



GOSPEL NEWS IN AFRICA



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Streams in the Desert

It is a great thing to know one could become a Christian. Greater still it is to become one. The problem with man is that he searches too far for what is very close by, all because of unbelief. May God instil faith in our hearts. In Isaiah 35:6 we read:

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

A desert is a dry land where there is no water or river to support vegetation or life. Life in the desert could be terrible. In times of heat, the weather is unbearable. In times of cold, it is in the extreme. Life in the desert is cruel and unfriendly. Consider the Sahara Desert: it gives the picture of a brownish, fruitless mass of land. Except for the oasis, it cannot support life. It is, in the main, anything but comfort.

A desert is nothing to desire. It compares keenly with a life without Christ. It is a life full of sin and undesirable things. Such

a life cannot flourish. The one who lives such a life cannot be happy. Everything about such a life is negative. How fortunate we are that God is now looking down in mercy to open streams in the desert of our lives. God is saying that He would make that same life a spring of living water.

When the living water bursts upon your life, joy unspeakable blossoms in your heart. All the hassles in your life flush out and your bitterness and sorrows are gone. When you give your life to Christ by confessing and renouncing your sins, God gives you the power to go and sin no more. Your life becomes a well-watered land and you will become prosperous and fruitful.

When you are saved, you experience a foretaste of the Millennial Reign, when Jesus will rule the earth for a thousand years.

The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen (Isaiah 43:20).

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Bad Boy Made Good

Geoffrey Ozuruigbo

My life is a vivid proof that God is mighty and merciful to whoever will seek His face. My early years were spent in trouble and restlessness. I was a victim of the environment in which I was raised. Very early in life, I saw everything about life as bad.

At home, my parents called me a bad boy. At school, the teachers described me as bad. Even in the church, everybody regarded me as a bad boy. One day, the headmaster told me I was a bad boy. There and then, I decided to continue to be bad.

In the school, I was a terror to other students and I could not but fight about five times daily. At home, I destroyed many of the things bought by my parents. I continued in this way until Jesus showed me mercy.

A member of The Apostolic Faith had given me a magazine with the title, **The Unlimited Power of a Living Saviour**. The title caught my attention because before then, I was desperately seeking

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Streams in the desert

Great Testimonies, Mighty Revival, at 2009 Convention

Sermons, music and testimonies are the cornerstones of great revivals. The trio can hardly be separated. They all inspire for the moment, but testimonies remain evergreen years after they were shared.

Spirit-motivated testimonies were part of the mighty revivals at the recently concluded 2009 annual camp meeting. The convention, which ran between August 2 and 23, at Faith City, Igbesa, Ogun State, Nigeria, left the participants praising God for having witnessed the physical demonstration of God's power.

At the last count, 2,500 people professed salvation from their past lives of sin, 1,223 were sanctified and 876 baptised with the Holy Ghost. 1,812 were baptised in water.

A two-day workers and ministers' meeting preceded the convention. The participants were full of enthusiasm, especially as news of God's goodness spread across the expansive campground.

Camp activities covered Bible teachings, sermons, open air services, seminars, music concert, evangelistic services and special

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Rev Paul Oge Akazue
Africa Overseer

The Mighty God

What a Mighty God we serve! The universe displays His handiwork and attributes. His loving kindness to the children of men is unfathomable. His mercy and grace in bringing pardon to a repentant sinner far surpasses what tongue can tell. It is wonderful that in the midst of a confused world, an individual could pray, confess, renounce his sins and promise God to do the right always and the Great God of Heaven will pardon his transgressions. That is the way of salvation which we found and the power of God keeps us saved. It is a special way made possible by the Blood of Jesus Christ, shed at Calvary, as the propitiation for our sins.

Victory over sin brings about victory over problems, afflictions and sorrows. The testimonies at the just-concluded 2009 camp meeting in Faith City, are pointers to God's willingness to intervene in the affairs of those who run to Him for succour. In many cases, matters considered closed by experts, or lives written off completely, have been re-written through the exercise of simple faith in God.

It is clear that sin is at the base of man's troubles and afflictions. It is also certain that there is nothing too difficult for God. It is great that we serve the God Who can move mountains by merely uttering a word. We are inspired by the testimonies of deliverance and manifold blessings, as told by our brethren at the convention. How we pray that the world would come to this same Jesus Christ and be saved.

Do you know Jesus Christ loves you? Are you confident He is not happy about the crises in your life? Do you believe the Blood He shed at Calvary is still flowing, and that there is still a Balm in Gilead specially made for your situation? One songwriter says, *It is no secret what God can do, what He is done for others, He will do for you.* Get connected to Him and witness streams in your desert. Now is the accepted time!

power. The devil battled frantically to prevent me from being saved. My first challenge was how to humble myself to be saved.

