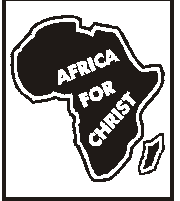




GOSPEL NEWS

IN AFRICA



April — June 2004

A news magazine of The Apostolic Faith Church in Africa

Vol. 5 No. 2

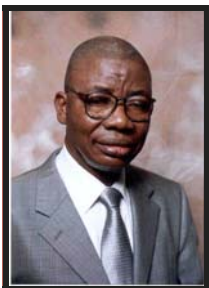


On April 2, 2004, the Africa Overseer, Brother Paul Akazue, in the company of his wife, Jane; Brothers John Aina and Emmanuel Moh, left Lagos, Nigeria, for a missionary trip to Eastern and Southern Africa. Their first port of call was Kenya, where they were met on arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by a team of six, including the Kenyan Overseer, Brother David Mungai; the General Secretary, Brother Peter Gatimo and his wife; two other ministers and Brother Emmanuel Umana, who is a Nigerian based in Kenya.

On April 3, the team left for a branch church at Thogoto. The General Secretary informed the missionary team that the Thogoto branch church was the pioneer branch of The Apostolic Faith in Kenya and was the place visited about 27 years before by Brother Loyce C. Carver, the former General Overseer of the Apostolic Faith. They noted that the Church had had series of problems, which created setbacks and led to a break in communication between the Kenyan Church and both the International and Africa Headquarters. The prevailing situation ushered in different ways of worship in Kenya, which were quite different from The Apostolic Faith pattern. However, in 2002, a team of 19 from

(Continued on page 2)

From the Africa Overseer



Communication is the process by which people exchange information and ideas. Communication is vital in a large organisation. The Apostolic Faith has branches throughout the continent of Africa. It is essential that there

must be communication with all the branches and the International Headquarters in Portland, Oregon. Of course, communication with God through prayers is the most important aspect of a Christian's life.

"For without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).

We felt it was imperative for us to visit the churches in East Africa because there seemed to be a break in communication with the Africa Headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria.

In this issue, the report of the tours to East and South Africa is highlighted. Reports of a few Churches in West and Central Africa are also given. Likewise, reports come in all the time from the states in Nigeria. Good communication will make The Apostolic Faith a cohesive whole.

It is our prayer that the reports will spur you to further communication with God, so that the Gospel Light will shine throughout all the highways and byways of Africa.

Paul O. Akazue

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Kenya visited the Africa Headquarters in Lagos and were inspired by what they saw. Their desire to go back to their roots compelled them to write to the Africa Headquarters requesting a visit.

In the course of the meeting in Thogoto, the Africa Overseer spoke on the importance of doing the will of God. All were encouraged to kneel down before God and have a personal talk with Him concerning their spiritual lives. Many confessed that they were blessed. Some members who were in the branch when Brother Carver visited, remarked that what happened that day, was the old-time way. This was because they were able to go to the altar to pray,



Arrival at Lusaka Airport. From left: Sister Sowi Kaibula, Brothers John Aina, Timothy Kaibula and Paul Akazue

the practice, which had not been observed for a long time. Brother Akazue also discouraged the practice of dancing while singing. He recounted that God called the Founder of our Church, Mother Florence Crawford, from a dancing hall.

On Sunday, April 4, the team visited Bahati, Nairobi. Other places visited included Ngong town and Muguga. The following Monday, the Africa Overseer had a meeting with all the ministers from the branch churches in Kenya. At the meeting, he gave out copies of *Gospel News in Africa*, *Camp Meeting Teachings*, tracts, pocket calendars and other Gospel materials. Topics covered at the meeting included: The History of The Apostolic Faith Church, Doctrines of The Bible as Practised by The Apostolic Faith Church, Sunday School Classifications and On-going Projects in Nigeria. The Africa Overseer told the

(Continued on page 3)



The branch church at Bahati, Kenya

(Continued from page 2)

gathering that the team was leaving for Zambia and South Africa the following day, but would return to Kenya before going back to Nigeria.

