

Christ, Our Redeemer

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

At Christmas, and always, Christians reflect soberly on the redemption story.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 'Not of works, lest any man should boast' (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

Sometimes, one wonders what would have been the lot of man, had Jesus not come to die for the sins of the world. It was a thought like this that enraptured David when he

wrote:

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 'He will not always chide: neither



will he keep his anger for ever.

"He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities" (Psalm 103: 8-10).

God, in mercy, remembered where man came from -- dust. No wonder, He continually led His people like a loving Father. The Psalmist further said:

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

"As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:11, 12).

How far is the east from the west? It is beyond man's imagination. Jesus Christ, the Second Person in the Trinity, by coming to the earth, volunteered to be our Pascal Lamb, offering a perfect sacrifice once and for all.

Through the Gospels, we see Christ as God incarnate. From the Books of Matthew to John, we see Him described as man, the last

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A Gift for Jesus at Christmas

Christmas presents the world a golden opportunity for the expression of friendship and love. It is a period when nature cooperates with humanity for a grand memorial of the birth of the King of kings.



Humility reckons right from the beginning that the Messiah is not only the central figure of history, but even more, He is love personified. No wonder, the central point of His birth is expressed by Apostle John

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Do we learn from Christmas?

It is great to imagine a world devoid of crisis, war and inhumanity of man to man at Christmas. The thrills and frills that attend the anniversary often make us forget the animosity and squabbles that rule the world. Family members, neighbours, and people from different familial backgrounds exchange gift items and wish one another well in the spirit of Christmas. Oh that the world could go on in such an expression of love, which Jesus represents until eternity comes!

Prophet Isaiah captures the significance of Christmas in his proclamation of the birth of Jesus Christ centuries before the first Christmas: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus is the Prince of Peace and God's gift to the world, so that we may know true peace. Why then is the world in turmoil and seems to be upside down? If indeed Jesus Christ is the

Prince of Peace and our Lord and Saviour, why then do we have so many wars, crises within, without, and in our relationships? Why do the haves pretend to be gods and the privileged behave as if some special blood runs in their veins? Sometimes, one is forced to wonder if the so-called 'oppressors' of the world do not have the true knowledge of The Prince of Peace that is born this season. Surprisingly, all these wicked traits cut across. As they are seen among the upper class, so they abound among the peasants. It is obvious that they do not know The Prince of Peace. Had they known Jesus Christ The Prince of Peace and that Christmas commemorates the peace He brought for humanity, things would have been different!

The above will be better illustrated with a short story. One day, a man saw an old woman stranded on the side of the road, but even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. Therefore, he pulled up in front of her car and anchored his motorcycle. His 'cycle' was still sputtering

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Love of God

"Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

At Christmas, our hearts are filled with gratitude to God for His priceless gift to mankind – Jesus Christ. The angel of the Lord told Joseph, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife:

for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20, 21).

Have you been saved from your sins? Sin brings sorrow, heartache and disappointment. Friend, what you actually need in times like these is Jesus Christ.

This mission is what makes Christmas great. No wonder, the celebration cuts across the whole world irrespective of race, tribe and religion.

It is great enough to know that Jesus Christ is the solution to all the heartaches that the world brings. No wonder Isaiah was full of praise when he said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

If you desire that peace in whatever capacity or level, it can be yours today. As you go through this magazine you will know that, of a truth, Jesus Christ loves you.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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

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Christ, Our Redeemer

Adam, unfallen and unsinning. He is the Saviour of man by way of the Cross.

It is wonderful that at conversion, the manifestation of God is seen in those who, being "partakers of the divine nature," show forth the excellencies of Him who called them out of darkness into His marvellous light.

All who are saved are no more strangers to the commonwealth of Christ.

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone" (Ephesians 2:19, 20).

As Christ asked at Caesarea Phillippi, He is still asking every man, "Whom do men say that I, the Son of man am?" We are familiar with the responses of the audience of yore. But like Peter, may we wholeheartedly proclaim today, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." If Christ is the Cornerstone of your life, it is reasonable to emulate Him and live to please Him.

The very best testimony that you can give to the power of Jesus Christ is to live an exemplary life, not in your own effort, but by the power of the Holy Spirit Who lives in you. Your resolution in the New Year should then be to live for Christ.■

Burkina Faso holds first national concert

The Burkina Faso Church held its first national concert on September 10, 2011, at the Jean-Pierre-Guingane Cultural Centre. This was part of the current WECA administration's plan to make The Apostolic Faith's presence felt in the capital cities across West and Central Africa (WECA) District.