My first day in The Apostolic Faith Church was 'war', the preacher's sermon centered on my sins, so I got up angrily to return home. I told the man who invited me how insulted I felt that I was brought under a kolanut tree in the name of a church. I erroneously thought he had told the pastor all about me. He pleaded with me that there was nothing like that. He told me that since I thought the preacher in the morning had been briefed about me, another preacher would be on in the evening and that if I came for the revival service, I would enjoy it.

In the evening, a new preacher came from Aba who again preached on my sins, pointing in my direction. This made me to decide to call it quits with the Church. But the Spirit of God convinced me to pray, and I did, until God showed me a board with all my sins boldly written there. I confessed my sins and the Lord mercifully saved me.

On returning home with the joy of salvation bubbling in my heart, I was greeted with a barrage of challenges. As I lay to

sleep, the bed and other household items charged me to return them to where I had carried them. They were the items I had looted from a home after the Nigerian Civil War, when I discovered someone else had looted my father's home. I told my parents about it and they told me that even though I was bad before, my new Church was making me mad. I summoned courage to obey God rather than man and immediately returned the properties.



Brother Geoffrey Ozuruigbo

The Sunday after, God mightily sanctified and filled me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Since then, Jesus has been everything to me. The Good Lord helped me to complete secondary school education saw me through university education, and a few years ago, He sent me to Israel to live and work. He called and saved my parents and other family members.

My sojourn in Israel helped me to discover that the holy sites and the life of Jesus Christ, as taught by the Bible, agreed perfectly. The discovery further buoyed my faith. During my stay in Israel, some Jews who converted to Christianity confessed that Jesus is real and that He is the Messiah.

This God can change lives, change circumstances and situations. If you will come to Him, He will surely do you good. □

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Even right now, when you go to the river side, especially in the jungle where nature is at rest, you find animals going round peacefully and the birds singing. The jungle is where nature exists in its purity. No wonder games flourish in areas where vegetation grows luxuriantly and follows its natural course.

BEHOLD, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment (Isaiah 32:1).

This is what happens when you allow Jesus to rule in your life.

And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land (Isaiah 32:2).

Who does the expression, "Shadow of a great rock in a weary land", refer to? It is Jesus. When you allow Jesus into your life, you radiate the light of God. In one of His teachings on the mount, Jesus said that you will become the light of the world. Later, He said, 'I am the Light of the World.' That is the motto of our Church: 'Jesus, the Light of the World.'

Besides, when you allow Jesus Christ into your life, you will be like Him. You become the light of the world because you contain light. You will radiate that light and your life will shine.

Those of us who have been saved know that before then, we were very unfruitful, very wicked and constituted a terror to humanity. But when Jesus came into our lives, our lives became different. If you allow Jesus into your life, you will become a blessing and you will not trouble your environment anymore. That is what God designed you to be. He is not just going to supply the streams sparingly, but abundantly.



Brother Paul Akazue Preaching
When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.

I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water (Isaiah 41:17, 18).

This is what God wants to do in your life. Why are you hesitant in seizing the opportunity? My heart bubbled with joy when our Sunday School children acted, **The Woman by the Well**. The Samaritan woman was at her wits' end. Her heart was thirsty for something good and something wonderful but she did not know how to get it.

Except God helps us, our life will be miserable. The Samaritan

woman was a rolling stone. She was being passed from one man to another. She sought a way out, but could not help herself. She wanted to do well but was helpless. This same woman spontaneously became a herald of the Gospel at salvation. She ran to the city and witnessed to the people that she had met the Messiah. She was typical of a witness of the Gospel because she went round proclaiming, 'I have met the Christ. I have tasted the living water!'

When you hear the undiluted Word of God, you cannot be the same again. I pray that the Spirit of God will fall on us all today. 'Give me this water to drink,' was her cry. Nothing satisfies in life like Jesus Christ. What happened in Samaria was great and it is no secret what God can do. What He has done for one, He can do for another!

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

And there was great joy in that city (Acts 8:5-8).

By the grace of God, the experience of Samaria will be repeated in our meetings. Sinners will be saved, the saved will be sanctified and there shall be great joy.

We speak of that which we are sure of. Before we came to Jesus, we were without satisfaction. Since we met with Christ, we no longer go to people who cannot help us. No wonder the Samaritan woman cried: 'Give me this water to drink.' When Jesus makes streams to break forth in the desert of your life, you will no longer go to beggarly elements for assistance. Your taste will be different, and your longing will be for the Source - Jesus Christ.

If you study nature, you will be surprised there are birds that strictly drink from the hollow on trees. They do not drink flood waters. When you drink from the living waters, you will know better.

IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

He will make streams to break forth in your desert. He is the only One Who can do so. He made the desert, the spring, the water and everything. Why will He not help you? He will give you His graces freely.

Who is able to give you this living water? Who is able to make streams break out in the desert? He is no other than Jesus Christ. What is the proof? The Word of God.

Consider the Samaritan woman. She never gave Jesus anything. Even when Jesus said, 'Give me water to drink,' Jesus never collected any water from her. Besides, we never read that the woman thirsted again. It is the same Jesus bidding you to buy the living water from Him without money. Nothing is too difficult for Him. Come and drink the water of life free of cost! □

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services - for the youth, the children and the French speakers.

