



# GOSPEL NEWS

## IN AFRICA



July - Sept. 2006

A news magazine of The Apostolic Faith Church in Africa

Vol. 7 No. 3

## Cloven Tongues Like As Of Fire

From the First Sermon at the 2006 Camp Meeting

By Paul Akazue

Prophet Joel gave a wonderful and significant prophecy at a time the Jews were living in a way that was absolutely ridiculous. He gave them a formula for the way out of their doldrums. He told the leaders to take the lead in repentance, declare a solemn assembly and call on God with tears. The prophet charged them to weep, rend their hearts and not their garments. That is genuine repentance. If you have departed from the Lord and you want to come back, it must be through genuine repentance.

*“And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you” (Joel 2:25).*

Joel looked ahead into the future. He prophesied about the Early Rain and the Latter Rain.

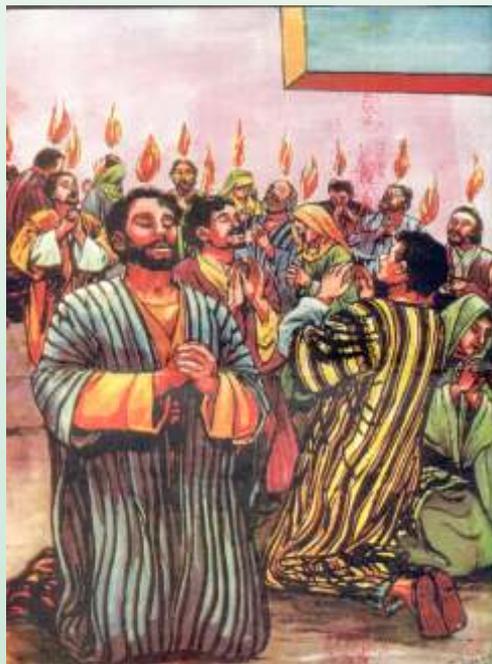
We are in a deplorable situation and we have to do something. We have to cry unto the Lord God, with whom there is no impossibility. He told us to bring our hard cases to Him and I know that Planet Earth has got no problem that Heaven cannot solve. So, my people, as we are gathered here, 100 years after the outpouring of the Latter Rain, let us be sincere and be ready to receive from God.

God has called you and me that we may be a blessing to this nation, and this continent, in order that Africa might be saved. Are we anywhere near the accomplishment of the great assignment? Maybe that is why God has given us this theme: **Cloven Tongues Like As of Fire**. Do we have that mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire? How did we get it? If we have got it, what is the proof? Have we been able to use it to work for God? What kind of work? How effective? How successful?

Joel saw the Early Rain falling plentifully; the crops sprouted and they grew. Spiritually, the early Church was well grounded and went out in the full power of the Holy Ghost, to do exploits for God.

He saw beyond the Early Rain; he saw the Latter Rain and we are all beneficiaries of the Latter Rain, which has been falling since 1906, exactly as Joel prophesied.

Joel said the Latter Rain would fall in the first month. In the Jewish



calendar, April is the first month. On April 9, 1906, the people of God who had gathered in a home in Bonnie Brae Street in Los Angeles, were praying. Brother William Seymour, a black man, was their leader. God opened the windows of Heaven, and the Latter Rain started falling. Mother Crawford later became a partaker of the Latter Rain. That great woman was the Founder of The Apostolic Faith Mission of Portland, Oregon. We are living witnesses that the Latter Rain is still falling.

*“And, being assembled together with them,*

*Continued on page 2*

## Children Relive Brother T's Memory

Fond memories of the first Africa Overseer of The Apostolic Faith, Rev. Timothy Gbadebo Oshokoya, swept through the entire campground when, on July 30, the Sunday School children relived the virtues of the man popularly called “Brother T.”

The opening children's programme was presented by Lagos District. They acted the caring, painstaking and forbearing characteristics of Brother T, the vanguard of the Gospel work in Africa, who preferred to serve rather than being served. In building construction, Brother T led the way. In



*Brother T. (Dolapo Ogunsakin) drilling one of the music students*

times of distress in the life of members, he shared in their pains, assuring them that God would see them through. He encouraged the weak, and admonished the strong to persevere, reminding all that

*Continued on page 4*

## FROM THE AFRICA OVERSEER

**Holy Ghost Power and You**

The 2006 camp meeting has come and gone. A reflection on the theme: *'Cloven Tongues Like As Of Fire'* and what God did for us during the season shows that God is faithful. One point stands sure throughout the convention: that God has purposed to bless His people. That commitment was seen in all the messages God sent to us, and the blessings received by the people who claimed God's wonderful promises.

You and I are living witnesses that God has turned to Africa to bless His people more than ever. It is therefore necessary to ask: If you have been empowered, what are you going to do with that power? The challenge is that if you and I fail to launch out to seek the lost, who else would? James McGranahan's song, *"They that Wait upon the Lord"* states as follows:

*"Rejoice! for He is with us always,  
Lo, even to the end!  
Look up! take courage and go forward,  
All needed grace He'll send!  
For they that wait upon the Lord  
Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings,  
They shall mount up with wings as eagles  
They shall run and not be weary  
They shall walk and not faint;  
They shall run and not be weary  
They shall walk and not faint;  
They shall run and not be weary  
Shall walk and not faint.*

That is the assurance we have in this new spiritual year of The Apostolic Faith.

The Pioneers of the Work did their best. Through their hard work and prayers, we found our way into the Gospel. The challenge is for us too to fill a gap for the Lord. That is when God's investment on us will not be in vain.

