He cometh." Such a Christian would often ask himself, "What shall separate me from the love of Christ? I will endure, I will remain committed, no matter the difficulties or pleasure of life, nothing shall separate me from the love of God."

Revelation 19: 11- 16 sheds greater light on the topic:

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were

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Id, HE COMETH

By Emmanuel Adeniran

as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations; and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.



This is the picture of the caption: **Behold, He cometh!** This is the description of Jesus Christ clothed with a vesture dipped in Blood, and on a white horse with a sword in His mouth, coming into the world. Jude said He is coming with ten thousands of His saints. Where did He get the saints? In John 14:1, we read, I have gone to prepare a place for you. These were the people Jesus called His servants. They were once sinners who came to the knowledge of salvation. They confessed and renounced their sins and Jesus saved their souls. He also called them brethren.

Little children, let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous, He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God (1 John 3:7-9).

It is the children of God that are invited to the meeting in the air, not sinners. They are those people who did not cover their sins,

knowing that whosoever covereth his sins shall not prosper; they have confessed and asked God for forgiveness. God forgave them and they remained faithful in spite of trials and temptations. They continued in well doing until God called them Home.

Does that remind you of the wife of Lot? She had followed Abraham from a long distance because her husband had followed Abraham from that distance. Lot and Abraham had come a long way. There were times they were almost to the ground but God had changed their circumstances. Brother Akazue told us last year that when things are all right with us, our conducts could get corrupted if we are not careful. Before you know it, Lot the boy became Lot the rich man. The devil is very cunning; he could becloud our reasoning that sin may become attractive. Lot and his wife followed the mirage. Their relationship with the brethren was severed. They mixed with the Sodomites whose conduct was initially found repulsive. Little by little, they went into Sodom, until they were taken captives and Abraham had to go and rescue them. Lot's wife failed the last test and lost the last grace.

Jesus was afflicted and crucified, yet He has prayed for us. In the world, we shed tears; even when we use handkerchief to clean our eyes, the tears still flow. God wants to clean our tears with His heavenly handkerchief. If you want to be there, earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints. Many Christians are in the same boat with Lot's wife. They have gone astray and away from the Church, but the prayer of the people of God has brought them back. Even now, where are you? The Shepherd of your soul is here this morning to deliver you from backsliding. He is not like Satan who has purposed to destroy you.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love (Revelation 2:4).

This was the voice of God. Where is your first love? Initially, you used to enjoy the work of God. But now things have gone wrong. Something is wrong with you, no wonder you are no longer interested in the things of God. Before now, your hands were full of God's work but wherever you go now, your trademark is murmuring. You have neglected your first love.

O ISRAEL, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity. Take with you words, and turn to the LORD; say unto him, Take away

all iniquity, and receive us graciously: so will we render the calves of our lips. I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him (Hosea 14:1,2,4).

What God expected of Lot's wife is what He expects of us today.

I know thy works, and thy labour... He that hath an ear, let him hear. And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan (Revelation 2:2,7,8,9).

Here, we find another group. It is a mixture of the faithful and the unfaithful. The first consists of a band of righteous worshippers who have faced persecution, even from within the church. The second is a group of people within the church whom we thought have the power of God in their lives, but who wear satanic masks. They serve as thorns in the flesh of the Children of God. They are the synagogues of Satan. We would not try to uproot them, for the Bible says, 'Let the wheat and the tares grow together.' At the end of time, while the wheat is harvested home, the tares would be reserved for fire. The tares have the name that they are alive but they are dead. May God turn them around today and deliver them from perdition. If you will repent of your past ways and turn to the Lord for mercy, He will save and deliver you from the shackles of sin.

For those of you who fear God and are righteous, and without blemish, God has a book of records. The result is coming; your reward is coming. Your trials will soon be over. Over there in Heaven, there will be no sickness or tears.

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

There is victory waiting for you. You cannot afford to miss the victory parade. You cannot afford to miss the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Keep on believing, and the good Lord will bless you! □

Children sound an alert

(Continued from Page 1)

the Word of God, in relation to Jesus' Second Advent, cautioning His own not to sleep or slumber.

Children from Lagos District rounded off the presentation on August 22, giving the 50,000-audience the assurance that God, Who was faithful to bring them to 2010 camp meeting, will not only take them home safely, but grant them eternal rest with Him at the end of time. The children admonished all to continue to remember that Jesus is coming again, and ensure their garments are without spot or wrinkle.

Throughout the camp meeting, the children kept the theme of the convention: "Behold, He Cometh" alive, digging deep each Sunday for apt messages to convey vivid meanings to all. No wonder hearts were

melted as they filed out of the podium, leaving the eyes of their audience glistening with tears.



Reward to the faithful

One of the coordinators from Lagos District was delighted by the performance of the children. She noted, "The Church is offering children from the districts the chance to share in the spirit of the camp

meeting. I believe it is a fantastic opportunity for the Gospel, and I am thrilled that so many people in the Church feel the same way."

A Sunday school teacher from Oyo District also said, "Nurturing the pupils to the level of the performances seen at the camp meeting is an enormous task and one that only the Sunday school teachers, through God's help, can offer.

"Everyone is excited about these future evangelists, but we also want to create an evangelistic legacy that would run throughout the lifetime of these children.

"We know that these children are the future of this great Gospel. I believe the commitment of The Apostolic Faith to put these children in the right path from childhood, will make the future pleasant." □

Last grace beckons, time is up for carelessness

The District Superintendent of The Apostolic Faith, West and Central Africa, Rev. Emmanuel Adeniran, charged members of the Church to strive to pass the last test to win the last grace.

Speaking during the Ministers and Workers' Conference held at Faith City, Igbesa, on July 28, he said the devil wants to hold as many people as possible back from gaining entry into Heaven. The great God has made all preparations, and His Spirit is going round to spread the grace that humanity needs to overcome the antics of the evil one.

"The evil one is also making his own plan. Like the Pharaoh of old asked the Children of Israel, 'Who is that your God that I would let you go and worship Him?' The devil is ready to follow anyone to any corner - room, toilet and so on. He is the accuser of the brethren. This is the more reason we need to constantly remember, "Behold, He cometh."

The District Superintendent noted that this generation, especially The Apostolic Faith, was faced with two

critical spiritual thoughts: the last test and the last grace.