The 2009 convention proves that nothing oils the wheel of revival as testimonies. One of the inspiring testimonies was that of Brother Albert



Brother Albert Abe praising God

Abe. He testified, "As I was driving, a tipper-lorry had a head-on collision with my vehicle. Miraculously, the angels of the Lord came and pushed my wife and I to the rear seat. How that was done is still a mystery. The front part of my vehicle folded like a mangled can.

"For a while, I was transfixed on the spot. However, after about five minutes, I felt the touch of Jesus Christ and I opened the back door and came out of the car. One of the police officers said: 'These must be angels.'"

As myriad as the races and tongues at the convention were, so were the experiences and testimonies. Brother Frank Badu-Debra, who was raised in the Gospel in Ghana, had the problem of anger. However, at a prayer meeting one day, the Lord touched his heart, saved his soul, sanctified and baptised him with the Holy Ghost, and the anger was gone.

Though ridiculed by friends in the university for not keeping girlfriends, he maintained his stand. He did his National Service with the Ghanaian Value Added Tax Service, where he now works as a tax officer and he is able to take his stand as a Christian. At a point he was sacked but through the prayers of brethren in Ghana, another letter came reinstating him. "People in my place of work see me differently because I do not drink, womanise or do the sort of things they do. God has revealed His love to me such that He made me realise that without

Him, I can do nothing. God is my Healer, Provider, Protector and Defender."

Patience Olulana, who came from Canada, told of God's ability to remove reproach and make a barren woman the mother of children. She declared, "As a youth growing up in the Church, I little realised the powers in the Blood of Jesus but God in His marvelous love, saved me in 1990. The born-again experience was the beginning of great things in my life. God became the Chief Planner of my life.

"After my marriage, I started having problems. I had two miscarriages. For 12 years, the problem remained and I kept praying for God's intervention.

"A renowned obstetrician told me to forget about having children if I failed to have an operation. Instead of instilling fear in my husband and I, we resolved to pray.

"One day in 2005, as we drove to the Church, my husband told me, 'If you want something great from God, you have to do something special.' On the same day, we purposed to get to the Church before anyone else. This we did. On one occasion, I just drove to the Church and wept bitterly, reminding God of His promises.

"Not quite long, I started feeling unwell. I told my husband about it and we concluded God had done it. Because of the previous experiences, we could not tell anyone but we trusted God. In spite of problems here and there, the child came! What man said was impossible has become possible with the Lord!"

Those who testified are of different stations in life - the youth, the middle aged and the elderly. For example, Brother Isaac Eduok is an elderly man who came into the Gospel 50 years ago. He explained that before he met with Christ, he had wandered round the city of Port Harcourt committing sins.

"But when I came across the Gospel, the songs, the sermons and everything else pointed me to the Cross. After the service, I was told to pray but the only

thing I could tell God was, 'Jesus, be merciful to me a sinner.' That day, God saved my soul."

He had an accident during 2008 camp meeting. For weeks, he could not use his arm but in a wonderful way, God healed him. Today, he is happy serving the Lord.

The wonder-working power of the Lord remained an excitement throughout the camp meeting.

The movement of camp officials and participants amazed many as eating and drinking, even sleeping were literally done on the fly. Some of the participants explained that their motivation came from the inspiration that souls were won into the Kingdom of God and from travail into bliss.

Brother Denis Wuana from Benue State, who traveled over 900 kilometres to attend the meetings, said, "Participants were motivated by the opportunity to seek the face of God in a special way, especially in this end time. Besides, there is a reward for all the labour, because we daily long for a bigger camp meeting in the Azure above."



Sister Abosede Babaniyi from Zambia testifying at the Camp meeting

We anticipate the Second Coming of Christ where the faithfuls will receive crowns of life and other rewards, which the Lord has prepared for them that love Him. So, the very thought of entering through the Pearly Gate successfully makes all the pains and sufferings worthwhile. □

Chapel Hill Tabernacle dedicated in Ghana

It was a dream come true for The Apostolic Faith members in Ghana, when their new tabernacle was dedicated. August 29, 2009 Construction work on the 12 plots Aplaku site began in 1997, when it became obvious that the Abossey Okai Church auditorium was becoming too small to accommodate the teeming population of worshippers on Sundays.

In spite of stiff opposition to the building of the edifice, God strengthened His people and provided resources for the construction.

The Ghana Overseer, Brother Badu-Debra, overwhelmed with joy, praised God for the protection of



The New Tabernacle on Chapel Hill, Aplaku, Ghana

the workers during the buildings of the tabernacle. He said, "We wish to say this to the glory of God that throughout the construction of this tabernacle, spanning a little over a decade, no fatalities or serious accidents and injuries have been reported, despite the fact that many people, including artisans, children and women, took part in the

work.

