



## The Redemption Story

Oh, the grace that brought salvation's plan to man! The love of God is unfathomable. God's instruction to the first man in the Garden of Eden was; **Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:**

**But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Genesis 2:16, 17).**

For a period, man walked humbly before his Maker, and he enjoyed a robust relationship with Him. God, in the cool of the day, often came down to keep him company. It was such an endearing love that the adversary became very jealous.

Satan, in the form of a serpent, devised a poisonous scheme. His mission was to

deceive and kill. The first woman, Eve, was told she could, by disobeying God, become so wise as to be like God. She admired the forbidden fruit, touched and ate it. She also encouraged her husband to do the same. Their first prize was shame, coupled with a load of guilt and fear.

What a blow to a wonderful relationship! Joy turned to sadness, camaraderie turned to rejection and separation. Ultimately, man was doomed, having dumped the refuge and shelter of God for the dominion of Satan.

*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*

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## Jesus Christ Has the Power!

By Mulikat Davies

Nothing in my early life recommended me for the wonderful grace I found in the sight of God. My experience



Mulikat Davies

has further confirmed that *God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.* I was born a Muslim, and by practice, I went a notch higher, becoming an Alhaja (a pilgrim to Mecca and Medina). Things were rosy until a terrible disease hit me like a tornado.

I was woken up one night by blood oozing from my mouth. The experience marked the beginning of a year of nightmares for me. I went from one herbal home to

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## What Must I Do to be Saved?

By Darell D. Lee

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? (John 3:10).*

The conversation cited was between Nicodemus and Jesus. I understand that each of us has a choice in this life and that choice is between being born once and dying twice, or being born twice and dying once. We read in the Bible that, "It is appointed to men once to die." But it is one thing to die a natural death and quite another to die a spiritual death, which is to be eternally separated from God.

If you want to avoid that second death, there is only one way to escape it, and that is to be born a second time. Jesus told Nicodemus, "Ye must be born

again." Nicodemus was a man highly regarded and very intelligent. He understood earthly things but we find here that he did not understand heavenly things. He had in all, the knowledge of certain things in his head but he lacked the heart changing



experience of the new birth. Anyone of us, may be someone equipped intellectually but lacking in the experience of spiritual things, would not understand what Jesus said by being born again. He would not experience heavenly things. Nicodemus had what we could consider to be an image problem. Some give a great deal of efforts into projecting the right image in this life. In America, if one starts to have an image problem, he or she might have what is called a "makeover."

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Rev Paul Oge Akazue  
Africa Overseer

## JESUS, OUR REDEEMER

We are never weary of telling the Redemption story. It is the story of God's infinite love for mankind - a love that is both special and far-reaching. Its qualities are evident in the fact that man has done nothing to merit the love. If anything at all, man deserves to be exterminated from God's presence because of the stench of sin. "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). That is the gist this edition is out to tell. You will read about why the Redeemer had to come and stories of people who were "aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise" but "are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:12, 13).

Benefitting from the redemption story will cost you nothing but your pride, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

Brother Paul Ibikunle, a veteran of the Gospel sang tenor in the Choir and played trumpet in the Orchestra for many years. He was the overseer of our work in many districts of Nigeria.

His last sermon was **Comfort Ye My People** which is in this edition. He went to his reward shortly after delivering the message.

May the Almighty God reveal Himself more than ever, as you go through this edition.

(Romans 5:12).

God did not waste time in passing judgment on the transgressors. He started where the sin began - with the serpent. Under the cover of the serpent, the devil was sentenced to be degraded and accursed of God, and he is to be destroyed at last by Jesus Christ. This is signified by the breaking of Satan's head.

**And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15).**

A gracious promise was here made of Christ, as the Deliverer of the fallen man from the power of Satan. It is so wonderful that no sooner was the sin committed than the remedy was revealed. **Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:21).** This gracious revelation of the Saviour came unsolicited. By faith in this promise, the first parents and the rest of their offspring were to be justified.

The remedy was premeditated. God's love was revealed in **the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).** John the Baptist, on sighting Jesus, cried: **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

The shedding of blood, even at that early time, revealed God's infinite plan of redemption. The plan was the guiding light for the patriarchs - Abel, Enoch, Noah and others.

