



GOSPEL NEWS

IN AFRICA



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Music is a universal language. It is a language that is understood by the young and the old, the poor and the rich, the lowly as well as the high. Spiritual music is a tonic for the soul. It draws the heart to Heaven, it soothes sorrowful hearts and makes happy hearts even more joyful. Like preaching the Word of God, music is another medium by which God talks to the heart of man. There is, in effect, an inseparable link between music and the Gospel. Music has been a part of The Apostolic Faith work through the years.

BEGINNINGS

The Apostolic Faith Choir and Orchestra in Africa, today, numbers over 1,500, and is perhaps the largest orchestra in Africa. It started back in the year 1945, when the cottage meetings and organization were held at No. 26, Little Road, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria. There existed an Orchestra with two musical instruments whose players were the two leading ministers: Brothers Timothy Oshokoya playing the Guitar, and Lucas Obakoya on the Mandolin. In 1947, two more musical

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From the Africa Overseer

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Music is a universal language that is understood by all and sundry. Hence, it is able to meet the needs of people in divers circumstances of life, and act as c " r c p c e g c " v q " n k h g Spiritual Music soothes tensed nerves, acts as a balm to the wounded and sorrowful, and draws the soul to the throne of God.

Powerful is the message of music. The Angels welcomed Jesus to the earth with melodious renditions, when He was born in the manger in Bethlehem of Judea (Luke 2:13, 14).

Saul, the first King in Israel, many times, fell into fits because the evil spirit from the Lord was upon him. But David played on his harp, producing cool and soothing k p i " o w u k e . " v q " e q q n " v j g " 16:16).

Elisha requested for a minstrel (singer) when Israel y c u " c v " j g t " y k v ø u " g p f 0 " " C the ditches that were dug and the famished Israelites drank and gave to their cattle as well (2 Kings 3:15-24).

Paul and Silas prayed and sang when they were unjustly locked up, and God delivered them by sending an earthquake that shook the prison (Acts 16:25,26).

Jehoshaphat won a war by leading a choir into the battlefield (2 Chronicles 20: 21,22).

Many are the valiants of old who, when they were confronted by the vicissitudes of life, prayed and sang and God gave them victory.

Music is held in high esteem in The Apostolic Faith, and it has been a source of joy and inspiration, not only to our members, but to the general public.

We believe that as you read this edition prayerfully, the Lord will put a song in your heart , that will draw you closer to Himself.

P. O. Akazue



A section of the choir in a concert

instruments: the Banjo and Piano accordion were procured. God provided two violins, in 1949 and soon, God called the first eight saints to dedicate their lives to the learning and playing of these instruments. One of them was Brother Emmanuel Shotade, who was a piano and violin teacher for many years, and is presently the Printing Manager.

The International Headquarters in Portland already had a well established Orchestra. In 1951, Brother Timothy visited the International Headquarters and while waiting for the camp meeting to start, he trained in several areas of music. He came back with a good number of instruments, including Trumpet, Cornet, Horn, Trombone and Violin. As a result of this, some people had the opportunity to learn the use of these instruments.



Double Bass section

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The Church then started a non-fee-paying music school, room for further studies at the Music Education. As soon that prepared members for the *Art of Singing* class, where as they start Sunday School at Choir and Orchestra. New students started music from where effective singing. People imaged to attend weekly music is known as the *Rudiments* such a class can also proceed *classes*, where they are taught *class* from where they pro-to the *Advanced Instruments* show to sing and play instru-
 proceeded to the *Voice Production* class Passing the examinations.

and Instruments classes. There at this stage takes such people These children start with is no age limit in the music to the Senior level, which qualithe playing of recorders and as classes. The classes have novies them to perform in all setthey grow up, they learn to use been restructured in a way thatnces and concerts. Although other instruments such as vo-

an incoming student spends the culture of classical music lis, flute and piano. year at the Rudiments of Music. On Sunday mornings, they class, where the theory of music have, through these present music at the adult Sun- sic is taught, after which a na- classes, become very proficient day School class. They also tionally coordinated test mustn classical music production form the choir and orchestra in be passed. Successful stu both in terms of instrument th their own chapel. dents then proceed to thand vocal rendition.