He expressed appreciation to brethren from Nigeria, the United States of America and other countries for their contributions. "In particular, starting from the 1950s, the Nigerian brethren, led by the then Africa Overseer, Rev. T. G. Oshokoya, have been giving vital support to the Church in Ghana in a number of ways."

Brother Badu-Debra thanked the Children of God in Ghana for their contributions and sacrifices. He prayed God to bless them. The Ghanaian President, Professor John Atta-Mills saluted the resolve of the Ghana Church to build on in spite of the challenges that confronted them during the construction. "In spite of the monumental and seemingly insurmountable problems that you grappled with, we are today witnessing the dedication of an edifice that demonstrates the tenacity of purpose, unwavering determination and unparalleled commitment of The Apostolic Faith people. I, on behalf of the Government of Ghana, congratulate you, the Overseers and members of The Apostolic Faith Church."

The Apostolic Faith work in Ghana started in August 1948, when two groups merged to form the Faith of the Apostles, which eventually affiliated with The Apostolic Faith of Portland, Oregon. The Church benefitted immensely from the leadership of Rev. Peter Otto van der Puije, who was the first leader, his wife Elizabeth and Rev. Emmanuel Marteye.



Rev. Marteye with Adabraka congregation in 1960



Rev. Peter Otto van der Puije



An early photograph

From left front: Sis Agnes Harding, Rev. Sam Harding, Rev. Timothy Oshokoya, Rev. Boye Marteye

From left back: Bro. C. Ayivor, Sis. Kate Koranteng, Sis. Emelia Dede Ofori, Bro. Addai Maa Lydia, Sis. Lagostown, Sis. Janet Laryea

God has helped The Apostolic Faith Church in Ghana thus far. May the Lord use the Tabernacle to proepare many souls for the Kingdom of Heaven. □

Photo News

At Workers' Conference



Reverend Paul Akazue



A Cross Section of Participants



Sisters Jane Akazue and Bisi Olufowote

The Concert



On the Organ



Violinists



Trumpeters

Children's Programme



Jesus at Jacob's well



The Samaritan Woman with the King



Lepers Find Food

Water Baptism



Waiting in a Prayerful Mood



An Overwhelmed Sister



An Enraptured Brother

First Sunday



Brother James Fasanya Teaching Sunday School



L-R Brothers Elebute, Olamijulo and George



R-L Brothers Akazue, Aina and Nnodim.

The Worshippers



Listening to the Word



Prayer Time, Good Time



The Hearing Challenged

From the Pulpit

Importunity

Emmanuel O. Aina

It is a precious thing for us to kneel before God and ask Him what we desire. Jacob demonstrated this while wrestling with the angel. He insisted, "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me." When we walk with God, we should pray always because prayer is the Christian's staff to walk with God.

Abraham was another person who was importunate when he interceded on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah. He prayed God to spare the city if 50 righteous men and women could be found. Then he pleaded for 45, 40, 30, 20 and 10 persons. God answered his prayer. Though 10 righteous persons could not be found in the city, God spared Lot and his family.

Christians need to be importunate for the world that is heading for destruction. If you carefully observe, you will discover that your relations and friends are in the world. This is the more reason Christians should be true offsprings of Abraham by earnestly praying for the world. Abraham did not pray a selfish prayer in that his prayer was not centred on the deliverance of his relations alone. It was his desire that all the sinners in Sodom and Gomorrah be spared so that they could someday be converted to righteousness.

Whom do we pray for? God wants us to pray for our friends and our enemies alike. Christians should have a forgiving spirit to enable them pray for their enemies. Failure to pray for our enemies is a pointer that we are still falling short of the standard God expects of us. A believer does not have time to waste. Wherever he is, he is to whisper a prayer to God.

We need to pray for the salvation of sinners, in recognition of the fact that some people prayed for our salvation before we embraced the Gospel. Now that we are enjoying the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we also need to pray for those who are still wallowing in sin.

The Bible enjoins that we live sinless life so that God can answer us

when we pray. The Bible tells us that we do not know how to pray. However, God has given His Spirit to teach us how to pray. When we pray according to the will of God, He is delighted in us. □

The Work of Justification

Aaron Olamijulo

Isaiah gave a charge to the Children of Israel when he said: Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward (Isaiah 1:4). Jesus is willing to do the work of justification in our hearts as He keeps extending His invitation to those who labour and are heavy laden.

Justification is being vindicated from a filthy, guilty and polluted past. The Spirit of God bears witness with your spirit that you have been forgiven. It is a definite work of grace accomplished through the Blood of Jesus Christ. At justification, God changes a stony heart into a heart of flesh - a heart amenable to correction and discipline; a meek, humble and submissive heart.

Bible patriarchs experienced justification. Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness. Prophet Micah exclaimed, **Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy** (Micah 7:18).

What thrills the redeemed and the angels is the realisation that our sins have been wrapped up and cast into the depth of the sea where it is irrecoverable because God forgives and forgets. This work of justification hinges on some basic Bible principles:

★ We all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, that is, we are all sinners by birth and by choice.