The team arrived Lusaka, Zambia, on April 6, to join them in their annual camp meeting. The Director of the Foreign Work at the International Headquarters, Brother Dwight Baltzell, accompanied by Brother Cliff Paulsen, joined the Zambia Camp meeting on April 17. Other delegates also came from South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Kenya and different parts of Zambia. On the evening of Wednesday, April 7, after a special song—*Come, Great Deliverer, Come*—was rendered by a Sister, the Holy Ghost power fell in the old Apostolic manner. The preacher could do nothing more than simply invite the seekers to the mourners' bench. It was a glorious experience. Many received their Christian experiences. 86 souls were later baptised in water.

The Easter Musical Concert was held in the evening of April 11, with 2,170 in attendance. As the choir rendered their last piece, people rushed to the altar and the power of God was

greatly manifested. The team left for South Africa on April 19. Many branch churches in different regions of South Africa were visited in the company of their Overseer, Brother Eddie Sadik. Churches visited included Orlando, Soweto; Pietersburg; Makhado; Durban and Tembisa. At each station, Brother Akazue exhorted the brethren and prayed for them. On April 25, the team worshipped at the Orlando Headquarters church and Brother Akazue gave a teaching on *The Home*. There was a youth forum later in the afternoon, where the youths asked questions and had responses to many of their nagging problems. The Music Director, Brother John Aina, also had some time to groom the choir and assign instruments to some aspiring instrumentalists. Many South Africans were richly blessed during this visit and on the last night in South Africa, a lady in the mission house was saved.

The Gospel team returned to Nairobi, Kenya, on April 27. A leaders' conference was arranged at Naivasha on Friday, April 30. In the morning of the day, Brother Akazue spoke on *The Principles of a Stable and Growing Church*. This was followed by another challenge in the afternoon on *The Gospel Call, Your Love and Your Faith*. The question and answer session which followed, was very rewarding. After lunch, the Af-

rica Overseer had another session with the pastors, while other team members were assigned to other groups to lead discussions on various challenging issues. A group photograph rounded up the day's activities. Many expressed their desire to attend the forthcoming Lagos camp meeting in August and solicited earnest prayers on their behalf. On May 1, a leaders' seminar was held at Ngong. Brother Akazue spoke on *The Role of Order in Church Admini-*



Participants at the leaders' forum at Naivasha praying at the close of the meeting

stration and Ministry. A question and answer session followed. On May 2, the team travelled to Nyandarua Region, about two hours drive from Nairobi, to hold a service at Gweru assembly. The church hall was packed full while many people stood around the building. There was simply not enough space for the worshippers.

On Tuesday, May 4, the team visited a total of six churches in Nairobi. This included Nairobi South (Industrial Area) Kwa Reuben Branch Church, Kayole Estate Church, Dandora Estate Church, Marurui Church, Njathaini Church, and Kiamuubi Parish.

The team returned to Lagos

newsl ine

Cote D'Ivoire

In spite of the civil war in Cote D'Ivoire, God answered prayers and the Annual Convention held from February 15 to 22, was mightily blessed. In each of the meetings, the attendance was over 450. A total of 72 blessings were recorded, comprising 27 saved souls, 20 sanctified, 15 baptised with the Holy Ghost, and 10 healed. 38 saints partook of the ordinance of the Washing of the Saints' Feet. At the close of the convention, a new branch church was established at Kroukroubo town.

Gabon

The work in Gabon is making steady progress. The Easter Retreat was held between April 9 and 10, 2004, in Libreville. The attendance was about 100, despite the fact that Good Friday was not declared a public holiday. The teaching was on *The Value of Family Worship*. God blessed the meeting tremendously. Souls were saved and there was much joy. The blessings continued even after the meetings. The Spirit of God led a backslider to pray through to salvation and sanctification on Monday May 3, 2004, long after the retreat.

Namibia

The Easter Retreat commenced on Monday, April 5, 2004, when delegates from Zimbabwe arrived Windhoek. Other contingents arrived from Angola, Ondangwa, Oshakati, Osire and Grootfontein. The attendance was 239 and many

souls were wonderfully blessed. Out of these, 12 were saved, 2 sanctified, 3 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire, and 3 healed. Furthermore, God has been reviving the music ministry through one of the brothers from Nigeria.