Let us gird our loins. The field is ripe, the labourers are few. Are you one of those who claim they have been saved but have nothing to do? This is your time. God is waiting, the Trump will soon sound.

Remember that after Joel prophesied of the Early Rain and the Latter Rain, he went further in Joel 2:30,32:

*"And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth,  
blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.*

*"And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on  
the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion  
and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath  
said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."*

This is our time. Do your best, for the days are running out! God bless you.

P. O. Akazue

*Continued from page 1*

*commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

*"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

*"When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?"*

*"And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.*

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:4-8).*

We are the people in the uttermost part of the earth. Christ warned His disciples, 'Don't leave until you receive the power.' You cannot be a missionary without the power of God in your life. Don't leave; tarry! This is your Upper Room!

*"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

*"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

*"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

*"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4).*

The disciples were in one place with one accord, which is proof that they were saved and sanctified. Sanctification brings oneness. You cannot get sanctified before you are saved. They prevailed in prayer for ten days. On the tenth day, something happened! When you do your part – when you are obedient unto God, when you wait patiently on the Lord – the Lord will never fail to do His part. Let us get saved, let us get sanctified and let us wait on the Lord; the fire will fall. The fire fell with a wonderful, unforgettable, historical magnificence. I am not so interested in the sound of the rushing mighty wind, but I desire the fire. When the fire gets into you, you will feel no longer the same. When you get the fire of God, you cannot be deterred. You do not know discouragement. When Alexander the Great had conquered the then known world, he started crying, because there was nowhere else to conquer. When the fire of God gets into you and you don't see something to do for God, you will not be happy. If the fire of God is in you, you will be moved to do something for God.

Peter was a gallant man. When Jesus said He was going to die for the sins of the whole world, he said, 'I will die with you.' Jesus replied him, 'Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' When you don't have the fire, you are a coward. Peter denied Jesus as predicted, and the cock crew. Christ gave him a look. Peter wept bitterly. He didn't have the power to go back and say, "Look here, I am one of them." But thank God that he repented. When Peter got the fire on the day of Pentecost, things changed. Peter came out and did exploits. He proclaimed the Truth. He told the Jews: 'You crucified Him and through His Blood alone can you be saved.' The words pricked their hearts and that day, 3000 people were saved. At another time, 5000 people were saved. If we have the fire of God, there will be a repeat of Pentecost. Souls will be saved in thousands. And if souls are not saved, search yourself.

The life of Moses was a marvel.

*"NOW Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.*

**GOSPEL NEWS IN AFRICA** is a quarterly publication of  
**THE APOSTOLIC FAITH**, Africa Headquarters, Anthony Village,  
Lagos, NIGERIA. Telephone: 234 -1- 4963883.  
E-mail: [afm@apostolicfaith-ng.org](mailto:afm@apostolicfaith-ng.org)  
[www.apostolicfaith-ng.org](http://www.apostolicfaith-ng.org) ISSN 1596-0412

*Continued on page 3*

*“And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.”*



*Campers seek the face of God*

*“And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.”*

*“And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I” (Exodus 3:1-4).*

From the above passage, there is something very symbolic of the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. The bush was on fire, but it was not consumed. That is just the life of a child of God with the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. You will go through affliction and God will keep you. When you go through the waters, you will not drown. Though you go through the fire, you will not be burnt, because the fire of God is in you. When you go through the furnace of affliction, the fire of the Holy Ghost will keep you charging.

*“And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?”*

*“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you” (Exodus 3:13,14).*

It is very significant to have a personal experience, to be a recipient of the fire of God through the mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire, so that you will represent God accurately.

The idea of going to Egypt to see Pharaoh was a nightmare to Moses. But when he was through with this experience of God in the burning bush, he became a different person. He became a leader, a commander, a lawgiver, a prophet, an orator and a poet. He was ready to die for the Jews. He became a wonderful intercessor: ‘God, if you will not go with them, blot out my name from the Book of Life.’ This is what the fire of God



*Natural Rulers listen with rapt attention*

can do.

People of God, we need the fire; pastors, we need the fire. When we have the fire, we will be able to stand between God and the congregation and say: “God, please, spare them.” We cannot be a firebrand for God except we have the fire of God in our lives. Every child of God, every worker, every minister, every pastor, must have the fire of God in his soul before he can be a firebrand. May God send the fire!

If you are going to be a mouthpiece for God, you must know God enough; the Holy Spirit should be in you. Moses had a personal experience; he had a mouth-to-mouth talk with God. When Moses got to Egypt, he could say: “I AM has sent me.” The name of God is ‘I AM.’ He is the greatest, and you cannot represent Him accurately except you have the fire of God. You must know God; you must be intimate enough with God to be able to represent Him. Draw closer to God. That is what camp meeting is all about.