Sin brings judgment along with it. The sentence consists of condemnation, death and hell but God banishes condemnation for a converted sinner. Repentance turns away condemnation.

As humans, we are unable to redeem ourselves. Many people, at the end of each year, make resolutions not to go back into the sinful habits of the past but are unable to keep their promises. This was the experience of Saul of Tarsus before he met Christ on the way to Damascus.

We are not saved by our good works neither can we bribe God in any way. You should not allow your position, background, or any other thing to hinder you from being justified. Jesus has made the sacrifice for your justification. Confess your sins today and renounce them, and the joy of salvation shall fill your soul. □

Another Chance

Joseph Onyeabor

For you to have another chance, it means you have been given one before, which you probably did not use well. The proclamation of a group of people in Jeremiah 8:20, confirms this:

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." The people who lamented here had the opportunity of getting saved but they did nothing about salvation until the opportunity was lost.

People attend camp meetings with the aim of praying off their physical and spiritual problems. Thank God, that is part of the reasons for camp meetings. Hannah of old made use of the chance she had at Shiloh. She proved that the presence of God is the best place to solve problems.

The woman with the issue of blood purposed in her heart that her problem would end the day she met with Jesus Christ. With determination, she struggled to reach where Jesus was and touched the hem of His garment. When she did, she received instant healing.

Bartimaeus too did not miss the opportunity to regain his sight the day

Jesus passed by his location. He put off all the hindrances constituted by people around him and even his garment. He made use of the opportunity he had and Jesus healed him.

You have been here for almost three weeks and yet you have not got your problems solved on the altars of prayer. God is giving you another chance. Will you make use of it? ■

God's Care for His Children

Gabriel Ajayi

Who are God's children? All are created by God and God loves all mankind. But the children of God are those who deliberately come into relationship with God by repentance. God gives everyone the freedom to belong to Him.

“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).

Whosoever will may come into God's family. Just as we become members of our family by birth, so one becomes a child of God when he is born again. (John 1:12,13),

You may ask how you will know you have become a child of God.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16).

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

You do not have to get educated before you get saved. Thank God that what is hidden from the wise and the prudent has been revealed to babes.

As a child of God, He will answer your prayers. “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” (Matthew 21:22). Bring your problems to Him in prayer.

He will protect you. “For he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his

eye” (Zechariah 2:8).

“For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous” (Psalm 125:3).

Your greatest insurance for health is God. He will heal you and God will be glorified.

He will spare you and bring you to Heaven at last as He did for Noah in the Flood and Lot in Sodom and Gomorrah. ■

Obedience and the Value of Faith

Folorunsho Ajayi

Obedience is synonymous with faith. Abraham was an embodiment of faith and obedience. When God first called him in Ur of the Chaldees, he answered and that was a call out of sin. In the same way, God calls sinners today. Obedience to His call brings salvation. Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness. As he continued his walk with God, so God called for deeper consecration from him. What He did with Abraham He still does today. God asks for different things from different people. His purpose is to know if they still love Him. God requires absolute love and faith in Him. He does not share that love with anybody.

But one wonderful thing about His dealing with man is that He makes Himself explicit so that all can know what He requires. Through the tests of life, God directs and uncovers His plans for the individual. In Genesis 22:1,2, God demanded the most precious thing, as it were, from Abraham. God will touch or demand something special or very peculiar from His children and the secret of His demands are usually between God and the individual. Telling people about the secret may make one lose focus and lead to failure in responding in the affirmative. Nothing can be too great to give or surrender to God. One, who loves God must be willing to give God

whatever He demands.

Isaac, a type of Jesus, assisted his father in his consecration. Isaac, in absolute surrender, bore the pain without struggling, just as Jesus bore the Cross.

Isaac was knowledgeable in the way and manner of making sacrifices. We also should understand the Sound Doctrine and do it, so that our sacrifices will be acceptable unto God. Isaac did his part just as everybody today, fathers, mothers, children must have their parts in the worship of God. The elders, like Abraham, teach the Word. The younger generation, like Isaac, play their parts, as choir members, ushers, drivers, kitchen staff and so on.

Faith helps us to obey and does not fail us, no matter the test. The end of the story was God's swearing by Himself. He gave Abraham blessings that transcend his days.

God wants implicit obedience from us. Mary instructed the servers at the wedding at Cana of Galilee to do whatsoever Jesus asked them to do. The result of their obedience was that better wine was served, and in excess.

God will not accept half-measure. Partial obedience is no obedience at all. Saul, the first king Israel failed because he did not go all the way. He failed and God rejected him. Remember, disobedience brings curses.

Elisha understood the demand of God immediately Elijah put the mantle on him. Elisha, therefore, burnt the bridges that could have caused him to go back from serving God.

