



Who is Jesus? Why did He come? These questions and similar ones have been asked by sincere seekers after the Truth. Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Giver of life.

“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-



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Christ, Our Substitute

jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 16:16, 17).

He came to be the Lamb of God. He is the Propitiation for our sins and by His vicarious sacrifice on the Cross of Calvary, He became our Substitute.

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

“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:

“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world” (1 John 2:1,2).

The Son of God gave His life's Blood to make atonement for the sinful world. Man inherited the sin

principle from Adam, and man also by choice sins daily. *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die.”* Man therefore is

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Rallying WECA for Christ: Any place for me?

Can I possibly be involved in the current drive to evangelise West and Central Africa? The current sing-song around our worship places is Mission, Worship. While I quite understand worship, what is mission all about?

Mission is a central commission of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Church. It is a critical avenue through which God planned to save humanity from the impending doom. Mission is so important that if it is taken out of the assignment of the Church, scarcely would people know about Jesus Christ and His Blood of Atonement, shed once for the remission of sins.

The saved soul is a new creature, a citizen of Heaven and a royal priesthood who needs to let his light shine in a world that is dying from bondage, even though it thinks it is free. It is only the Truth taught

by the Christian that can liberate the drowning world from doom.

No wonder, before the ascension of Jesus into Heaven on Mount Olives, He charged the disciples to go into every nook and cranny of all nations to preach the Word to all the people, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Since then, the history of the Church is replete with the records of men and women who made a difference in the lives of those of their generations, after having answered the call of God.

What then is mission work?

Mission work consists of three sections: the Home, the Foreign and the Support.

Mission work is for all. God uses whom He wills: men and women filled with passion for lost souls. These souls they diligently seek after, as the days thin out

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Great Commission

The last wish of a loved one departing this world is always dear to the members of the family. Respecting his wish, they act on what he says and try not to deviate from it. His memory is precious to them.

Emmanuel A. Adeniran
District Superintendent
Apostolic Faith Church
West and Central Africa

Likewise the Lord Jesus, before He ascended into Heaven after accomplishing His mission, left with the disciples His last wish. He said,

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”
(Matthew 28:19, 20).

Two things have coherently made the Easter season significant - the love of God plainly demonstrated by the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary, and the mercy He bestowed through His long-suffering for man. Millions are going on in their profession; and millions are perishing just because many Christians are not willing to reach out to a dying world. God wishes we “*compel*” men to come to his Son’s marriage supper “*for all things are now ready*” *(Luke 14:23, 17).*

To imagine that the Son of God had to suffer and die that man may be saved is to appreciate that man needs to take heed to this Great Commission.

Are you a born-again Christian? If you are, then, you must respect Jesus’ last wish; rescue the perishing.

Any Place for me?

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and the sword of Damocles hang dangerously on disobedient children.

Mission enthusiasts simply covet Abraham's blessings since they are men and women who are able to stand where others would not. They are the Church tribunes, who may not be highly educated but bear the fruit of salvation. Through this fruit, they are able to turn others to Jesus, Who is able to save.

The truth is, out there, there are many who carry the Bible about. It is an open secret that the devil does not care if a man owns a Bible. He is not afraid of big Bibles or how they are displayed. The devil is only afraid of the Scriptures that man stores on the fleshy table of his heart, which he applies on his day-to-day sojourn on mortal earth. The Scriptures can be known through the exploits of God's missionaries.

This is why the Bible calls the Christian a watchman. In the days of yore, watchmen served at city gates and temple entrances. Their duty was to ensure the gates were closed at night and guarded against intruders by day. To be appointed a watchman was to be charged with a great responsibility. This was because the safety of the city depended on the watchman's alertness and ability to cry out and sound an alarm when there was an impending danger.

Jesus Christ confirmed that the Christian is the watchman for this generation. He put it succinctly:

“Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

“For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

“Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping” *(Mark 13: 33 - 36).*

Mission work, alternatively called evangelism within and without, begins at the Christian's home front. Every saved soul is of the stock of royal priesthood, as such, he is a priest at home or outside the home, including places of secular engagements. This is in fulfilment of Jesus’ command: ***“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations”*** *(Matthew 24: 14).*

It is fashionable among Christians to claim they have been saved, sanctified and baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire, but they have not found anything worth doing in the service of the Lord. This profession is at variance with the commandment of Jesus: ***“Occupy till I come.”***

It is true that all saved souls could not be in the field at the same time. But every Christian can participate in a campaign through praying, giving, and sundry support. Money being the “wheel of the Gospel,” every Christian can donate money and material resources to rescue the perishing and care for the dying.