Gambia

God has remembered Gambia and manifested His presence among the 'little flock'. He has blessed many souls with Christian experiences. Furthermore, He answered prayers and granted couples the fruit of the womb. Backsliders too have been restored. A brother testified that God brought him back to the fold after the devil had deceived him by promising him the things of this world. God blessed him with the Christian experiences and also showered him with material blessings.

The Easter Retreat was wonderfully blessed. The teaching was on *Christianity And The World*. It was followed by a sermon titled: *The Miracles of Jesus*. The attendance was encouraging and people prayed and received the Christian experiences.

Republic of Benin

The first Youth Rally in the Republic of Benin was held between April 30 and May 2, 2004, on the new Route de Porto-Novo campground site at PK 14, in Cotonou. Participants came from all the branch churches. The theme of the rally was *Youth For Christ*, and the activities featured: Film Shows, Bi-

ble Studies and seminars on employment and marriage.

On Sunday, there was a combined service for all the branch churches. The Elementary Sunday School Department opened the Sunday School with a short play entitled, *Winning Africa For Christ*. The sermon during the devotional service titled — *Vessels Unto Honour* — sparked off a mighty revival. People prayed through to different Christian experiences and many saints renewed their consecration. A mini-concert preceded the evening evangelistic service and many invitees attended. The total attendance at the meetings was 5,317. 13 people were saved, 4 sanctified, 2 baptised with the Holy Spirit and 3 healed.

One of those healed was a woman who was carried to the Church because she could not stand on her two legs. She had tried in vain to get healed through various means. She was invited to the Rally. She prayed and God forgave her sins. She was healed immediately and she started to walk.

across nigeria

Lagos State

There is early morning campaign in many of our branch churches in Lagos State. This involves distribution of Gospel literature and invitation of people to services. The effort has yielded much fruit and the attendance at services has increased.

At Idiroko town, on March 18, 2004, a new church was dedicated. In spite of the initial difficulties, God gave the victory. The service was a revival that resulted in salvation of souls. On April 14, 2004, a new Bible Study centre was dedicated.

At Owode-Yewa, in one of the revival services, God opened the ears of a deaf man, saved, sanctified and baptised him with the Holy Ghost.

At Sango Ota, a brother was healed of stroke after praying and trusting God for over 7 months.

At Aboru, God purchased a parcel of land for the Church as well as electronic equipment. A brother testified of Divine deliverance from a fire outbreak on July 9, 2003. He jumped down from the 6th floor of the Nigerian Industrial Development Bank building and God was there to receive him safely on landing.

A sister who had been childless for a long time and had suffered from spiritualists, testified that God saved her. God also blessed her with a bouncing baby boy.

At Apapa Ajegunle, a brother testified of Divine healing from a prolonged illness that affected his brain and lasted for over one year.

At Ikorodu, God continued to bless souls with different Christian experiences. He also provided a new bus and an electronic organ for the Gospel work. The Gospel has reached Bayeku and a Bible study centre will soon be opened there.

Uyo District

God has visited the district with copious blessings. 57 souls were saved, 14 sanctified and 7 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire. A total of 31 people were also healed of diverse sicknesses.

God delivered one of the ministers, Brother Patrick Okon, who is a mason by profession, from earth slide which buried him alive in the course of his work. God also delivered another brother from a

burning car. He sent passers-by to help him to put off the fire and preserved the car.

A dead child at Mbierebe church was raised to life. God cast out the demonic spirit from one lady in Nkara Obio church. There is nothing God cannot do.

Ondo/Ekiti

Revival meetings were held from March 21 to 28, 2004, at the Town Hall, Iyin-Ekiti, at the invitation of His Royal Highness, Oluyin of Iyin-Ekiti. Virtually, the whole town was in attendance, the Oba and his chiefs, inclusive. The revival commenced with a musical concert and it was greatly blessed. A total of 24 souls were saved, 6 sanctified and 1 healed.

The highlights included: the miraculous healing of a man with a withered hand who had suffered for 10 years. He leapt and shouted for joy, raising the hand for everyone to see.