He said the need to pass the last test supersedes every other challenge a Christian may be facing. "If Satan could doggedly look for Moses' errors so that he could gather evidences against his entry into Heaven, then the day to live a careless life was yesterday, not now!

"This being the case, your attitude to prayer must change. You should stop seeing yourself as someone up there. You should rather work out your salvation with fear and trembling. Your attitude to God and your relationship with others must change." Brother Adeniran noted that 2010 has been a mysterious year for the Church and individuals. "From studies and revelations, we have seen the plan of God, especially the Plan of Redemption, up till the point that God is about to break the sky for the Second Advent of Christ to harvest home His own.

"As if that were not enough, God, in His love for The Apostolic Faith, and because He wanted to make us understand that nobody would have any excuse, gave us an uncommon revelation.

"We have surer prophesies in the Bible

and thank God, we know the Bible is correct and that all that are contained therein are sure. The revelation that Jesus is coming soon is a powerful, yet a fearful thing. Still, it is a loving thing that requires an urgent action by all the Church leadership, every household and every individual. The Ark is ready; the door is open. Behold, He cometh!

"Besides, before we left this place (Faith City) last year, that gallant soldier of the Cross, Rev. Paul Akazue, told us that if we did not meet again this year, we will meet at the feet of Jesus Christ. This man was determined to make Heaven and he struggled hard to make it real. He was a true lover of Africa. He was the composer of *Africa Must Be Saved* and *Lord, Remember Africa*. He literally walked into Heaven.

Brother Adeniran charged the participants to ensure they walk circumspectly such that at death when Satan levies allegations against them, Jesus will proudly defend them.

About 5,500 people attended the conference. □

Jesus, my haven of rest

Oba Solomon Ajibola, the Elegosi of Egesi Kingdom, Kwara State, Nigeria, turned 61 recently and shares his testimony.

I congratulate anyone who comes across the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministration of The Apostolic Faith. I came across The Apostolic Faith by a divine plan hatched through the Elementary Sunday School Department of the Church.

I was born in an orthodox Church, and grew up learning its tenets. God exposed me further when I enrolled as a student at Mayflower School, Ikenne, Ogun State. The proprietor of the school, late Dr. Tai Solarin gave every student the opportunity to choose which class they wanted to belong to, based on religion - traditional, Islamic or Christian. Of all my classmates totalling 300, only 20 were in Christianity class.

God planned my way such that at that time, I lived with Rev. Fountain, a white man who was the chaplain of the school. It was such that the white man was used to going on leave for two months yearly. Each time he travelled, I acted as the chaplain of the school. Along the line, I was also a member of the Scripture Union, an assembly of born-again youths.

I had my university education in Greece and during that time, I attended another church. On graduation, I returned home and had my compulsory youth service in Northern Nigeria. During that time, I joined another denomination. In all, God was charting the course of my life.

After the service, I moved to Kwara State and got engaged with yet another denomination. But somehow, I found church attendance more of a luxury after a while, having been engrossed in agricultural production, and more because of my workaholic nature. Besides, my wife was also in school, studying for her Higher National Diploma.

The burden of having to take care of the children was a major issue, but God opened a big door through The Apostolic Faith, Omu-Aran. Every Sunday, they brought their bus to convey the children to Church and so, I had a big relief.

For nine years, my people mounted pressure on me that I was the consensus king for the Egesi Kingdom. By hindsight, I reckoned that no one could be a traditional title-holder of that magnitude without getting involved in idolatry. I declined the offer each time I was approached.

One day, my wife told me of a grand revival meeting in town and being the last day, she wanted us to attend. During the programme, traditional rulers who had accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour were invited for counselling. Their stepping out for Christ touched me,

and it was not long thereafter that the educated elites from my town called again, then I agreed to become a king.

Barely a year after my enthronement, the chiefs came asking that I should participate in idolatry. I was very sad, and told them that all my life, I had not visited a herbalist nor touched any charm. In my search for succour, I approached the pastor, and he told me that as the king, I was the head of witches and wizards and that there was no way I could abdicate the responsibility. I shuddered and that was the end of my contact with that church.

There was no way I could stand alone without the refreshing in the Word of God, so



I started to ruminate over which church to attend. Then, a question struck my mind, 'Why not attend the Church that is helping to nurture your children?' That was the magic. I started attending The Apostolic Faith.

Meanwhile, the confrontation from my people continued. I told my new pastor and he assured me that God would undertake for me. A Bible Study centre was established in the palace and people of God were praying for me. Not quite long, the chiefs came again that the masquerade festival was approaching, and that the festival will kick off similar festivals round Kwara State. I told them I did not know anything about masquerade festivals, and they all boycotted my palace.

The educated elites intervened again and persuaded the chiefs that I knew nothing about masquerades or their schemes. The warfare continued to hot up as my extended family summoned me to a meeting, asking me to dance to the tune of my subjects. I congratulated them that even if I were dethroned, it was not because of idolatry, fornication, adultery, or any other thing that could bring blemish to the name of the family. On the allegation that a church used to come to the palace to pray, I explained there was nothing wrong in that since they were not there to curse.

Worse still, the initial confrontations seemed a child's play when it was time for the *Oro* festival. My people do not joke with the festival at all. In fact, they wanted my

children to participate in the festival. In their presence, I invited my first-born and told her the mission of the people. She declined stoutly. Difficult as the situation was, I resolved never to back down on my faith and gradually, I began thinking of life outside the palace.

I was on my farm one day and at a point, I discovered that the Holy Spirit enveloped me for more than 10 minutes. God told me to quit the town, and that I should leave my wife and children behind, that He would take care of them. I did, and during my sojourn, I told the Kwara District Overseer of The Apostolic Faith of my plight and that I wished to abdicate the throne. He persuaded me not to run away; that if I did, I would be subjecting the Christians in my domain to persecution. Within the period of my sojourn, they held their festival.

I returned after three weeks and many of them came to welcome me back home. I discovered later that many of them came with the intention of confirming whether I was paralysed, blind or some untoward thing had befallen me. God took all the glory.

I discovered too that if an Oba fails to embrace God the Almighty, he will serve Satan. One day, one of the chiefs advised that I ought to have become a wizard and my wife, the head of witches. He charged that I should contact another chief, and put a bottle of water outside at night for my initiation. I saw him out of the palace and never did what he asked me to do. Let me state here that whoever has trust in God will never be disappointed.