*“I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”*

*“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:1, 2).*

Paul the Apostle wrote the above verses of the Bible. You can go deep with God. When people walk with God, they see His mystery. Presenting your body a living sacrifice means presenting yourself an offering unto God, a living sacrifice, not a dead sacrifice, not a sacrifice with sin. If there be any sin in your life, God does not want you. If you are not sanctified, God

does not want you. God wants a living sacrifice, a holy sacrifice. When you are saved and sanctified, and you present yourself unto God, He will consume your sacrifice. When He

consumes your sacrifice, the fire of God will fall on

you, and you will be baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire. The Spirit of God will take over your tongue and give you utterance; you will speak in a language you never heard before. The fire of God does not kill; the fire of God will burn up your dross, your diseases and your deficiencies. The fire of God will brighten you; it will make you to shine. If the fire of God is within you, you will actually shine for God. When Moses was with God for forty days and forty nights, as he came back, his face was shining. He was so close to God that he caught enough fire from God. No wonder Christ said: **“Ye are the light of the world.”** How can you be the light of the world if the fire of God is not in you? The Holy Writ says:

*“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” (Acts 1:14).*

Mary the mother of Jesus with his brethren continued in prayer and supplication in one accord. They prayed for ten days. If they were in one accord, it means that if there were restitutions to make, they would have made them. If you want the fire of God, make your restitution and you will be in one accord with your brothers and sisters. When you see your brother or sister coming, and the thunder strikes in your heart, as if you don’t want to meet him or her, go and make restitution. The Holy Spirit is holy and cannot come into an unholy vessel; so you must be pure, holy and be cleansed from all impurities. When you are in one accord with your brethren, God is ready to give you the power. On the day of Pentecost, the 120 in the Upper Room were in one accord. In 1906, in Los Angeles, the children of God, who received the Latter Rain, were all in one accord. Today, let us be in one accord and the fire will fall. Brothers, sisters, workers, have you got the fire? Another Pentecost is here.

Continued from page 1



*Ayobami Ogundero represents Brother Ogunnaike - the Man of God*

God will never put to shame anyone who serves in His vineyard. His deputy, Rev. Lucas Obakoya, was portrayed as a man of prayer and a stalwart for God.

Brother T's successor in office, Rev. Josiah Olubode Soyinka, was also mimicked as he presented to God, the requests of the people in the prayer room. Brother Soyinka was known to have won many of life's battles on his knees. His inspiring Sunday school teachings were also remembered with nostalgia.

"Brother Soyinka knew everyone by name. It was usual to hear him mention their names in his prayers", the anchorboy said. His preaching skill was also demonstrated as his bell-like voice rang: "*Youth Without Blemish*, that is the keynote for this camp

meeting." At the close of the 1999 camp meeting, Brother Soyinka declared before all: "Mission Accomplished", and went to meet his Maker, two weeks later. Brother Soyinka gave his best. Are you giving your best for the Gospel?

The youngsters gave God the glory that one of the founding fathers was alive, and at the camp meeting. That was Rev. Hector Abimbola Elebute. The children said: "In evergreen memory of our fathers and mothers in this Gospel, we are decorating our father, Rev. Elebute." The congregation chorused "Amen."

In the short programme, the children took the over 20,000 members of the congregation down memory lane.

At the end of the presentation, the Africa Overseer, Rev. Paul Oge Akazue, expressed the hope that the children will be better Christians than us. "Because they know their roots, they know their foundation, I have the confidence that these children will be better Christians. I pray none of us will make them to stumble," he said. He also commented that the decoration of Brother Elebute and a few of the elders by the children reminded him of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb where the Lord Himself will serve us. "Surely, we have a future; and let nobody here compromise his eternity."



*Brother Hector Elebute being decorated during the presentation*

## Faith City: Impact on the Surroundings

***"There is no way anyone can describe the impact that The Apostolic Faith has made on this town, this state, our nation, Nigeria, and the entire world. They have brought the message of peace from the Prince of Peace" – Sunday Adebisi, Adie Owe***

The Apostolic Faith camp meeting has been held at the Faith City since 2003, but that of 2006 was different. It was special. It was not only the members, but the entire Adie Owe, Igbesa and the neighbouring villages involved, who knew that the last convention was great. For the not so event-oriented village as Adie Owe, the camp meeting was the most singular thing the residents look forward to each year. To them, the month of August is important.

The emerging university town is growing, expanding and changing, and the siting of Crawford University is already helping to open the way for development.

Tucked in the Yewa heartland of Ogun State, the villages surrounding Adie Owe feverishly anticipate The Apostolic

Faith camp meeting, both for material and spiritual gains. The whole community becomes a beehive of activities. Daily needs, food, and other essentials sell very fast. As one resident said: "This is an answer to our prayers. The Apostolic Faith has been of tremendous blessing. Seeing the people come in thousands is an inspiration to everyone of us."

Truly, one of the overwhelming features of the camp meeting is the natural drift of the population to Faith City every August. The large turn out reveals the deep-seated hunger for God in people that the world cannot satisfy. Thank God that the simple, pure Gospel, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, touches hungry hearts. That was demonstrated at the 2006 camp meeting. Even when the rain disturbed, on the first Sunday, the people still listened with rapt attention, so much so that the Africa Overseer was moved to bless them. He prayed earnestly that the main bowl of the first of the six wings of the Great Tabernacle would be used by 2007.

# Moments of Pure Delight on Aplaku Hill

For two weeks, delegates from Cote D'Ivoire; Republic of Benin; Nigeria; Zambia; and branch churches throughout Ghana, gathered at The Apostolic Faith Campgrounds, Aplaku Hill, Accra, for the 2006 camp meeting.

Signs of what to expect from the meetings emerged on Saturday, August 26, as the Ministers and Workers' Conference was aglow with the spirit of prayer.

The moving of the Spirit of God was vivid right from the onset of the presentation by the Elementary Sunday school children on August 27. The short programme centred on the centenary anniversary of the mother Church, earlier celebrated in Portland, Oregon, and Faith City in Nigeria.