Besides, the missionaries at home and abroad require money to function. Individuals can fund missionary trips. Countries to which missionaries are sent need church buildings, transportation, worship resources - musical instruments, gospel literature, pews and so on. These could come from dedicated Christians.

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Christ, our Substitute

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doomed for eternal destruction.

Great provision had been made by God for Jesus Christ to put on human flesh so that He could die for the sins that man has ever committed from the first man created - Adam, till Jesus raptures His Bride. The Tribulation saints who mourn for Him are even included:

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn” (Zechariah 12:10).

Men of all ages need not perish. To escape the wrath of God and eternal damnation, God must see only the Blood of Jesus Christ. He is our Substitute. All man has to do is to repent of his sins sincerely, forsake them and obey the commandments of God. If he keeps doing God’s will every day of his life, he will be saved from everlasting destruction through the merits of the Saviour.

That is the only way mankind can gain a measure of that eternal life lost in the Garden of Eden. He must come in contact with the Life-Giver through the Blood of the Lamb by penitent prayers.

“But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

To rise triumphantly to eternal life on

the Resurrection Morning, a person must have that everlasting life imparted to him before he passes out of this world.

Many people wish to make Heaven their abode but do not wish to bow and



Timothy 4:8).

If a person lives as he pleases in this world, morally upright too, using all his time to earn his living, making money to buy food that is eaten, the clothes that wear out, the cars that get old, he must one day die and leave those things. He will have no hope of the hereafter. That life is a loss. His name is not in the Book of Life. His sins follow him to the judgment, he has no Substitute.

However, if a person gives his heart to Jesus and forsakes his sins, then eternal life begins in him. The Blood of Jesus, his Substitute, has been applied to cleanse every stain of sin. God looks on him with favour because He sees the Blood of the Lamb on his heart. He begins to enjoy spiritual things, the things of Heaven. He feels Jesus near to comfort and encourage him. He also heals him when he is sick. Jesus hears and answers his prayers.

The more he lays aside those things which are not sinful but take too much of his time from closeness and worship of God, the more he enjoys the abundant life brought to him by his Substitute. When he dies, his spirit will go to Heaven; and in the First Resurrection, his body will be raised to live forever. Can you afford to ignore your Substitute? □

accept the Plan of Redemption made by God. The Blood of the Lamb washes the heart clean of sin and a life of godliness and righteousness is lived in this present world. Jesus leads the way to a life that will continue throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

“Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come” (1

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It would not be absurd if individuals contribute Bibles, hymn books, organs or pianos, printing machines, gospel vans, to sustain a missionary in a foreign country.

Mission work, for how long?

Mission work is a lifelong endeavour. Jesus Christ made it explicitly clear when He urged Christians to exert themselves in the pursuit of the Kingdom of God:

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).

Jesus commanded that this monumental task be carried out in spite

Any Place for me?



of formidable oppositions, challenges and persecutions. However, it is a task with a great reward.

“But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved” (Matthew 24:13).

This is the more reason why all

categories of people are needed for mission support. The basic truth is that,

“The Lord,” (Himself) “gave the word: great was the company of those that published it” (Psalm 68:11).

Every saved soul is empowered to challenge the cold, religious lethargy of this age. History is still being made and the eyes of God are open upon the Christians. The challenge to the saved souls is, “Take your place. Take your stand for the salvation of this generation! Let us strive, let us labour together to turn the world to the light and truth found in Jesus Christ”. This should be my part and yours too □

Mission to Burkina Faso

A four-man mission team to Burkina Faso in October 2010, returned home with exciting news of a fallow ground awaiting cultivation.