Throughout the five years of rigorous persecution, I was always at camp meetings and I always prayed that God should deliver my people from idolatry. Three separate communities founded Egesi during the internecine wars. Each camp meeting, I kept telling God that He should work it out that my people would move into their original land. During one of the meetings, God told me that The Apostolic Faith people would pioneer the movement. Same year, the immediate past Africa Overseer, Reverend Paul Akazue, toured our area and told me of the plan of the Church to establish schools. God inspired me to donate some parcels of land for the development.

Weeks later, God inspired me to build a block of six classrooms for the take-off of The Apostolic Faith Secondary School, Egesi. I did and handed it over to the Church. Shortly after, the state government decided to tar the road leading to the place. Series of developments followed, which made my people to reason that if I did not worship idols and God was able to bring development to the area, it was better I be left alone to follow my God. I can say it loud and clear that victory belongs to God, because today, we now live together happily. □

Restructuring at WECA headquarters

The Apostolic Faith work in West and Central Africa (WECA) has a new strategy for meeting the challenges of the times. The work is covering 12 of the 22 countries in the district, and is expanding fast, with Nigeria taking the lead.

At the last count, Nigeria has 526 branch churches and 223 Bible study centres in 22 of the 36 states, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The Church has her presence in Benin Republic, Burkina Fasso, The Gambia, Ghana and Guinea Conakry. She is also visible in Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Togo, all in West Africa.

In Central Africa, the Church has branches in Cameroun, Congo and Gabon.

For effective administration and health of the ministry, five levels of administration have been put in place.

WECA headquarters in Anthony, Lagos, Nigeria, provides district-wide leadership and the District Superintendent heads it. Regions have been created within Nigeria, each headed by a Regional Overseer. District Overseers are responsible for branch churches within a certain land area and reports to the Regional Overseer. A zonal headquarters consist of a big branch church and a group of smaller churches. Pastors of branch churches report to the Zonal Coordinator. At the branch church level, pastors administer their individual churches and report to the Zonal Coordinators. At the Bible study centre realm, the leaders report to the pastors in charge.

The restructuring has thrown up five-regional clusters in Nigeria, each carved out based on nearness and access, but presently, four are operational. Port Harcourt is the regional headquarters for Abia, Anambra, Bayelsa, Enugu, Imo and Rivers Districts. Rev. Saviour Nnodim heads it. Ikot Ewang is the regional headquarters for Ikot Ewang, Calabar and Uyo Districts. Rev. Dealyn George heads it. Abuja is the regional headquarters for Jos, Kogi, Niger and Abuja Districts. Rev. Aaron Olamijulo is in charge. Anthony Village, Lagos, is the zonal headquarters for South West, covering Ekiti, Oyo, Osun, Ogun, Kwara, Edo and Delta districts. Rev. E.O Aina is the leader. He will also assist in the running of Lagos zone.

Under the reform, seven directorates have been created to coordinate the Church activities in line with the new and extended range of responsibilities of the Church. The directorates are:

Worship: deals with the issue and services directly related to teaching, preaching, intercession and other worship areas, such as music and child evangelism, among others. The directorate is headed by Rev. Kayode Oje.



Missions (Foreign and Home): is in charge of issues relating to church planting, evangelism and mission field governance. It provides central coordination for the entire mission outpost and the directorate. Rev. Gabriel Ajayi heads the directorate. Rev. Rachel Fakorede is deputy (Foreign) and Rev. Festus Oyeniyi is deputy (Home) Mission.



Resource Development: deals with human resource management, production of worship support materials and other media needed in other areas of the work. Rev. Sam Inyang heads the directorate. The deputy director is Rev. Esther Ogunfowomu.



Welfare: takes care of issues bordering on membership care and well-being. This directorate is charged with the responsibility of developing a comprehensive welfare programme for the Church. Rev. James Olaleye heads the directorate.



Infrastructure Management: deals with infrastructure planning, development and maintenance. It evolves site development plans and ensures planning, control and enforcement. Rev. Albert Abe heads the directorate.



Youth: The youth directorate schedules and develops activities for young people such as youth forums, rallies and camps. It is fully in-charge of youth welfare, taking into consideration young people's counselling-spiritual, educational, vocational, and social. Rev. Emmanuel Moh heads the directorate.



Finance: deals with managing the financial resources of the missions. Rev. Dapo Ojumu heads the directorate.



Where are they now?

Following the restructuring that has swept the landscape of The Apostolic Faith in West and Central Africa, some ministers of God have changed offices in their call to duty. Some of the new offices created are those of Regional Overseers, Directors and Deputy Directors.

Rev. Emmanuel O. Aina is the Regional Overseer for the South West Region. He has been a long-standing member of the Board of Trustees. He was the overseer for the former Ondo District (now Ondo and Ekiti Districts). He was also in Ogun District before settling down in WECA headquarters, Anthony Village, Lagos. As the Regional Overseer for South West, he has oversight function for Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Ekiti, Ogun, Kwara, Edo and Delta Districts. He will also assist in the running of the Lagos Region.



Rev. Aaron Olamijulo is the Regional Overseer for Abuja Region. Brother Muiyiwa, as he is fondly called, was formerly the national secretary of the AVS work. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of The Apostolic Faith. He served as the Overseer of the then Oyo/Osun District from where he moved to Ikot Ewang. At present, his jurisdiction covers Abuja, Jos, Kogi and Niger Districts.



Rev. Saviour Nnodim is the Regional Overseer for the Port Harcourt Region. He is a member of the Board of Trustees. He was at a time the Overseer of The Apostolic Faith in Enugu, and later Rivers. Port Harcourt Region covers Abia, Anambra, Bayelsa, Enugu, Imo and Rivers Districts.



Rev. Dealyn George is the Regional Overseer of Ikot Ewang region. A former Overseer of The Apostolic Faith work in Liberia and later Abia District, is at present in charge of the work in Cross River, Ikot Ewang and Uyo Districts.



