



GOSPEL NEWS IN AFRICA



April - June 2008

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Preaching the Gospel through music. The Bayelsa State choir recently used the music medium. P. 6



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Are You A Christian With A Purpose?

Christianity is warfare. It is a battle between right and wrong. The soldier involved, has to be on the offensive, lest he lowers his guard and loses the crown. Yet, the weapons are not physical but are mighty indeed through God to the pulling down of strongholds. To win the coveted crown, the soldier needs to be focused, determined and purposeful. This purpose needs being nurtured, for it is the fulcrum to which his labour of love is tied.

Many there are who go about in the name of a Christian, when they have not understood what Christianity is all about. Have they counted the cost? Are they ready to pay the price? Christianity is being Christ-like. Simply put, Christianity is the culture of those who have decided to follow Jesus without sin.

To be a Christian, one needs to come to self-realisation. Recognising that one is a sinner, is the true and first step to salvation. Since the Fall in the garden of Eden, every man born of a woman is a sinner. This is why David lamented in Psalm 51:5: "I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

But no matter how deep one might have gone in the mire of sin, grace abounds.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

At conviction, the aspiring Christian needs an exceptional ability to make a strong decision, because Satan never wishes

God Works on my Purpose

- Mable Nwandila

Growing up as a religionist without Christ is frustrating. My experience as a youth revealed that life without Christ results only in confusion and shattered dreams.

Life for me began on a lonely road. I lost my parents at a tender age but my grandmother was there to give me succour.

In those years, we were used to going to Church, where we clapped hands and danced. We went so often but with no specific purpose. The more I attended the Church, the more Satan held on to me. How did I know? I became a liar, a thief and I indulged in all

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that any be saved. The seeker does not need to delay before confessing his sins, renouncing and pleading the Blood of Jesus Christ. If he seeks God, the Spirit of God will bear witness with his spirit that the work of salvation is done.



The newborn Christian realises that it is not good to stop at salvation without seeking the deeper Christian experiences. Sanctification, the removal of the Adamic nature, the root of sin, is the next experience. As he consecrates and digs deeper, pleading the same Blood of Jesus, the work is done. He is made holy within, and

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Editorial Comment

Life with a Purpose



Africa Overseer

God is purposeful in all His doings. When He purposed to create man in His own image, He began by creating the heavens and the earth. The story of creation reveals that God is a Master Planner. From the first day through the sixth, everything fell into place – a beautiful arrangement that gave the man He created, not only a beautiful scenery, but an environment that commands adoration all the time.

What brings purpose into a person's life? It is his relationship with his Creator through salvation which is a sin-forgiven experience. Have you ever imagined yourself living a righteous life? Have you ever thought of a life without sin?

Daniel purposed not to defile himself with the portions of the king's meat. God honoured and promoted him.

Even when you have never contemplated living a holy life, you can make it real if today you make up your mind to live a purposeful life.

It has been proven that nothing is worth living for in this world, except loving God and doing His will. Everyone needs to purpose to have eternal rest with God in Heaven after a difficult life, but that needs to be nurtured. Jesus Christ has paid the price. He is waiting and watching that you will turn to Him.

Turn your life to Jesus today and purpose to serve Him. He will make your life worth living. Seek Jesus today.

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he relates with God without any hindrance.

To obtain the third experience, which is the baptism of the Holy Ghost, he must be determined and purposeful, digging deeper still.

As he is baptised with the Holy Ghost, he speaks in a specific, coordinated and coherent language, different from the languages he has known, in praise of God. At this time, he is fit for battle, as he has the Comforter and Guide. These experiences must be sought and received, if he is to make the Captain of his warfare happy.

“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 1:8).

The soldier who has come thus far, realises that having God in his life does not mean sailing in a boat with no storm. He is sure that with God on his side, no storm can sink his boat. No wonder, his chief purpose is to do the will of God. He craves to please God in his walk, in his dress and in his communication.

To sustain this purpose, the Christian prays often, reading the Scriptures, since faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. He walks in the light that God has shed on his path. He trusts in God, no matter how fierce the battle may be.

