One of the most outstanding features that marked the religious fervour of people down through the centuries was the numerous camp meetings. Truth-loving men searched the Scriptures, and helped to kindle the flickering flame of love for God in the hearts of people. Worshippers in great numbers, from time to time, would gather in open areas beneath the canopy of the sky, and listen to fiery-spirited evangelists. Sometimes, the preachers stood on top of tree stumps, or make-shift platforms, preaching in relays throughout the day and into the night. Even heavy rains failed to dampen the zeal of those who attended the camp meetings.

In Bible times, God commanded thus:

“And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.

“And ye shall keep it a feast unto the LORD seven days in the year. It shall be a statute for ever in your generations” (Leviticus 23:33,34,40,41).

“And Moses commanded them, saying, … in the feast of tabernacles,

“When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

“Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

“And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it” (Deuteronomy 31:10-13).

The above verses of the Scripture indicate that God commanded the Children of Israel to hold the Feast of (Continued on page 2)
Welcome to Camp Meeting
Camp meeting: what does it mean to you?

Camp meeting means different things to different people. To some, it is a time to meet old friends and make new ones. But camp meeting means much more than that. Camp meeting is a time when sinners respond to the call of God, and get reconciled to Him. It is a time to feast on the sound teaching of the Word of God, enjoy sacred music, lay special requests before God in prayer, and obtain victory. It is a time for sweet fellowship with the children of God; a special time to touch the hem of Jesus’ garment in faith, and receive healing. It is a time for making deeper consecration in order to become more spiritually sharpened.

“They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

This is the true meaning of camp meeting. What are your expectations as you attend camp meeting?

In this edition, you will read the testimony of the immediate past Africa Overseer, Rev. J. O. Soyinka, as given at a camp meeting.

In Portland, Oregon, during the 2006 annual camp meeting, the Mother Church is celebrating the centenary anniversary of the establishment of The Apostolic Faith. As the Lord blessed the congregation one hundred years ago, so will He bless the Africa camp meeting a thousandfold.

Take hold of the promises of God and you will be blessed.

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
“For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
“Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
“Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?” (Matthew 7:7-11).

Don’t miss this golden opportunity! I wish you a happy 2006 camp meeting.

P. O. Akazue
In Nigeria, camp meeting holds during the month of August. In November 1949, the first camp meeting was held at 69, Ibadan Street, Ebute Meta, Lagos. Later, as the congregation increased, the annual camp meetings were held at 22, Simpson Street, Lagos. Due to the overflow of the crowd, another piece of land at 49, Moloney Street, Ebute Meta, Lagos, was acquired. The work continued to expand and a 10-acre plot at Anthony Village was purchased. At present, camp meeting is held at Faith City, Igbesa, a 300-acre piece of land which is able to accommodate the ever growing number of the congregation.

Delegates from all over the continent of Africa, and other countries of the world, attend the camp meetings. Some countries in Africa, where annual camp meetings are also held are: Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana, Republic of Benin, and Cameroon.

Several weeks of prayer meetings and preparations usually precede annual camp meetings. The Ministers and Workers’ Conferences take place on the Thursday and Friday preceding the first Sunday. Workers consecrate and rededicate their lives to the Lord.

A unique feature of camp meeting is the Annual Camp Concert which is presented by the combined Choir and Orchestra of The Apostolic Faith in Africa. Music lovers from far and near, including diplomats, come to enjoy the sacred and classical presentations. Delegates to the camp meeting look forward to the concert. Approximately, 20,000 people attend each concert.

Before each service, Gospel workers gather in the prayer room to pray. Many services are held on Sunday: Sunday school, morning devotional service, afternoon young peoples’ meeting, and evening evangelistic service in addition to street meetings. The prayer session after each service sometimes lasts from the close of one service to the beginning of another. At the close of the evening meeting, those who are seeking deeper spiritual experiences often pray far into the night or even all night.

Usually on Mondays, there are seminars on First Aid, Road Safety, Midwifery, Security and other topics of general interest. There are also sacred film shows in the evening.

