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# The Greater Christmas

here is joy in the air for no other reason than that Christmas is here again! The birds are singing and the weather is pleasant. The schools and the corporate world are on holidays. Parents are making last minute shopping to ensure their children and wards are in a good mood for the season. The world is in a festive mood, and traders are smiling to the banks. All thanks to Christmas.

The whole universe is united in the observance of the birthday of Jesus Christ, the Lord and Saviour of the world. But do they know the significance of Christmas?

As individuals, families and nations engage in celebrations, it is pleasing to note that there is a **Greater Christmas** which is not limited to two days or one week. The festivities will last one

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thousand years.

God has always had this festivity in mind. In fact, He started planning for it since the foundation of the world. He revealed Himself to the Patriarchs of old like Enoch, Noah and Seth. At a point, He raised up Abraham to spearhead His dealings with the entire world.

In God's lovingkindness, He ordained that the Children of Israel assemble before Him three times in a year: during the Feast of Passover, the Feast of Weeks, and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Although we no longer keep these feasts, especially the ceremonial aspects, yet, they are symbolic of our pilgrimage to Heaven. They are types and shadows of the eternal mercies of God. For example, the Feast of Passover is about justification, which

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# What about Christmas?

nnually, around Christmas time, the world is in jubilation. Travels, exchange of gifts and religious activities pervade the air. December 25, the Christmas day, is

observed as a holiday in appreciation of Jesus' coming into the world to ransom humanity. Nevertheless, some still wonder why there are so many thrills at Christmas.

Christmas, in a nutshell, is the commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It is

marked with carols, nativity plays, and an expression of love and kindness. It is a peculiar festival that has carved a niche for itself as the peak of all celebrations for the year. It is so great that countries or peoples that pretend not to believe in its

nnually, around Christmas celebration, eventually join the rest of time, the world is in the world in declaring public holidays jubilation. Travels, for the period.

Christmas, which could be called The Wonder of Bethlehem, offers the

> world an ample opportunity to reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and His role in the salvation of mankind.

Following the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden, all human beings became damned. God, in His lovingkindness, not willing "that any should perish," designed a comeback plan for humanity.

God had used the Law and the Prophets to woo man to Himself but man remained adamant in sin. God's plan was based on the principle of "no blood, no remission." Whenever anyone sought the face of God, he

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## Editorial Comment



## Christmas and You

At Christmas, we rejoice that the Babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, was born into the world. Angels rejoiced at His birth: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"(Luke2:14). Jesus brought

Rev Paul Oge Akazue Africa Overseer

peace and goodwill from God to all men on earth.

"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). Testimonies of some of those who received Him and what He has done in their lives are contained in this issue. What He has done for others, He is able to do for all who call on Him in repentance. The goodwill from God is for all people, race and tongue.

You will also read the sermon delivered by one of the soldiers of the Cross, encouraging believers to continue in the grace of God till they make the Pearly Gates. Eternal life is attainable for everybody. That is the grace Jesus Christ brought at Christmas.

# Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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# What about Christmas?

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killed an animal to appease God, and faithful seekers received the favour of God. The sacrifices of those days were shadows of a perfect sacrifice that Jesus was coming to make.

The significance of the birth of Jesus Christ cannot be over-emphasised. When the clarion call, "Who will go for us?" was sounded in Heaven, for the purpose of buying man back, "there was silence in Heaven." Jesus Christ of the tribe of Judah rose to temporarily shed His glory and come to the earth to die for mankind.

The preparation for His birth was elaborate. What else could have been done in honour of the Second Person of the Trinity? Jesus was not just an ordinary child. No

And thou shall call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins

wonder, for many decades, prophecies about His place of birth, the virgin birth and His personality, were well documented.

Saint Matthew and Saint Luke provide information about Jesus' birth and childhood. They also provide genealogies, tracing His descent from Adam to Abraham, King David and Joseph. (Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3: 23-38). The genealogies are offered as proofs of Jesus' Messiahship.

The mission of Jesus Christ is captured in the message of the angel to Joseph, to whom Mary, the mother of Jesus was espoused: "And thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." The Bible further reveals in Matthew 20:28 that Jesus Christ came " to give his life a ransom for many."

Jesus emphasised the importance of His mission at the beginning of His ministry when He said He had come "to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."

This explains why The Apostolic Faith, at Christmas, organises musical concerts and retreats in order to reach out to spiritual captives.