The concert, which took place after a two-day retreat, was witnessed by the WECA District Superintendent, Rev. Bayo Adeniran and his wife, Josephine, with some officials from the District headquarters, had many Christians, political and religious leaders and members of the civil society in attendance.

The Superintendent congratulated the Burkinabe brethren for the initiative which he said, was to the glory of God. He told concert enthusiasts present that The Apostolic Faith's coming to Burkina Faso was to expand the people's access to the ever-flowing fountain of God's blessing. Similar musical presentations, he said, are available at every service held by the Church and that guests who found time to attend any of the services would not be disappointed.

Earlier, the Burkinabe pastor, Brother Flavien Tapsoba, described music as an express avenue to the heart of God. He pointed out that sacred music draws the heart to God and keeps the heart in tune with the will of God for one's life. He further said, "These brothers and sisters you see have decided to make a difference by fleeing from worldly passions. They have decided to give their lives to God because the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom."

Members of the choir and orchestra who performed during the concert were drawn from Burkina Faso, Republic of Benin, and Nigeria.■

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A Gift for Jesus

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succinctly thus:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16, 17).

The birth and ministry of Jesus are aptly described as Good News. Besides, joy, love and sharing have been associated with the birth of Jesus since the first Christmas. It is therefore no wonder that the world rejoices in the spirit of the season each Christmas, as the rich and poor alike eagerly share, in honour of the Prince of Peace.

“NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

“Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him” (Matthew 2: 1, 2).

Guided by the Star, the Wise Men made the long journey from the East to worship the promised Messiah-King. They spent time and money travelling to Bethlehem to worship Him.

The priests and scribes who lived in Jerusalem knew the Scriptures concerning the birth in Bethlehem, just six miles away, but did not present gifts to the newborn King.

Today, many who hear about Christ react as Herod, who “was troubled” about the recognition given to Jesus. Others like the priests and scribes are satisfied in merely acknowledging the historical facts.

Many sew new clothes and visit resorts. Millions exchange greeting cards and messages, but the age-long question, “What doth the LORD require of thee?”

continues to beg for an answer.

God wishes you to acknowledge His love by bowing to the plan of redemption. Appreciate the love of God by asking for the forgiveness of your sins. Turn away completely from sin and promise not to displease God any more. Obey Him, and His love will be shed abroad in your heart.

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8).

“Be not deceived, God is not mocked.” It is only those who are willing to give up their sins for the love of Christ that celebrate Christmas indeed. Unfortunately, they are but few. Yet, the basic truth is, “wise men” still seek Jesus!

It takes more than human reasoning to willingly sacrifice time and treasure to the Lord; it takes genuine love and dedication.

Do you desire to give a gift to Jesus this season? Simply yield your heart to Him. Only then can you be sure of peace on earth good will toward men, and a blissful eternity with Him. ▣

Do we learn from Christmas?

when he approached her.

Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? She did not feel safe because the man looked poor and hungry.

He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill, which only fear can put in you. He said, “I’m here to help you, madam. Why don’t you wait in the car where it is warm?” By the way, he introduced himself.

Well, all she had was a flat tyre, but for an old woman, that was bad enough. This young man crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tyre. However, he had to get dirty with his hands hurt.

As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from the city and was only just passing through. She could not thank him enough for coming to her aid. The young man just smiled as he closed her boot. The woman asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right by her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. The man never thought twice about being paid. To him it was not a job. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty, whom he had given a hand

in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act otherwise.

He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance he or she needed. And he added, “Think of me.”

The man had acted in the spirit of Christ who left His glory in Heaven to come down as a babe in a manger, that man could regain the lost paradise. At birth, Jesus showed the world the way of humility; by His life, He demonstrated meekness and by His eventual death, demonstrated absolute love. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