A vivid example of a classic life with a purpose to please God is that of David. A lad, too tender to go to battle, yet, full of the grace of God, was sufficient to confront Israel's great foe, Goliath. Before the battle of Shochoh, the lad had purposed to please God.

At Shochoh, the battle cry raged as the two rival camps faced each other on either side of the valley. For 40 days running, the Philistines' captain, Goliath, challenged Israel's army to choose a man who would come down to the valley and engage him. Boastfully, he yelled:

“If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us” (1 Samuel 17:9).

Goliath was not only trained in battle, he was also a towering giant, a fierce and intimidating foe. No wonder, Israel's camp was cowed and confounded, even when Goliath daily insulted their God. But David would have none of that. On hearing the insult from Goliath, the love of God welled up in his youthful heart and he enquired:

“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?” (1 Samuel 17:26).

David definitely saw the mountainous figure down in the valley. Goliath, standing at six cubits and a span (about three metres) was sufficient intimidation. Besides, Goliath wore a metal coat weighing 57 kilogrammes, but David was not moved. David's head was covered with the helmet of faith and his trust was in the Lord, the Creator of Heaven and earth. David recognised that the God who helped him to kill a lion and a bear, that came to snatch his lamb, was greater than the pagan bully in the valley. To King Saul, David's decision to fight for God was a fatal risk. He said:

“Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth” (1 Samuel 17:33).

Like every Christian with a purpose, David preferred to obey

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God, rather than man. Armed with a sling and five smooth stones, he confronted Goliath, exuding confidence in God:

“Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied” (1 Samuel 17: 45).

David became victorious and restored the lost glory of his people.

Moses was another soldier with a purpose. He had it deep inside him that the nation of Israel should be liberated from Egyptian bondage. He was prepared to abandon the throne of Egypt and suffer affliction with the people of God. After many years, God led him up to the scene of the burning bush where he was assured of Divine help. Through trials and disappointments, Moses remained steadfast because he was seeing what others could not see. His purpose was to do the will of God as in the song, *Wherever he leads I will go*. This is a proof that for the Christian, God is the Architect, and Builder of his life.

The Christian with a purpose can laugh at the storm because he is prepared for battle all the time. This is further demonstrated by Noah whom the Bible referred to as “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Peter 2:5).

In the days of Noah, people engaged in gluttony and surfeiting, forgetting God. Noah, however had a purpose to serve God. When God looked down on the earth, He found Noah righteous. God thus revealed His secret to Noah.

For 120 years, Noah built an ark and preached to the perishing world. Many laughed him to scorn in their unbelief that God could send down rain, and in the thought that God Who created their beautiful world, could contemplate destroying it. However, Noah persevered.

At the appointed time, God shut Noah and his family up in the ark, eight people in all, and then came the deluge. Noah, through his purpose to be faithful to God, became a preserver of life.

What an example we find in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who volunteered to come into this world and die for sinful men. In the 33 ½ years of His sojourn on earth, His constant refrain was: “I come to do thy will O God”. At another time, He said, “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me.” Jesus, at a point did not eat for 40 days and 40 nights, and Satan brought a suggestion that He (Jesus) should turn stones into bread. But Jesus was never caught unawares, and being not ready to act independently of the Father, said: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4).

When Jesus realised that the wicked were bent on killing Him, and knowing the agony that was ahead, He went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, and the thrust of His prayer was: “Not my will, but thine be done.”

The ultimate goal of a Bible Christian is to go to Heaven, the place specifically prepared for him by Jesus. Jesus gave an assurance of this heavenly privilege when He said:

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

“In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14: 1, 2).

The Christian with a purpose prepares for that Heavenly Home, no matter how difficult his circumstances may seem. If he perseveres, he will find God great in battle, and give Him the glory.

Do you realise what it means to follow with a purpose? Are you following Him whole heartedly? Do you find delight in His ways? You may expect His manifold blessings if your heart is right with God. God needs purposeful soldiers, courageous and bold. Will you join the band?

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God Works on my Purpose

manner of sin. It was such that I had no hope of anything good because my going to Church was just a pastime.