Then came the Dispensation of Grace, with Jesus Christ as the central Figure. Christ came to fulfil the Law, and it found its perfect fulfilment in Him. Down through the ages, generations had failed, even God's own chosen people failed in the keeping of the Law. It was such that man completely failed God. Then came the Son of God to earth. He walked among men and fulfilled the Law to the letter. His life was sinless. Jesus Christ met the requirements of the Law perfectly from start to finish.

He crowned His obedience with the sacrifice of Himself to have the Law perfectly fulfilled in individuals who received Him. When a sinner prays through and Jesus comes into his heart, he comes under the Blood immediately. At that point, he stands before God as though he has never committed sin. The righteousness of Jesus Christ is imputed to him. He no longer commits sin **for his seed remaineth in him (I John 3:9).**

The wonderful part of the story is that the Blood does not discriminate. It was shed for all and sundry and will continue to be efficacious until the ransomed have entered into Glory.

**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).**

The significance of Christ's love, demonstrated on the Cross for the purpose of fulfilling the redemption plan, was affirmed in 1 Corinthians 15:21:

**For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.**

Satan bruising Christ's heel was depicted in Christ's sufferings and death. Although Christ rose from the dead, His sufferings continue as the saints suffer in His name. The devil tempts and persecutes them, and Christ is afflicted in the saints' afflictions. (Read Isaiah 63:9).

Christ defeated Satan when Satan came to tempt Him. Jesus Christ, by His victory, rescued souls out of Satan's 1's

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That is what happens when you are projecting different looks by having a new wardrobe and a new hair style and just a new overall account. There is one major flaw in that approach, anyone of us can do a number of things to change how we look outside, but it takes the handiwork of God to change what is within. Man did not always have this image problem, because we read that in the Garden, God created man in His own image. But after the Fall of Adam, the Bible tells us that, Adam had a son whose name was Seth, "... and he begat a son in his own likeness, after his image." So, while Adam was created in God's image, the descendants of Adam were born after Adam's fallen image. The result is that each one of us was born into this life with the inbred carnal nature. Jeremiah described it this way: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." If you have not been born again, your heart needs "a makeover." That "makeover" cannot be accomplished by the best efforts of man; it takes the redeeming Blood of Jesus Christ.

Our physiques and qualities are to a great extent inherited from our parents. I am about the same size as my father, I have a receding hairline like my father and my wife says, I even walk like my father. Even if my father and my mother had been saved and sanctified when I was born, I would not have inherited my moral qualities from them, I inherited my moral qualities from Adam.

We find that Nicodemus was puzzled at this new birth description asking, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Even if that had been possible, the end result of that kind of second birth would be the same as the first birth, he would still inherit a corrupt nature from Adam. And that is why Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Ye must be born again! There were certain

religious rites, even in those days that address opposing morality. Jesus said, "Ye must be born of the water and of the Spirit." The religious rite involved in water fell short of changing an individual's heart. It reminds me of a Portland testimony of years ago, where a brother testified and spoke of being water baptised before he was saved. He said he went down into the water a dry sinner and he came out of the water a wet sinner.

The new birth is not an earthly solution, it is an heavenly solution. It is not the resolve of our all-best efforts to change ourselves; it is the result of the Spirit of God changing the heart. That is why Paul wrote; "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; and behold, all things are become new." It is more than a change of description from being described as a sinner to being described as a Christian. I grew up in a good home, but it was a home where we did not have the light of the Gospel. When I was in the third grade, the teacher passed around to all of us students a slip of paper where we were asked to check a box designating our religious affiliation. We did not attend church but one of the selections in the boxes was 'Christian,' so I checked the box 'Christian.' When I got home, I told my mother about it and asked what box I should have checked. She told me that I have checked the right box. I should not have checked the box 'Christian' because with hindsight, I realised that I was a sinner and I should have checked the box with the inscription sinner.

This experience that I am talking about goes more than paper work. It is an experience that you obtain on your knees before God when you cry out to Him for mercy and ask Him for forgiveness. When we sincerely do that, telling Him of our sins; we have the promise that, the Spirit of God will witness to our hearts that we have passed from death unto life. He has heard our prayers and we are born again.