Today, God does not require anything less. Through obedience, the Patriarchs of old and the elders of our generation obtained good reports. Can God rely on you to obey Him implicitly, so that you can be a blessing to your generation, especially now that His return is imminent? ■

God did it for me

I Discovered the Truth

But for the love of the Saviour Jesus Christ, I should have been tucked away, a cripple, somewhere in a remote village, South East, Nigeria. My father came in contact with the Gospel in 1970. As the years passed, it became obvious that unless I prayed and got saved, my life would remain miserable. Conviction for sin grew in my heart by the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

On August 7, 1986, I knelt at the altar of prayer, where in contrition, I confessed my sins, and God forgave me all of them. The day following, the Lord graciously sanctified my heart and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. From that point, my entire life changed. The love of God began to grow in my heart.

The circumstances surrounding my birth were as ravaging as the poverty that had gripped my family. Today, when I look back to the past years, nothing salutes me but flags of victory.

Each time I told people I was a cripple, the immediate reaction had always been, "Tell us how you began to walk." The more amazing aspect of the miracle of the healing of my legs is that I grew to be tallest member of my family.

As a growing child, my legs were my buttocks; a situation which gave my parents years of tears. However, they kept praying with faith in the ability of God to give strength to my two withered legs. Though years passed, God eventually prevailed.

One day, while playing in the sand among other children, Jesus walked in there in the form of an old man. He picked me up, touched my right leg and then my left leg. He put me down and walked away. From that day till now, my legs have been very strong. With that touch, a child who had crawled all his life was able to walk. My mother who went to the farm, leaving a crippled child, came back and was met by a son who had started to walk!

As a journalist, I operate in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. I have faced situations of grave danger to my life, but God has protected me.

Walking with Jesus Christ has given me no single day of regret. Each day has been spiced with miracles.

My share of God's bounty has been overflowing and I cannot say it all on pages of paper. Eternity may not even be enough to tell what Jesus has done for me. The Gospel is my life!

Onyedikachi Anyalewechi

Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Miracles in My Life

I will always give the testimony of the goodness of God in my life. He saved my soul, sanctified me and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Ever since I obtained these Christian experiences, I have been enjoying the goodness of God.

I sought admission into the university for seven years but to no avail. When I got to the Gospel and prayed, God gave me admission into two universities at the same time and asked me to choose either. It is wonderful! I went to the University of Port Harcourt and came out with a very good grade.

I was married for nine years without an issue. I became worried and almost had negative thoughts about myself, but

God consoled me. Children of God at Ido Church in Ekiti State rallied round me in prayers. At a certain time, I told God to change or replace the womb of my wife and put a new one there. God did it! He showed it to me in my room. I saw the hand but He did not allow me to see His face. One glorious day in 1995, while a revival meeting was going on in the church, God gave me a fine baby boy. By the grace of God, my children are now three boys. Who is like unto our God? None.

Another incredible incident that happened to me was the accident I had while conveying some students in a church bus to Igbesa from Ekiti State. An old woman of about 65 years crossed the Express Road without looking left or right and my vehicle knocked her down. For almost three hours the woman was unconscious. I held on to her, praying and pleading with God that she must not die because it was going to be a sad story to tell. God answered and brought the woman back to life. That was on April 26, 2006. Anytime I have a flash back on the incident, I feel like rolling on the ground and praising God for such a wonderful miracle.

About three months ago, I stepped on a snake unknowingly and it bit me sharply. I wanted to shout to other teachers for help, but the Spirit of God said I should call Jesus. If other teachers knew, they would rush me to the hospital. I wanted to take permission to leave the school without causing any panic, but God came in and suppressed the pain. Within 30 minutes, it was all over. I decided to stay in school to do my work and that was the end of the problem.

As long as I live, I will continue to praise God, worship Him and give glory to Him.

Christopher Dayo Olubodun

Ido, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

God Came to Me

I want to thank the Lord God Almighty for the Plan of Redemption and for what He has done for me. March 29, 1991 was a wonderful day I shall never forget. It was at Ilorin in Kwara State, Nigeria, that the stream of salvation flowed into the desert of my heart. That day was a Good Friday and I had a deep need for a place of worship where the sound doctrine is preached.

As a result of my thirst for the sound doctrine, I went from one church to another in search of the spiritual living water for my young soul.

I wrestled with God in prayer and at about three in the morning, a Voice told me to go to a Church called The Apostolic Faith. I answered the Voice that I did not know how to locate the Church. The Voice told me to go to the second house from mine and that I would be directed. On March 30, 1991, I went to the house and found the couple living there to be ministers of Ilorin branch of the Church.

I met the man of God and burst into uncontrollable tears. Tears of joy flowed down my cheeks. The man of God waited patiently for me to calm down. After I narrated my encounter with the Lord, he rejoiced with me and directed me accordingly.

On March 31, 1991, an Easter Sunday, the Lord saved my soul and later sanctified me. I was baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire at Kaduna in January 1992.

I left Nigeria during the camp meeting in August 2000 to join my husband who had become an international civil servant with the United Nations. We have been privileged to live in several countries since then. However, everywhere with Jesus is home, sweet home. Presently, we are living in Zambia and the Lord has given me the opportunity to come for camp meeting for the first time.