Thank God, for discovering me even in that sinful state. That was in 1990. I had come to Lusaka to visit my sister. I followed her to The Apostolic Faith. On entering the Church, I saw young people singing in the choir. Their melodious voices fell in cadences that literally translated my heart to the throne of grace. I was so thrilled that I purposed to join them. I later went back to school where I was in the boarding house.

Another opportunity came my way in 1991, when I visited my sister again. As usual, we went to the Church and I listened attentively to the sermon and realised it was unique and divinely inspired. However, it was at the camp meeting of that year that I prayed my way to salvation.

The experience was so real that I felt instantly that my heavy load of sin rolled away, and I started living a new life in Christ Jesus. I then prayed through to the experiences of sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

My longing to become a chorister became a definite drive eventually. The Lord counted me among the choristers in 1994. Since then, living according to the Lord's dictate has been wonderful. Truly, I can say that it pays to serve Jesus. The Lord has been very faithful to me; He has seen me through my education and given me a godly husband and children.

Till today, the Lord is our Healer. Whenever we are sick, we just pray a simple prayer of faith and we are healed.

God has also been our Provider. He made His promise sure by providing for all our needs according to His riches in glory. Oh how I thank God! and I will continue to praise His name because of His goodness to me and my family.

Now that God is my everything, my prayer is to be able to serve Him for the rest of my life and see Him face-to-face someday.



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Dead, Yet Speaketh

TRADITIONS OF THE GOSPEL

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When a person is born again, he becomes a new creature. The old things he had been doing pass away, and they no longer have any room in his life. Paul is an example of a sinner who came in contact with the Lord. Jesus met him on his way to Damascus. He asked, 'Who art Thou, Lord?' Jesus said, 'I am Jesus Whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the pricks.' Paul said, 'What do you want me to do, Lord?' Jesus answered, 'Go into the city, and you will be told what to do.' From that time on, Paul did not reason carnally. He obeyed, left his old ways, followed the new way, and pleased Jesus to the end.

God is concerned about your spiritual welfare. He is not willing that any should perish. Paul said in Acts 17:30 that God winked at the time of ignorance, but now He commands everybody to repent. In Philippi, when Paul and Silas sang and prayed in the prison, the Lord sent an earthquake and all the doors were opened. The jailer thought that the prisoners had all run away. He wanted to kill himself because he knew his life would be taken for the life of the prisoners. Paul said, **“Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.”** The jailer came trembling and said, 'Master! what must I do to be saved?' They told him, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” Believing in Jesus is the first step in the traditions of the Gospel. If you are not born again and your name is not written in the Book of Life, you are not a member of the Church of Christ.

God told Abraham, 'Be thou perfect.' This is sanctification, the second step in the traditions of the Gospel. It makes us to be at peace with God and our fellow men. Many of us have received this experience. If anybody tells you that there is another way to perfection, you should refute it.

“AND it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

“He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost” (Acts 19:1,2).

The third step in the traditions of the Gospel is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. A tradition belongs to a people. The baptism of the Holy Ghost belongs to true children of God who have been saved and sanctified. You must be endued with power so that you can preach what you have received. Some people, through drumming and dancing, become ecstatic and think they are doing the work of God. They speak in false tongues and give false prophecies. To receive the genuine baptism of the Holy Ghost, one must be saved from sin and be sanctified.

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive” (Ephesians 4:14).

God wants the Church to be one fold, believing the sound doctrine, standing on the Word of God, which nothing can move, so that wherever you are, whether you are alone, or in a group, you will not be tossed about by false doctrines. If you embrace any false doctrine, it is your own problem. We want to maintain the traditions of the Gospel in our teaching so that we will not be

moved.

Another tradition of the Gospel is prayer.

“As for me, I will call upon God; and the Lord shall save me.

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice” (Psalm 55:16, 17).

Prayer is a tradition we have to practise. The Psalmist said he would cry aloud unto the Lord, morning and evening and he was sure God would hear him. That is individual prayer. You owe it a duty to have a personal prayer time: It is important to pray. We remember the widow who went to the judge and said, 'Avenge me of my adversary.' She kept going all the time and the judge said, 'I don't fear God or man but this woman continues to worry me, I will avenge her.' Jesus said, 'Look at a wicked judge who does not fear God! But because of the persistence of the woman he said he would avenge her.' Jesus then asked, would He not deliver His own elect, who call upon Him day and night? Jesus did not allow His disciples to reply but He Himself answered the question and said, He would deliver. Personal time of prayer is a time when you allow God to speak to you; it is very important. If we don't pray, we shall be weak. It is Christian tradition to take everything to God in prayer.