- Region**
- Lagos
 - South-West
 - Ikot-Ewang
 - Port-Harcourt
 - Abuja

The map of Nigeria showing Apostolic Faith presence

Level	Headquarters Name	Authority	Area of Administration
1	West & Central Africa Headquarters	District Superintendent	All country overseers in the West & Central Africa District and regional overseers in Nigeria report directly to the District Superintendent
2	Regional Headquarters	Regional Overseer	All district overseers within a particular region, especially in Nigeria, report to the Regional Overseer
3	District Headquarters	District Overseer	A district normally consists of branch churches within a certain land area, sometimes cutting across states boundaries in Nigeria. All zonal coordinators report to the District Overseer
4	Zonal Headquarters	Zonal Coordinator	A zone is a fairly big branch church and a group of smaller churches around it. All branch churches' pastors report to the zonal coordinator
5	Branch Church	Pastor	Pastors administer their individual churches and report to the zonal coordinators

Levels of Administration

Photo News

At Workers' Conference



Brother Dwight speaking on preaching and pulpit decorum



Rev. Rene Cassell (left), Rev. Dwight Baltzell and Rev. Bayo Adeniran (sitting) at the Ministers and Workers' Conference



Brother Bayo Adeniran speaking on Holiness in communication

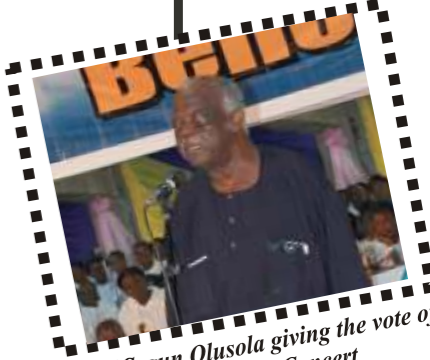
At the Concert



Brother Adeniran and wife, Josephine at the concert



The Choir sings the praise of God



Chief Segun Olusola giving the vote of thanks at the Concert

Children's Programme



Elementary pupils singing "When the Saints are marching in..."



Elders round the Throne of God in action



The Master giving out talents to his servants

Special Events



The District Superintendent addressing pastors at the Seminar



Brother Albert Gnahi reporting on mission activities in Burkina Faso



Water Baptism: dead to sin but alive to Christ

First Sunday



Brother Albert Abe teaching at a Sunday School



Brother Bayo Adeniran sounding an alert: "Behold, He Commeth"



Brother Jacob Amadu conducting the evangelistic service

Youth Forum



Brother Dwight having a raport with the youth



Tope Makun talking on building business on the Rock



Cross section of participants at a youth seminar

From the Pulpit

JUSTIFICATION

Dwight Baltzel

There is a desire in man to worship something because he knows that there is something greater than himself. There is no doubt about the hereafter. Man knows from the things around and his daily experience that nothing lasts forever here on earth. God in return talks to man because He loves him. He is making a provision for man to live with Him forever. Therefore, He tells man in John 14:1-3 that He has gone to prepare a beautiful place of habitation for him. All God requires is a cordial relationship with Him here on earth. To show the height of His love He made man in His own image (Genesis 1: 26, 27). There is a constant wooing by the Spirit of God to make man His, but man usually tends towards the devil because the image of God was lost in Eden when Adam and Eve sinned. Sin brought instant spiritual death and this was why man relates more to the physical than the spiritual.

Despite man's attitude, God's love remains constant, though it is difficult for man to comprehend. To guarantee man's return, He gave the world His only begotten Son so that they can have relationship with Him. To enter into this relationship, man need not ask how, like Nicodemus. God simply wants us to believe Him. The meetings in Apostolic Faith, like the Sunday school, Bible Study, Devotional Service and even camp meeting, are geared towards making people have relationship with God through salvation. Salvation is an experience that we must be sure of, not mere mental acceptance. When a man decamps from Satan's hold to Jesus' fold, he must know.

Salvation is not as a result of anything man does, but God made all the provision. The requirements are simple. Repentance is vital and God's requirements can be understood by everyone. God wants us to love Him than anything in life and we must be ready to let go all sins. The thief on the cross met God's condition before Jesus saved him. Once one meets God's conditions, he enters a new relationship with Him. God wants us to flow in spirit together so that when we die we begin an everlasting fellowship that will last through eternity.

BENEFITS OF SANCTIFICATION

Dealyn George

Sanctification is for the family of God, they who have been redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb. Jesus gave Himself for a ransom for our justification and sanctification that we may live to please God and no longer ourselves. Sanctification is a cleansing experience that makes you clean inside. To sanctify means to set apart from ungodliness, to be dedicated to God. It also means to make holy or purified. The person seeking sanctification sets himself apart from ungodliness and the Lord purifies him. A sanctified person walks a straight path so that anybody looking at him will not be made to stumble. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). Peace with God is vertical and peace with men is horizontal. Daily in his action and reaction, he lets the Word of God guide him. "As he who has called you is holy, so be ye holy." Sanctification removes selfishness from him and makes him to be in one accord with other sanctified people. A sanctified heart runs away from all appearance of evil. He perseveres and is full of love, joy, peace and longsuffering. He is teachable and alert to instructions. Sanctification is for all born-again Christians. "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

POWER FOR SERVICE

Saviour Nnodim

If you are saved and sanctified, the Lord Jesus is promising to endue you with power from on high for service. He will baptise you with the Holy Ghost and fire, so that when you begin to preach the Word or testify, it will go out with power, and hit the target. The Holy Spirit will help you to win souls.

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And

it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: (Acts 2:14-17).

The disciples were endued with power from on high. After Peter's sermon 3,000 souls were saved. As the disciples went preaching, communities were awakened. People brought their sick ones into the streets, so that the shadow of Peter might fall on them, and they were healed. The handkerchief of Paul was sent to sick people and they were healed. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. "Unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:5-8).

God will do a new thing for you. He will give you power for service if you earnestly tarry for it.

CONSECRATION AND THE REFINER'S FIRE

Aaron Olamijulo

"Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace" (Job 22:21).

We are asked to submit ourselves to the Almighty God, yield to Him and agree with Him. We need to hear from Him and know what His mind is on every issue so we may live to please Him every day. When a sacrifice has been laid on the altar, that sacrifice has no choice nor decision of its own. It is the one to whom the sacrifice is brought who calls the shots. Have you surrendered decision making to Him? The first thing to ask yourself is, "What does God say about this?" In our career, marriage and finances, God wants each one of us to say, "Lord, take over." Consecration demands a total surrender to the One Who made and owns us. As we surrender, it will cost us something. We should be so close to Him in the reading of His Word, in prayer, in our conversation, that it would be difficult to separate us from Him. The devil will not be able to snatch us away. However, the closer we are to God, the more trials God allows in our lives to refine us, mature us and make

us softer. We will also be a blessing to others who may face similar trials. Without going through the way of the cross, there is no crown.