The team, led by the District Superintendent for West and Central Africa, Rev. 'Bayo Adeniran, was convinced that God has granted The Apostolic Faith divine aid to take the land. Brother Adeniran at a mission strategy meeting held at the WECA Headquarters, Lagos, said: "The facts on ground show that it is time to quicken our pace. It is time to go where the action is. We dare not wait for some distant day in the future. Now is the time for action. Every day wasted is a loss, and a loss forever."

Historical background

The Burkina Faso mission field is not entirely new. It has always been there. It began with an effort put forth by a church leader who craved affiliation with The Apostolic Faith. The leader had brought some youths to the Lagos camp meeting several years before, so that they could learn the rudiments and mechanisms of the Gospel work based on Sound Doctrine.

The youths who had experienced the wonders of God in the services at the Lagos camp meeting, purposed to pitch their tent with the "Sound Doctrine." They filed out of their former church because they were sorely persecuted. They were tormented and kicked from all sides for their decision, yet their faith in God remained strong.

In the mission field

The four-man mission team comprising WECA District Superintendent, Director of Missions, Reverend Gabriel Ajayi; Director of Infrastructure, Reverend Albert Abe; and the Deputy Director, Foreign Mission, Reverend Rachel Fakorede, accompanied by some choristers from the Republic of Benin, travelled to Burkina Faso. Their goals were to comfort the traumatised brethren; ensure effective take-off of worship and mission activities; facilitate training of church leaders and improve the worship environment, among others.

The team found that the brethren in Burkina Faso did not only endure hardship but exulted in the experience. Their unparalleled commitment to the things of God and their ability to painstakingly await the arrival of the team - sometimes till midnight and early morning, stood out.

The WECA team found that in the length and breadth of Burkina Faso, The Apostolic Faith had few church buildings as the brethren worshipped in shacks and under trees. Even in the suburban districts of Zigla and Pasbtega, brethren usually gathered and

worshipped under trees.

The Challenge

The challenge posed by the Burkina Faso field is the urgent need to penetrate the land. This, in physical terms, means that The Apostolic Faith needs to:

- Purchase land and erect church structures
- Make gifts of musical instruments
- Dig wells in very dry areas
- Print tracts and other publications and
- Maintain continuity staff in Burkina Faso.

According to Brother Adeniran, mission expansion is a cardinal command of Jesus Christ. Work for mission expansion begins at our doorstep: a helping hand extended, a kind word spoken, a little encouragement offered, a visit to the distressed, and so on, could make all the difference. When Jesus commanded, "**Occupy till I come,**" He meant that saved souls should live up to their callings.

*"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:
"And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation" (Exodus 19:5, 6).*

Liberia

The 2011 Liberian camp meeting was held between February 6 and 20 amidst celebration and thanksgiving.

The thanksgiving was occasioned by the special benevolence of God through manifold provisions.

The missionaries from The Apostolic Faith West and Central Africa Headquarters, led by Brother Dealyn George and his wife, Nne, Sister Esther Ogunfowomu, Brothers Festus Oyeniyi and Soga Tifase, arrived the camp venue at around 2pm on February 3.

The Moronvia church had just been roofed, with carpenters just erecting the platform and the electricians busy doing their bit.

God provided for the beautification of the platform in a wonderful way that brought about a great revival. The workers' prayer was held on Monday. Of the 15 counties, only few have been touched by the Gospel.

The camp meeting went into full swing with the opening service. The campers were exhorted on **God's Message to the Churches**. The sermon moved the congregation mightily and drew many to fervent prayers. The new church building was full to capacity.

Bible teachings during the first week

included: **The Foundation of our Hope; Sanctification, the Second Work of Grace; Baptism of the Holy Ghost; and The True Worshipers**. The second Sunday service opened with **Tithes and Offerings**. Teachings during the week included: **Laying Aside Every Weight, Enduring to the End, and Prayer**.

A total of 44 new converts observed the baptismal rites: 22 males and 22 females. Blessings recorded included 154 souls saved, 61 sanctified, 51 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire, 73 healed and 63 re-anointed.

The missionaries from Lagos visited Firestone Reserved Area, where Reverend George Moore Hughes, the missionary to Africa, was laid to rest in 1953. They were there for sometime listening to one of his sermons. The mission of Reverend Hughes was an inspiration and a challenge to the missionaries. They also visited Manley village where the Gospel work started in Liberia and home of the pioneer of the work, Reverend Peter Z. Manley. The church building, which was destroyed during the Liberian war, still has a part of it standing with the logo, **Jesus, the Light of the World**.