We, who were in the past, dead in sins were made alive in Christ Jesus. Before the second birth, we were dead in our sins and jeopardized by being eternally sentenced to that second death. When I got saved in 1974, I was 21yrs old and had no knowledge of life of the Gospel. I had attended one Apostolic Faith meeting in a small Church far from Portland, about 3hrs drive to Portland, where 50 members attended the Gospel meeting. There, I heard what I had never heard before and was left wondering how those things could be. It was later, on the same night, the Spirit of God spoke to my heart and I prayed a prayer that I had never been taught. I asked God to forgive me my sins and that if He would help me, I would try to serve Him. The Power of God changed my heart in a moment of time. The evidence of that new birth was everywhere just as if a mighty wind was to blow through a countryside and cause the trees to bend over. That is how people see the result when a person experiences the new birth.

Nicodemus considered himself to be an old man already and yet Jesus was offering him a new start in life. My son who is here experienced that new birth when he was four years old. God has kept him victorious for 26 years. My father who is 83 years old, and still alive, was saved when he was 49 years old. God has kept him victorious for 34 years.

Therefore, whether you are four years, 21 years or 49 years, you can be born again and be given a new start in life. You need not know how the work is done; you just need to know that it is done.

Come to Jesus and confess your sins. Call upon Him and He will change your heart. Today, if you have not been saved, you can come to the Father with the two choices I gave you in the beginning. You can choose to be born once and die twice, or be born twice and die once. God is calling you.

*This sermon was given in Lagos, Nigeria, during Brother Lee's tour of West Africa, November 2009.*

## The Redemption Story

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clutches. By the death of Jesus Christ, He gave a fatal blow to the devil's kingdom, a terminal wound to the head of the serpent. Since then, as the Gospel gains ground, Satan falls in the life of whosoever surrenders to Jesus Christ.

The plan is still being fulfilled in

the lives of men even today. Man needs only to ask. Matthew 7:7 admonishes: **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.** One needs to acknowledge that one is a sinner, confess and forsake one's sins, and plead the Blood of

Jesus. If one prays sincerely, the work will be done, even now!

# Comfort Ye, My People

Paul Ibikunle

Reverend Paul Ibikunle was one of the early converts of the Gospel in Nigeria.

**“COMFORT ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.**

**“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.**

**“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

**“Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:**

**“And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it” (Isaiah 40:1-5).**

When we consider these verses, we wonder how they relate to us. Before we are comforted, we must have been sad. The warfare has been hard, but we thank the Lord that it has pleased Him to bring comfort to us. God says speak comfortably to Jerusalem, to the Church of God, that their warfare is ended. Satan has been very hard at work; he has fought the Church; he has fought the individuals. There are those who have fallen, but we thank the Lord they are up today. That is the important thing. When we fight a battle, our uniform gets dirty. A soldier on parade is quite different from a soldier on the battle field. The uniform of the soldier on the battle field is not ironed but rough and dirty. At the battle front, the soldier does not even know how the battle will end, but suddenly, God gives victory. We thank the Lord for those who have recorded victory. God is saying, speak to the Church of God: **comfort ye, comfort ye my people.** God knows how hard it has been. We cannot run away from fighting for the Lord because the flesh, the blood, and the world will fight against us, but we can stay on our feet. We can stay at our post and not run away.

Sometimes, when problems come, we pray and pray and it seems that God does not answer prayers anymore. “But what is happening? This sickness will not go?” “I am searching for a job, I cannot get one, and my family is getting worried, they have prayed but no answer!” “My children are giving trouble, I have prayed, but, no way.” The Christian life is a warfare. Whether you are a Christian or not, you must face difficulties. A Christian prays to God and God answers. Although the answer may be “Hold on.” But how many of us want “Hold on” as an answer? God told Moses to tell the Children of Israel at the Red Sea to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. It is good to wait on the Lord. When we pray for a long time and it seems there is no answer yet, what should we do? We should take up the Scriptures and search out God’s promises. Why? Because God will never tell a lie. What God says He will do, if He has not done it yet, He will surely do it. That is why God is sending you this message: ‘Comfort ye my people, tell them their warfare is over.’ God is sending you

comfort. God is telling us through His Spirit that all the high places in our lives, He will make low. All the valleys, He will raise. Crooked places will be made straight, the rough places will be made plain, and the glory of God shall be revealed. God has more promises for us.