*What a friend we have in Jesus!
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer.*

Keep on praying! God will answer every prayer.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

“And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all” (Acts 4:31, 33).

This teaches us the importance and necessity of collective prayer. Jesus said, 'Where two or three are gathered in my name,' He will be in their midst to grant their request. God wants us to come together in prayer. He wants us to stand as a fold in collective prayer. When we come together, God manifests Himself and we are blessed.

Another tradition of the Gospel is to make restitution because God requires that which is just (Ecclesiastes 3:15). When you have harmed somebody, knowingly or unknowingly, and you come to the knowledge of the Gospel, you have to go and make amends because you want to maintain

a clear conscience towards God and man. When you do this, your prayers will not be hindered. When John the Baptist was preaching, people came to confess their sins publicly. When Paul was preaching, those who had magic books brought them and burnt them. That is what John the Baptist meant when he said every hill shall be brought low and every valley filled and the crooked made straight. We want all our crooked ways to become straight, and all the hills and bumpy places to be levelled.

In Leviticus 6: 1-5, God explained to the Children of Israel, how to make restitution. He requires everybody to make restitution. If you have told lies or got something falsely or picked somebody's property without his knowing, the Bible says you should go and restore it. The day Zacchaeus met Jesus, Jesus had not told him anything yet on restitution. Jesus just looked into his heart and those fiery eyes pierced into his conscience. Zacchaeus immediately said, 'Lord, if I have received anything from any man by falsehood, I will repay fourfold.' That is our tradition. If you line up, it is life for you. There is joy among the angels over one sinner that repents. Don't listen to the devil; go in faith and make your restitution. If it is a difficult one, take the advice of your pastor, God will be with you and nothing will hinder you from getting to Heaven.

“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions” (Psalm 107:20).

That is our God. His Word is enough for us. When He speaks, it is done. He sent His Word and healed them. Jesus said, 'These signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.' 'Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders. The prayer of faith shall save the sick.' That is our tradition and we want to keep this tradition for ever.

“Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety” (1 Timothy 2:15).

God has promised our women safe delivery with a condition – if they continue in faith, love, holiness and sobriety. Determine today that you will meet that condition.

When Pharaoh directed the midwives to kill the male children of the Israelites in Egypt, they feared God and did not obey the king's command. When the king asked them why they were not killing those innocent children, they said:

“... Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them” (Exodus 1:15-19).

“Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the LORD: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb?”

saith thy God” (Isaiah 66:9).

The Christian women today, like the Hebrew women are lively, they have sound mind and body. They have nothing worrying them, their troubles are laid on Jesus, so they are lively in spirit. If our faith is sound, God says He is going to deliver without hindrance. You must know that you are different from the world. God has cleansed you and purified your heart. Have faith in God.

“The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God” (Deuteronomy 22:5).

The Bible tells us that anybody who does these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. No fornicator, adulterer or murderer shall inherit the kingdom of God.

We neither dress nor adorn ourselves like the worldly people. This is another tradition of the Gospel. We have tracts on the dress question. Women have great difficulty because of the ever changing styles and fashions. Men are getting to that stage too, where they want to change with fashions. However, our admonition is that we do not adorn ourselves like the people of the world.

The Bible condemns a man wearing something pertaining to women. It also forbids the women from wearing men's garments. When we look into our cities, we will lament for our nation, that many are doing abominable things. Such abominations bring God's anger on a nation. Who knows whether that is why we are suffering as a people.

In the days of Noah, when people did not listen to the Word of God, God did not look at their beauty in determining their destruction. He looked at their hearts and found that their hearts were wicked. Then He sent judgment; the rains came and swept all of them away.