Sight Reading class where they The musical instruments THE KEYBOARDS learn to read the staff notation used in the services include: A Grand Piano was pu- They simultaneously start their violin, viola, violoncello, flute, chased in 1954. This piano instrument class. At the end clarinet, bassoon, trumpet served for many years at the of the session, students take trombone, French horn, bari- Headquarters Church in Lagos another nationally coordinated done as well as the harp. Thentil recently when it was re- examination which qualifies organ and the piano are natuplaced.

them to sing and/or play at thra additions. Members of the The Church started with a Junior level. Such people are Music Department, youths and small portable organ. Later, a eligible to perform during thadults alike, freely give of their manual reed organ with pedals Sunday School and Bible Study talents without monetary comwas purchased in the sixties.

sideration. In In 1970, the first electronic or- gan *Solina Model 110* was in- dent is expected stalled. This was replaced in to purchase his 1971 by *Eminent 650 Clas-* own musical in- sique. On the 18th of Decem- strument, books, ber 1977, a *Concert Model* music stand and 4700 *Wurlizer* organ was ded- other accesso- WU h Y X Z c f ; c X E g ries. The bind- Headquarters Church in Lagos. ing force on This organ served for many these musicians years as the principal organ. is *sanctification* On Sunday, April 16, 1999, which gives during the Easter Concert, a them oneness of grand pullout ceremony was purpose to give performed for the great Wor- their best tolizer. It was replaced by a Digi- tal simulated pipe organ Opus

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Music Students waiting to be tested in Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria

the branch Churches in Edo were blessed. The revival dance in our Churches. The State. will end on May 18, 2003. Wemany Christian experiences

The revival lasted 4 days look forward to manifold received by new converts set at Benin. A total of 34 people reported specific blessings in the stations that most of the Churches aglow.

11 being saved, 7 sanctified, 3 baptized with the Holy Ghost and 4 healed. A young man who responded to an invitation to come to Church during a street meeting was saved that night. The next day, he brought 4 of his friends to Church and he also prayed through to sanctification. God visited our Churches mightily during the revival.

The Church at Ogbe was filled up in anticipation of the revival. God came down mightily and many souls were saved. At Agenebode, the Church premises could not accommodate the people who followed the team to Church after the opening service. They had to arrange for canopies so that the people could be accommodated. We recorded 1000 baptisms. There were blessings on 7 people.

As the revival progressed, many more souls were added to the Kingdom of God. At Igarra, God treated His people to a wonderful surprise. About 200 people gathered for the revival. To God be the glory that before 4 p.m. on that Sunday evening, 12 people had been saved and some of the old timers who had been seeking the Holy Ghost baptism were filled. Only Heavens had the accurate number of people who

*G. O. Osunbunmi,
District Overseer,
Edo State, Nigeria*

GOSPEL OUTREACH IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

We have had various

evangelical outreach in trying to expand our area of influence and consolidate the gains of previous outreach. The change of pulpit programme, weekend revival activities, retreats, film shows, Campus A. V. S. activities, are also some of the methods used in extending the frontiers of the Gospel in Sokoto, Kebbi, Katsina, Niger, Nasarawa states and other areas in the District. We recorded 1000 baptisms. There were blessings on 7 people.

My daughter was seriously ill during the camp meeting. While we were away to Lagos for camp meeting, we left her behind with a sister because she was receiving lectures at the University of Abuja. She took ill and the cerebral fever affected her brain. The illness was very serious but through the prayers of the saints, she was completely healed.

In our meeting at Kontagora, a herbalist who was saved, testified of the miracles God performed in his life. A group of natives who were converted at Derebiu Campus A. V. S. are also rejoicing that they found the Gospel.

*Soji Olamijulo
District Overseer
Abuja/Kaduna District*

From the Readers

I wish to thank you for the Gospel News in Africa magazine which was enclosed in my letter. I enjoyed reading it. I sincerely pray that God Almighty would continue to give you people the needed wisdom, understanding and financial might to carry on the good works you have been doing for Him.

A. O., Ikoyi, Lagos.

We are requesting for your magazine in our Church. We hereby inform you that our Church members have a deep interest in your Publication. I am a Sunday School Teacher in our Church. One day I got one copy of your magazine from a friend and I used it to teach during Sunday School. They told me to write you for more copies so that we can use them for our spiritual growth.