**“Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?” (Isaiah 40:27).**

At this time, things were very bad with the Children of Israel because of their idolatry. God sent them into captivity in Babylon as He promised. They could not worship God, sing or play their musical instruments. They thought God had forgotten them. Then, God sent this wonderful message to them:

**“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding” (Isaiah 40:28).**

Let us consider this Great God. How great is God? Verse 17 says, **All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.** Furthermore, the Bible tells us that all these nations are just like a drop of water in a bucket. Is God not great? **Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!** God is everywhere; He does everything; He sees everything. He does not faint, He is never weary. The Psalmist tells us that, God neither slumbers nor sleeps. There is no searching of His understanding. When we are at the end of our own wisdom, God still has a thousand ways. In our lives, we may have problems and difficulties. We may think in our own limited scope of understanding that God is going to work it out this way or that way. God may not work it out that way at all.

A brother had eye trouble and was using glasses. One day, he was resting under an apple tree, reading. One of the fruits dropped and broke his glasses and as you can imagine, it could have wounded his eyes. So, he thought in his heart, “I have eye trouble, now this fruit has fallen to break my glasses. Doesn’t God know that this can cause

more trouble for me? And I have been praying that God should heal me.” At the end of it all, God healed his eyes; he does not use glasses anymore. Isn’t that a great God? There is no searching of His wisdom.

There was a brother living with me. He was lame. The wall of a house fell upon his leg and he became lame. When he came into the Gospel, the Lord healed him, but the leg was shorter than the other. Whenever he walked, he had to bend. God determined to heal that leg and make it straight and equal with the other one. Do you know how God did it? One day, he was going to Church on a bicycle. Suddenly, he crossed the road unaware of an on-coming vehicle, and there was an accident. He was carried high in the air and he fell down. Through that accident, God stretched the leg and his legs became equal. Can you imagine why it should be in that difficult way? Why didn’t he just pray and God would do it one night? There is no searching of God’s wisdom because God is great.

You may think your ways are hid from God. This my sickness, this my problem, this my joblessness, how can God solve the problem? Can you work mathematics for God? No. We say  $1 + 1 = 2$ , but God says,  $1 + 1 = 1$ . Can you prove it? It is God’s mathematics. It is His Own formula and it works out His Own way. In your own life too, things may come up; God has a way of solving your problem and not the way you want it solved. That is why the Bible says, ‘there is no searching of His wisdom.’

Verse 29 says, **He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.** Think of that statement: **Power to the faint.** You may say, “I cannot pray. Many times, when I want to pray, and I begin to think of all my problems, I just sit down thinking without praying.” Do you know that, at that very position, God says, He wants to give strength to you; He wants to give power to you? Will you take it? When you cannot pray, God says, He will give you power to pray. How God will do it should not be the question. The fact is, God says He will do it, and He surely will. He says to those that have no power at all, He will increase strength. How can He increase what you don’t have? That is why He is God. He does the impossible. Verse 30 says, **Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall.** The Bible says, the youths will faint. “Then what power do I have? Why are the mighty falling?” Verse 31 says, **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength.** That is the secret: ‘Waiting upon the LORD.’

**The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him.**

**It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD (Lamentations 3:25, 26).**

May the Lord help us to wait for Him. The most difficult thing for man to do is to wait. But if you have no choice, what do you do? You wait. If you want to travel and you have no vehicle of your own, then, your choice is to go to the bus station and take a commercial vehicle. Whatever the duration of the delay, you will be compelled to wait until those in charge are ready to move. No matter the degree of your haste, your anxiety will cool down. God says we should wait. Where are you going? Can you do it alone? Can you find your way alone? Can you solve your problem alone? God says, wait. The Book of Lamentations says, **It is good to wait quietly.** Don’t make a noise, don’t shout, don’t scream, don’t be anxious, don’t be angry; wait for the Lord. Let Him work it out. In God’s Own time, He will reward you. He says, **Wait on the LORD, be of good courage and He shall strengthen you.**

**But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint (Isaiah 40:31).**

That is, those that wait upon the LORD shall mount up with wings as eagles. We see eagles fly high up. They build their nests high up because they have the strength to fly very high. But do you know that eagles go weary? There comes a time when God has to change all their feathers and at that time, when the changes are taking place, they have to wait quietly. After the metamorphosis, they grow new feathers and they become more powerful. By the time they rise from that rock, they are going to fly higher and higher. And it is so with us. God keeps us waiting for Him in order to renew our strength spiritually.