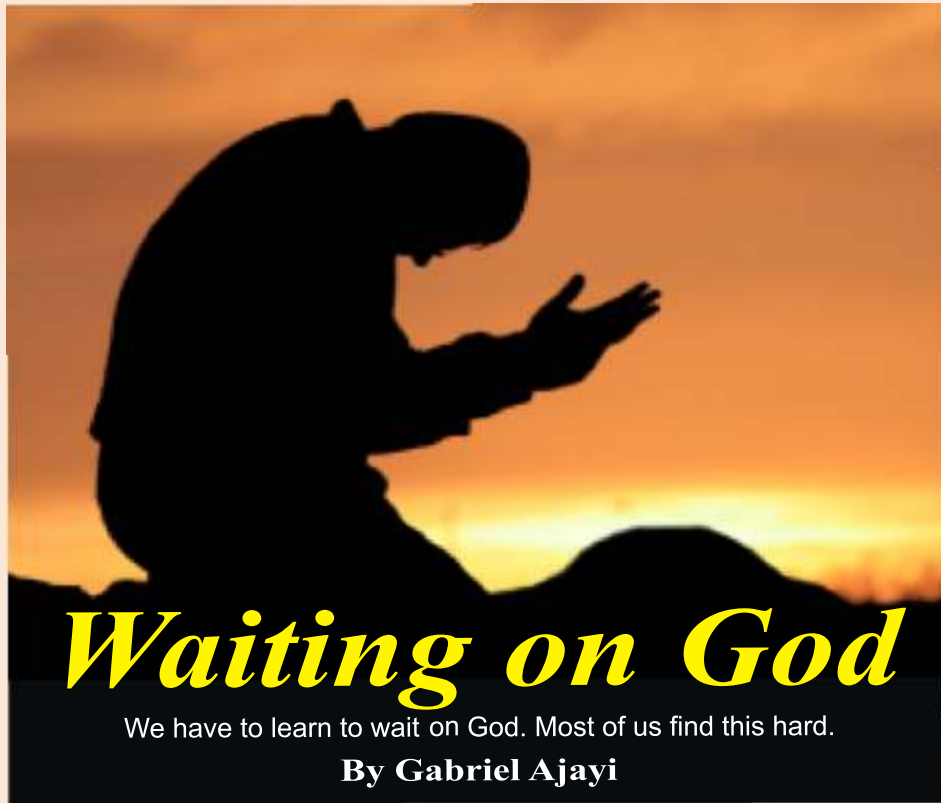
There is no gainsaying that Jesus is truly The Prince of Peace. He left no one in doubt the way He lived and the miracles He performed. In His relationship with the people, He demonstrated love and peace.

This is the more reason why anyone who named the name of Jesus should, at this season, think about their comportment at home, at work and within the larger society, and let love and peace rule the air. Parents should learn the way of peace and let the peace of God that passeth all understanding reign in the home. At the secular setting, let the world see Christ in you. Within the

neighbourhood, brighten the corner where you are and within the church, let brotherly love continue.

At Christmas, we have the hope that one day, we will live in a glorious City filled with peace, where Jesus will be the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The preparation starts here and now. Let us begin to ponder on our communication, deeds and posturing that deny our home, brothers and the society the peace that Jesus brought at the first Christmas. Be an apostle of peace this Christmas and always. Merry Christmas. ▣





There is nothing happening in the world today that has not happened before. If you find anything new, it may simply mean you are new to that issue. Our God is a Rock. He stands firm and He is able to make us stand no matter what. Through thick and thin, break or bend, God is able to make us stand. The song writer says, *I'm standing on the promises of God*. When we stand on the promises of God, we shall never be let down.

We are the children of Abraham and we want to quickly review the life of that mighty man of God, who was called the friend of God. Why was he called a friend of God? He met God's condition.

"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

God and Abraham agreed. Jesus told His disciples, 'Ye are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you.' In Genesis 12:1, 2, God extended His call to Abraham.

"NOW the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing."

That was a tall order: for somebody to depart from his father's house, from his kindred, and from his country.

Abraham loved his country but God told him, ***Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house***. To what address? ***Unto a land that I will shew thee***. That land had not been shown. There was no fixed address. In which case, Abraham had to leave certainty for uncertainty, but he believed in Him Who called.

"So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with

him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran" (Genesis 12:4).

Abraham departed not knowing where to go, but he was depending on God. He knew that God might lead one around but He would lead one aright. God said in verse 2 that He was going to make him not just a nation, but a great nation. Remember, this man was married without a child, not even a single child and he was about 75 years old. Yet, he believed God. May God increase our faith and help us to wait on Him.

"AFTER these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

"And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?"

"And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir" (Genesis 15:1-3).

When we pray to God, we get a reply. It is always announced that by the entrance of our Church, there is a prayer request box containing writing materials where you can put down your requests before God. And when you do, you will get a reply. Many are thanking God today for taking that step. Abraham told it to God and he got an instant reply in verse 4:

"And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir."

In verses 5 and 6, God told Abraham to follow Him:

"And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be."