A large parcel of land was donated to the Church for the establishment of a College of Technology, while the large modern town hall was temporarily released for church services.

On Easter Sunday, at Ajilosun, Ado Ekiti, there was an unprecedented mighty revival throughout the morning, afternoon and evening services. A total of 46 blessings were recorded. This included 27 saved and 13 sanctified.

The revival meetings in Ondo State lasted for five weeks, from March 28 to April 25, 2004. It involved fifty branch churches. In the pattern of Jesus' commission to the seventy, ministers were assigned to take up the services in the branch churches. God worked with them and wonderful blessings were reported. 534 souls were saved, 264 sanctified, 73 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire and 43 healed.

The testimonies among others included: the restoration of a backslider at Ondo, who had left the fold for 25 years. She was saved, sanctified and baptised. Her eldest daughter also prayed through to salvation and sanctification. An elderly woman, certified dead for hours was also restored to life. A sister at Okesa, Ado Ekiti, testified of being healed after heavenly visitors performed a surgical operation on her ailing body. God used a teen-

age Sunday School boy to reach a woman at Ado Ekiti. She came to church and prayed through to salvation.

God provided a piece of land at Ilu Omoba for a new place of worship.

At Okeigbo, God healed a brother of an unknown illness. A sister also testified that God is a great provider. He changed the poverty situation in her family for the better. Another brother who was bitten by a poisonous snake, testified of the power of God to heal and deliver.

Ogun

The month of April was set aside for revival in eight churches: Iwopin, Olugbo, Ogunmakin, Itoku-Aro, Ayetoro, Imasayi, Owode-Egba and Odeda. Services were held for two days at each station. The revival was blessed. 71 people were saved, 29 sanctified, 6 baptised with Holy Ghost and 5 people were healed.

At Ogunmakin, the elder brother of late Brother Madeinlo testified that Jesus called him by name and urged him not to resist His entreaties any longer. He was saved during the revival. The 80-year old mother of the resident minister persisted in prayer and was wonderfully saved too. At Orunwa, a leader of the *Osun* worshippers prayed through to salvation and sanctification and denounced her former appellation which had bearing with *Osun* deity.

At Sagamu, an aged woman prayed through to salvation and sanctification during one of the revival services.

At Ijebu-Ode, a lady heard a voice directing her from her house to the Church. She obeyed and was wonderfully saved.

At Imasayi, a drug addict and vendor of hard drugs was saved.

At Itori Oke, a sister testified that God restored life to her sister who had been unconscious from an illness that doctors declared hopeless. A brother also testified that through prayer, God delivered a man, who had been hired to work on a 45-feet deep well when he was stuck in the well. The Fire Brigade had been invited but had failed to bring him up.

Missionary Trip to Zambia



Service in progress: Lusaka, Zambia ...



... with the Choir and Orchestra ...



... and the children performing



Members of the team: From Left—
Brothers John Aina, Emmanuel Moh, Paul Akazue and Sister Jane Akazue at Victoria Falls

Brother Dwight Baltzell
with an interpreter



A mixed quartet in Lusaka



Sunday School for Children



... and Sister Jane Akazue in the
choir

... and to South Africa



Welcoming the team at Orlando, Soweto



The church at Orlando, Soweto



The choir in action at Orlando



Brother Eddie Sadik, the Overseer in South Africa, making announcements



Brother Paul (left) preaching a sermon



A church building in the Venda Region



Prayer session after service



Brother and Sister Akazue (middle) with some brethren in Pietersburg



A service going on in Pietersburg

footprints



He was instrumental in bringing the Gospel to his village. He watched the Gospel grow from its very small beginnings until many villages around him saw the Light. And even as his days came to an end, Matthew Baba Kunle remained a model of

Staying Through With God

In 1953, after a Sunday service at The Apostolic Church, Okoro-Gbede, Brother David Oloruntoba, who had attended The Apostolic Faith Church in Lagos, gave the inspiring news of the Lagos service to his people. Those who were present in the after-service meeting at Okoro-Gbede included Mr M. A. B. Kunle. Brother Oloruntoba explained how the meeting in The Apostolic Faith Church was orderly and highly inspiring. He urged that he and his colleagues should write to the Church to establish a branch at Aye-Gbede. Brother Kunle was given the address of the Church and mandated to write the Headquarters on behalf of all the others.