O. O., Agodi, Ibadan.



Bunmi Abogunrin (left) and Pelumi Ayanwale

Notable among Nigerian national figures who have attended these concerts are: President Olusegun Obasanjo; Chief Ernest Shonekan, a onetime Head of State; Professor Jerry Gana, current Minister of Information and National Orientation; Professor Tunde Adeniran, former

been encouraged to obtain the best possible education and also excel in music, that they might glorify God with their talents. It has been rewarding to see the progress made by those who have applied themselves to the field of music. Aside from private study of music, young musicians and singers are given group training. Practices are held each week in the Church, under the direction of a competent conductor. Many of the musicians who participate

Minister of Education; Professor Babalola Borishade, current Minister of Education; Professor Peter Okebukola, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission; Mrs. Kefoworola Bucknor Akerle, former Deputy Governor of Lagos State; Prelate (Dr.) Sunday Mbang, the Primate of the Methodist Church of Nigeria and President of the Christian Association of Nigeria, and others too numerous to mention.

in this department of the Church, felt the call early in life. A number of them who answered that call, are still playing their instruments after 30 or 40 years. Young people today, who follow in the steps of those early day musicians, are giving their talents wholeheartedly to the Lord.

ANNUAL CONCERTS

There are usually three concerts presented annually in Lagos by the combined Choir and Orchestra. They are: Easter Concert on Easter Sunday, the Camp Meeting Concert on the first Monday of the annual camp meeting, and the Christmas concert on the Sunday before the Christmas Day. Other states in Nigeria and countries in Africa hold their own concerts at convenient dates.

Music lovers in the city of Lagos and other localities attend these concerts and thoroughly enjoy the sacred and semi-classical presentations. Sometimes, up to 21,000 people attend each concert; among whom are: government officials, academics, traditional rulers and diplomats.

The anthems of praise sung from consecrated hearts, and the music skilfully played with spiritual fervour, have been effectively used by the Spirit of God. Souls have been led to Christ as a result of attending the concerts.

QUALIFICATIONS

The principle which was originally established in the beginning of this work still remains. Only those who have the genuine experience of Salvation, who are also truly sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost, take part in the ministry of music and singing.

Young people have always

MUSIC DIRECTION

The Apostolic Faith Orchestra which was pioneered by a small group of musicians, was organised by the Rev. T. G. Oshokoya. He personally directed the instrumental and vocal groups for a number of years.

The present Music Director, John Adelaja Aina, started playing the organ when he was young. He found great pleasure in dedicating his talents and time to the service of the Lord. As the principal organist, he has served for more than 35 years in the Music Department.

HYMNS AND SONGS COMPOSITION

The Orchestra performs music written by the Masters



The Music Director and his wife John and Joan Aina

including Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, Haydn, Schubert and others. The Choir also renders songs composed by them. In addition to this, many orchestra pieces and songs rendered by the Orchestra and Choir were composed by different members of the Church who were inspired to give praise to God.

The Founder, the Rev. (Mrs.) Florence Crawford, was a songwriter. One of her well-loved hymns was composed shortly after she had established this Gospel work in Portland. Under the burden of severe trial, she put into verse the craving of her soul



Late Brother Umoh Attah on the organ during a concert

Her son, Rev. Raymond Robert Crawford, also composed a number of Gospel songs. A special burden came upon his heart, to write a hymn which gave admonition for prayer. Then, as now, there was a special need for prevailers, and the Lord gave to him the stirring words of the hymn "The organ we hallow to Thee, O hear thy servants as they pray, And let Thine ear attentive be."

Others who wrote songs at the International Headquarters included Brothers Philip Brown and Clifford Baltzell. On the continent of Africa, God gave talents to individuals who yielded their lives to compose and arrange music for the Choir and Orchestra in English, French and many local languages. Notable among these who poured out his burdened soul for the Word of God on the continent of Africa, when he turned the wordings of *Thessalonians 3:16* into a song. His successor, Rev. Josiah Soyinka was inspired to give out the words of a song for the dedication of the Johannus organ, the first verse of which was:

Be with us, gracious

Rev. John Aina, the Music Director in the Africa Headquarters, has composed, arranged and adapted many songs and orchestra pieces over the years. One of such His enthusiasm has encouraged many other music lovers to consecrate and develop their talents in this area. Some of such are Kayode Oje, Dele Fakorede, Femi Adeola, S. K. J. Okorie, J. G. Umoh, his son, Attah Umoh and many others.