No doubt, Christmas today provides the world with an opportunity to be reconciled to God through the Atonement made by Jesus Christ. In John 3:16, we read: "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."

May the blessing of Christmas be yours.  $\Box$ 

The Greater Christmas

#### (Continued from page 1)

Jesus Christ bought for mankind at Calvary. The Blood of Jesus facilitates our salvation. We are also sanctified by the same Blood. The Feast of Weeks is about harvest. It is also called the Feast of Pentecost, which is a pointer to the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

The Feast of Tabernacles has a deeper meaning for us in that it relates to the Millennial Reign, which is the greater Christmas, because there will be joy pervading the earth. The preparation for this gathering requires extra carefulness, for Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Graciously, God has not left us in the dark about His requirements.

At a point in the life of Biblical Israel, they had problems

and wondered why God left them uncared for. God reminded them that it was sin that hid His face from them. He had sealed the heavens and instead of rainfall, they had drought. But God promised that if they returned to Him, He

At the Rapture, the Spirit of God will be withdrawn from the Gentiles

would send rain to their fields so much so that their harvest would be bountiful, and they would have wealth and comfort.

Besides, God promised He would not stop at material provisions alone but that He would pour His Spirit upon all flesh. Peter reminded the people that the baptism of the Holy Spirit the disciples received on the Day of Pentecost was the fulfilment of this promise. He emphasised that Christians should partake of the promise if they are to qualify for the greater Christmas.

## "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles" (Zechariah 14:16).

This Scripture pointedly refers to the Millennial Reign of Christ. People come from far and near to partake of God's blessings at camp meeting. During the period, we enjoy the fellowship and communion of other children of God, and at the greater Christmas, a greater fellowship will obtain. All the saints of God will gather in full adoration of the Lord.

The Millennial Reign is a period when Jesus Christ is coming to rule the world for a space of 1,000 years. It is a period when faithful Christians will reign alongside their Lord. It is pertinent to note that before this greater Christmas, the saints of God, dead or alive, would have been raptured and taken away by their Lord to the Azure above. At present, the Spirit of God is moving all over the world wooing the Bride for Christ. The Bride will be raptured when Christ comes to gather His loved ones Home. At the Rapture, the Spirit of God will be withdrawn from the Gentiles, while the spirit of grace and supplication will be poured on the nation of Israel only.

After the Rapture, the Great Tribulation will set in during which the Antichrist will torture those left behind, while the Bride of Christ will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

At the Revelation of Christ, Satan will be bound and thrown into the bottomless pit. Christ will descend into the world with His saints to establish the Millennial

> Reign. By then, there will be only one government over the whole earth. Our labour of love, faithfulness and loyalty to Jesus will count, because Jesus never forgets.

> Is it possible for a child of God to be a governor at the present age? It is quite impossible. The world knows that a child of God is sinless, honest, faithful and would not steal or lie. These virtues are quite contrary to the rules of the

game. But during the Millennium, these same children of God will become governors over cities, according to their faithfulness.

The Millennial Reign will make a difference! It is going to be a pleasurable period, since Satan will not be there. It is a period when God will strengthen weak hands and confirm feeble knees. This is why we need to summon courage. Maybe we are downcast now, thinking we are not what we should be. But let it be known that there is no time the world will make Christians happy, because the Bible states that the wicked shall wax stronger and stronger, deceiving and being deceived. But during the Millennium, nothing will hurt.

The promise of God is that the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness: sorrow, and sighing shall flee away. What can be more pleasurable? At that time, there will be no deaf, there will be no dumb, lame or any deformed person, because it will be a glorious time. (Isaiah 35:5.6).

Now is the time to prepare. Are you saved, sanctified and baptised with the Holy Ghost? What about restitution? What do you lack spiritually? This is the period for preparation. A greater Christmas is coming. Would you be qualified? The choice is yours.  $\Box$ 

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ning is **Our Light** 

ut for a moment, ding and eternal ich are seen, but :: for the things the things which hians 4:17, 18). people who have the

and make us what He wants us to be. But this is contrary to our own way of life. Long before we knew about the Gospel, we used to think that if anybody was saved, things should go on well with him, and he should be going through life without any trouble. This was our mind too when we were saved from our lives of sin. We felt that since we have been saved, we should have no trouble, no affliction, no opposition, but that is not God's plan for our lives. If we were free from afflictions and things went easy with us, we wouldn't have got anybody to pattern after as far as Christianity is concerned. There are many examples of people who have gone on before, and what they suffered by way of affliction.