The camp meeting came to a close on February 20 with Reverend Dealyn George rounding off the convention with a sermon titled, **The New Heaven and the New Earth**. It was a highly inspiring sermon and the congregation was richly blessed. Prayer was prevalent in the camp throughout the night with all fervency and brokenness of spirit.

Cameroon

Missionaries from the WECA Headquarters in Lagos were at Bangem and other branches of the work in Cameroon to brainstorm with Apostolic Faith members in that country on their camp meeting. The visit by the Director of Missions, Brother Gabriel Ajayi accompanied by Brother John Udoh brought about a great revival among the members of the church in that country.

Niger Republic

WECA evangelistic radar extended to the Niger Republic when Sister Rachel Fakorede and Brother Benjamin Oni were there as part of efforts to expand the Gospel frontiers in that country. The mission was at Douchi and other branches of the work. The congregations were glad and the interactions brought about great revivals.

Dedication of Three Churches in the UK

Three new churches recently acquired by The Apostolic Faith Mission in the United Kingdom were dedicated to the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

The new churches are situated across the country, one in Manchester in the north-west, the second in Birmingham in the midlands and the third in Bexley, just outside London.

The services, crammed into a busy eight-day schedule, opened with the dedication of the Manchester Church on Saturday February 5, 2011.

The Superintendent General of The Apostolic Faith Mission, Reverend Darrel Lee, accompanied by his wife, Debbie, attended from Portland, Oregon. The event was also attended by dignitaries from Africa led by the District Superintendent of The Apostolic Faith Churches in West and Central Africa, Brother 'Bayo Adeniran and his wife, Josephine. Friends of the Church also visited from Italy, France and the United States.

The dedication service at Manchester opened with a piece by the orchestra, *Surprise Symphony* by Haydn. It was very well received. The choir lifted up every soul present with the rendition of: *My Father's House* by J. Rouse. The song made each person feel the righteous indignation that Jesus must have felt when he drove the money changers out of the temple, centuries ago. The retired pastor, Rev. Victor Okusanya, conducted *Praise Ye the Lord*, which he composed.

A brief history of events culminating in the divine provision of the Manchester Church was given by Brother Isaac Adigun. He acknowledged the presence of the founder of the work in the UK, Brother Victor Okusanya, and the contribution of the London Church which occasionally sent ministers to support the North West work over many years, even when growth was not very visible. Brother Adigun recalled how he as a student at Manchester University, way back in 1983, used to give out literature in that city. By providence, he was on

hand 28 years later, to dedicate a church in this same city!

He appreciated the humble beginnings of the work in the North West region which started in one of the saints' sitting room and the fact that many times the saints in Liverpool, Bolton and



A section of Manchester Church

Manchester held services in rented facilities. He said that God has finally answered the prayers of His children by providing the buildings of the former Moravian church, with historical links to the salvation of John Wesley.

The dedication sermon was given by Brother Darrel Lee. In his sermon, he highlighted that while the church was originally dedicated to God for the first time in 1929, it was now being consecrated and dedicated as an Apostolic Faith Church. He likened this dedication to that of the temple built by



Front view of Bexley Church

Solomon in Jerusalem, as directed by God. Brother Lee said he was praying that God's eye and presence would dwell in the house. It will be a house of prayer, a place where the sick will get healed and that it will be a soul-saving station.

Brother Lee exhorted the congregation to be caring, and loving to their children - teach them love so that they could appreciate the love of God. Brother Lee enjoined that men should be 'gentlemen' in all their conduct, especially towards their wives and their

children; to earn their respect and not demand it. In closing, he invited the congregation to dedicate their lives to God, and the unsaved souls to seek salvation.

The dedicatory prayer was given by Brother Adeniran.

The dedication of the Birmingham Church was also done by Brother Darrel D. Lee. The service was soul-inspiring.

The third in the trilogy performed by the United Kingdom arm of The Apostolic Faith within eight days, began with a piano prelude followed by a woodwind quartet *Praise Ye the Father* by Charles Gounod. The choir followed with a rousing performance of J. Rouse's *My Father's House* with Brother Tim Okusanya as the lead soloist. In his solo, he highlighted that Bexley is the Lord's house and should be a house of prayer.