Recently, the Africa Overseer, Rev. Paul Akazue, with a heavy burden for the work of God in Africa, was inspired to write, during an evangelistic trip to an African country, the following verse is given below:

*Dear Lord remember,
We pray Thee Father
Remember AFRICA,
Your own Continent
How she has suffered,
For these many years
Rise up in your power,
To deliver AFRICA.*

The entire world has been blessed through this unique music ministry that God gave to The Apostolic Faith. It is a great treasure that is diligently guarded in all locations and branches of the Church.

footprints



A man of love, a man of God:

V j g " n k h g " c p f " v k o g u " q h " v j g " ÷ o

He loved God and was loved by God; he loved people and people loved him too; he was kind, gentle and humble. He was a prayer warrior. A few months before his death, he went quietly unnoticed into the Ibadan Church which he pastored for over 40 years and knelt down at every Chorus proceeded into the auditorium and knelt at each pew to pray for all the members. He did not possess the things of this world, but he possessed things eternal. He spent everything for the Gospel, everything he had. When people gave him money, he gave it back to the poor. He spoke few words, but those few words made people want to worship God. When he died, people who were not members, commented that a great man had departed.

Late Brother Josiah Soyinka, who conducted his funeral service, called him the perfect example of what a Christian should be. He was a man of God. That was Rev. Theophilus Afolabi Ogunnaike, of love.

and the young people. He regularly took the young people out for picnics, where he taught them to love God. He believed in humility. He preached and practised it. He was a disciplined man, who preached the Word of God in all its fullness. In Word of God.

He was a zealous Gospel worker. He learnt music and became a member of the Choir. He played violin in the Orchestra

and sang tenor in the Choir. He became a Sunday School teacher in 1959.

sana Oluyebo on January 1, 1958. Although, he did not have any child of his own, he had dozens of children among the people of God.

was a member of the Board of Trustees of The Apostolic Faith in Nigeria. On May 21, 1997, after a mighty one-week revival at Ibadan in which over 900 people received different Christian experiences, Ogunnaike quietly went to his reward.



Below is an excerpt of his testimony. him that he was too soft and full-time ministry. I did not that I could not take what he want to relinquish my job; how- accepted from anybody. ever, God persuaded me that,

I was born in 1924, into a It took me quite sometime that was His will for me. I Baptist family at Ibadan. I before I could get saved, but I thought to myself that I would tried to serve God to the best continued to attend the Church I have to endure a lot of depriva- of my ability, but without an made several restitutions, yet tions but God totally surprised experience of salvation. I did not pray through. On eme. He met my needs in many

When I started working, I day, it seemed that I had got ways and did not allow me to met a man in my place of work, Y b ' h c ' a m ' k] h Ð g look to "anybody for any need" who informed me that he had gentle nature people thought He taught me that I should rely found Jesus. He said Jesus was already saved but I knew completely on Him and that it was able to save and He had was not. I was extremely mis was vain to rely on the arm of saved him. I told him that erable. I was alone in my room flesh. He supplied abundantly there was nothing special about and I started to think. As I sa all my needs, even more than I that. I was a minister in a thinking about it in that room ould think or imagine. God small group, and preached the Lord came down, and provided two cars for me with- about Jesus everyday. There- saved my soul. I jumped up out my asking for them.

fore I thought my salvation wa for joy. The sound of the There was a time I was sick already settled. However, I blacksmith hammer nearby unto death, and the pain be- easily grew annoyed in mysounded as music to my ear. A came extremely severe. The place of work because we wer light shower of rain that fell on rd came one day and per- working under a rather difficult the roof of my house was also formed an operation on me. and stressful situation and like music to my ear. I came He showed me the cause of the was always touchy. After muc out in the rain and went to our pain and told me that He had persuasion, I told him he would Church at Idikan to inform the removed it. That was the end have to follow me to my Church saints about my salvation of the sickness.