"And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Abraham did not doubt God. The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:7:

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

If you walk by sight, you cannot go far in the faith because the reality is what you will see. For example, God says He will give you a wife or a husband but you are adding years, and nothing is forthcoming, Satan may incite your close relations to taunt you, "What type of church are you attending? Don't you know your age? Don't you see sister A, she has finished childbearing, and there you are, no husband." They are walking by sight. Do you think there would be nobody who talked to Abraham? As years rolled by and Abraham was getting older, naturally, getting farther and farther away from childbearing, let us see his attitude.

"Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

"He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

"And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Romans 4:18-21).

He waited unwaveringly upon God! We are serving a God Who restores life to dry bones. When we are serving God, our hope is never lost. If you are walking by sight, there is no basis for hope, but against hope. Abraham believed in hope, he clung to the promise of God. When you are walking by faith and not by sight, you are not considering the realities of life. If you are considering the realities of life, your faith will be weakened. The Bible says, ***the days of our years are threescore years and ten*** (70 yrs). Abraham had passed that age and was about one hundred. What the Bible says is that his body was dead. As far as childbearing was concerned, his body at about 100 years, was dead. But God gives life to the dead. Do you praise God in spite of problems? With the realities you can see, do you still believe God can keep His promise?

A sister was in labour and the labour was very tough. Hope seemed to be gone. Her husband was in trauma but later, one of our ministers got there and saw the situation. He told the husband that the God of The Apostolic Faith does not fail and will never fail. The baby was delivered safely through God's help. Satan will tempt, he will taunt, he will even ridicule, he will tell you God cannot do it, but if you wait upon God single-mindedly, you will never be put to shame.

A brother was very sick and at a point, it was like he would give up, but he made up his mind and said, "God, even if I am going to die, I will trust in you. I know you can heal, but even if you do not heal me, I will trust in you." God commended his faith and He told him that the stage at which he was, was the stage many reach

and go back. God told him He would heal him and God did. He stood in the congregation of the saints and gave his testimony to the power in the Blood of Jesus. The problem is that many do not even get to that stage before they try other means. Jesus told the Centurion that he had not found such a faith as his in Israel. May God give us great faith.

A sister gave a testimony many years ago. Her two children were sick at the same time and she was living among unbelievers. The unbelievers warned her that if any of the children should die, she would be in trouble. Sometimes, the more we pray, the harder the problem becomes. It is always darkest before the dawn. This sister was praying and the sickness got worse. She was waiting upon God and as she continued to wait in her room, the children fainted! She could not shout because of her neighbours. Then, she looked up to God and said, "Please Lord, don't put me to shame." God answered and healed the children! The promise may tarry but it will surely come. The sister passed the test! May you pass your own test. A song writer says, *In the hour of trial, Jesu pray for me*. God will never let us down, but let us put both feet in the faith.

A girl who had been saved was sick and her parents wanted to take her to the hospital. She believed Jesus would heal her. She asked her parents a question: "This hospital to which you are taking me, do people die there? If people do not die there, take me there, but if people die there, don't take me there." God saw her faith and healed her.

Jesus said, "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" We are serving a God Who works miracles. The God of The Apostolic Faith is still working miracles and if you believe, He will work your own miracle. In the case of Abraham, did God fulfill the promise? Yes. The Bible says in Numbers 23:19:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"

"AND the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

"For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him" (Genesis 21:1, 2).

Man may forget but God will never. I am assuring you that if you wait upon God without cutting corners, without wavering, God will visit you as He has said. It may be delayed but He will surely visit you. The Lord will do unto you as He has spoken. Do you believe that? Our God is not limited by the laws of science. He is a God of miracles. God may delay but His delays are no denials.

"NOW a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

"Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick" (John 11:1, 3).

They prayed. They told it to Jesus.

They played their part and left the rest to God. They prayed the prayer of faith and what remained was to trust in God. Jesus knew Mary, Martha and Lazarus because He was always going to their house. Naturally, we would have thought that instantly, He would set out to go there. Verse 5 says, "Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus." Does Jesus love you? Let us see verse 6 that follows: "When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was." How do we reconcile verses 5 and 6? Do those two verses fit together? You love somebody and you get the information that he is sick and you still delay, is it because of that love that He decided to stay two more days? The Bible says, "As the heaven is higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways." The song writer says,

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, But trust him for his grace;

Behind a frowning providence, he hides a smiling face,

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take, the clouds ye so much dread

Are big with mercy, and shall break, in blessings on your head.

Jesus loves you but you still have your problem; the answer is, tarry in prayer. Satan will be telling you, "Does He love you?" Tell Satan, "Jesus loves me, no matter what." Put Satan to shame. Resist him.