A backtrack of how the idea of expansion came into reality was given. The Church in Peckham was designed for a capacity of about 145 worshippers, but grew within a few years to about 300 worshippers. This initiated the search for a new church. The pastor informed the congregation that a passer-by paid for the signboard of the church as an offering pledged in answer to a prayer.

The scripture reading for the dedication was read by Brother 'Bayo Adeniran. Brother Darrel Lee, gave the word of exhortation. He emphasised that the work is not American or Nigerian but is the work of God. He consecrated the church, stating that the church is a soul-saving station and is being dedicated for Heaven-bound souls. He read from 2 Chronicles 7:12-16. He gave an insight to the Doctrine of the Church as biblical and said, "We are not ashamed of what we preach". He reflected on the basis of Justification by Faith; how The Apostolic Faith sprang out of the Azusa Street revival in Los Angeles in 1906. He also gave a brief testimony of his salvation and encounter with The Apostolic Faith Church through his sister, a college student. He gave a note of warning against sin, that a life of sin makes many a promise but fails to deliver. He prayed that the church will be a place where marriages will be reconciled and where God's love will be paramount. He also prayed that God should build the church. He likened it to the temple in the time of Solomon. He said the temple was finished but not complete; God completed that temple after the dedicatory prayer was made and God's glory filled the house.

WECA mission trips to Port Harcourt and Ikot Enwang

The West and Central Africa Headquarters of The Apostolic Faith recently sent missionaries to Port Harcourt and Ikot Enwang regions of the Church on mission support.

The visits, which coincided with the camp meetings in the two regions, were blessed with the seminar paper, **Holiness in Communication**, through which the workers present were made to realise that Gospel workers:

- Are representatives of God in all things, and that if they failed God, they would be labelled 'hypocrites,' walking against sound doctrine;
- Must yield in totality to the Holy Spirit for them to do the right all the time;
- Must mortify the flesh to avoid spiritual death;
- Must guard their heart, lest an evil thought enters and corrupts the inner man;
- Need to store the Word of God in their heart so that the Spirit of God can bring it up when the need arises;
- Need to pray for attitudinal change that they may live to please God.

During the interactive forum that followed, a parent wanted to know what to do when children provoke their parents; whether it is good to curse them or not.

The District Superintendent, Brother Adeniran referred the enquirer to Ephesians 4:29, 31:

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice."

He explained that a Christian's mouth should minister grace and not curse. If we sow blessing we shall reap blessing and vice versa. Study the Book of Numbers and see how different kinds of things happened because of communication. A word spoken in anger could cost so much. After all, God does not deal with us in anger but in patience. We must be able to control our emotions and not allow our emotions to control us. Let us learn from the experience of Moses.

Port Harcourt region first camp meeting was held from December 5 to 19, 2010. There were 756 workers in attendance. Reverend Bayo Adeniran

counselled that the congregation stored the Word of God in their heart that it may be their help in time of trouble.

Showers of Blessings

The occasion was the pastors' wives training during the Ikot Enwang region camp meeting. On hand was Sister Esther Ibikunle as the chief instructor.

"Your husband will always rejoice having you as a wife; you will never have anything to do with the devil; you will not ill-advise your husband in ignorance; you will be a good example to other women; God will make you a shining light to other women and your glow will never dim; our pastors and their families will make the Rapture; and may the spirit of grace and supplication remain with our women." The thunderous chorus of "Amen" was earth-shaking as the fully charged women went on their knees to commune with God.

Stay with God till your last breath

Members of The Apostolic Faith in Ikot Enwang region have been told that the only thing worth giving attention to in this end time is the worship of God.

Brother 'Bayo Adeniran who gave this admonition said, "Do not forget what we have told you, Heaven is ready to bless. There is always grace available for everybody. Do not quit. Stay with God till your last breath."

This was his parting words at the region's 2010 camp meeting, emphasised that it behoves them to always thank God for The Apostolic Faith and the faithfulness of the pioneers of the Gospel in Africa, praying this generation to be faithful as well.