Tuesday through Friday mornings are devoted to intensive Bible Teachings. The truths of the Word of God are stressed. Bible Teachings centre on topics such as: The Divine Trinity; Repentance towards God; Justification; Sanctification; Baptism of the Holy Ghost; Restitution; No Divorce and Remarriage; Water Baptism; The Lord’s Supper; Divine Healing; The Second Coming of Jesus; The Great Tribulation; Washing of the Saints’ Feet; Christ’s Millennial Reign; The Great White Throne Judgement; The New Heaven and The New Earth; Eternal Heaven and Eternal Hell. The evenings are for evangelistic and revival services.

Wednesday, Friday and Sunday afternoons are turned over to the young people for their own services. They have their own choir and orchestra as well as their own ministers and workers. Thousands of young people and many adults attend the services. A short musical prelude is presented at the opening of the services. Before the preaching of the Word, personal testimonies, bearing witness to the transforming power of Jesus, are given. People tell of victory at school, at home, and on their jobs.

The deaf and dumb too have a special class where interpreters bring to them the Word as it is preached in the sermons, music, and testimonies. Usually, many of them are saved and live joyfully.

On the last Friday of the camp meeting, the Water Baptismal Service takes place. Scores of saved souls are immersed in water in the main auditorium, where there is a large baptismry. In the evening, the ordinances of the Lord’s Supper and the Washing of the Saints’ Feet also take place. The Lord’s Supper is very solemnly observed after a fervent prayer session so that people may not partake of the communion unworthily. The Washing of the Saints’ Feet is also observed amidst a lot of joyful singing because people are obeying the commandment of Jesus.

Camp meeting helps people to walk on the King’s highway of holiness and righteousness. It is a time of refilling of depleted spiritual energy for workers who have laboured in the Lord’s vineyard. It is a foretaste of the Great Camp Meeting of all the overcomers which is about to take place. Camp meeting is indispensable.
He came to The Apostolic Faith on espionage. Soon he found something amazing, great enough to win his heart. He settled his case with God and quit the way of the world. As time went on, Reverend Josiah Olubode Soyinka became the second Africa Overseer of the Church. He was the helmsman between 1983 and 1999. Before going to his reward, “Brother Soyinka,” as he was fondly called, gave a testimony, at a national camp meeting concert. We bring you an excerpt.

I have a testimony down deep in my heart, as I am standing before you this evening. There is peace and joy unspeakable in my heart, because of one thing.

About this time 44 years ago, in this very city of Lagos, I was a member of a pentecostal church, where we were clapping and dancing. I was on a delegation from that church to come and see what The Apostolic Faith was doing. I thank God I did. When I came, I heard the undiluted Word of God - sound doctrine. I was made to know that “the soul that sinneth shall die.” I was born in a nominal Christian home. As a young man, I went to church and sang in the choir. I did my best, but at night.

Before then, I had looked for avenues to enter into the Church, nobody knew me, but there is no way by which you can part ways with the Spirit of God. He reminded me that for the time I went to Kirikiri rather than go to hell. He read my letter of restitution. Then he came back and said, “Young man, I congratulate you, you are forgiven.” That was how peace came into my heart!

Ladies and gentlemen, the Bible tells us that no unclean thing will enter into Heaven. It is the Blood of Jesus Christ alone that can wash away our sins here, not on the other side. If your eyes are closed in death without having the assurance of salvation, no matter who you are, no matter what you do, the gate of Heaven will be locked against you. Those whose sins have been washed away by the Blood of Jesus are the people that will make Heaven.

This is the message that The Apostolic Faith is proclaiming. I came here 44 years ago; I heard the message; I was a sinner; I confessioned my sins; I went to God in prayer and I pleaded the Blood of Jesus. There is power in the Blood of Jesus, power to save from sin. When I first came, my problem was how would I know if I got saved. Salvation is a practical experience; a real experience. When you are saved, there is going to be a right about turn. The things you used to do, you can’t do them again; the places you used to go, you can’t go there again. That is salvation; that is what The Apostolic Faith preaches. Of course, it doesn't cost you anything.

Let me tell you something. The day I got saved in this Church, I had only one kobo. We were spending pounds, shillings and pence in those days. I had only one penny, no job, no education, nothing at all. But thank God, the poor man that has salvation is greater than the richest man on earth. That night when I got saved, with the one kobo in my pocket, I bought beans and garlic and ate it. The following day, I woke up in a state of penury, but there is no way by which you can part ways with the Spirit of God. I said, “Young man, you are forgiven.” That day, I didn't know whether I flew, ran or jumped. I just discovered that my heart was bubbling with joy.