before I would agree to go wit Even before I got to them, they In 1945, before I was him. He agreed, but said, I could see from the way I was saved, I was trying to gather should come and see first. walking joyfully that I had ob- some broken pieces of bottle,

Eventually, I went to tained my salvation. God also when a sharp splinter stuck into Church with him. I heard agave me the experiences of my finger. Unknown to me, the sermon by late Brother T. G. sanctification and the baptism splinter remained in the flesh Oshokoya and discovered that b f the Holy Ghost. In the year even after the wound got my life did not measure to th 1953, I was baptized in water healed. The pain in the finger Truth that I heard. I could see at The Apostolic Faith camp got so serious that I could not that there was no joy in my meeting in Lagos. use it effectively. I could not

heart. I was often angry and I am grateful to God that afford an operation, nor stand quarrelled often. Though out- since then God has continued the pain associated with it. wardly, I appeared gentle, I to retain a love for the Gospel Then in 1962, during the an- was very prone to anger. in my heart. There is power imual camp meeting, I discov- quarrelled with the door if th the Blood of Jesus. He has erred that I had a very painful lock failed to open quickly been my refuge and my protec boil on that finger. Within a enough. My friend had told me ion. I have passed through week, the boil broke open and that when he got saved, he any trials, but Jesus had alas I was taking my bath, I no- could not fight nor get angry ways given me victory. ticed a hard object. That was

very readily any more. I knew I used to be very high how God removed the splinter him very well before he was minded and ambitious but God of the bottle that had been in saved and I observed the humbled my heart. A time my finger since 1945. change in him. I used to tel came when God called me to

God Did it For Me

A prophet finds the True Light



I was born into a Muslim family in Igboho, Oyo State of Nigeria. Although I attended a Baptist primary school, my mother soon took me to a Fulani cattle camp for protection because of the polygamous nature of our family. There, I was taught the deep things of the Moslem religion and that Jesus was not the Son of God. I used to confront Christians openly and this made my co-Muslims admire my zeal and courage.

However, within me I was very restless and fearful of the Judgment Day, which I believed was soon to come. I knew that judgment would come upon all wicked men, but I did not know the way of escape from the judgment. Sometimes, I would read the Bible and start to weep without understanding what was happening to me.

One glorious day, during the Ramadan period in 1977, as I was preparing to pray according to Islamic injunctions on a sheepskin, I

heard a strange voice as loud as the sound of many waters. The voice called my Muslim name three times. I was very perplexed and looked up and saw a thick cloud in the sky. There was nobody in the cloud but I heard a voice saying Christ; Mohammed that you are serving cannot lead you to Heaven. Stop deceiving yourself. Ask anything in my Name and I will do it melted. That was the last time I bowed my head to worship God in the Islamic way.

Although, I did not immediately start to serve God the right way, God revealed His power to me soon after. I had a motorcycle accident that almost took my life. I could not move my left leg. In fact, I was almost paralysed. My parents tried all they could, but all the medication given to me did not have any effect.

At a certain stage, I remembered me on the sheepskin. I then asked everyone in the room to leave because I wanted to speak to that tant at first, they finally gave in to and to my utter consternation, I was instantly healed. I ran outside, and people could not believe what they saw. Although this incident convinced me of the reality of Jesus, I still did not know how to serve Him properly.

For a long time, I remained without any religion. One day, the Voice of God asked me to leave the environment in which I was and to proceed to Mòkwa, in State of Nigeria. I eventually settled down in Ilorin on June 6, 1979. Although the sermon I heard in the first Church it attended pricked my heart and I became terrified, at the end of the service I was only asked to raise up my hand as a sign of surrender to Jesus and I was saved. I became very zealous in the work of the Lord in the Church but my zeal was without knowledge. I later joined a few other people to start a Pentecostal Church. I was very eloquent in preaching, yet, there was sin in my heart. I was bothered because of my bad temper and love of money, but I did not know what to do. After sometime, I became a Senior Evangelist and I started my own Church. I sought for power and I got power. I soon started practising signs and wonders as well as falling anointing of situation in which you throw an handkerchief to a member or you touch him and he falls down. The dead were raised, the blind received their sight and the lepers were cleansed at the Name of Jesus. But because I was not genuinely saved from my life of sin, problems upon problems mounted in my life.