The Gospel is our life and we all want to keep it. Paul said he had committed somethings to God for keep, meaning that what you cannot keep, you surrender to God. (II Timothy 1:12)

God cannot ask what He did not give you. When He asks you to keep something, you know you cannot do it all alone; you need the grace of God because it is only God who can make you succeed. I am therefore committing you all and the Gospel work into God's hand."

He solemnly charged the assembly to pray for the leadership of the Church. "May God give you one mind. You will surely offend one another but forgive one another. May God help you to forgive. If you have the spirit of forgiveness, you will have one mind. God bless you till we meet again."

Reverend Etukudoh laid to rest

The remains of Reverend Thompson M. Etukudoh were laid to rest September 10, 2010, at his hometown, Nya Odiong, Akwa Ibom State. Brother Adeniran, conducted the funeral service. The service was attended by board members, overseers and veterans of the Gospel from all parts of the country.

Revival at Abuja Region

The revival train was at Abuja region lightening up the entire Northern Nigeria between November 23 and 29, 2010. During the campaign, the new church in Kano was dedicated to the glory of God and for the edification of souls. The revival train proceeded to Kaduna where another church was dedicated. On returning to Abuja, two new churches were dedicated at New Karu and Jikwoyi.



The newly dedicated Kano Church

Revival in Edo District

The District Overseer, Brother Andrew Adoga recently led a revival train round the six zones in the district comprising the headquarters church at Silouko; Iyanomo; Benin; Ogbeson, the church's camp ground; Ekpoma, Esan and Igarra.

The churches were encouraged to embark on two weeks of soul-searching prayer retreats, which served as prelude to revival meetings at the zones. Revival services were then held in Iyanomo, where the turnout was over powering as villagers responded to Gospel invitation. The blessings that followed could not be quantified as many believers were revived and two persons were saved.

The revival train of 17 brethren led by Brother Adoga arrived Ekpoma for an open air services at Sabongida-Ora; Ewu, and Ubijaja. The turn out of people at these services was highly impressive. Besides, there was an explosive evangelistic service where five people were saved, one sanctified and two persons received three Christian experiences of salvation, sanctification and baptism of the Holy Ghost.

God Did It For Me

From disgrace to honour



Humanly speaking, I was not a natural seed when it comes to the Gospel. I was a grafted branch. But I thank God that when I came in 1990, it was not too late for me. Though my life was full of struggles,

now, I have anchored my soul on Jesus.

I came to the Gospel through the influence of my wife. She had earlier joined the Church in December 1984. She made several attempts to woo me into it through her persistent persuasion. All the while, I was addicted to strong liquor. I always drank my head off and most times, I could not find my way home. The only way to get back home was to be carried on a truck.

Eventually, I became a disgrace to my immediate and extended families at large. Even at my place of work, I was always furious with people, including my boss and my supervisor. Drunkenness also led me to misbehave to my wife and two daughters, who are now married.

I occasionally slapped, kicked and knocked them about without any justifiable cause. My anger rose against them each time for no other cause than being in the Gospel. This further pushed me into gambling. I became a lotto forecaster. In other words, I stood by the roadside of Accra to predict to passers-by, who came across my way for lotto numbers for each weekend.

At the end of it all in 1990, when I started attending the Church, the Lord got me convicted with so many charges against me that made me feel so guilty. Meanwhile, I did not know how to pray. But in the Lord's own wonderful way, He showed me how to pray and I yielded to Him. That same year, I was saved.

Subsequently, I was advised and assisted by some sisters and brothers at the altar to seek the same spiritual experiences, which I did. In 1991, I was sanctified and in 1993, I was baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire. I made restitution to those I offended.

Through the grace of God, I was appointed a Sunday school teacher in 2000 and a minister in 2010.

God has beautified my life and given me beauty for ashes. He has made my immediate and extended families, who once rejected and almost ostracised me, to love me.

May God's name be praised and glorified forever. Amen.