The Gospel is clean from worldly make-up. If you leave your face as God created you, God will be proud of you. God wants you to work for Him in Africa and to be a light to the continent. Christians don't put on artificial things to make them look like what they are not. Such is the pride of life. The Bible says we should not be a part of it, we should not love the world neither the things that are in the world - the pride of life, and the lust of the flesh. If you want to be like the world, you cannot make Heaven.

One of these days, our Lord Jesus Christ will come and catch up His Bride. All the wicked people will perish. May we not perish with the wicked. We want to be a glorious Church. May God help us.

Rev. Kalu Johnson Okorie was saved in 1960. He was a choirmaster, organist and composer. He served as a pastor in many branch Churches and a District Overseer of The Apostolic Faith. He preached this sermon in August 1994.

PARENTS' DAY IN CALABAR

It is really surprising how God has inspired His people within the Calabar District, through variety of programmes, since the beginning of the year.

One of the programmes introduced in the course of the year was the Parents' Day, observed in March. Elementary Sunday school pupils invited their parents to the Church. The goal of the programme was to ensure that parents share in the joy of Christian worship from which their children and wards benefit.

In a short programme, the children went down memory lane singing evergreen songs such as "Faith of Our Mothers", with a playlet that illustrated the contributions of Sarah, Abraham's wife; Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ; Susanna Wesley, the mother of Charles and John Wesley; and Florence Crawford, the Founder of The Apostolic Faith, Portland, Oregon. The children told their parents that the old time religion taught by The Apostolic Faith, was good for their parents' too, just as it was the best for their age.

The campus A.V.S. also recently staged a playlet on "The Rapture of the Church." As the 'left behind' lamented their lot, and confusion enveloped their being, the spectators rushed to the mourners' benches, confessing their sins in absolute surrender unto the Lord.

GOD'S WONDERFUL PROVISION AND BLESSINGS IN EDO STATE

God can bring something out of nothing. The recent experience of the brethren in the Edo District, confirms this saying. Some of the branch churches had the foundation of their church buildings laid. At Iyamo, the foundation was laid on January 17, 2008.

The Igarra brethren also went into action. They consecrated and prayed God to bless them. Their prayers were rewarded and God provided resources for the work. On April 17, 2008, the foundation of the church was laid. The brethren from Edo North and Headquarters in Benin, came to lend a helping hand.

Some people have begun to trespass on the new campground acquired during the tenure of Rev. P. O. Olufowote. The incumbent Overseer, Brother S. A. Asaya, had encouraged the people to secure the land. This stirred the people into action and the land has been fenced round.

REFRESHING TIME AT ILORIN

It was a refreshing time for brethren in the Kwara District in April 2008, when members of the Church and well wishers from across the country gathered at Agbo-Oba for the camp meeting of the district.

The one-week meetings tagged "Back To The Bible," began on April 11, with the Workers' Conference. The meeting carefully reviewed "Who Is A Good Gospel Worker?", a publication of The Apostolic Faith. The moderator, Rev. E. O. Aina, from the Africa Headquarters, charged the participants to compare their deeds with the requirements of God, as contained in the publication. The self examination session ended with everyone returning to Bethel for strength.

The teachings provided opportunities for campers from Jebba, Bacita, Share, Ilorin, Oro, Offa, Omu-aran, Osi, Ayedun, Arandun, Erin-Ile, Iwo and other places, to savour the never-failing power of God.

The Elementary Sunday School Department was on hand to prepare the hearts of the congregation for blessing. On April 13, the

Sunday School children, in a playlet and songs, challenged the congregation that the Bible is the only Book that is true, whose content has stood the test of time. They enjoined all to return to the Bible as it is the only place where we can find the truth.

God opened the Heavens as He mightily saved 73 souls, sanctified 34 and baptised 10 people with the Holy Ghost and fire, while 38 were healed.

As the camp meeting ended, everyone returned home rejoicing because God has showered His blessings on His people.

EVANGELISM SWELLS IN OYO DISTRICT

The Oyo District of The Apostolic Faith has witnessed a new wave of revival as God faithfully answered the prayer of His people. As at the last count, 63 souls were saved, 30 sanctified and 30 baptised with the Holy Ghost, among other blessings.