Jesus knew what He was going to do. Lazarus' sickness got worse but Mary and Martha had an anchor. Who was that Anchor? JESUS. And then, their brother died. Now Satan would say, "You see, you should have tried other means." Lazarus died and Jesus had not come. My friend, Jesus will come to you! He got there four days 'late' but He was still on time. However late Jesus may come to you, He will be on time to turn your darkness to light, to turn your sorrow into joy, to wipe away your tears and put a smile on your face. He may be late, but He will be on time. When Jesus came, Martha said, 'If you had been here Lord, my brother would not have died.' The point is, if Martha and Mary decided after they had prayed, and because Jesus had not come, to take their brother to the hospital, could that guarantee that he would get well? Our Lord does not put us to shame. Jesus told Martha and Mary that their brother would live. Martha said, 'I know he will live at the resurrection of the saints.' Jesus told them in John 11:40:

"Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldst believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?"

May God give us the faith that will make us see more of the glory of God. As an individual, may God give you the eyes that will make you see more of the glory of God and more of His miracles.

Some years ago, a sister was in labour and it was extremely difficult. She had been having her children by operation and the doctor warned her after the previous delivery that she should not conceive again. After that, she came across the Gospel, believed in Jesus and gave her life to the Lord. Before long, she got

pregnant! On the day of delivery, Satan threatened. Satan can only roar as a lion, he is not a lion. We are serving the Lion of the tribe of Judah. One of our veteran ministers stood behind the pulpit and announced that a sister was in labour and that we should go down on our knees and pray for her safe delivery. Not more than ten minutes later, he came back and announced that God had delivered the woman. The girl born that day is now a mother herself. The woman is still alive. What can our God not do?

Jesus said, 'Let us go to the grave.' Martha turned to Jesus, 'Lord, don't worry, he has been buried for four days and will be stinking.' God says He wants to help you and you are telling God He cannot. May we not limit the power of God. No matter the hopelessness of our situation, God can make a change, because we are serving a powerful God. Jesus got to the sepulchre and told them to remove the stone and they did. He called, "Lazarus, come forth." Did he come out? Yes! The prayer of Martha and Mary was answered in a way they did not expect.

God may answer your prayer in the way you are not expecting. If Jesus had merely come to heal Lazarus, that would have been a miracle; God would still be glorified. But how much greater is the miracle when Jesus raised up a man who had been dead for four days? My brothers and sisters, when you have put your matter in God's hand, don't look back! The answer may not come and it may never come as you expect but God will surprise you. Our God has the capacity to surprise, He will surprise you. I know our problems vary, our trials are not the same but this same God is the answer to all of them. What is your problem? Are you jobless? Are you poor? Are you sick? Are you barren? God is the answer. Come this morning and tell it to Jesus and you will be happy you did. May God answer every prayer. □



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of The Apostolic Faith in Nigeria.

2011 Overseers' Seminar

Leaders of The Apostolic Faith work across the West and Central Africa (WECA) district recently attended a six-day seminar at the WECA Headquarters, Anthony Village, Lagos.

The refresher course kicked off with a faith clinic that God would make each participant a sharp threshing instrument with teeth. The sharpness which exceeds that of a stone grinder or an explosive.

At the beginning of time, the Lord spoke the world into existence from emptiness and confusion. The power of the Word started God's Mission fields, which God constantly evaluated and reported, "It was good." God Himself was the first missionary and has since then sent out other missionaries.

Man was given a limit at creation in the garden of Eden. In the vineyard of God, leaders

too must know their limits. Man has been given a leadership and managerial responsibility which can be delegated but not abdicated. As leaders in God's work, we should not add to or remove from God's Word.

About 60 participants attended the seminar which was adjudged refreshing and an "eye opener." ■

Revival in Dogon Doutchi

As soon as the information concerning a retreat taking place at Dogon Doutchi, Niger Republic, reached the WECA Headquarters on October 27, 2011, a mission team comprising members drawn from WECA Headquarters and Abuja Region was immediately constituted to help organise the retreat. On November 2, 2011, Brother Usman Barde arrived Sokoto from Maiduguri. On November 3, two members of the team from WECA Headquarters, Brother Benjamin Oni and Sister Rachel Fakorede, arrived Sokoto.

The Pastor of Sokoto Church, Brother Abu Adediran, and the organist, Brother Femi Omotoyinbo, joined the mission team. The team departed for Illela, a town located at the Nigeria/Niger border in a brother's car.