Let's read further about Paul's testimony regarding his affliction.

Our affliction as Christians, no matter what it is, is very light

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in I a b o u r s m o r e

abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

> ns, the believers, the thing that will begin previty, it works for eight of glory. Our

"Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. "Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck,

it is, is very light. It

ction reaches us, our t, and He has made e heavier part of the s of the Lord, and the ffliction, we could

night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

on along the way of

lmed by it.

/e will ever make the as it does come our

ding to what we are s regarded as being here could have been t far, exceeding, and

and other things. But they looked beyond the blue

reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses

"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities,

sky into the great beyond. What did they glory in?

the temporal things: wives, children, mansions

"In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. "Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not?

"And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands" (2 Corinthians 11:23-33). If we study the life of each Apostle of Jesus Christ very carefully, we will see that each of them went through similar afflictions as this. More than these, their Lord and Saviour, Whom they believed and Whom they followed, had gone through such, even more severe afflictions than they were called to go through. If Jesus Christ went through such affliction, and His Apostles did same, after whom shall we take in our own profession of Christianity, if we do not go through such? Jesus Christ the Son of God, tells us that if we go through with Him in affliction, we shall be glorified with Him. If our glory and testimony is limited to the fact that, "God has built a house for me, He has

all these material blessings that could be seen around, such testimonies have no basis. Don't you hear the testimonies of the disciples, "While we look not at the things which are seen." They were not looking at

followers to go by this v Due to lack of expe ministers of God as 1 affliction which we talk confronting the youth 1 and say they wonder if problems, or overcome if I had never, on any speak to them and let the I have my own trials, I I to go through. It is just the congregation over w I said a while ago th

this affliction upon our pattern us according to I life I had an affliction much that I prayed God

bought me a car, He has provided me with

The resolution of Christians is to follow Jesus Christ, whether He solves their problems or not

*for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.*" In what do you take pleasure? Do you take pleasure in infirmities, in afflictions, in persecutions, in oppositions, in necessities? If that is your attitude, then, you are taking after the disciples of Jesus Christ who looked not at the temporal things but at the spiritual. If your resolution is that, if Jesus Christ doesn't do this or solve this problem for you, you don't think you can continue in the Gospel, certainly you will not be able to stay. The resolution of

spiritually. I became so pray that God should ple done, I was very close why I say it is proper brought upon our lives He wants for us accort affliction, you will sure affliction be there; let th is in this condition that Affliction cannot put a please be informed that draw us nearer to God. Why do you nurse t when God is very close is any group of people v

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My Testimony

# I found the Right Way



was born into a polygamous family with its attendant problems.

At a time, my brother was poisoned and he died. Consequently, my mother was terrified and decided to abandon her matrimonial home to live at a prophet's church, together with her children. The prophet had earlier told her that was the only way she could survive.

Eventually, my mother became a

prophetess. She used to pray for the sick and they got well, but she was not healed of her own malady. Her experience at the prophet's church was like moving from a frying pan into the fire. She had to spend a lot of money on medicine, which she bought many times on credit. My mother's life was hell on earth at the prophet's church.

One day, my mother was at her wit's end and resolved to leave the prophet's church. She packed her bag and baggage and offered a sincere prayer to God on which direction to take in order to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

God in His infinite mercy, and in answer to my mother's prayer, moved a relative of ours who attended The Apostolic Faith Church, to leave the camp meeting at Lagos that year to look for us at Ilesa, Osun State, Nigeria. The relative saw us and disclosed that God had directed him to invite us to Church.

In spite of the white garment my mother decided to put on, she was given a warm reception by the ushers. She heard the undiluted Word of God, but it took some time before she was saved.

I was schooling at Imesi-Ile, when the news of my mother's salvation was received. I then determined to seek salvation at the following Apostolic Faith camp meeting in Lagos. I had the

God is not partial . . .

privilege to attend the camp meeting but I was not saved on time.

One glorious day, when praying for salvation, a child kneeling near me prayed through. I was tempted to open my eyes to confirm the stature of the child. I then challenged God. The people helping me to pray advised me to seek God with all my heart, that God is not partial. I prayed hard, God saved my soul that day. It was joy unspeakable. Later, before the end of the camp meeting that year, I was sanctified and baptised with the Holy Spirit.