When the Overseer for Ghana, Brother Akwasi Badu-Debra stepped on the dais to open the devotional service, the chorus of "Amen" rent the air. The sermon titled "**Cloven Tongues Like As Of Fire**" was powerfully delivered. The preacher inspiringly led the congregation through the Bible. "The blessings

prophesied by Prophet Joel had been poured out on people. The blessings are still for people, even today. Individuals could obtain the blessings through much prayer. The Holy Ghost baptism is needed today, as in the past, if Christians would become firebrands for God," he said.

Throughout the Sunday services, the weekly Bible teachings and the evangelistic services, campers were admonished to rededicate themselves to the service of God, if they desired to be approved of Him.

The arrival of the Africa Overseer, Brother Oge Akazue, from the Lagos headquarters added excitement to the revival. Spirit-filled ministers of God expounded the Word and many people rededicated themselves and prayed earnestly.

Brother John Bekoe taught on the "**Fruits of Salvation**", insisting that



*Brother Akwasi Badu-Debra - The Overseer for Ghana*

just as a solid foundation is required for a physical structure, salvation is a must for Christian living. Citing the examples of Paul the Apostle, Nicodemus and Zaccheus, he pointed out that salvation was the bedrock that prompted them to go into deeper consecration. They took a stand for God in times of trials and temptations.

Brother Badu-Debra, in his teaching on the "**Christian Eternal Security**," said, "it is only when a Christian ensures he is not severed from the True Vine that he has eternal security. As soon as a Christian relapses into sin, he is no longer a child of God, but there is hope for him if he repents and God forgives him."

The camp meeting concert was held on September 2. It was a joyous occasion. At the end of the convention, 65 persons were saved from their life of sin, 39 were sanctified, and 29 were baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire. Twenty members were reanointed and 20 healed. Various people testified that they came to the Aplaku Hill, saw Jesus and conquered the world, sin and Satan.

## Tabernacle Basement Raises Hope

Barely three years after taking a step of faith, The Apostolic Faith members held the 2006 camp meeting in the basement of their gigantic Tabernacle, Faith City in the heart of Igbesa land, Ogun State.

For many of the members, it was a dream come true, especially the Africa Overseer, Rev. Paul Oge Akazue, who could not contain his emotion when he shed tears of joy that the dream of yesteryears had become a reality.

The congregation had met at different locations before moving to the Anthony Village Campgrounds in 1966. As they moved to Faith City in 2003, they were more of the Biblical Abraham who did not know where he was going, but exercised faith.

As the large basement seated thousands of worshippers, the hearts of many were lifted to the high Heavens in appreciation of what God did for His people.

The new Tabernacle is designed in the form of a star. On completion, it will seat about 100,000 worshipers conveniently.

We pray that the main bowl of the edifice would be ready for worship by August 2007.

The first usage of the basement is significant when it is considered that 2006 marked the centenary anniversary of The Apostolic Faith worldwide as an evangelical Ministry.

### At the Ministers and Workers' Conference



Ministers and Workers listen with rapt attention



The electronic crew recording and amplifying proceedings at the meeting

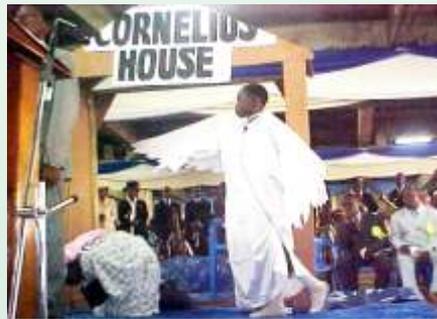


A section of Ministers and Workers at the Tabernacle basement

### Sunday School Children in Action



Oyo State children illustrate the receipt of the cloven tongues like as of fire



Ogun State children reassure listeners that the Holy Ghost fire is also for the Gentiles



Children from Jos Zone also take the congregation down the memory lane.

### The inspiring Choir Songs



The youth choir opens the Sunday School with beautiful songs



Sister Bunmi Onabolu conducts the choir



Sister Mansa Mba from Ghana plays the violin

### The Teachings Draw Many Souls Closer to God



Brother Badu-Debra (left) preaches: Fight the good fight of faith



Brother Akin Ajayi (left) teaches: Doing the perfect will of God is best



Brother Ayo Obatusin (left) teaches: Jesus still heals the sick

# Testimonies Abound



*Brother Bayo Adeniran testifies to the power of God*



*Brother Johnson Aribigbola testifies of good health even at 80.*



*Sister Yinka Akinruntan testifies of the power of God to protect*

# At the Concert



*Brother Dotun Ewumi conducting the ensemble*



*A cross section of the Choir and Orchestra performing.*



*Dignitaries did not miss the concert.*

# The Congregation Catches the Fire



*Members of the Hearing Impaired class being assisted by one of their teachers*



*A cross section of the congregation at the basement of the Tabernacle*



*Spill over of the congregation outside the Tabernacle basement*

# From the



# Pulpit

## Fruits of Salvation

This year's camp meeting started in the joyous mood of The Apostolic Faith centenary anniversary celebrations. Those who received the power during the inception of the Latter Rain that fell in 1906, spread the Gospel. We thank God that the showers of blessing are still falling and we are partakers of the full salvation that God gives. Salvation is the foundation on which the Gospel is built. No one ever builds without a foundation. The building of any structure cannot start midway in the air. All those who had spiritual success started from the foundation. If we expect any success too, spiritually, we have to start from this very foundation -- salvation.