The team went through Niger Republic border post to Konni where they boarded a vehicle to Dogon Doutchi (a distance of about 140km from Konni). The team eventually arrived Doutchi at about 7.30pm and had a meeting with the pastor of the Church, Brother Na'Allah, who briefed the

mission team about the progress of the Gospel work since the visit of the mission team in 2010.

Throwing light on his reason for organising the retreat at that season, the pastor explained that it was a period of public holiday. He went further to tell the team that he was expecting a total of about thirty invitees from his village. He also stated that a wide publicity of the programme had been given on the nation's radio, and invitation cards distributed to the people.

The first Bible study had a total of 45 registered retreaters partaking in the lesson. They were divided into three classes: Elementary, Hausa and French.

Revival service commenced at 5.00 pm on the same day. Brother Benjamin Oni preached on the topic: **Give Me a True Token**. He took his text from Joshua 2:10-14 and encouraged all the retreaters to seize the opportunity to get saved from their lives of sin.

On Sunday, November 4, the workers were enjoined to bear in mind that the Trumpet might soon sound. Thus, there was urgent need to make all reconciliations and

restitutions immediately and be ready for the Rapture. The workers were encouraged to pray God to give them love and unity and also manifest Himself in the retreat.

On Monday, November 5, 2011, at 9.00am, the Bible study session commenced. The retreaters were distributed into Elementary, French and Hausa classes as before. The classes ended at 10.15am and Sister Rachel took up the review and the altar call.

The three-day retreat came to a close after the evangelistic service which started at 4.00pm. Using scriptural passages taken from 1 Samuel 1:9-19 and Luke 19:1-6, Brother Benjamin Oni preached a brief sermon titled: **Golden Opportunity**. He admonished all the participants that an opportunity was open to them to receive salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. People prayed fervently at the altar.

The mission team left Dogon Doutchi for Sokoto on Tuesday morning. ■

Lagos North Youth Directorate Inaugurated

A clarification call has gone to young people in The Apostolic Faith to be steadfast in faith and in well doing if they desire good life and peace of God.

The Lagos North District Overseer, Brother Peter Awomoyi, who made the call during the inauguration of the District's Youth Directorate, reassured the youths that the elders appreciate them and are pleased with their contributions to the progress of the Gospel though there is room for improvement.

He said, "I want to enjoin you to

keep up the good work and you can be sure that when the elders leave the stage, the Church would be assured that there are trusted hands who could carry on the Gospel torch."

At the inauguration, a lecture on leadership was delivered by Brother Richard Owen. He said the call for today was the call for true leaders and that only leaders who have the fear of God can be effective.

The Deputy Director, Youth Directorate, WECA headquarters, Sister Mabel Odunsi, introduced the Head of the Districts Youth

Management Team, Brother James Adamson, who in turn introduced others – Brother John Adegbeye, District Youth Leader, Brother Victor Ogundeji, Head, Outreach, and Brother Emeka Nnamdi, Head, Secretariat, after which the elders prayed for them.

WECA Youth Leader, Brother Jide Yesufu later explained the standard operating procedures of the Youth Directorate.

The event was attended by dignitaries from WECA headquarters and from the districts. □

God Did It For Me

God's Protection is Sure

I started coming to The Apostolic Faith Church at a tender age with my mother and siblings. My mother always ensured our attendance in church at all cost. Even when there was nothing to eat, we must go and pray. When the missionaries, Brother and Sister Dealyn George, came to Liberia, the experience of salvation was made understandable to me. I prayed and God saved me in 1999 at the age of 15. He later sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. My mother was a member of the choir and I used to wait for her whenever she went for choir practice and would be singing along with them. This attracted me to music and two years after my salvation, I joined the choir.

My father stopped paying for my education and things got difficult. But God in mercy saw me through the high school and secretarial training. I later got a job and things got better.

At a point in my life, I started keeping ungodly friends and I realised I had backslidden. One day, I went to browse the net and read a sermon by Rev. Paul Akazue, titled, "Where Art Thou?" I started weeping, but I still continued in my sinful ways. Not long after this, I was sick to the point of death. I asked my mother to pray for me that I might not die. As I was crying on my sick bed, I started confessing my sins both to God and to my mother. My mother prayed with me till I got saved. Immediately, I started getting better. God healed me completely and restored me to His service. I was made a Sunday school teacher in 2005. I give glory to God.

The year 2002 was the only time I had been to Nigeria for camp meeting, so I decided to come early to the 2011 camp meeting. I set out in July by road. On our way to Ghana, the car I boarded had a brake failure as we were climbing a hill.