There was no further need to seek a prophet to confirm whether my intentions or my plans were right or not as we did in the past. I started serving the Lord, communicating with Him directly. It is unbelievable that I can find the right way without a prophet. The enemy of our souls was not happy about the right way my family found. He then decided to use poverty to drive us away from the right way. We were not able to make ends meet. We labelled Sunday as "honey" at our house because there would be no food to eat. We worked during the weekdays but the money earned was not sufficient to last us till Sunday. I had to officiate in the Church without telling anybody about our ordeal. There were no clothes, underwears or shoes, except people gave us on charity. I remember a number of times I had to walk bare-foot. Satan wanted us to recant, but we waxed stronger in the Lord.

Sickness came to distract us from the right way. One fateful day, an unknown element hit me and I almost collapsed.

To my consternation, the water in my body started to gush out while undressing. That was the genesis of a terrible sickness I underwent. Nobody was able to diagnose the sickness and all systems in my body collapsed. Even though we had nothing at home, the people of God took care of me.

Unfortunately, the sickness grew worse with excruciating pains. I could only take a tablespoon of fruit juice occasionally. At a time, to open my mouth was difficult and all the hairs on my head fell off. The sickness reduced me to a skeleton, a dry bone without hope. Some people who saw me used to run away. They couldn't look at me.

One day in my heart I asked God the cause of the sickness. The Spirit of God reminded me of the wordings of a song that goes thus:

Of twe pass thru the valley of weeping, Of the teardrops of sorrow fall; Of the way seemeth dreary and painful, And deep griefs settle like a pall. Yet the Saviour is ever near us, And in grief makes the heart to sing! Tho' the valley of weeping o'er take us, From its depths cometh Heaven's spring!

I could not open my mouth but my spirit sang the song and my heart was at rest thereafter.

However, the pain did not subside. I had to tell Jesus that I could not endure it anymore. Jesus then promised that He was coming to heal me. Though I was bedridden, the Spirit of God ministered to me.

Miraculously, through the prayers of the children of God, the healing of my body and systems started gradually. I was in bed for about nine months without hope. The neighbours were expecting the day I would pass away. One wonderful day I sat up. God totally healed me and I started to learn how to walk like a toddler.

My hairs grew again in a wonderful way and they are now as long as ever. God also gave me a husband of His own choice and takes good care of my family.

Thanks be to God, I am on the right way.

Ruth Funke Ajijala Ilesa, Osun State



# I saw the Light



thank God for saving a miserable sinner like me. I was raised in a Moslem family but became a nominal Christian when I started attending a Catholic Secondary School. I became fascinated with the Bible Studies conducted for us at school and started attending Christian programmes even though I was

sorely persecuted at home for this.

In my third year in the secondary school, my friends lured me into smoking cigarettes and marijuana. They also taught me to take alcoholic drinks, especially dangerous local brews. I was indoctrinated by my friends to think that I belong to a high class in the society. Womanising became a part of me and I did not regard anyone, no matter his status. I was a brilliant student but my misbehaviour robbed me of every good thing. My father tried to change me but when I refused, he disowned me as his child. Many a time, I would steal my parents' money and use it for marijuana, drinks and girls.

I continued my hooliganism even when my father had driven me out of the house. I was only 17 when I started sleeping in police cells. I would fight violently at parties and end up in police cells for weeks. No one came to my aid, since my parents did not want to have anything to do with me.

After my secondary education in 1982, I moved to Kwara State, where I was employed as a traffic warden with the Nigeria Police. I continued smoking, drinking, womanising, partying and fighting. My troubles mounted as I continued in my evil ways. I was haunted by nightmares and my mother who loved me so much was afflicted with an illness. I suffered heartache and I had to visit herbalists and prophets. In search of a way out, I prayed in the Christian as well as in the Muslim way, but all to no avail. Rather, I was told that witches were my problem and that some particular people in my family were behind it. In the process, I spent all my money running from pillar to post, but it never occurred to me, even for once, that I was suffering because of my sins.

After a while, I started going to some churches regularly. Sometimes, when I read Psalms and prayed with what I read, I discovered that my problems were reduced. But I continued in my evil ways because I did not know the way of escape. When I started working, I included taking bribes from motorists as a way of life.