My goal has not changed; I want to make Heaven my home when Jesus comes for the faithful. Please pray for me, as I pray for you, that the Lord will count us among the faithful and take us to Heaven at last.

Roseline Abosede Babaniyi
Lusaka, Zambia.

God Met My Every Needs

The ways of God are beyond comprehension. No wonder a song writer said, *God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform*. He did it for me so I can tell that God is wonderful. I came across the Gospel exactly four years after my resignation from a blue chip company (UAC Nig. PLC) where I was an executive.

I prayed and Jesus Christ wonderfully saved and sanctified my soul. He also filled me with the Holy Ghost. The experiences meant the entire world to me. But then, by and by I was confronted with the need to make two great restitution. The first had to do with my marital life and then, my investment in a hotel business. The people of God prayed with me and before long, my wrongful home became a rightful one.

The second restitution became an albatross of a sort around my neck. My dilemma was what to do with the hotel business, especially, with my new Christian stand. I had spent my gratuity and other entitlements on the hotel in Ibadan and opened a professional practice in Lagos. I was confronted with a lot of challenges - my sustenance, and the children's school fees. People brought a lot of advice, but I kept praying and God kept bringing to my attention how He catered for Daniel in a foreign land. I eventually sold off the hotel.

Of a truth things initially were difficult but God had a solution in the pipeline. Three years earlier, I had written to a British firm that I wanted to be their representative in Nigeria. They never replied. At a point, I sent a reminder, they seemed to have ignored me and I forgot about them.

One morning, during the financial crisis, a white man just walked into my office and enquired to meet me. I invited him into the office, and he brought out the letters I had written earlier, asking if I were the author of those documents. I replied in the affirmative. He then asked if I were still interested in the business and that he had been asked to appoint a representative and other sub-representatives. That was how God took care of my finances. I praise His name.

For 28 years now, God has been my Healer, I was 70 on November 22, 2008, yet, I am as strong as a bullet. God is also my Protector. He demonstrated this in December 2007. We had gone to Port Harcourt for the dedication of our new Church there. On our way back I joined a pastor friend, Brother Emma to Owerri. On the way, Brother Emma said he would want me to

take the devotional service in his branch church the following day. I consented. I finished notes preparation by 12 midnight and decided to pray. I suddenly found myself praying for my family in Lagos. The same hour I was praying, my family was in a great danger but God spared them. I want to serve this God to the end.

Debo Ojo
Anthony Village, Lagos State, Nigeria.

From Rags to Satisfaction

I thank God for the redemption He wrought through Jesus Christ, especially for making me a major beneficiary. Before I came across The Apostolic Faith in 1984, I was a ready prey in the hands of herbalists from whom I sought a solution to rheumatism, which had plagued me for many years. At a time, one herbalist collected a goat and a lot of kolanuts from me, but instead of being healing, I writhed in greater pains.

My mother decided we would not go to herbalists anymore. However, one day, someone brought the news of a great herbalist they said never failed. We decided again to seek her help. She tried and failed. Instead of a solution, my agony increased tremendously.

I am grateful to God that on January 12, 1984, the person I was living with decided that I should return to Cotonou from Cote D'Ivoire. I returned home with bags of voodoo. Three days later, my host invited me to come along with her to the Church. That very day marked the first time I slept deeply, after five agonising years. The following day, Jesus called me by name and said, "Celestine, your illness is healed." I began to praise His name. It was in the same 1984 that I prayed through to salvation. How did I know? The joy of Heaven filled my soul. I was later sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost.

Before the sickness, I was poverty-stricken. I was so poor that I was left with only one change of apparel. I used this clothe until it tore to shreds. I used this with a shawl and curious enquirers wondered why.

There came one Sunday when there was a change of pulpit, and a preacher visited us at Porto Novo from Calavi. At the end of the sermon, he told us that God wanted us to ask for particular things He would do for us. Because of shame, I could not offer my own prayer at the altar. I moved to a corner, removed my shawl, showed my torn clothe to God and asked Him to help me.

God proved to me that He is a prayer-answering Father. Today, Celestine, the one-cloth woman, can now boast of many clothes. Is it not wonderful that I came to the camp meeting and have enough clothes to wear for three weeks and there are still others that I have not touched? I just praise God from the bottom of my heart.

Celestine Kiki
Cotonou, Republic of Benin.

What Qualities Should A Christian Youth Desire In A Future Partner?