The car started rolling backwards and on both sides were embankments. How God stopped the car from falling into the chasm had been a miracle since. I had to go back to Liberia to source money for my journey to Nigeria again. I thank God that despite all the challenges on the way, God brought me safely to the camp meeting. I praise God for His deliverance and provision.

During the war in Liberia, God saw us through many hurdles, trials and afflictions. Though I was very young when it all started, I remember one day at Peter Manley Village where the headquarters church was, we were ambushed by the rebels, questioned and accused of espionage. Despite our pleas that we were going to church, they made us sit on water, lambasted us and threatened to kill us. We were all females – women and girls – praying that God should deliver us. Suddenly, an airplane arrived with ammunition for the rebels. This got all their attention and they quickly sent us away. That was how God delivered us.

As the war progressed, the church got damaged greatly and that led to the movement of the headquarters to Monrovia, but God kept all of us alive. At a time we were at Harbel, some of the rebels were raiding the area in search of anyone from the tribe of Krahn to kill. In the house where we lodged was a member of this tribe. Several people had been killed in the neighbourhood and even close to the house where we were, but God did not let anyone point out to them that a member of Krahn tribe was in our house. God protected us.

Although I was young, I remember a time when we were lined up and anyone suspected to be a member of Krahn or Mandingo tribe was picked out and slaughtered in our presence. Through it all, God kept us safe. We would sometimes go to the church to pray for days and God always protected us. All glory to God Almighty.

There was a time men went from house to house raping women. We prayed, and God spared our house. The Church scattered all through the years of the war but people gathered in twos or threes to pray and worship. The war took its toll on the country, and even till now, things are still very hard. The employment rate is terribly low, so much that about 95% of our congregation are unemployed. Even in these situations, we can say that God is good and wonderful.

When the war ended in 2003, people who had scattered into the interior came back to join the Church at Monrovia to worship.

The happiest day of my life was the day I got saved. I would have loved to have given my life to God at an earlier time, so that I would not have hurt Him the way I did. But I thank God that He got me before it was too late.

Every moment at this camp meeting

has been so enjoyable and full of blessings for me. The children's programme on the second Sunday drew tears from my eyes and I renewed my desire not to miss Heaven. I also enjoyed the marriage seminar and learnt so much. All the Bible teachings have been inspiring. The eagerness of children to pray at the altar was thrilling and encouraging. I truly feel the presence of God here.

I wish to tell all youth that we should learn from, and obey our elders, parents and ministers and not wait until bad things happen to us before we value what we have in the Gospel.

I want brethren in Nigeria to continue to pray for my country, Liberia, that God will heal and bless her.

My utmost desire is to live for God everyday and everywhere, so as to make the Rapture and be a partaker of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. ■

Wroto Barcom
Liberia.

My Burden of Sin Rolled Away

I want to thank God for His loving kindness towards me. I was born into a religious family and at age 15, I had started to ponder on the judgement of God upon the sins that I was committing. I tried to quit sinning, unfortunately I could not do it on my own. I fasted and made many resolutions never to sin again but all was in vain.

I am thankful to God that He did not leave me alone in that condition. Sad, confused and helpless was I, when I met a Christian, who told me about the power of God to save from sin. God helped me to believe the message and I confessed my sins to God, promising to give Him my life if He saved me. God was merciful to me; He saved and sanctified me on May 10, 1979, in a village in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast. Later, God filled me with the Holy Ghost at the 1979 camp meeting at Anthony, in Lagos.

God took away the fear of death from me. He gave me joy and the hope of Heaven instead. God protects my family and heals us of all sorts of sicknesses. God has remained my Provider and Hope.

My family and I will serve this Wonderful God till the end. May His name be glorified. ■

Kouassi Kouakou Benoit, Pastor,
Yamoussoukro Church, Cote d'Ivoire.

Youth and Time Management

The youthful age in The Apostolic Faith refers to the years between ages four and forty. Time is a period when something happens or when something should happen.

King Solomon notes:

“TO every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:

“A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2).

Children who come across the Gospel early in life are the most fortunate of all beings. They hardly need go through the heartaches and regrets life has to offer, if they follow the tenets they are exposed to. Herein comes time again. It is important to decide for Christ early in life to enjoy the full benefits of the Gospel for a longer time. Truly, there is a reward for those who diligently seek the Lord.