The profession of our faith also has to be proved. How then shall we not suffer persecution? Sometimes God allows us to go through some difficult circumstances in order to perfect us.

“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold” (Job 23:10).

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

God created man to have a perpetual relationship with Him. God has no interest in casual relationships. Satan became jealous of man's princely position in God's creation and tried to spoil the relationship between man and God. But thank God for the Plan of Redemption made from the foundation of the world. The paradise lost in the Garden was regained at Calvary.

The Bride of Christ is the body of believers who made use of Christ's Atonement and become the called - out, separated from the world. Christ is the Bridegroom and the Church within the church is the Bride. The official wedding ceremony is coming. There is, however, a lot of preparations for the Bride to make, getting herself and others ready for the ultimate reunion.

At His appearing, the Bride must be chaste (2 Corinthians 11:2). That is the essence of the Bride's consecration to die daily and continually put the flesh under. It is not work that will recommend the Bride to the Groom, but a chaste life. So daily, the Bride exercises herself in things that can improve on her chastity (2 Peter 1:5-7; Philippians 4:8).

This was what five of the seven churches in Asia did not do that caused their failure. They endured and were filled with works but their chastity was not maintained.

The Bride is living in the world but not of the world. God who saved and called her out is able to keep her from spiritual adultery (James 4:4).

While waiting for the Bridegroom, the Bride is expected to be watchful, prayerful and steadfast in trials. She must be united with her Lord, and occupy faithfully. The Bride of Christ must be ever ready as shown in the parable of the ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). The Christian experiences of salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are not to be toyed

with. One cannot take a break after one or two of these experiences.

Be sure you are part of the Bride Jesus wants to come for. Ask God to help you make the necessary preparations.

FORGIVENESS AND RESTITUTION

Dwight Baltzell

“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross” (Colossians 2:13, 14).

We can never be grateful enough for the forgiveness of God. No one can forgive like Jesus. It is one thing to forgive someone and something else too if there is a painful penalty that must be paid for the transgression. But God forgave us and also paid for our debt. Forgiveness feels wonderful, doesn't it? Nothing is so blessed and brings blessing like forgiveness.

*“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy” (Matthew 5:7).
“And forgive us our debt as we forgive our debtors” (Matthew 6:12).*

That is very powerful! If we want anything from God, what a bargain for us to have this little spirit of forgiveness compared to God's great forgiveness to us, so we may receive it? We cannot take any unforgiveness with us to Heaven.

Restitution is a companion to forgiveness. Restitution is fixing issues with our fellow men and making them correct. You've heard some say they were sorry and they did not mean it. It just fell flat. We don't always know when someone means it, but God does. Sometimes we feel someone owes us restitution and we get all concerned about other people's wrongdoings. But it is between them and God. If fellow men offend us, let us forgive them, remembering God's forgiveness for us. Maybe the person has other restitutions than the one weighing us down. Or maybe there is a lesson for us as well as for the other person. As Christians, we have a heavenly Father, will He not want to nurture and teach us?

What happens when we retain unforgiveness? It turns to bitterness.

“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Colossians 3:13).

THE POWER OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Akinwumi Ajayi

It takes discipline for one to be on his knees to pray to God. Ordinarily, what cannot be accomplished by man can be accomplished through prayer. Prayer has power!

Intercessory prayer is prayer for all men.

I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting (1 Timothy 2:1-4,8).

The only thing you need as an intercessor is a pure heart and holy hands. Why do you need a pure heart? “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Psalm 66:18).

In the days of Prophet Ezekiel, there was a spiritual breakdown in the country and God wanted somebody to pray. He was looking for a single soul to “stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none” (Ezekiel 22:30).

Where were the Levites, the priests and other ministers of the sanctuary? Where are intercessors for the world, with all the vices that have infested the land? Eventually, judgement came to Israel and the people who were supposed to intercede were not spared.

Abraham was a wonderful intercessor for Lot and his family. Prophet Jeremiah was branded a weeping prophet. He was not weeping because his car was getting old, nor because he wanted a wife, nor because he wanted promotion. He was weeping for the desolation that was awaiting the land of Israel.

Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street (Lamentations 2:19).

We need to pray for our youths. They are the future leaders. Elijah interceded for Israel and the nation fell on their faces acknowledging the LORD Jehovah as God.

Job interceded for his friends and his captivity was turned. Our Lord Jesus Christ interceded for sinners and it availed for us.

Camp 2010: A mighty revival

Echoes of joy abounded in Faith City, venue of the 2010 camp meeting, as participants counted the blessings that attended the three-week convention.

At the last count, recorded blessings included 3,500 souls saved; 2,143 sanctified; 1,146 baptised with the Holy Spirit; 2,541 healed of diverse diseases and 2,925 re-anointed.

The District Superintendent of Apostolic Faith Churches in West and Central Africa (WECA), Rev. Emmanuel Adeniran, in response to the resounding chorus of “amen” that attended the announcement of the records, explained that the blessings were products of prayer.

The congregation had approached the month-long prayer retreat before the camp meeting with vigour, praying God to manifest His divine presence in a new fashion to save and deliver the bound.

The Ministers and Workers' Conference held July 28 and 29 set the tempo for the convention. The approach to the conference had a tinge of remodelling. Instead of the District Superintendent leading the body of workers through the paper: *Holiness in Communication*, they were divided into groups. The paper called for modifications in participants' behaviour and, especially, the way they communicate, one with the other.

The Apostolic Faith District Superintendent for Canada, Rev. Rene Cassell, taught on *Unity* during the Conference.

Highlights of the teaching are:

- * workers in the vineyard of God are set apart to achieve the mission of God;
- * when united, the world will recognise they are sent of God;
- * unity encourages the Holy Spirit to work in and among Christians;
- * diverse as our talents and roles are, they achieve the same goal of expanding the Kingdom of God on earth.

The Director of Africa Work at The Apostolic Faith international headquarters, Rev. Dwight Baltzell, taught on *Preaching and Pulpit Decorum*. He explained that although The Apostolic Faith services are evangelistic, yet, the Church remains conservative in the use of its pulpit. According to him, preachers must live

their messages and remain messengers of an age-old Word of God, reported and preached by their forebears.

When the camp meeting started on August 1, the tempo was high. The day opened with a programme presented by the Elementary Sunday school children from Lagos District, which anchored on the theme of the camp meeting, 'Behold, He Cometh.' It was a relive presentation of the parable of the Ten Virgins. The exact depiction of the lot of the foolish virgins drove home the lesson that being saved, sanctified and baptised with the Holy Ghost, profits a little if one fails to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered to the saints.