I had carved out a spot for myself somewhere inside the bush where I normally took Indian Hemp, because I could not take it at home. One day in 1991, when I went to the spot, I became hard pressed and I stooped to relieve myself. As I stooped, I saw a torn *Light of Hope Magazine*, part of which had been used to clean up. I was attracted to it and it appeared as if the letters were magnified. I took the paper and tore off the dirty part. In the paper, I discovered that it is sin that causes life's problems. I remember seeing Proverbs 15:27, "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house." My mind told me that this is why all the bribes I had taken were spent on problems. My first born was always sick and I spent a lot of money on her.

I got the Church address on the paper and wrote to Portland Headquarters for subscription. They sent a paper to me that linked me with the Africa Headquarters in Lagos, which then started sending me regular copies of the magazine. As I read the magazine, I understood the Word of God better. I discovered that all the prayers in which I had participated in the white garment churches were only a waste of time. I therefore resorted to going to a *living* church. I tried some churches I had considered *living*, but all I got was disappointment. I discovered that all they were interested in was my money. I had read in the *Light of Hope* that the salvation of a man's soul is what should concern a church, and that the money donated is not the primary thing.

For six months, I did not go to any church. I was praying at home that God should lead me to the right place to serve Him. It never occurred to me that I should go to The Apostolic Faith.

On December 31, 1997, I moved my family to Ganmo in Kwara State. The first Sunday of 1998, I was making frantic efforts to attend one of the four or five churches nearby. My family and I took a bus and on our way we saw a small signpost with The Apostolic Faith inscription on it. It looked so big and bright to me that I quickly asked the driver to stop for me. We traced the road to a little parlour where they were holding services. I had dreamt a few years before that I was in a church in a little parlour where I was called out to pray. This was the exact place I dreamt of. The first thing that struck me was when the organ sounded, it appeared as if I had been transported to Heaven. The Sunday school lesson beat me hands down.

I started attending the services occasionally although I was not yet saved. The devil made many attempts to draw me back, but God helped me.

I prayed for a long time but could not get saved. God told me He could not save me because of my girl friends and because of the bribes I was taking. There was one particular girl who used to give me money and I found it difficult to leave her.

Two years later, God pinned me down one Sunday morning and I gave up everything. That day, God saved my soul. God delivered me completely from bribe taking and womanising. Of course, the hunger for smoking and drinking had vanished before then.

During the camp meeting at the Headquarters in Anthony Village, while I was praying for sanctification one day, I told God that I would never touch sin again. I heard a male voice say, "But you are human." I opened my eyes in shock, because only women were praying around me. The voice continued "You cannot do that on your own, ask for the grace."I then changed my prayer to ask for grace and the Lord sanctified me. The second day, God gave me the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

God has taken control of my life. Protection and care are now part of my life. My child's sickness vanished.

I had always been fascinated by the work of God. I used to see only one usher working in the Church, so I would wait after the end of the service and help him pack the hymn books. One day in 2006, God called me to be an usher.

God has been everything to me. I can now go to my hometown without the fear of witches. Now that I've seen the Light, I give the balance of my life to Him.

**Stephen Muraina Awojobi** Ganmo, Kwara State. Newsline

# Old-time revival fire rekindled in Mbeya,Tanzania

An eight-day revival programme at Mbeya, Tanzania, has proved the promise of God, "And I if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men unto me" practical, even in this end time.

The Superintendent of the work in Zambia, Rev. T. H. Kaibula, had led four other brethren to Mbeya on September 17, preparatory to the commencement of the revival on September 20. The team, joined by workers from Nakonde and Senga Hill, sought the face of the Lord for two days.

When the meeting started on Sunday morning, there was no doubt God was ready to work. The moving of the Spirit was vivid during the Sunday school teaching on **God's Promises To The Penitent**. The opening sermon too started on a high note: "As the potter is the master of the clay, the Lord is the Master of our lives. We must be mouldable and willing to do the Word of God," said the preacher. Then the challenge, "God wants to save every soul, but who is willing to be saved?"

There were Bible teachings Monday through Saturday morning at 10 am each day. The topics included Salvation, the First Step, Faith of Old is Needed Today, Christ's Awaiting Bride and The Blood of Atonement.

It is encouraging that the seed of truth sown is showing life and fruits. God is true to His Word that we should call on Him and He will answer. Of a truth, God did not disappoint the earnest seekers as they testified to having obtained spiritual and physical benefits, after tarrying on the altar at the close of each service.