At one of the special meetings at Apata Church, a man who had been a drunkard and a chain smoker for many years reconciled with God. He went with the people of God, from Omi-Adio to Apata Church for the evening revival service, where he was sanctified. The man is now reunited with his family after a period of separation.

In addition, God has not failed to provide. In almost all parts of the state, projects are making progress. At Olorunsogo, the Children's Hall was completed and roofed with long span roofing sheets. Apata and Iseyin branch churches got new electronics. We are pleased to heartily say, *Now thank we all our God.*

ISRAELIS VISIT OKE-ABETU BRANCH CHURCH

Some Israelis visited Oke-Abetu Church recently. They were on a visit to the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, and were invited to the service by a staff of the institution, who is a member of the Church. Children of God gave testimonies about Jesus and what He is able to do for His own. They were treated to a short session of music, which they appreciated.

RETREAT AND CONCERT IN YENAGOA

God visited the people in the Bayelsa District recently when an Easter Retreat took place in Yenagoa, the District Headquarters. The retreat started on Thursday, March 19, 2008, and was rounded up on Sunday, March 23, with a musical concert. 417 people attended the concert. Many souls were thrilled, brought closer to God and blessed.



Bayelsa Singers Praise the Lord

Rev. James Kome Ngwene and his wife, Miriam, are of The Apostolic Faith Church in Cameroun. In the recent events in their country, they have stood firm and true. Below, they share their testimonies

God has been real in my life

- James

I thank God that He gave me to godly parents. The Bible was an open Book in our home and my parents took me to Sunday School as a child. We were told what God loves and what He hates. With that knowledge, I tried with my personal power to please God by not touching sin, but most times, I was defeated by Satan. I told lies, I was jealous, I got easily irritated and disobeyed simple instructions. Such behaviour gave me a guilty conscience.

In 1966, I was advised to confess my sins to God. I opened my heart and did just that and God forgave me, thus giving me power to live above sin, and to have a clear conscience. A year later, God sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

In 1973, the activities of The Apostolic Faith Church in Cameroun were suspended. All formal services were banned. Thus, all Sunday services, morning prayers, and even family worship or any serious praying that may lead to voices being heard outside, were banned.

As a secondary school student things were really tough. My ideas were strange to my mates. Most of my associates then were committed members of the Church who had decided to remain faithful to God in spite of the persecution. Although they were too old for me to associate with, I loved their company.

I thank God who sustained me during that time. I was given names as *pastor or brother* by those around me as they never saw me in sinful habits. Some even opined that I belonged to a particular secret cult which has given me certain conventions to live by.

I am grateful that God helped me to stand firm. Step by step, God led me through primary school to the university. He also helped my three

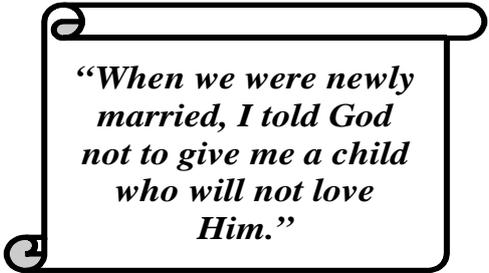
other siblings to graduate from the university, in spite of the reluctance of some people to help, because we refused to abandon the faith of our fathers.

I thank God who has kept the four of us firmly in the Gospel, especially during the turbulent years of suspension. This same God gave me a teaching job through a competitive examination. When I applied to write the examination, people urged me to offer a bribe. But I trusted in God and prayed, and He helped me to be successful at the interview.

As a young man, God helped me to stand. I was tempted many times, given names and even called a eunuch, yet God led me through. When the time came for me to get married, God gave me a suitable life partner. Today, God has blessed our marriage with five kids and three of them are already serving the Lord as choristers.

God has been the Healer of my family. God has healed us of measles, fever, serious headache and even epilepsy. My daughter suffered as an epileptic for more than two years, but God healed her through our prayers.

God has also been my Provider, feeding, clothing, protecting and comforting me. I know He still has much in stock for me. I promise to serve Him till I die.



“When we were newly married, I told God not to give me a child who will not love Him.”