After a while, I was ill and became unconscious for three days. (Continued on page 11)

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My people took me to a white garment Church and through the mercy of God I became well again. While recuperating in the Church, I learnt more of their mode of worship. I became filled with their spirit even more than the people I met there. I could prophesy evil occurrences and some strange spirits filled me. My hair became dread locked and grew down to my shoulders within a few hours, which was a sign of my becoming a prophet. I was given two staffs of office, one as a Prophet and the other as a King. My future and it came to pass. I read all kinds of spiritual books and their spirits fell on me. But I had no peace. I was restless and confused. At one stage, I thought my wife was the one blocking my success in my prophetic career. I drove her out and married another wife.

The Lord started to deal with me. Although I could predict the evil that would befall others, I could not predict the evil that was happening to me. I became seriously ill. The people who took care of me stole all my money. I was in great torment and though I wished to die, death would not come. For some inexplicable reasons, I woke up at 12.00 midnight everyday. A voice would tell me to start weeping and I would cry till 6.00 a.m. In the morning, people would still come to me to foretell their future. My second wife then introduced me to another white garment Church, which she said could relieve me of my problems, but my case got worse. I was told that if I could go to a certain deep river to take a stone from the river bed and rub my body with it, I would be well. All these efforts came to naught.

I was told that I should organize crusades and by so doing, I would become well, but it was all to no avail.

Eventually, due to my confusion, I drove away my second wife. But thanks be to God, I got an invitation to come and hold revival services in Jebba. One day, as I was in front of the house I resided in at Jebba, I saw some Apostolic Faith members, including their Pastor coming towards me. My host told me right there a lot of discouraging things about them. When they got near us, the Pastor invited me to their Church but I immediately refused. However, my inquisitive mind got the better of me and I went to see what they were doing on a Thursday Bible Study. People kept on telling me to stop attending the Church, but a Power stronger than me kept taking me there. I started reading their Higher Way magazine and Sermons. I was struck with the fact that their doctrines which dated back to 1906, were still being practised by the people I saw there. I kept asking the Pastor questions and the answers I got were so marvellous that, just as the Queen of Sheba felt, there was no more spirit in me.

One day, the burden of sin became too heavy for me to bear and within our compound I started pacing up and down, asking Jesus to lift my burden of sin. Oh, the joy of salvation! All my burdens rolled away. I could laugh, and did laugh, even though I had not laughed for ten years. That day I slept soundly. I was so thrilled that I ran to the Pastor to tell him what had happened. He told me about the doctrine of sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. The Lord sanctified and baptized me

and I spoke in a new tongue. I had spoken in many strange tongues before and even prided myself in the fact that I understood the language of birds, but this was a different experience.

I started making restitutions and concoctions that I was making for people. I threw away the staffs of office. I burnt my magic books which turned into mystic smoke.

I have had many problems since I got saved but God solved all of them. God told me never to leave the Apostolic Faith Church. When I started wondering why, God showed me a vision. I saw the Apostolic Faith as a Church built with palm fronds. It was not at all attractive outside. In that vision, God told me to enter. Inside, I saw that everywhere was paved with gold. God told me that, that was the way to Heaven and that I must stay there. I have not had any cause whatsoever to regret since my conversion. The love of the brethren is always there, but Christ is my ultimate satisfaction. I will remain in this Gospel till the end of my life.

Elijah A. Jaiyeola
Jebba, Kwara State,
Nigeria



Brother Jaiyeola | now

A Workshop for Leaders

On March 3, 2003, Overseers from French-speaking West African countries gathered for a 4-day workshop. The participants said that the workshop was organized to allow leaders rub minds together on the principles and methods of our work with a view to having a common understanding.

The topics discussed included Church Structure, Church Financing and Financial Control, General Office Practice, Church Buildings ómethods and procedures, Evangelism, Food and Nutrition, First-aid, the Ministry of Music, and Counselling. The participants included Brothers Marcellin Assiamoua (Togo Republic), John Oladiran (Gabon) and some brethren from Nigeria.

The participants at the workshop. Inset 1 (left: Brother Akazue writing on the board; right: Brothers Marcellin, Victor and Ezekiel.