Consider Reverend Ray Crawford. He was saved at a tender age and followed through. When The Apostolic Faith, Portland, bought her first vehicle, Brother Ray was the driver. When evangelism became more sophisticated and expansive, the Church bought an aircraft and he was the pilot. With increased loads of Gospel materials to be distributed, the Church bought a ship, and he was the captain. He finally became the General Overseer of the Church.

Deciding for God early is the greatest decision one can ever make. It guides one's focus and gives one the required tenacity. Such a critical decision enables God to plan one's footsteps on daily basis. Besides, apart from just singing, *Abraham's blessings are mine*, the blessings would definitely manifest for all to see that truly, *It pays to serve Jesus*.

Young people who are in doubt should look around, talk with elderly people who had spent some good time with God and get to know that, indeed, the Lord is good. The secret is, having become God's own, and acknowledge Him in all you do, He will guide your footsteps such that you cannot falter.

It may also surprise the youth to know that God is a God of all times. He has great plans for every man for specific times of life. It is such that all that is required is for one to fix into this timing, with God leading the way, in order to enjoy it all.

When a young person is born again, his career development depends on God's plan. As he goes to school, he could get enlisted in the choir and orchestra. Youths have quick reflexes and would easily understand what old people would find



difficult. It is therefore possible to graduate from school and at the same time be an equipped evangelist. It is amazing the opportunities available out there for the propagation of the Gospel for the youths who are informed and willing.

A saved soul would naturally understand that the future depends on God's love. He would never participate in “Special Centre Syndrome,” even if parents pressurise. He knows that whether academic or artisan, God is at the foundation and would never fail. He would want God to be praised in his life, and would rather opt for learning a trade or attend a technical college instead of chasing shadows. Whichever way, sweet is the future. With the Lord as the Shepherd, he could quickly gain aptitude and become useful in many aspects of the Gospel work.

For the genuinely saved, marriage is not a problem, neither is it a restraint. His watchword is: **All to Jesus I surrender.** He gives everything to Jesus and sweet is the promise, for Jesus will never leave him nor forsake him. Is it that there will never be a problem? No. But how marvellously and wonderfully God undertakes for His own! He said, “My people shall never be ashamed!” He also said: “My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.”

For the one who wants to enjoy the world for a season before coming into the Gospel, the story is always pathetic. Most times, he would have been injected with enough sorrows before he comes to the Gospel. Satan, being a cruel taskmaster, would first entice and then lead into subjugation. Such a one may not even have time to come to the arms of Jesus where he could get succour, let alone make Heaven. Some, for the fear of their shadows, would want to get married out there before getting committed. This is the beginning of error. Once you marry wrongly, the chance of your coming to God is slim. Even when you make it, what becomes of your children? Truly, the wicked is given to travail! Such a one may have to grope from darkness to

darkness. Today, if you hear His voice, harden not your heart.

The saved youth is an organised person. Here is a simple three-step scheme to getting things done which you may adopt in the handling of your tasks that will help you manage your time well:

1. Write down all the things you want to get done for the day. This includes:

morning devotion, writing, creating content, planning your next project, answering your e-mail and balancing your checklist.

2. Assign a specific time to each task or group of tasks. Anything from 15 minutes to 2 hours. Chunks of 30 minutes or less work best.

3. Select a task, start a timer, and focus on nothing but accomplishing that task. This means you do not answer the phone or get up for a drink. You do not log on to facebook either – none of that. You remain focused on the task-at-hand!

If you practise these three simple steps regularly, it will totally revolutionise the way you get things done in your life – guaranteed!

Take a look at them again, then take 30 seconds and allow the structure and purpose behind these three steps to sink in. You'll instinctively see the genius in the system, which boils down to the fact that it uses these three key elements:

*** An end-result or goal (each of your daily tasks)** - Our brains love goals, big or small, because they are built to be goal-seeking machines. Give your brain a goal, and it immediately goes to work finding ways to achieve it.

*** A specific timeframe or deadline (the time you assign each task)** - Once your brain has a goal, a deadline is the fuel that motivates it! The shorter the deadline, the more revved up your brain gets.

*** Believability (the order and structure of the system)** - Instead of surrendering yourself to lackluster results because you see your day as an overwhelming, uncontrollable mess, this system breaks your day down into small, manageable pieces that you actually see yourself getting done with ease. When you believe you can, you will!

When these three elements are brought together, the synergy totally transforms the way you psychologically and emotionally look at all the things you have to do.

The bottom-line is, get saved early. Get committed early and live a life that blooms for testimonies of what God can do. The choice is yours. □