In John 3 we have the story of a Pharisee, a ruler of the Jews, who came to Jesus by night. He must have heard the preaching of Jesus on the qualification for making Heaven. He knew within him that his life did not measure up, and that all his profession of being a ruler, a teacher of the law, and a very important man among the people, would not suffice (Psalm 62:9). He went directly to Jesus to find out what he should do to qualify for Heaven. Jesus told him there was no other way other than starting at the very beginning: "Ye must be born again."

Salvation comes by receiving the Word of God into the heart which then reveals one's sins. If these sins are confessed to God honestly with a repentant heart, the Spirit of God gives the witness within that one's sins are blotted out (Romans 8:16). Such a one now becomes a different person. This was exemplified in the life of Nicodemus. When other Pharisees were seeking for a way to arrest Jesus, Nicodemus did not support them and it was the question he asked that put an end to their ungodly meeting (John 7:51, 53). A saved soul does not compromise with unbelievers.

This was not the only time that Nicodemus identified with Jesus. When Jesus was to be buried, he was a front-liner among those who prepared His body for burial. Normally, it is the relations of the dead that bury the dead. A saved soul identifies with the family of God, even when the atmosphere is not favourable.

Paul is another man who exhibited the fruit expected of one who is saved. Anyone, no matter how terrible a sinner he is, can be saved. This was seen in the life of Paul. He was injurious to Christians, but when Jesus met him, he surrendered his whole life to Jesus. He only did what Jesus told him to do. He did not go back to the wicked people who gave him the letter of destruction he was taking to Damascus.

A saved soul becomes a prayer warrior (Acts 9:9,11). He is no longer wicked but has become a brother (Acts 9:15,17). He is

humble and lays aside his earthly attainments to learn how to be a follower of Jesus, even if his teachers are people of no earthly consequence (Galatians 1:15-18).

A person who is saved will not go about preaching without being sent by a body of believers who will back him up with their prayers (Acts 13:2). He will also not worship just any where other than the place where God has put His name (Deuteronomy 12:5,6,11). Anyone who claims to be saved but worships in just any place will not do God any honour, but will ruin his own soul. Today, God has put His name where there is sound doctrine and that is why we are content to remain in The Apostolic Faith.

Salvation is the passport to Heaven, so, pray until you get saved, and if you say you are saved, then, prove it by the life you live.

*E. O. Aina*

## Christian Ethics

Christians are those who are like Christ and the world is watching how we act and react. As Christians, God wants us to know that we are not hidden. We are like letters and we are being read by people (1 Corinthians 4:9; 2 Corinthians 3:2).

When the people of Antioch saw the disciples of Jesus, they called them "Christians" because their conduct revealed Christ (Acts 11:26).

Job was a daily overcomer who lived the life of a genuine Christian. He was a sparkling child of God with a testimony. A person can call himself anything, but it is the testimony of God about him that really matters. Job scored a pass mark in God's record book.

Daniel is another example of one who served both God and man and had a clean slate. He was conspired against, and despite all the insinuations, he came out unhurt from the lions' den. No weapon that is formed against a child of God will prosper.

1 Corinthians chapter 13 is a mirror that a Christian can use to check himself. It is very sure that God's Word will not mirror us wrongly. So, what He says you are, do not think it is another person you are looking at.

A Christian bears and forbears whatever comes his way. While others will spread their problems all over the place, a Christian talks more to God, rather than man. He waits on God until God paves the way.

One who is saved is not envious of anybody. A Christian is

also not proud. Pride is a fruit of carnality. That was what spelt the doom of Lucifer, and caused him to lose all in Heaven and was pushed to the bottom of hell.

It is part of Christian conduct not to behave unseemly. Your behaviour before people, authorities and God Almighty, must show that you have been with Jesus.

A Christian is not easily provoked. He is under God's control. A child of God should always remember that provocation was the problem that almost made Moses to lose his soul. He forfeited earthly Canaan and it was only the grace of God that gave him a passage to Heaven. We should not let people provoke us to the extent that we would say or do something that will make another Christian to go away from God.

A Christian does not think or rejoice in evil. He prays when conditions are not favourable. There is no spirit of rioting in him. Above all, he has a conscience that is void of offence before God and man because he wants to see God (Acts 24:16).

S. C. Nnodim

### The Love of God

**T**he love of God is deep and wide. It is a mystery. It is divine. It transcends human love, whether of parents to their children or of friend to friend. The love of God can never fail. It is the love of God that changes the vilest of sinners to a child of God (Romans 5:6-8). It brings life in the place of death and saves the sinner from the error of his ways.

*“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).*

Love is reciprocal. God first loved us and He expects us to love Him in return. It is when we love others that we show that we love God. Some say they love God but do not help members of their families who have to take a stand for God. Isaac, as well as Jephthah's daughter, proved their love for God by helping their fathers to fulfill the will of God (Genesis 22; Judges 11). Such love, otherwise known as charity in 1 Corinthians 13, proceeds from a heart that is dedicated to God.

People can make a boast of their achievements, spiritual or physical, but without this love of God, such achievements are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Some can give out astounding gifts as charity, but when God asks for a little consecration from them, that will qualify them to be children of God, they chicken out. It is because such people do not have the love of God in their heart.

It is not difficult to identify one who has the love of God in his heart. He does not magnify the sins of others (1 Peter 4:8). He endures all things, as shown in the life of Stephen who endured unto martyrdom and even prayed for those stoning him. The one with the love of God in him does not hate anyone. He does not get angry easily. He is never jealous of anyone. He rejoices with those who are promoted, trusting God for his own elevation at God's own time. He does not boast, arrogating the honour due to God to himself. The love of God in the heart makes one see others better than one's self.