Sometimes, we don’t want to wait, but God puts the limitations there for you: “Don’t go.” Now, these limitations come in very many ways which we do not like. Many times, God brings limitations that we cannot explain. What God is telling you to do is to wait. Some of us cannot be quiet in waiting. We will tell all the world our problems. My friend, all the complaints and the murmurings, what have you gained from them? Wait on the Lord quietly. Trust in Him. His promise is, He will strengthen you. He says, Even the youths shall faint and be weary, but if you wait upon God, He will renew your strength like the eagle’s.

When your strength is renewed, you will walk this way of Holiness and not be tired of it. You will run and not faint. Elijah ran before the chariot of Ahab for about 30 miles, and he was not weary. He went in the strength of the Lord. May the Lord help us to go in His strength and mount up with wings as eagles, to run and not be weary and to walk and not faint. That is the promise of God for us. □

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another, and from one physician to another. There was no respite until I came to the Greatest Physician, Jesus Christ.

At a point, I went to a herbalist who many recommended as being very competent. He died three months after my admission in his herbal home. I visited many others until six months into the illness, an uncle warned that my ailment was beyond traditional cure. We headed for the General Hospital, Sokenu, in Abeokuta, where I was operated upon twice to no avail. I was later referred to the University College Hospital, Ibadan. Everybody around me was almost sure 'solution has come at last!'

Another round of surgery failed to improve my health; but my stay in that tertiary hospital afforded me the opportunity of meeting with missionaries from The Apostolic Faith. On each visit, they affirmed, "Jesus heals... Jesus saves," and handed out tracts and magazines from the Church. I stacked the publications in my private room at the hospital.

I was shocked, the third month of my admission into the hospital, when my relations were told that I would be discharged, since medical science could not get to the root of my predicament. All pleas fell on deaf ears. It was truly, humanly speaking, a hopeless situation.

*What a Friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear.*

By the time I left the UCH, my problem had escalated. In addition to continuous flow of blood from my mouth, my nose also bled ceaselessly because a hose was passed through it, by which I was fed with fluids and drugs. I was very lean, weak and could not, on my own, stand, sit, walk or do anything. It was in this miserable state that I moved into a relation's house at Foko area of Ibadan.

I began to think about the missionaries who visited the hospital. I thought about their promise and somehow turned my eyes upon Jesus. That marked the beginning of victory for me. One day, I pointed in the direction of my hospital bag and it was brought to me. From one of the publications, the address of The Apostolic Faith Church, Ibadan, was identified. I asked that I be taken there.

I was dropped at the Headquarters Church, Imalefalafia, Oke Ado, Ibadan, Oyo District, at about

4 am. Surprisingly, I started feeling better the moment I alighted from the taxi. I was directed to the altar to pray. The person on guard told me that the Church had gone to Lagos for the annual camp meeting, but that I could go and pray at the altar and tell my problems to Jesus. I told him I did not know how to pray. He said I should tell Jesus to have mercy on me. On getting to the altar, I spread my shawl on the bench so that it would not be stained by the blood oozing out of my

nose and mouth. After praying for some time, God heard my feeble cry. I opened my eyes to see how much blood had come out. But surprisingly, the shawl was not stained at all, I could not believe my eyes, so I spat on the shawl but there was no blood. Without any medication, my problem completely fizzled out by 2 pm same day. It was amazing! My sister who traced me to the Church, thinking I

might have died, but seeing me completely healed, hastened home to spread the good news of my healing.

My healing came with deeper blessings of salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I got all free of charge. My family, which was well-to-do, asked the then District Overseer, Rev. Ogunnaike, how much to pay, but the man of God softly told them, "Freely ye have received, freely give."

Furthermore, Jesus did not just heal me. I was a pauper when I came to Jesus, I prayed and He heard me! I became a merchant by His providence, without investing a dime. Jesus sent a woman I had never met, who handed to me four trailer loads of SMA (powdered milk) to sell, and from there I rose to become the owner of houses and not just a house.