The letter from Aye was promptly replied by the Lagos Headquarters of The Apostolic Faith Church, and a date was

set for a Gospel tour of the area. Kunle met the team near a brook close to Okoro-Gbede. Observing that a vehicle stuck in the mud, near the brook, was that of their invited guests, he quickly gave them a helping hand and directed them towards the road to Aye.

Brother Kunle got saved in 1954. He faced a lot of persecution and problems, but through patience and perseverance he endured it all. He took a definite stand for the Gospel and through him The Apostolic Faith was established in Aye

and Aiyetoro-Gbede.

He was the first pastor in those churches.

Brother Kunle was the first Apostolic Faith worker in the Northern Region. With some Gospel workers assisting him, he visited many primary and secondary schools in Ijumu, Kabba Land, in his effort to spread the Gospel.

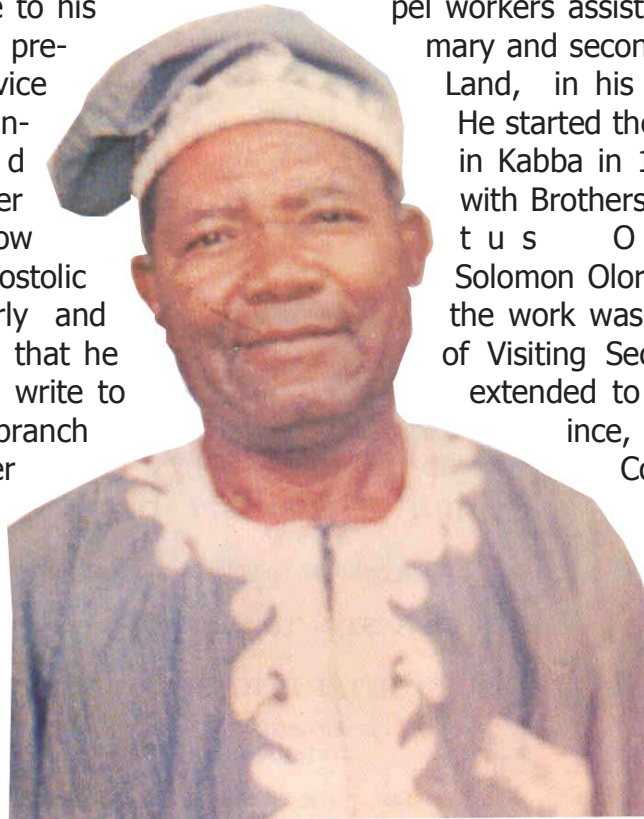
He started the school visitation programme in Kabba in 1960 and later on he worked with Brothers Michael O. Onayemi, Augustus O. Omole and Solomon Olorungbon, for many years until the work was given the name, Association of Visiting Secretaries (A.V.S). The work

extended to Iyagba Area in Kabba Province, which later extended to the Colleges, Universities and other Higher Institutions. With motorcycles and bicycles they spread the Gospel to all the nooks and crannies of Kabba Land. One cannot but praise God for his humble life as Brother Kunle readily enlisted for voluntary duties in the House of God. He was

ever ready to undertake any humble duty.

He was appointed a minister and later became the Overseer of Kwara State before he was transferred to former Ondo State. He retired from active service due to ill health.

He breathed his last in the early hours of April 24, and was laid to rest on May 27, 2004.



He was a baritone soloist, a trumpeter and trumpet teacher. He was a preacher and a teacher. He was the Secretary Treasurer for this organisation for many years. But above all these, Samuel Oluyemisi Adebajo Odumosu, served diligently and quietly

In the Lord's Service

One evening in 1959, a young man on his way to a dancing hall met a friend who was already saved. That young man was Samuel Oluyemisi Odumosu. His friend invited him to church and told him of the power of the Lord to save.