This love of God comes into the heart through salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. With the love of

God in the heart, we want to know more of Christ. This makes us to search the Scriptures, which gives us a better knowledge of Christ.

*“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,*

*“May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

*“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Ephesians 3:17-19).*

When we have the love of God in our heart, we will be grateful for the power of God that is given to us free of charge. This charity transcends all. It will not allow the devil to touch us because God has given us the power to say, “Get thee behind me, Satan.”

M. A. Ajayi

### The Victorious Christian

**T**he Apostolic Faith has every reason to thank God for a hundred years of existence. With this number of years, nothing has changed in the doctrine. This means we do not need any other thing to add to it. The only thing we can do, therefore, is to stand true to the standard that has been committed to our charge and victory is sure at the end of our earthly existence.

Those who want to do the will of God accept everything the Bible says from Genesis to Revelation. Such people are steadfast, turning neither to the left nor to the right.

*“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).*

Matthew 7:22, 23 portray the disappointment of those who thought they were steadfast with God. They felt they had done much for God but were not accepted by Him. That shows that it is not our activities that will qualify us for Heaven, but our faithfulness to God. If we have the right foundation and build rightly on it, Heaven is sure.

*“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock” (Matthew 7:24).*

The gates of hell cannot prevail against such a one. The victorious Christian grows in grace (2 Peter 1:5-7). He makes his calling and election sure. He leans hard on the promises of God for healing, protection and other things and does not fail God during trials. The commandments of God, to him, are not grievous. He reads his Bible always and has a conscience void of offence toward God and man. He endures hardness as a good soldier of Christ. He does not love the world nor the things that are in the world.

*“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15).*

One who will be eternally victorious will remain on the Solid Foundation. He never stops being serious with God.

James Timbila

# God Did it For Me

**I**t is a great privilege for me to attend this camp meeting. I praise the Lord Jesus Who saved me some 35 years ago at a university campus. He has proved Himself faithful to keep. I learnt about sanctification in the Church and God gave me faith to receive it. He baptised me with the Holy Spirit and kindled a flame within my heart to love Him.

God has been a Father to me all round. He gave me a faithful husband who truly fears the Lord and loves me and the children.

We were transferred abroad through my husband's job some 17 years ago. Many changes have come and gone but Jehovah our God has been faithful. We have experienced some trials and afflictions through sicknesses in the family, but all of that is behind us. One would have thought that education and an affluent country would be security from want, but no; only Jesus, the Rock of Ages, is our security.

Through the dark valley, some friends left, many could not understand, but Jesus has kept our family intact through the victory of the Cross. The Word of the Lord has proved true. The Lord God is surely our Sun and Shield.

The passion He gave me about loving the next generation has not diminished. The whole family unites with this purpose and God has opened great doors in this country and abroad for this work.

I appreciate the love and care our elders have shown me through encouragement. At this year's camp meeting in Portland, Oregon, the Lord gloriously saved our last child, Idorenyin, a great answer to prayer. God still answers prayers. Our Pastor and the Church in Tehachapi, California, send their love.

It is a great joy to be here in Faith City this year, and see so many dear saints of God.

I want to love Jesus more, trust Him more and spend the rest of my life as a shining light to God's glory. It will be most wonderful when I see Jesus in Glory.

**Victoria Udo**

*(Victoria Udo spends her time between the US and Nigeria, working to lay a solid foundation for school children.)*

**I** thank God for being privileged to be born into this glorious Gospel. Though my parents are late, I thank God that they taught me the way of salvation, and in due

time as I humbled myself and prayed, God saved my soul, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost.

The year I had admission into the university, was the year my father died. Humanly speaking, I thought all hope was gone, but I thank God because the God of my father and mother was there for me. He has been paying my fees in miraculous ways. He has been my Shelter, my Comfort, my Healer and all in all. I know one day I will behold His face in Glory.

**Nsikak-Abasi O. Ikpe**  
*Calabar, Cross River State.*

**I** came to the Gospel with self-righteousness and this delayed my salvation. One glorious day, Jesus humbled my soul and saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost. He has been so good to me. He removed the pain and agony in my heart that were caused by the polygamous nature of our home.

I got married in the Gospel, but to have children became difficult, because my womb was filled with fibroids. Frankly speaking, there was no hope, but with Jesus all things are possible. How God planted a baby boy in that womb surprised us. At the time of delivery, the doctors said that, because of the problem in the womb, the baby could only be born through an operation. But on the due date, at God's time and by His mercy, the baby was born without any operation.

I have willed my life to God.

**Josephine Adeniran**  
*Abuja, FCT.*

**I** want to thank God for the power of prayer. While out there in the wilderness of worldly life, I could feel the impact of people praying for me.

One day, I was driving on the expressway, from Enugu to Port Harcourt in the evening. Alone in the vehicle, God spoke to me: "I've been calling you to come back but you wouldn't. Now, two sets of armed robbers are ahead of you. What are you going to do?" It was a Saturday. I promised God that I would look for The Apostolic Faith Church in Port Harcourt and worship there the following day, if He would lead me safely through. God was faithful in seeing me through. It was not long after that I met the

first set of robbers who stood still and I drove past them, and subsequently the second set. I knew these things didn't just happen that way, but for the people praying for me.