Eric Otoo
Aplaku, Accra, Ghana

Jesus is merciful to me

I was privileged to be in this Gospel but that did not make me a Christian. In God's own time, He saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. After my secondary school, my father sent me to Ghana in 2005 to further my education. When I was saved, I did not take my instrument seriously in Cote d'Ivoire but when I came to Ghana, God helped me and in less than a year, I passed my junior test and two years later, the senior. In less than six months, I was able to speak and write in English. I got admitted to a university but the school fees were very high because I was a foreigner. Foreigners were supposed to pay the fees in dollars. At that time, my brother who was supposed to pay my fees lost his job and things became difficult. I went on my knees and told God that if He would pay my fees, I would glorify His name. That very week, the Overseer in Ghana called me and gave me some money. He told me that somebody said he should give it to me for my fees. On my way to school to pay the money, I met some people who asked me for a direction. As I was



talking to them, I forgot where I was going to, and I followed them. We went far, and then I remembered Jesus, and I shouted, 'Jesus!' He delivered me.

In December 2008, I was going to my country to visit my parents. When I got to the border between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, there was a bridge under which there was no water. Since the distance was not much, I decided to call the Overseer's daughter before getting to Cote D'Ivoire. Then I saw some young men coming towards me. They passed by me and later on two of them came back, one passed by my right and the other by my left. When I looked up, one of them took a gun from his trousers and said that if I did not give him my phone, he would kill me. I shouted, 'Jesus, save me' and they said, "Keep quiet; because of phone you are shouting Jesus. Go!" That was how God delivered me. I thank God so much. May His name be glorified.

Kouakou Amenan Rokielle
Ivory Coast

God delivered me

The darkness of Satan overcame me but how thankful I am to God for His deliverance and the salvation of my soul. I was a boy who never had the

opportunity to attend church. My parents were traditionalists who would not allow their children to attend church because of the behaviour of some churchgoers. All sorts of sins could be found in them like stealing, adultery, envy, drunkenness. The traditionalists believed that they were even better than those churchgoers.

At a tender age, my parents took me to the priest to give me marks on my shoulder, which signified that I was a child of the gods. When I was 10 years old, my father started teaching me how to offer sacrifices to the gods and I used to go to the shrine on Fridays and Sundays to serve.

Glorify to God that He kept His fear in my heart. Anytime I heard that sinners would be cast into the lake of fire, I would tremble. I tried to stop sinful activities but I could not. God touched the heart of my father to send me to Kintampo to continue my education. It was like moving from frying pan to fire. I stayed with a woman who was also a traditionalist and going to church was not necessary to her. At school, I joined a group of bad boys, who led me into stealing.

Oh, how merciful God was to me that at such a time, a sister from Kumasi came to my town. She invited me to worship in The Apostolic Faith Church. I tried not to accept the invitation but she persuaded me and I honoured it. Immediately I entered the Church, I saw that the people were so different, although they were few and were worshipping in a classroom. The sermon that day revealed all my sins even though I was not known to the preacher. At the end of the sermon, I confessed my sins and surrendered my life to Jesus. What joy and happiness came into my life when I was redeemed! Three months later at 2003 Ghana camp meeting in Accra, God sanctified my soul and later, I was baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire.

God has since been my all in all. I used to fall sick every three months. At 2006 camp meeting, God miraculously healed me of that sickness.

When I completed Junior Secondary School, there was no money to further my education. God sent me to school and He paid my admission fees in a wonderful way. Jesus has been my Provider. He provides my daily bread, pays my school fees and protects me from all temptations. My desire and pleasure is to see my Redeemer face to face when He comes.



Amponsah A. Joseph
Kintampo, Kumasi
District, Ghana

WECA youths say 'yes' to rebuilding their Gospel heritage

From across West and Central Africa (WECA), the youths came, agile, spirited and practical. Their mission was to see what lies ahead for their generation at the maiden youth camp organised by The Apostolic Faith WECA Headquarters. They came, they saw and were convinced that they belong.

It all began shortly after the October 1 youth rally when a clarion call was made that young people willing to attend the youth camp should register with their branch churches. Taking into consideration the festivities around Christmas, and maybe the reluctance of people to travel, an initial projection of 3,500 participants was made. Arrangements were made to cater for 5,000 participants. Then came the surprise - about 7,000 young people turned up!