Though Samuel did not believe him at first, he eventually followed him to the church. There, Samuel met Jesus Who turned his life around. Gone were the dancing lessons and other ungodly acts. Samuel prayed and obtained the three Christian experiences and joined the music class. On February 26, 1963, Samuel became a member of the senior choir and orchestra. For many years after this, he faithfully and quietly carried out his duties.

Brother Odumosu became a Sunday School teacher in 1970 and later became a minister of the Word. For many years he taught music classes and generally assisted the Music Director, working effectively but unnoticed. He

was dutiful and meticulous yet friendly and courteous. With the help of Sister Christianah Modupe Odumosu, whom he married on February 6, 1975, he laboured faithfully on.

He was always willing to give a solo when requested to. His familiar solo numbers included: *Mary's Boy Child; Gbogbo Aiye Gbe Jesu Ga; I Have Found a Friend in Jesus; Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult; Telephone to Heaven; The Trumpet Shall Sound; Keep Looking Up* and many others. He sang in the Victory Quartet with his friend,

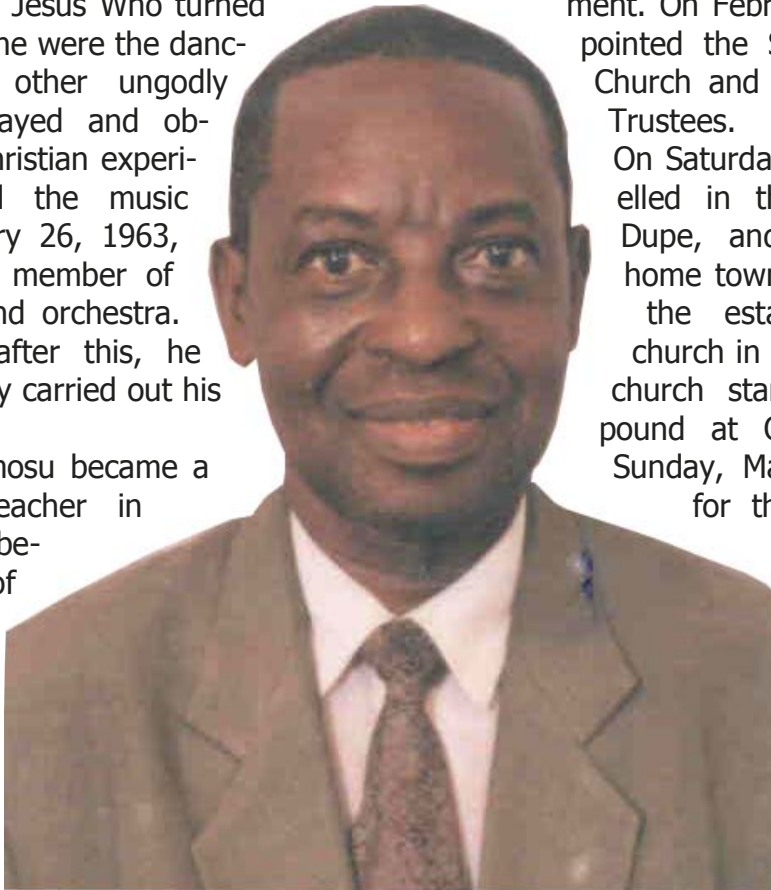
Brother Paul Ibikunle, who had gone on before him. His last vocal solo in the church was *I'm On My Journey Home*, a song which he sang with tears running down his cheeks.

Out of his determination to give the balance of his life to God, He became a full-time worker of The Apostolic Faith Church on September 1, 1993, and he worked in the Treasury Department. On February 14, 1998, he was appointed the Secretary/Treasurer of the Church and Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

On Saturday March 13, 2004, he travelled in the company of his wife, Dupe, and two other brethren to his home town, Odo-Senbora, to witness the establishment of a branch church in the town. The new branch church started in his father's compound at Oke-Ita, Odo-Senbora, on Sunday, March 14, 2004. Burdened for the salvation of his town's men, he went round inviting people to the revival service. Many people prayed through to different Christian experiences, while others received various blessings from God.