One day, I believed, and Jesus saved my soul. On that day, I came to realise that I had done all these evils against God Who so loved and cared for me. Since then, my direction, ambitions, desires and entire life, changed.

If I have any regrets today, they are for those days I was away from the Gospel. I wasted a lot of time, but I thank God for He is redeeming the time for me. Above all, I thank God that I have the hope of Heaven in my heart.

**Bade Ajayi**  
*Anthony, Lagos State.*

**H**ow I thank God for a godly mother and a wonderful heritage in the Gospel! I found myself in Sunday school at a very tender age and the first prayer I knew was, "Jesus save my soul; I am a sinner."

On holidays, my mother would lead me to the altar and pray with me, but I was not convicted. One glorious day, my mum (who has now gone to her reward) wanted to use the little money she had to buy me a Christmas dress. The money was so small that it could only buy the lowest quality of materials called 'teru' (baft). She said that we should kneel down to pray before we set out, I knelt down reluctantly with her to pray.

To my surprise, as we got to the market, one woman entered a shop and gave me a nice woolen material for a suit. When we got home, my mother called me and said, "Tayo, you can see the God I'm serving, He can change 'teru' to woolen!" I was heavily convicted and later God saved my soul. He touched my brain and I started taking the first position in the class.

Later, God took me to tertiary institutions and saw me through. God gave me a Christian home. We were childless for nine years but at God's own time, He visited us with a healthy baby boy. The Lord is good to me.

I was posted to Kontagora in the northern part of the country, and God has been working with us. The Church building was completed in 2003 and God provided us with a bus for evangelism. But on February 23,

2006, the Church building was completely razed to the ground by the enemies of the Gospel. In the midst of the crisis, I prayed and God gave me a promise that the ashes would be turned to beauty.

During the 2006 camp meeting, the Lord saved one of the people from Kontagora. Glory be to God!

*Tayo Ojaleye  
Kontagora, Niger State.*

I thank God for calling me into the Gospel when I was in secondary school. I prayed through to salvation in my room, but when I started longing for deeper Christian experiences, God brought me into The Apostolic Faith where I was sanctified and baptised with the Holy Ghost.

God helped me to go into the higher institution and He kept me a Christian.

After my course, God provided me with a good job when jobs were scarce to come by. When the present Anambra State was created, it pleased God to send me to Nnewi, where there was no Apostolic Faith Church. The standard of living in Nnewi is rather high for an average civil servant, but God opened a door of survival for me. So, I am not finding it difficult to reside there. Also, at Nnewi, God established a small group of believers. He also healed me of internal heat. When the sickness started, I told God, "I am neither an Egyptian nor an unbeliever, please heal me." God in His mercy healed me. I praise God for all His blessings.

*Grace Okafor  
Nnewi, Anambra State.*

I thank God for this glorious Gospel. God brought me here when I was very young and gave me the three Christian experiences. He blessed me with a loving, understanding, and fatherly husband. He also blessed our marriage with four boys and a girl. God has been caring for my family ever since.

Some years ago, one of my sons fell from a three-storey building, but God spared his life. God saved that boy, he is alive today and in his second year in the university.

Also, on May 6, 2003, I boarded a bus from Port Harcourt to Lagos. All I could remember was that I prayed before I left for Lagos. Inside the bus, I almost became unconscious. In this situation, I whispered to God that even if He wanted to take my life, my corpse should not be on the roadside.

When we arrived in Lagos, I was still very sick. God brought a good Samaritan who hired a car and took me to where I was going. This was God's mercy. Till today, I still don't know what happened to me. But God took control.

I know I am not worthy of all these blessings, but for His special grace. I pray that at last God should take me and my family to Heaven. I want to see Him in Glory.

*Blessing C. Iyire  
Port Harcourt, Rivers State.*

I praise God that Jesus died for every sinner and for me too. God gave me the call to the Gospel right inside the hospital. The sins I committed brought a lot of hardship to me. I never could have any savings because I spent my money on drugs. I was plagued by a leaking pocket. But I thank God that in the midst of my ill health, the Gospel was brought to me. I was told that if I confessed my sins to Jesus, He would forgive me. This impressed me a lot because I desired to be a friend to Jesus.

I later attended The Apostolic Faith Church, where I received God's mercy after confessing all my sins to Him. My heart was filled with joy and my sick body was healed. The particular disease that had been troubling me disappeared. Since 1977, I have never tasted drugs again. The leaking purse syndrome came to an end in my life. I have enough to spend and to spare. God even blessed me with a beautiful home and a car. My child that had finished school and was jobless was blessed with a good job after prevailing in prayer. I praise God for what He has done for me.

*Modupe Oke  
Ilesa, Osun State.*

Thirty-three years ago, God saved my soul from sin and hell, to enjoy the benefits of the Gospel. I prayed, confessed my sins to God, repented of them and promised never to go back to them again. Immediately, God saved my soul, peace and joy, that I had never experienced, came into my life. That was the beginning of a new life for me. Later, I got sanctified and baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire.

In the Gospel, God gave me a university job, a wife and children. God has healed me of many sicknesses and has delivered me even from death! In December, 1991, I died in a motor accident where 13 other passengers, including the driver, also died. I was unconscious for 21 days, but the Lord

raised me up from the dead. He has helped me to go about life and His service without any problem.

*Solomon Onotole  
Edo State.*

I am grateful to God for bringing me in contact with the Gospel while in the secondary school. He saved me, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. My father refused to send me to school because I accepted the Gospel and he persecuted me a lot. But Jesus helped me to take my stand and He sent me to school.