Again, I was barren before I was healed and saved. I prayed and Jesus answered my prayer. God blessed me with a baby-girl. That baby-girl is now a mother. I stand to testify to the mighty power in the Blood of Jesus to heal, save, provide, keep and more importantly, to take us to Heaven at last.

*Sister Mulikat Davies is a member of The Apostolic Faith Church, Ibadan, Oyo State.*



*Apostolic Faith Church, Lodge Street Oke-Ado, Ibadan*

## My Burdens are Gone

By Mamza Barkaiju Ijuda

**B**y birth and upbringing, I was far from the grace of God, but God miraculously brought me in. I hail from Dille in Askira/Uba Local Government Area of Borno State, Nigeria, where the Mangi-speaking people live. As a child, I thought a lot about the future. Out of curiosity, I also asked questions on events around me. One of such events was the death of my grandfather. After a long wait for his return, I approached my father to know specifically when grandpa would return. Dad told me eternity is a journey of no return. From then on, the thought of where I would spend eternity occupied my mind. I had been taught at home and school that there is hell, and the fear of going to hell gripped me. I asked God in all sincerity to show me where I would serve Him in spirit and in truth. I thus began to seek the true religion.

My search for the Truth took me to Yola, Katsina and Kaduna, but the emptiness in my heart remained, until out of Providence, I moved to Abeokuta. In a wonderful way, God provided me with a good job at the Federal College of Education. I began to see the light in the children of God who lived in the quarters where I stayed.

One day, I noticed the children of God going to Church, all beautifully dressed. I spoke with them and I was invited to go with them to Church, and collectively we boarded the church vehicle. For the first time in life, I heard the Word of God in its entirety. I felt satisfied and my soul found rest. The emptiness vanished. After the sermon, I went to the

altar of prayer and even before I got there, I felt my burden lifted and the faces around me glowing. God helped me to pray through to salvation that very morning. After prayers, the children of God rallied round me to rejoice with me.

God told me that the children of God are sweet and wonderful and that I should trust them. From that day till now, I found that to be true. God has been my Provider. He gave me a wife in the Gospel and blessed us with five children, right in our home. Surprisingly, all our children were born on Sunday, even one was brought back home with us from a church service. I give glory to God.

My father was very fortunate to have a saved son. When he was sick in Maiduguri, I went there and was praying for him with the people of God. One day, he suddenly got up from his sick bed and said, "The Jesus you are talking about is here with me." He started talking to us about Jesus with so much joy and enthusiasm. He also told my brothers to make sure they all serve my God. Three days after this, my father died. I thank God he slept in Jesus.

Something notable and glorious happened to me one day as I was gardening in my house. I felt like singing praises to God, and suddenly the heavenly host joined me. God visited me and filled me with His Holy Spirit. I give glory to Him.

God has been wonderful to my family. My children are beautiful and godly. They love the things of God and they all participate in children's programmes. Whenever we are sick, God always heals us. I want to serve this God to the end, and see Him with my family one day. I do not have the power or wisdom of my own to make Heaven. I want God to uphold me to the end.

## Foreign Mission

### Missionaries from Portland Visit Nigeria

**M**issionaries from the International Headquarters of The Apostolic Faith, Rev. Dwight Baltzel and Brother Cliff Paulsen, accompanied by the Pastor of the London Church, Brother Isaac Adigun, were on a two-week tour of South Eastern Nigeria and Lagos, from February 16, 2010.

The meeting afforded the missionaries to meet with brethren in Cross River, Ikot Ewang, Uyo, Abia, Rivers, Enugu and

Lagos Districts.

Devotional and evangelistic revival services were held at each location.

In Lagos, the missionaries were at Faith City, where they inspected the



*Visitors at Site*

Africa Headquarters of The Apostolic Faith in Lagos.

Making the presentation, at a combined service at the Anthony Headquarters Church, Brother Baltzel noted that the photograph of the campground was unique and quite distinct from similar ones the Nigerian Church might have had.

Rev. Emmanuel Aina, who represented the Africa Overseer, expressed the appreciation of the Church for the gesture.



*A gift from Portland*

Tabernacle under construction.