To set the tone for the camp, on Monday, December 27, participants watched a film titled, *Running Against the Wind*, which centred on a Christian youngster on a university campus. She purposed right from home to do the biddings of God and determined never to let down her guard. Her mates, many of them children of clergymen and from responsible homes, succumbed to the toxic campus environment and swore this Christian girl would fall like them. There was this randy lecturer who was flirting with the wayward girls on campus. He took it as an insult that this 'born again' declined

his advances. In the face of rejection by roommates and failure staring her in the face, the Christian girl prayed and relying on God's direction, preached to the lecturer and he was converted to Christ. The conversion of the lecturer led to the conversion of many girls on campus.

The camp proper was declared open by the District Superintendent for WECA, Reverend Emmanuel Adebayo Adeniran. Elated by the large turnout and decorous conduct of the participants, he declared, "God's eye is on you. When God's eye is on somebody for good, the best thing to do is to turn your eyes on Him too and it shall be well with you." He said that Moses, Joseph and Paul the Apostle were renowned because they looked up to God when His eye turned their ways. The short address led to a reviving prayer session.

The main Bible study for the camp was titled, *Rebuilding the Wall*, a study of Nehemiah and how he restored dignity to the land of his fathers. Concerned about the fallen walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah prayed and mourned in regard to Jerusalem's desolation. God answered his prayers by granting him favour before the king, who not only granted him leave to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the walls, but also gave him material resources to do the job. Participants were challenged that God was looking for 'Nehemiahs' in this generation and that they should be ready to

say "yes" as God calls.

Brother Adeniran told the participants that the Mission agenda was the greatest agenda of The Apostolic Faith in WECA. The creation of the Directorates, he said, was to facilitate the accomplishment of the agenda.

He charged the participants to be ready to serve as missionaries in African countries.

The youths later gave their vision of WECA, covering: financing WECA, reaching out to people, construction of required infrastructure, setting up required facilities, setting up ICT systems, and establishing the required administrative support systems.

Apart from the revival services at the camp, young people went on village evangelism on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Sixteen souls were saved and some others sanctified. Other side attractions of the camp were the morning drill, corpers' parade and camp fire.

At the end of the four-day programme, 269 souls were saved, 155 sanctified and 57 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire. As the camp gradually wound up in the morning of December 30, the plea from the teeming youths was that the leadership preserve the youth camp as a legacy for the youths.

Young people making liberty real

The October 2010 youth rally opened like an African flower, cool and calm yet, spreading beauty round the city. Youths dressed in Nigerian national colours of green, white, green T-shirts led the brass ensemble on road show round some parts of the metropolis.

The enthusiastic youths returned to the church premises at 9 am to commence the second leg of the programme. On hand were the members of the choir and orchestra whose business was to melt the heart of the capacity-filled audience through their beautiful renditions. The inspiring and reviving renditions led the way to prayer time.

The District Superintendent for West and Central Africa, Brother 'Bayo Adeniran, who declared the programme open, drew the attention of the participants to the significance of true freedom. He said the freedom Nigeria gained on October 1, 1960, was political but which Nigerians ought to be thankful to God for, as it has afforded them freedom of worship. He emphasised that the



Leading the pack

greatest freedom is spiritual freedom. To illustrate spiritual freedom, he released some caged pigeons, which flew eagerly to safety. As he conducted the exercise, the congregation chorused, "Liberty!"

After this was the independence quiz on Nigeria at 50, which afforded youths of different categories to answer questions on important events in the pre-independence and post-independence history of the country. The anchor explained that the essence of the session was to further inculcate patriotism in the

participants. The session rounded off on intercessory note as participants prayed God to intervene in the affairs of the country. Of particular interest was that God might choose for the country leaders after His Own heart in 2011 elections.

Participants were later distributed into classes for Bible study titled: **The Year of Jubilee**. At the end of the session, participants realised the need for spiritual independence - the need to be free from the burden of sin. The session ended in prayers.

The application session held after lunch featured a review panel. Challenges and tips to successful living were discussed, covering student life. Other sundry issues, such as employer-employee relations, artisanship, and entrepreneurship. On the panel were Brothers Wole Ajayi and Tony Ademuyiwa, as well as, Sister Joy Tolonisede. They all emphasised the need for spiritual liberty. True liberty could only be obtained through the application of the precious Blood of Jesus Christ.