I thank God for making me one of the first set of corp members who served the Church in 1982. I prayed for God's will for my service year and God posted me to Kaduna State, where He helped me to work for Him. When I was about to finish, God told me I would still be back in the North, but I did not know how. In a wonderful way, in 1985, God gave me a godly husband in Zaria, Northern Nigeria.

In 1992, while in Zaria, the devil entered into some people who made an attempt at burning our house, but God prevented them from doing so. He protected us.

One of these days, I will see my wonderful Saviour.

*Funmilayo Barnabas  
Abeokuta, Ogun State.*

I thank God for the opportunity of being born in this glorious Gospel. During my teenage years, the Word of God made it known to me that the salvation of my parents could not avail for me and that I needed to have a personal contact with God. I prayed and God saved my soul. He sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Since then, the Lord has been all in all to me. He directs, protects and heals me. He has been everything to me.

When I was about five years old, I fell into a pot of hot oil. All hope was gone but Jesus healed me completely. This miracle made my father to consecrate me to the Lord, and at the age of 10, he bought my first violin for me. About 23 years ago, the Lord passed me to the Senior Choir.

When I was about 13 years of age, the Lord took my father to Glory. I thank God for a godly mother who took her stand. God helped her to take care of us, the five children.

The Lord gave me a happy home. I will continue to praise Him.

*Oluseyi Odunsi  
Anthony, Lagos.*



# Speak Out!

## *What role will you play in winning Africa for Christ?*

As a child of God, I must make sure I live a holy life daily, witness to people about the power of God to save a sinner from sin, live a consecrated and prayerful life, so that God may bring sinners to Himself and save their souls.

**A. Chima**  
**Abuja, FCT.**

I will pray for Africa, the Africa Overseer and the other leaders, so that God may lead them aright for the purpose of winning Africa for Christ.

**Edith Onwuliri**  
**Enugu, Enugu State.**

Playing and singing Gospel music in the Church for the salvation of souls and for the establishment of saved souls.

**Olaolu Adeogun**  
**Ilorin, Kwara State.**

Through being fervent, Spirit-filled, living a consecrated life and shining in my little corner.

**Izuchukwu Agbo**  
**Ugwuagba, Enugu State.**

I will sing in the choir and play my violin. I will live my life to please God, both at home and at work.

**Justina Barascude**  
**Cotonou, Republic of Benin.**

I will start in Nigeria, I do not know where it will end.

**Effiong Uyah**  
**Akwa Ibom, Uyo District.**

All that is within my power in terms of time and money.

**Ndidi Akaninwor**  
**Port Harcourt, Rivers State.**

I will like to invite boys, girls, men and women to our Church programmes, such as the musical concerts. I will like to go on missionary assignments, including full-time work.

**Peace Aisabokhale**  
**Rumuomasi, Rivers State.**

I will live a worthy Christian life so that people around me may come to know God. I will also reach out to individuals by giving out the Higher

Way magazines. Above all, I will pray that God should turn our dark continent to Himself.

**Sola Aderibigbe**  
**Anthony, Lagos State.**

I will take my stand like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

**Daniel Ojossou**  
**Bopa, Republic of Benin.**

I will live a Christ-like life, which will attract others and draw them closer to God.

**Mansa Mba**  
**Accra, Ghana.**

I will like to go to other countries outside Nigeria to preach Christ to them as a missionary, or support efforts of others with my resources and my prayers.

**Tani Daudu**  
**Niger State.**

I will like to evangelise in some secondary schools around me for the youths to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**Bolanle Dada**  
**Osun State.**

I am ready to go anywhere duty calls for the purpose of winning Africa for Christ. My time, talent, and resources are at God's disposal for this onerous task.

**Uchenna Agboola**  
**Bauchi, Bauchi State.**

I will lift Jesus Christ up by living as a Christian ought to live and let the world see the Saviour in me. I will speak the word of salvation to those who are dying in sin.

**Adeodu John Kubus**  
**Lagos State.**

I will be an example to the people around my corner and afar off. I will work diligently concerning outdoor

evangelism. I will not allow sin to dent my image. I will make sure I follow my Lord God with the eye of faith.

**Ngozi Ogbu**  
**Nara, Enugu State.**

I will continue to pray for Africa so that Africa will be for Christ in totality. I will also try by the grace of God to invite and preach to the people wherever I find myself.

**Kehinde Jinadu**  
**Lokoja, Kogi State.**

I will evangelise by distributing the Bible free, as well as tracts, leaflets, magazines, and books on matters of Scripture.

**Jeph Ajobaju**  
**Lagos, Lagos State.**

I will continue to pray for the salvation of Africans; give my testimony wherever I have the opportunity; share Gospel papers and also preach the Gospel wherever God leads me.

**Orlando Nemetam Igbuasi**  
**Bayelsa State.**

I will pray and tell others about Jesus and wherever God directs, I will go on winning Africa for Christ.

**Kikelomo Edet**  
**Katsina, Katsina State.**

I will pray and witness to the people of the love and power in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

**Alex Eze**  
**Oko, Anambra State.**

I will engage in person-to-person evangelism, distribute tracts and Gospel literature and constantly engage in fervent prayers.

**Ajibola J. Olanrewaju**  
**Ogun State.**

My family has now settled in Dutse, Jigawa State, to propagate the Gospel.

**Juliana Bello**