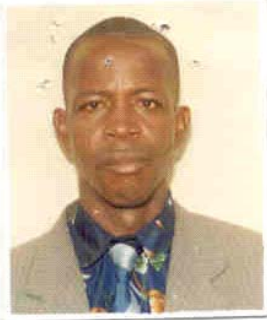
When he came back to Lagos, he told the driver who brought him from Odo-Senbora: "Mission Accomplished". He was ill for a few days. His common song during the illness was, *Lord I'm Coming Home*. His wife reported that during the illness, he was always talking of Heaven. He prayed together with his wife throughout the night preceding his death. He prayed that God would make it possible for his wife and children to make the Rapture. On March 23, 2004, at about 2:00 am, he passed on to Glory.

Brother Odumosu was trustworthy, honest,



God Did it For Me

FROM IDOLATRY TO CHRISTIANITY



This glorious Gospel transforms lives. I was born into an idolatrous family, but I thank God that it pleased Him to meet me at a crossroads.

God Himself told me to carry my Bible and hymn book and go to the church which He wanted me to attend. When I obeyed God's instructions, He brought me to The Apostolic Faith, where the joy of God radiated on the faces of the members.

I heard the Word of God that condemned my life. I humbled myself and God saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire from above. Since 1976, God has been proving Himself to me as my all.

When God saved me, He convinced me of some restitutions I had to make. One of them was that I should be like Gideon of old, who destroyed the idols his parents were worshipping. Due to the fact that I was born a twin, our parents made idols for us and sacrificed to them on our behalf.

One day, when I was praying for sanctification, God told me to do away with the twin graven images. In order to obey God's instructions, I decided to destroy the idols by cutting them into pieces, together with all the charms hung at the entrance of our house.

My parents were not pleased with this action, but I told them to allow the idols to avenge themselves, if really they were powerful. Thank

God, till today, I am still alive. This brought a turning point in the lives of my parents.

God did a lot for me in this glorious Gospel. He gave me a good wife. He also blessed me with children who are serving God with me.

I was denied a duty post in my place of work for many years, but God in His own mercy miraculously made me a headmaster, in one of the primary schools.

In the just concluded change of pulpit, God made me happy when he added more converts to my group. Though, it is not an easy thing to pastor a church, I always find God's favour. It is good to serve the Lord.

Johnson Akinfiola is the Pastor of Okeigbo branch church, Ondo State, Nigeria.

THE UNCHANGEABLE CHANGER

I thank God for His unspeakable love towards me. Many years ago, God brought me to this Gospel through a friend. Before then, my life had been very bitter because right from my childhood, I never knew the joy of parental care. My mother died the day I was born. Not quite long after, my father died too. Since then, I had passed from one problem to another. I was breast-fed by many women and experienced a lot of hardship from my guardians. I grew up in a very hostile environment and along the line, I was struck



with an illness that defied all medication. I therefore resigned myself to fate, thinking that there could be no solution to my problems.

One day, I was invited to The Apostolic Faith Church at Anthony, in Lagos. When I got there in the company of my friends, they were singing a hymn from CGS 663, *Head Of The Church Triumphant*. To my surprise, when I got home, I discovered that the stubborn illness I had been battling with for many years, had gone. I was highly elated and that brought me back to the Church. I prayed and confessed my sins. God saved my soul, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

In 1982, I was involved in a ghastly motor accident. Only five of us survived out of twenty-five passengers in the vehicle. I was terribly wounded and battered but the people of God prayed for me. God took control and healed me completely.

In the Gospel, God gave me a Christian wife. Before my wife came to the Gospel, she had been told that she would not be able to have any child of her own. Through the power of God when we got married, God gave us beautiful girls and a boy. I thank God, those things that my people said I would never be able to possess because I accepted the Gospel, had been graciously given me by God. God bought a car, built a house and established a good business, which is thriving, for me.

God also brought my sisters to the Gospel. One of them is now happily married in the Gospel. My life is a living testimony to the fact that Jesus heals. I had been sick many times, even to the point of death, but people of God prayed for me and God

healed me completely. I hail from Idoani in Ose Local Government of Ondo State. When I came across the light of the Gospel, I started praying that God should take the Gospel to my home town. I thank God that today, the Gospel is well-established there.