Recorded evidence showed that 12 souls were saved, 10 sanctified and six received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Sixteen persons were healed.

At the Mbeya special meeting were brethren from Zambia and the districts of Tanzania Kamsamba District (Ilambo), Mbozi (Itumbula), Sumba Vanga, Kigoma, Lusaka, Nakonde and Senga-Hill.

One of the inspiring testimonies was that of a brother who is a Tanzanian by birth but resides in Kanyama in Zambia. He testified that though he had been in the Church for six years, he was not saved. "When I heard of this meeting, I prepared to obtain a passport, and the Lord helped me to make my way to Mbeya. On the opening day, I came at lunch hour and during the evangelistic service I was born again on Tanzanian land. I was later sanctified and baptised with the Holy Spirit during the last devotional service." He is now rejoicing in his home land.

### Harvest of blessings at Zambia meetings

The caption of the 2009 camp meeting: **Arise and Eat**, triggered the type of revival fires we experienced during the district and provincial camp meetings countrywide.

The meetings provided a veritable platform for participants to listen to soul-stirring music and the undiluted Word of God. The old- fashioned altar of prayer, where seekers converge to plead their cases with God, was an added motivation.

The God of Heaven rewarded the seekers, as manifold blessings were poured out from the Giver of Life in honour of His Word, "For He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."

The string of revival fires started from the Southern Province in Livingstone with 27 souls saved and moved northward to Kitwe where additional 27 souls were saved. There was a pleasant coincidence at Chingola and Mazabuka where 27 souls were won for the Kingdom of God in each of the locations. The presence of the Lord was strong wherever revival meetings were held and the results came.

At the Eastern Province camp meeting held in Nyimba, there was stirring news that 38 Mozambicans walked their way to attend the meeting. However, they did not need to treck back as the Nyimba brethren kindly provided a light truck to ferry them to the border. At the end of the meetings, 26 souls were saved, 27 sanctified and 28 filled with the Holy Ghost, while 41 were divinely healed.

# Crawford turns out maiden graduates, installs chancellor

Crawford University, Faith City, Igbesa, Nigeria, held its maiden convocation November 19, 2009, turning out 191 graduates from three faculties.

The College of Business and Social Sciences produced 136 or 71 percent of the graduands. There were nine first class awards in Geology and Mineral Sciences, Accounting, Marketing and Economics.

The ceremony was ushered in by a musical revue by an ensemble from The Apostolic Faith Choir and Orchestra. The ensemble was visible throughout the programme.

The ceremonies got to its zenith when the Africa Overseer of The Apostolic Faith Church, Rev. Paul Ogechukwu Akazue, was installed as the pioneer Chancellor of the university. He was the first recipient of the university's Doctor of Letters (D. Litt.,) honoris causa.

The General Superintendent of the Church, Rev. Darrel Lee, who was on tour of West Africa two weeks earlier, was conferred with Doctor of Theology.

Expressing his appreciation for the award, Rev. Lee, who came with his son, Randal, acknowledged that education was a great character moulder, only that it changes the human character gradually. "What my teachers tried to do for me in four years in the College, Jesus Christ did for me in a moment, when He saved my soul at the age of 21."

# News in Brief

### Youth Camp in Ikot Ewang

Young people from all walks of life participated at a three-day rally organised by The Apostolic Faith, Ikot Ewang District, recently. The theme of the rally was Priority. The programme involved film shows, seminar, career counselling, and Bible study. A total of 1,102 young people were in attendance.

## Church Dedication and Post Dedication Revival At Ganmo (Kwara District)

It was revival galore at the post-dedication services at The Apostolic Faith Church, Ganmo, in the Kwara District recently. The foundation stone of the main Church was laid on September 26, 1996 by the then District Overseer, Rev. M.O. Onayemi.

During the dedication, the District Overseer, Rev. Ayo Obatusin, made it known that the Church was built for the *manufacturing* of souls for the Kingdom of God.

At the end of the week-long meetings, 11 souls were saved, two sanctified and three healed.

### ...also at Coker in Lagos District

A new branch of The Apostolic Faith Church has sprung up at Coker Village in the Lagos District. Conducting the dedication service, the Lagos District Overseer, Rev Amos Adeoye, encouraged the congregation to be faithful and dedicated to the faith committed to them.