...He is my Succour too

- Miriam

I thank God that apart from being born in the Gospel, my parents showed me the way of salvation. At a tender age, my parents took me to Sunday School where I was taught the dos and don'ts of God. When I was still very young, I prayed to God, confessed my sins and He wonderfully saved my soul. I decided to love and serve God. Shortly after I prayed through to salvation, the activities of our Church were suspended in Cameroun. Any time we wished to pray, we had to go to the farm or a lonely forest so that we might not be caught praying. Amidst the difficulties, I

lost my salvation.

I thank God for my Christian upbringing which prevented me from going too far into sin. For a long time, I continued to think about my lost salvation. After my secondary school in 1981, I made up my mind to pray. I went into the forest all alone to seek salvation. God proved to me that He is everywhere. Right there in the forest I met with God. He saved, sanctified and endued me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

I witnessed the worst form of temptation and persecution from class mates in school, age mates and family members, but God led me through them all. In those trying moments, we were just four girls in our congregation that decided to remain faithful to God.

One day, three of us decided to go and pray in an uncompleted building. We were all girls. Two other unsaved girls joined us to pray for salvation. As we continued to pray, law enforcement officers (gendarmes) came and arrested us. We were locked up for about two weeks. During this time, God helped us to show them that we were different from other girls of the world. They mocked us for refusing to play along, and instead took to praying, which they thought was the way of old women. They, however, did not maltreat us.

When it was time to get married, God made the right choice for me. He gave me a husband who is like a father to me. I thank God very much. God has blessed our marriage with five kids.

When we were newly married, I told God not to give me a child who will not love Him. I thank God today that all my five children are saved, the first three are Gospel workers. God has healed us of many diseases including meningitis.

God has always protected my family. At one time, my husband and I went to Knomba on an evangelistic trip and we left the children at home. At night, soldier ants invaded our house. The children escaped to the lounge which was spared. They prayed to God, and within 30 minutes, the ants were gone.

I also thank God for bringing many youths to the Church. Please pray for me, I want to make Heaven together with my entire family. I give God the balance of my life.

Zambian Camp Meeting: The Fellowship, The Blessings

Camp meeting presents The Apostolic Faith family a rare privilege to share experiences, engage in self-examination and refuel for another spiritual year in the Lord. The expectations of brethren were high as they prepared for the Zambian convention in April 2008. Truly, the warfare is fierce and the children of God are determined more than ever to win all the battles with Jesus Christ, the Captain.

The Zambian camp meeting provided an occasion for wonderful fellowship for brethren and visitors from Botswana, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria and Zambia.

The arrival of the Africa Overseer, Rev. Paul Oge Akazue, accompanied by another minister from Nigeria, was an additional inspiration for the brethren who eagerly looked up for God's intervention in their affairs.



Zambia brethren welcome the Africa Overseer, Rev. Paul Akazue and his entourage. Inset, a Sunday School pupil offers the Overseer a bouquet of flowers.

This year's meeting was unique in a number of ways: there were children's programmes, musical concert, children's music concert and a sketch by the young people; all geared toward making campers ready to receive from God's abundant provision.

God honoured his Word when He mightily visited the meetings, blessing His people in thousands.

A sister testified that she had a heavy burden to serve God and started praying until the wee hours of the morning. At about 3 a.m, she heard a distinct Voice telling her to go to a certain house not far from hers, where she would meet some people who would tell her how to serve God in spirit and in truth .

On getting to the house, she met an Apostolic Faith minister and his wife, who took her to the Church the following day. She prayed until her sins were



Sunday School children taking turns to admonish the congregation during the camp meeting. Inset, is little Joshua marching out after one of the Children's programmes

forgiven. She is now serving the Lord.

Another brother testified that it was not his habit neither that of his family to go to Church at all. But on a glorious Sunday, while still in his house, an angel appeared unto him and advised him to seek the Lord. Step by step, God led him to The Apostolic Faith where the Lord saved him and he is now a minister.

Another sister testified about how God miraculously healed her daughter after the doctors had declared she was going to have an operation. The mother sought the Lord's intervention with very deep consecration and on the day the operation was to be carried out, the doctor found that the ailment had disappeared.

There were many testimonies of healing and many people were happy, as they headed home on April 20, after the two-week meetings.



Water baptism in progress during the convention