I thank God also for His innumerable blessings in my life. I give Him the balance of my life.

Joseph Aro is the Pastor of Ondo branch church, Ondo State, Nigeria.

HE SATISFIED MY HUNGRY SOUL



I cannot fully express my gratitude to God for the great and marvellous things He did in my life to bring me into this glorious Gospel.

I was born into an idolatrous home, but raised under my cousin who was a nominal Christian. I was baptised as a child in his church. There was a hunger and thirst in me to serve God, so in 1958, I decided to take to the Islamic way, having observed the Muslims and seen how they performed many religious rituals. I championed the cause in proclaiming that "God has no Son". During the fasting period of Ramadan, I would wake up by 2:00 am, carry my drum and wake up those who wanted to fast. This I would do till 6:00 am. Sometimes, I returned home only to proceed on my own fasting, without the early morning breakfast. Many times, while doing this, I was in possession of a dagger ready to fight, should anybody obstruct my way.

In 1961, I worked with some born-again Christians. My first move was to oppose and persecute them. I noticed that each time I opposed them, things did not go well with me, until I made peace with them again. I started to pray in Jesus name but I could not practise Christianity because by that time, I was living with a Muslim cousin. Anytime I denied Christianity, I felt condemned. It got

to a point, I asked the Christians to take me to their church.

Immediately I entered the church, I could feel conviction within me, though it took me some time to actually pray through to salvation. Glory be to God that on July 29, 1962, I was saved from my life of sin. A complete change took place, I had victory over sin. I relinquished my membership of a boxing club. I started to proclaim that Jesus is the Son of God.

Before the Lord saved my soul, I had suffered so much from a chronic stomach problem. When this problem came, I would be in pains for not less than two weeks, and after the pain subsided, I would not be able to stand up for two days. I looked pale and deformed. After the born-again experience, I had the problem once again, but that was the last time.

God has proved to be wonderful in many ways. He provided for my needs when all human hope was lost. He healed my wife one time when she was almost gone completely.

I have caught a glimpse of Heaven. I love the place, and I am trusting Jesus to take me there at last.

S. O. Fatoki is the Pastor of Idimu branch church, Lagos State, Nigeria.

GOD IS GOOD



I thank God for the privilege of coming in contact with the Gospel in my early days. My

younger sisters invited me to the afternoon Sunday School of The Apostolic Faith at Ebute Meta, Lagos, Nigeria, on February 4, 1964. I felt very reluctant but with much persuasion, I decided to go. The following Sunday, the collectors came with a vehicle to convey us to the Church in the afternoon. The first lesson I received from the teacher thrilled my soul, as if I had never attended a church before, so

much that I decided to come again.

I was taught to repent of my sins if I wanted to go to Heaven. I did not regard myself as a sinner in the first instance because I was a choir member in my church, and I attended services regularly. As I was praying one day, God showed me a picture of my sins and I promised that if God would forgive me, I would not go back to them. I remembered I used to steal my mother's provisions. I prayed earnestly and the Lord saved my soul. I made restitutions to my mother. Later, I was sanctified, and during the revival in 1968, I was baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire. Since then God has been taking care of me.

God gave me the opportunity to become a Sunday School Children's collector, an altar worker and a member of the choir.

As I went along on this pilgrim way, I had a problem in my former place of work. They wanted me to come to work on Sunday but I stood firmly with the Lord and He vindicated me. After eight years that I had been retained on a grade without promotion because of my stand, God came to my rescue. My boss who had vowed that I would not be promoted, came to me and told me to get ready for a promotion interview. On the day of the interview, he did not allow other members of the panel to ask me difficult questions but he said I was alright. That was how I was promoted. He wrote a circular letter to all the branches of the work throughout Nigeria that nobody should call me for Sunday work because of my faith.

God has done a lot of things for me and I will ever praise Him. He gave me a wife that is the "bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh", a true helpmate. He helped my wife during childbirth. God healed me from a terrible fever. He healed one of my children from appendicitis without a surgical operation. I thank God for the way He has been leading me and by His Grace, I want to remain faithful to Him till the end.

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