The devotional sermon titled, *Behold, He Cometh* centred on the need for everybody to be prepared for the Second Advent of Jesus Christ. The preacher shed light on the preparations anyone who hopes to meet Jesus in peace needs to make. The rush to the mourners' benches was keen when the exhortation was rounded off.

Teachings for the first week centred on the foundations of the Gospel-Justification; Sanctification; Power for service - as well as Consecration and the Refiner's Fire. The revival services were full of inspiration. Each of the services was preceded by a testimony service and the testimonies were very inspiring. For example, a wall fell, part of the rubble hit a child's head and a curved nail stuck on the child's head. Without surgery, but with much faith in God, the nail was prayed out of its hold. The object lesson is that God is still mindful of His own.

To music enthusiasts, the yearly camp meeting concert of The Apostolic Faith is very special. There were wonderful choir renditions, violin solo, clarinet quartets and local airs in Igbo, French, Efik and Yoruba. Chief Olusegun Olusola, Founder, African Refugees Foundation, in his comments, was full of praises to God. “It is a long while that I have been exposed to great music as I have listened to tonight.”



Teachings, seminars, sacred music and revival services continued in the remaining part of the convention. God added new members to His kingdom each day. An untold angle to this year's camp meeting was the large turn out of former members who heard of the manifestations of the Lord and decided to stage a comeback.

From teaching to teaching, it was evident that another refreshing time had blossomed.

One special feature of the camp meeting was the unprecedented crowd that participated throughout the three weeks. Worshipers from every part of Africa, especially from WECA District, kept coming and at a point, the population was over 50,000.

The camp meeting ended in the evening of August 22, 2010. □

New districts emerge from Lagos

Two districts have emerged from the former Lagos District, one of the largest in West and Central Africa (WECA) District.

They are the Lagos South District with headquarters at Ebute Metta. Rev. Amos Adeoye is the District Overseer. The other is Lagos North District, with headquarters at The Apostolic Faith Church, Oke Aro. Rev. Peter Aderemi Awomoyi is the District Overseer.

Explaining the rationale for the

creation, WECA District Superintendent, Rev. Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran noted that the Church had made tremendous progress in the Lagos area. “We found that the Lord has need of more hands in His vineyard and we want to follow Him.”

He explained that the two districts emerged for easier administration, Lagos having a population of about 20 million, and the Church having about 40 branches. □

His coming brings comfort

(Continued from Page 1)

imagine what went on in her mind. Suddenly, Jesus commanded, 'Woman, you are loosed.' As she pondered what was happening, Jesus touched her. For the first time, she looked up. The woman stood straight and glorified God.

As you know, Jesus is the hope of the hopeless, and He has help for the helpless. Jesus daily seeks opportunities to help man.

In the Book of John chapter five, we find a man who had been in an infirmity for 38 years. Year in year out, he laid by the pool because at a certain season, an angel went down to stir the water. But the man hoped that someday, somebody would come and help him into the water too. He was so sick that before he could do anything, another person would have got into the water and so he lay by the pool for a long time. But when Jesus saw him, He had compassion on him.

When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? (John 5:6).

When Jesus asked, ***Wilt thou be made whole?*** The man started telling stories. We would not know what he was expecting; maybe he thought Jesus would come around that place again. But Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." Here was a man who was so sick that, he had not been able to stand for 38 long years. But the Bible tells us, ***And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked (John 5:9).***

Whatever is your need or sickness, Jesus can do it, because, Jesus is the answer!

When I was young, my mother was sick to the point of death. We lived in a fishing community where there was no hospital. My mother was so sick she could not open her eyes and we were all afraid she would die. Then somebody told us we should seek the help of the

people of God. I ran after the people of God and sought their help. When I returned home, I met my father crying that he was going to lose his wife. I too jumped



on the foam and wept. I told God, 'If you heal my mother, I will serve you for the rest of my life.' Shortly, the people of God came and prayed for her. Not quite long after they left, she opened her eyes and asked if she could have something to eat. God healed my mother.

One thing is sure, Jesus can take care of the physical and the spiritual. We are glad that anything we ask in His Name, He will do. Jesus came to set sinners free. Many are bound in the shackles of sin and cannot help themselves, but Jesus came to set them loose. He will break the shackles

Jesus can take care of the physical and the spiritual. We are glad that anything we ask in His Name, He will do. Jesus came to set sinners free. Many are bound in the shackles of sin and cannot help themselves, but Jesus came to set them loose. He will break the shackles and fetters, for His power is above that of Satan

and fetters, for His power is above that of Satan. He restores joy to the heart and gives beauty in place of ashes. Whoso cometh unto Him, He will in no wise cast out.

For those who are sick or have family problems, it does not matter. He speaks the Word and heals them. The stress can weigh us down but He says, 'My yoke is easy and my burden light.'

In 1987, I was a young pastor but some things happened that were a burden to me. My assistant in the Church died of brain tumour; two months later, my son was diagnosed of diabetes. I did what the Bible asked me to do. I took him to the elders of the Church and they laid their hands on him and prayed. Not quite long, my brother was killed at his place of work; and this my younger brother was one of the musicians and a Sunday School teacher. But I did not know why Jesus did what He did.

For those periods, I did not know what to do. One night, the enemy came and said, "You can see you are wrong to think you can be in the Ministry." I realised Satan was wrong but I was troubled in the mind. I went down to my study but found I could not read. I tried to pray but I could not. I then took my Bible and opened to read. The first word that I saw was comfort. That portion of the Bible is Isaiah 40. ***COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith the Lord. Reading down the line, I found that, He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength and that, they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint (Isaiah 40:1,29, 31).***

I want to say, and I am convinced that Jesus can do all things. I do not know what you want from Him, but I can say that the blessings you expect and the ones you least expect, Jesus is able to give to you, even now! □

Rev. Rene Casell, the District Superintendent of the Apostolic Faith work in Canada, gave this sermon during one of the evangelistic services at the Lagos 2010 campmeeting



God did it for me

My Shepherd, the Lord Is

I got to know about this Church through my elder sister. The first time she took me to church; it was not The Apostolic Faith and I got lost to magicians. The next time she took me to church; it was The Apostolic Faith. I also got lost but I was lost to Jesus. God saved my soul and when God did, everybody in my household knew it. You cannot know what I mean by that statement but I want to say that my neighbourhood, too, knew it.