“My story” is my testimony. It started with The Apostolic Faith. I came here 44 years ago; I heard the message; I was a sinner; I confessioned my sins; I went to God in prayer and I pleaded the Blood of Jesus. There is power in the Blood of Jesus, power to save from sin. When I first came, my problem was how would I know if I got saved. Salvation is a practical experience; a real experience. When you are saved, there is going to be a right about turn. The things you used to do, you can’t do them again; the places you used to go, you can’t go there again. That is salvation; that is what The Apostolic Faith preaches. Of course, it doesn't cost you anything.

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HEAVEN CAME DOWN IN LIBERIA

The camp meeting kicked off on February 5, 2006. The elementary Sunday school children dramatised the story of Joseph as written in the Bible. For the adult and intermediate classes, the lesson on Belshazzar’s Feast was treated. The teacher warned that if a sinner presumes on the mercy of God, and persists in his life of sin, God’s judgement is sure. Brother Akazue gave the sermon during the devotional service, while Brother George preached in the evening. A mighty revival sparked off and continued throughout the camp meeting.

There were seven Bible teachings during the meetings. These were: The Work of Justification; Sanctification: a Holy Walk; Spiritual Power for Effective Service; Obedience and the Value of Faith; Place Seeking, Envy and Division; The Last Days; and Consecration. Delegates tarried long in prayer after each teaching.

There was a marriage seminar on the second Sunday of the camp meeting. It was a question and answer session, handled by the Overseer. A home that was on the verge of collapse, due to some misunderstanding arising from the poor economic situation, was wonderfully restored.

In his farewell speech, the Africa Overseer expressed his gratitude to God for the progress of the Gospel work in Liberia. He encouraged the congregation to cooperate with their young Overseer in order to win more souls for the Lord. At the end of the camp meeting, 45 souls were saved, 20 sanctified, 16 baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire, and 26 healed.

When El Nathan composed his epoch hymn: There Shall Be Showers of Blessing, he least expected the prayer would be answered in Cotonou, Benin Republic. In April 2006, 167 sinners received salvation at the first ever camp meeting in that country. According to a report sent in by the Overseer of the work, Brother Marcellin Houmenou, the theme of the convention was Look and Live.

The Africa Overseer, Brother Paul Akazue, Brother Akwasi Badu-Debra from Ghana, Brother Assiamoua from Togo, and Brother Georges Kintin from Ivory Coast, led delegates to the convention. Between April 1 and 9, various programmes were held including the camp meeting concert, a meeting of pastors, and a seminar on the Christian Youth and Business Enterprise. Others include: a sacred film show, Bible teachings on Salvation, Sanctification and the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. The ordinance of Water Baptism was observed on Friday, April 7, and 146 saved souls were immersed in water. The ordinances of the Lord’s Supper and the Washing of the Saints’ Feet were also observed with great joy.

The number of recorded blessings of the camp meeting as announced, apart from the 167 saved, were 95 sanctified, 64 baptised with the Holy Ghost and 12 persons healed.

A cross-section of worshippers at the 2006 Cotonou camp meeting
I was born into a home where the Bible was a closed Book and like many people around me, I grew up as a sinner. Deep inside me, however, I had a yearning towards God, and His service. Before long, God opened a way for me to attend a school, where it was compulsory for the students to function in the choir on Sundays. I was very active in the services, but zealous as I was, I had no satisfaction because sin was in my heart.

A new chapter was opened in my life the day I accompanied a cousin to The Apostolic Faith Church at 49, Moloney Street, Ebute Meta, Lagos, in 1963. The first impression I had of the orderliness of the choir and orchestra and the service as a whole that day, led me to decide to serve God in the Church. I soon realised my sinful state, and pleaded with God for mercy. God saved my soul, and filled me with heavenly joy. He later sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost. My thirsty soul was satisfied.

I wanted to be useful in the vineyard of God. I soon joined the music class and on November 11, 1965, God made me one of the members of the Choir and Orchestra. I have been able to use my voice and instrument as a vocal and violin soloist over the years in the service of God.

The same year, God spoke to me about the need to devote my entire life to His service. That was on Tuesday, June 8, during a commendation service organised in honour of Late Brother Raymond Crawford, the second General Overseer of The Apostolic Faith worldwide. The first Africa Overseer, Brother Timothy Oshokoya led the service. The sermon was heart-stirring, and the congregation rushed to the altar of prayer to rededicate themselves to the service of God.