A God-fearing man in the Gospel. A loving and caring man, who is mature, responsible, hardworking and understanding. He must be educated, must have a job and work for God in any area within the Gospel. He must be a neat person inside out. **Mutinta Sitinkwi Simalo, Lusaka, Zambia.**

A man with three Christian experiences. Humble, loving, patient and understanding. A hardworking man who will care for the family. **Alpha S. Chigwena, Gaborone, Botswana.**

Love and respect. **Lenah Sadike, South Africa.**

She must have the three Christian experiences. A worker in the house of God. Not conformed to this world, and this must be seen by the way she conducts herself. Her life must confirm that she is a child of God. **Kabolo Bogashu, Johannesburg, South Africa.**

A godly spouse who loves the Lord. If a spouse loves God, she will love and adore her partner. **Bunmi Omitoyin, USA.**

A Christian lady and a quality woman who can take care of children and help the work of God to expand in Africa. She must conduct herself as a Christian and consider the consequences of her actions and words. **Bernardo Marcelino Hukui, Angola.**

Must be a man of God, fervent in prayer, courageous, kind, generous, God-fearing, loving, caring, and ready for God's service. **Oloruntola Opeyemi Serah, Kwara State, Nigeria.**

One who is filled with the fear of God, one with a purpose, honest, loyal, extremely caring and loving. One who is faithful in all ways, dependable and handsome. **Ubah Ijeoma Nnenna, Kaduna, Nigeria.**

From my point of view, the following qualities should be considered - her Christian experiences, stand, discretion, character, intelligence, zeal for God's work, transparency, cheerfulness and more importantly, her prayer life. **Dairo Edward Olusegun, Plateau State, Nigeria.**

I desire and want my future partner to be godly. He must be a good, true, prayerful Christian. He must serve God with all his heart and work in His vineyard with clean hands, without fear or favour. He must love me with all his heart and respect me and my feelings. **Orisamuko Joyce Temitope, Kwara State, Nigeria.**

A Christian partner should be the one who has the real salvation, sanctification, baptism of the Holy Ghost, the real love of God, ready at all times to do God's will both at smooth and rough times, ready to accept her fault. She must be humble, and hard working, must have a passion for souls to be saved and should be ready at any time when the trumpet shall sound. **Ejimatwa Sunday Samuel, Niger State, Nigeria.**

The light of God must be evident in the lady's life. Must be God-fearing and filled with the understanding of the Word of God to be able to conquer in time of trials. She should be hardworking and be ready to learn how to establish a godly home. **Paul Oluwatosin Barnabas, Ogun State, Nigeria.**

He must have salvation, sanctification and baptism of the Holy Ghost. He must be understanding, loving, hardworking, and especially a lover of prayer. Above all, a youth who is faithful to God and to his partner. **Guelbeogo Nana Bernadette Mme, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.**

First of all, he must be God-fearing, someone who can work with you for the propagation of the Gospel. He must be someone who can stand by you at all times. **Rahab Amos Lamoni, Plateau State, Nigeria.**

Someone chosen by God, who enjoys and does not disturb me from working for God. Someone whose life will help and draw me close to God: an understanding, loving and caring one, a prayerful wife, who is very interested in her family's heavenly journey, who wants a home and not just a house. I pray God grant me what He wants for me. **Simeon Oluwatobi Olowofila, Ogun State, Nigeria.**

A Christian youth should desire the following qualities in a future partner: (1) godliness (2) humility (3) prayerful life (4) zeal in God's work (5) faith in God (6) patience (7) longsuffering (8) responsible (9) hardworking (10) desire to make Heaven at last. **Patricia Godwin Eshiet, Akankpa, Cross River State, Nigeria.**

A Christian youth should desire a humble and God-fearing man who is devoted to the things of God. One who is educated, hardworking, sincere, faithful, diligent and trustworthy. He must be loving, caring, always HAPPY and peaceful. **Amarachi Kalu, Abia State, Nigeria.**

A Christian youth should seek the will of God in choosing a life partner, one of the same faith. A partner who has three Christian experiences, love and fear of God, a diligent and prayerful partner who will be able to pray the clouds away in the family. A person whose ambition is to serve God faithfully and make Heaven at last. In addition he should be well-educated, healthy and have a good career with finance to support the family of God. **Margaret E. Ekpo, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.**

A Christian youth should desire to marry a humble and God-fearing man, a man who is prayerful, and understanding. **Chinenye Nnamani, Enugu State, Nigeria.**

As contained in Proverb 31:10-31, total love, spiritual and physical potentials, total submission, Ephesians 5:22-30, . **Rufus Ajayi, Ondo State, Nigeria.**

A Christian youth should desire a prayerful and God-fearing partner in order to have a Christian home and to help in the race to Heaven. Characteristics such as beauty and wealth that can easily fade away should not be desired. **Oluwabusayo Omolade, Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria.**

In conformity with a Christian's desire in a partner, she must have her Christian experiences, always praying to God for her husband and following the ordinances allowed according to The Apostolic Faith. She must also have possible financial means. **Mare J. Zanfongnon, Republic of Benin.**

The Christian youth must desire a partner who is in conformity with the Bible, and has all qualities which a woman must have. She must be blameless, faithful, slow to anger, meek, intelligent, loving, pious, who forgives without difficulty, always happy and helpful. **Daniel Albert Gnahoui, Niger Republic.**

He must have the fear of God and the three Christian experiences: salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is the fear of God that will enable him to have charity, humility, obedience, the fruit of the Spirit and other good qualities. **Hortense W. Dawekpe, Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.**