Before God saved me, I was a nuisance to all. My father was tired of me. He had invested much on me because he thought I was brilliant, but I was a smoker and alcohol held me bound. It was such that when I urinated, passersby could easily smell alcohol from my urine. Yet, in mercy, Jesus showed me compassion and saved my soul.

The change was dramatic. When I returned to school, the chaplain asked what happened to me. He just could not believe the turn around. He was not alone. Within the neighbourhood, everyone wondered what had happened to me.

In search of deeper consecration, I attended many churches until a classmate at the University of Ibadan, who incidentally was a member of The Apostolic Faith, advised that I stopped roving churches. Rather, she counselled that I should meet the then Oyo District Overseer, Rev. Theophilus Ogunnaike. When I did, the man of God directed me to God. He did not say, 'Come and join this church.' He just counselled that I go to God in prayers and that whatever God told me, I should do.

God made me know that I did not come to The Apostolic Faith out of my own volition but that He brought me. I sought sanctification and Jesus gave it to me. I then rested on my oars. One day, children of God were to carry out an assignment within the Church. I was shocked to discover that the assignment was strictly for members who had been

endued with the Holy Ghost, and I was politely told to excuse the group. The exclusion forced me to reason.

I finally made up my mind and that day was a turning point for me. I went to the Chapel of Resurrection at the University of Ibadan, but it was under lock and key. In my desperation, I headed for the drainage behind the chapel to pray and Jesus filled me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

On graduation, God planned that I had my national youth service in Northern Nigeria and there I went. After the service, God told me to remain in the North and I did and my testimony was like that man of God, Jacob, who said, 'I went out to a foreign land with a staff but I came back home as a company.'

At a point, God told me He wanted to use me and I told Him, but I am a boy, I do not know anything. Not quite long, I was appointed an overseer for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. I went to God and told Him, "Lord, do not disgrace me." God told me He would help me.

Recently too, God appointed me the District Superintendent for West and Central Africa. I want Him to help me. When I consider all that He has done for me, I find that I am not worthy. I want to be faithful to the end and I want to make my **l i t t l e** contribution to propagating the Gospel. **B e y o n d**, I want to see Him someday, not by my works but by His grace.



Emmanuel Adeniran

Jesus Heals

I thank God for His redeeming grace in my life. I heard of the Gospel in a wonderful way, through some outreach preachers who told me that Jesus Christ could save me. I prayed, Jesus saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy

Ghost. Jesus has blessed me so much that I cannot say it all.

In January this year, I had food poisoning. The situation became so critical that my stomach became swollen. People who saw me thought I would die, because it seemed my stomach pulled up to my chest. At a point, I went into a coma for three days. When all hopes seemed lost, Jesus came and operated on me through my navel. From the broken navel oozed out offensive odour for more than a month, but eventually, God healed me completely. I praise His name.

Not quite a month after my miraculous healing, I started to cough. I coughed to the extent that I became anaemic and people were wondering if I would not die. But I kept assuring them, 'Dead bones shall rise again!' In a wonderful way, God healed me. I give thanks to Him.

As if that was not enough, the devil afflicted me with hernia again, but the power of God was sufficient for me. I can tell without mincing words, that God can never fail and that His power is over all, no matter the depth of the trial. I praise His name.

Bernard Eze

From earthly soldier to soldier for Christ

As a youngster, I joined the Nigerian Army and in the course of duties, I represented the Army at many international sporting competitions. I had thought that was all about life until one day in 1989, I sighted some Christians on what I now understand to be street work. Their suits and neatness fascinated me. I followed them to the Church and God saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost.

My conversion was a surprise to my family members, who were mostly heathens. Today, God has saved my family from the clutches of idol worship.

These series of conversions turned the family from fetish practices and cannibalism. Incidentally, I came from a traditional ruling house in Eastern

God did it for me

Nigeria, but as my people turned to God, He too changed the fortune of the people positively. It pays to serve the Lord.

Jesus never fails

I came to the Gospel as a young man. I confessed my sins and renounced them, and Jesus saved my soul. With the benefit of other Christian graces, Jesus became the Shepherd of my life. I praise His name.

In 1992, I got married, but for 17 years there was no fruit of the womb. However, I told God, 'If you give me children; I will serve You. If otherwise, I will do the same.'

I could not attend the 2009 camp meeting due to pressure of work, but my wife attended. Shortly after her return, she conceived and by the grace of God, the cry of a child was heard in the same home where people had mocked that we could never have babies. This great God shall be my God forever.

God Answers Prayers

My heart is full of joy to tell the world that my God can bring something out of nothing! I have the proof because when I came into the Gospel, as a youngster, I had nothing. God took me to the higher institution, and for three years, He kept me in the faith such that after my studies, I came back home with my salvation intact.

I had thought that with my graduation, the next step for me was to get married but year in year out no man looked my way. At God's own time, He answered my prayer and gave me the best man on earth. For nine years, there was no baby. I kept praying but at a camp meeting, I knelt somewhere at the back to pray after a teaching. The ushers advised that I move forward to the altar to pray. I was initially reluctant to comply with the advice but some people nearby pleaded, and I complied. Little did I know that God was already waiting for me, God told me He had given me a child. I anxiously asked, "Lord, a boy or a girl?" God told me, He has given me a

baby boy and when it came, it was a bouncing baby boy.

Our Church building got burnt down and there seemed to be no hope of rebuilding it because we are just a little flock. But the present District Superintendent for West and Central Africa, Rev. Emmanuel Adeniran visited us and assured us that "The glory of God will spring from the ashes." We all kept hope alive, and one day, we just saw a trailer off-loading building materials at the site. The building is almost completed now. The man of God has told us that the church will be dedicated before the end of the year. We count on everybody's prayer support.

Funmbi Ojaleye

God Prevents Fire Outbreak

A friend brought me to the Gospel. I prayed to God to save my soul. He did. He later sanctified me and baptised me with the Holy Spirit

I want to testify to the power of God to protect. One day, I wanted to have a hot bath. I put a boiling ring in water in my room. As I noticed that time was against me, I quickly went to the bathroom to have a cold shower, dressed up and went hurriedly to my office. In the office, I felt uncomfortable but I could not take an excuse to go back home. I went to the toilet and prayed. I left everything in the hand of God. God is faithful.