On my knees, God spoke to me of the need to give my life to Him in full-time service. I promised God to do whatever He wanted me to do. I continued my work as a stenographer with a shipping company until God reminded me of my vow. For a while, it was difficult for me to leave my secular job for the full-time service because I thought I might not be able to cater for my parents. I was their only promising daughter and full-time workers were not on a salary. After much struggling, I finally surrendered. What satisfaction filled my heart when I decided to follow Jesus all the way! God promised to help and see me through. I was privileged to join the Sunday School Teachers in 1970 and this gave me the opportunity to study the Bible more.

In April, 1971, I started to work in the office of Rev. T. G. Oshokoya, the first Africa Overseer, as a secretary. God gave me the opportunity to be on his entourage that took the Gospel to many places in Africa. Having worked closely with him for over 12 years before he went to Glory, I gained a lot from him, and I can boldly say that it pays to serve Jesus.

God’s benevolence has also been extended to my family. He saved my father before he died. My sister who refused to pray for salvation suddenly suffered a stroke! I brought her to my house in a hopeless state. The people of God prayed for her and she regained consciousness from a state of coma. God touched her heart on the sick bed and miraculously led her to pray for salvation. She prayed fervently with tears and God saved her soul.

The following day, she started making restitution. She was bubbling with the joy of salvation when she called me a week later, to thank me for taking care of her. She told me that Jesus had given her a crown. She shared with me how fortunate she had been, and asked me to join her in praising God. The following day, she went to be with the Lord. I am particularly happy that God established my mother and many of my close relations in this glorious Gospel. Besides, God answered my prayers by taking the Gospel to my home town. Great is God’s faithfulness to me!

I have fallen sick in time past to the point of death, but God has been my Healer. He surprised me many times on my sick bed and when I thought perhaps it was time for me to pass on, God would resuscitate me and renew my strength - both physically and spiritually. In the office, God helped me to accomplish many things I felt unqualified to do. His promise was to help me all the time. God is true to His promise. He works with me day and night. The faithfulness of God in time past has continued to encourage me that He would help me to the Portals of Glory someday. I glorify God for being there for me every second of the day.

Esther O. Ogunfowomu is a minister and the Office Manager of The Apostolic Faith, Africa Headquarters Church office, Anthony Village, Lagos.
SOLAR ECLIPSE

Some parts of Africa recently witnessed the eclipse of the sun. It was a phenomenon that attracted tourists and threw up series of reactions - awe, fear, happiness, and excitement.

Wrapped in myth as it were, scientists were able to predict its coming, and the exact time of its revelation.

Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, is coming back very soon. However, no man or angel can predict the time of His coming. Are you ready for His coming? Will you be rapturable? The choice is yours.

Attend The Apostolic Faith Church in your neighbourhood today and be saved.

LAGOS (NIGERIA)
(Africa Headquarters)
Campground Road,
Anthony Village,
Off Ikorodu Road,
P. O. Box 78, Ebute Meta,
Lagos.

LIBREVILLE (GABON)
A Cote du Carrefour Farde,
Republicaine,
B.P. 20209, Libreville.

NIAMEY (REP. OF NIGER)
Non Loin de la Pharmacie Liberte,
B.P. 2278, Niamey.

BANGEM (CAMEROON)
Kupe- Muanenguba Division,
South-West Province,
P. O. Box 22, Bangem.

YAMOUSSOUKRO (COTE D’IVOIRE)
Route d’Abidjan Quartier Millionnaire,
Cote Oppose au Terrain du Golf,
B.P. 642, Yamoussoukro.

ACCRA (GHANA)
Chapel Hill, Aplaku,
P. O. Box GP 801, Accra.

MONROVIA (LIBERIA)
Sinkor Old Road,
Gaye Town,
P. O. Box 4931/RS.,
Monrovia.

JOHANESBURG (SOUTH AFRICA)
185 Maklulona Section,
P. O. Tembisa 1628,
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BULAWAYO (ZIMBABWE)
P. O. BOX MPO
15,Mpopoma, Or Box 1880,
Bulawayo.

LUSAKA (ZAMBIA)
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