The water I was boiling in the bucket had almost evaporated. The water boiled from 6am - 7pm. Whoever went there to remove the boiling ring from the side of the bucket, I did not know. As I entered, I saw the glowing ring and I quickly went and put off the electricity. God saved my room and the whole house from burning. I thank God for His mercy.

Egwuaninkwu Abel

His Hand is Not Shortened

God is powerful. He brought me to the Gospel in a miraculous way. I was asked to pray for salvation. I prayed, God saved my soul. In January 2010, my child left home and did not come back. People prayed for this missing child. One

day, it rained and there was a thunder storm. My relatives came to me and said they would help me to look for the child through the help of their god of thunder. I told them that I would not look for the child through the help of any idol and that God gave me the child and He is the One that would look for, and bring the child to me. The people of God continued to pray with me. On July 22, 2010, my child was found! Praise God with me.

Christiana Oladipupo

A Miracle-working God

I thank God that He brought me into the Gospel, saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost. When the announcement was made that people who would want to be at the 2010 camp meeting should register their names, I stepped forward to join the group, registering for three weeks. The members of the congregation applauded my registering for three weeks because they reckoned I had not been going to camp meeting due to ill health. Even when I made efforts last year, I was rushed back home due to sickness.

A week after the registration, I was attacked by a strange illness. I was running stool and vomiting, even when I did not eat anything. The last Sunday of July 2010, my pastor came to me and asked 'how far?' I told him the reality was, as he could see it, that I would not want to go to the camp meeting and embarrass myself.

The night after that day, a Visitor in white apparel came to my room singing: *When you count the ones who love the Lord count me, count me!* The Visitor then turned to me and asked, "What about you?" I responded, 'Yes, I will want to be counted as well,' and that I will be there at the camp meeting.

I woke my wife up immediately and told her to get prepared for the camp meeting. She asked if I was dreaming. I told her that God had healed me. I brightened the lamp and walked round the room. On the Wednesday slated for the departure, everybody was surprised to see me. I am bold to say that God is good.

Young people explore entrepreneurial dynamics

Young Christians have been advised to seek opportunities to live their dreams in the business arena as part of efforts to take the Gospel to the larger world.

Exploring the features of self-reliance and leadership, the youth forums held first and second weeks of the 2010 camp meeting, examined issues built around the “3G Network” and “Philippians 4:13.

Young people were tutored on the need to ask God for their niche in life and build on the response for a life abundant in the Lord. They were told that the benefit of self-reliance lies in the potential to be out for God as at when needed and for happy living. The 3G Network highlights the tripod of godliness, integrity and courage as the bedrock of future plans, using the Biblical Daniel as a fulcrum.

Daniel exemplified godliness taking into consideration the minutest details. He was a young man who would not spoil himself with the king's meat. He was reputed as a youth with godly character and a man of exceptional result who regaled in contentment.

Would-be entrepreneurs need not think about income alone. Rather, they have to consider building something sustainable and the potential of living their dreams. This requires considering some unique characteristics: problem

solving, ability to think creatively, calculate risks and lead a team.

Besides, the would-be entrepreneur should be a man of vision, discernment, energy, a self-starter and assertive, among others. Nevertheless, at the core of the decision to be an entrepreneur, is hearing from God. The Bible enjoins in Psalm 37:5, “Commit thy way unto the LORD, trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.”

An entrepreneur needs to master his temperament, go into an industry that relates to his primary profession or training. He also needs to consider his childhood dreams or aspirations, while in the main; the whole theme has God as its pivot

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.] Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassador, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise,

whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple (Luke 14:28-33).

Future entrepreneurs necessarily need to be disciples of Daniel, the slave who became a ruler in Babylon. His upliftment was a function of his spirit of excellence, which did not begin in Babylon. At every point, he demonstrated excellence and when put to test, he was ten times better than the best in Babylon. No wonder he became one of the greatest rulers of his time.

Participants learnt that successes in life depend on how much attention one pays to details; how seriously one takes the things one does in the church, at home, at work or at school or how well one respects time. Moreover is the question of integrity adhering to high moral principles. For example, Daniel had access to influence, but never abused it. He did not succumb to the gifts from the high and mighty. Central to his strength, was the fear of God.

Participants were told that the God who reigns on high and who helped Daniel in his own time, is still on the throne and that all they need do is to be wary of rewards and maintain integrity when subjected to the wiles of money, power and morality. They were also warned to be courageous when faced with pain, fear and persuaders. Above all, they should stand for one thing - to satisfy God always - with a clause that he, who does not stand for anything, will fall for anything. □

Crossing borders: Youths poised for foreign mission work

Sayo, a young woman and university worker in Ibadan, Nigeria, knew very little about the Republic of Congo before the 2010 Faith City camp meeting. No, it is not that she is not aware of the internecine war in that country nor the façade of amity among the tribes. But like many, she did not know that The Apostolic Faith had more than a passing interest in the war-torn country. Neither did she know that there were branch churches beyond Kinshasa.

“I am surprised that I am only current on the challenges facing the Gospel in the United States and Nigeria. The impression I had of Central Africa was that of a centre of activity for the Gospel. You see, information is power. Now that we are informed, the young people are ready to do their best. The night prayers

for Foreign missions during the campmeeting were well attended by the youths. We will pray and act, God helping us.”

The response has been enormous. Right from the first week of camp meeting, the youth leaders organised the young people into work groups, based on interest and competence. Virtually, all the departments and units in the Church had a feel of these volunteers. The Youth Directorate too organised seminars and talks to help the young people on effective discipleship.

The foreign mission was of paramount concern. After the testimony by Rev. M'Bengani, the alarm seemed to have been sounded. Brother M'Bengani had received a tract some forty-five years ago. He read, believed and prayed over the contents. God honoured his faith. He was

saved. He later got the deeper Christian experiences. He spent some time at the Lagos Headquarters to learn more about the Gospel. When he returned home, he began to preach the Gospel. He had told of his joy and travail, his greatest concern being the lackadaisical attitude of the youths toward the work. He talked about having to trek long distances in the course of spreading the Word and pleaded that the youths should not allow the labour of the past to go down the drain.

As he spoke, many shuddered, while tears dropped from many eyes. But at the end, the point was made that the Gospel beckons on the youth. From that day, the slogan among the youths was, “Congo beckons: Are you ready?”

Likewise, their attendance at night prayers remained very encouraging. □