The highlight of the visit was the presentation of a glazed photograph of The Apostolic Faith Campground and Tabernacle SE 52nd Duke Street, Portland, Oregon to the Church at the



*Welcome to Nigeria*

## Israel, the World's Timetable

The 10<sup>th</sup> chapter of Genesis presented, “The Table of Nations.” For therein are listed the descendants of Noah: Shem, Ham and Japheth, whose offspring populated the earth after the Flood. Sequel to the dispersion of nations, God, in continuation of His plan of redemption, called Abram (later known as Abraham), from Ur of the Chaldees.

Abraham obeyed God and it was counted for him for righteousness (Genesis 15:5,6). Abraham's call was a continuation of God's divine plan of worldwide scope, to the end that “all the families of the earth,” might be blessed.



The nation of Israel at present

God established an everlasting covenant with Abraham, which was extended to the Children of Israel (Genesis 17:7,8). One of the great promises attached to the covenant is the everlasting possession of all the land of Canaan by the Jews. In Exodus 23:31, the boundaries of the land of Canaan were set: *I will set thy bounds from the Red Sea even unto the sea of the Philistines, and from the desert into the river: for I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hands; and thou shalt drive them out before thee.* The

boundaries of the Promised Land were therefore: Mount Lebanon on the north; the Euphrates on the northeast; the Arabian Desert on the east; the Red Sea and the River of Egypt on the south; and the sea of the Philistines, the Mediterranean, on the west.

However, the Children of Israel have not fully taken over the land because of their disobedience and apostasy. Thousands of years ago, God, through His prophet, Moses, outlined the history of the Israelites, including their sufferings and tribulations (Leviticus 26:32-39; Deuteronomy 28:49-68).

There is no gainsaying that God was faithful to His part of His covenant with the nation of Israel. The covenant was based on the proviso, *If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them* (Leviticus 26:3-9). God reiterated in Deuteronomy 28:1,2 that, *And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.*

*And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.*

The Children of Israel repeatedly contravened the law of God. God will not force anyone to obey Him, after all, He created man, a free moral agent, giving him the power of choice (Joshua 24:15; Revelation 22:17). Since these beloved people chose to contravene the revealed will of God, the curses spelt for disobedience, including dispersion, travail and subjugation followed them.

Of a truth, *Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil* (Ecclesiastes 8:11). God through

Moses had warned the Children of Israel 1600 years earlier, that the land of Canaan would be overrun by a foreign power, whose language they did not understand, if they persevere in disobedience (Deuteronomy 28: 49-57).

History records show that this portion of Scripture was fulfilled in detail, in the dreadful siege and capture of Jerusalem by General Titus of Rome in 70 A.D. The siege did not only result in the conquest of Israel but the dispersion of the Jews to all nations. A few years earlier, the Jews had chorused *crucify him... and his blood be on us, and our children*, in reference to Jesus Christ, the rejected Messiah. Their request was fully granted in the six-month siege during which, the Romans crucified the inhabitants of Jerusalem in such numbers that there was found a deficiency of crosses.

God had told these people, *If ye walk in my statutes... I will give you peace in the land, and ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight...* (Leviticus 26:3-8). Of a truth, sin is dangerous!

At the end of Titus' campaign, 1,100,000 Jews had died by crucifixion, pestilence and famine, and 97,000 led away captive. During World War II, the Nazi Gestapo annihilated over six million Jews in gas chambers. Yet, the race was not completely destroyed. Unlike other races, the Jews did not assimilate the culture or language of their host countries, thereby carving a distinct image for themselves wherever they go.

The dispersion brought to fulfilment the prophesy of Hosea, *For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim* (Hosea 3:4). These prophesies were fulfilled to the letter. Historian Josephus stated that by 70 A.D, there were about 12 million Jews in Palestine. In 1160 A.D, only 200 Jews were in Jerusalem. By 1827, only about 500 could be found from Dan to Beersheba. In 1882, the number increased to 4,000. For disobeying God's instructions, the Jews were outside their own country for about 1,900 years. Historical record showed that a ploughshare was drawn over the hill of Zion as a witness that it ceased to be a city in fulfilment of Jeremiah 26:18.

Nevertheless, God not only preserved the land for the Jews but also confirmed the Jews as the authentic owners by denying the land the former and latter rains throughout the period of the dispersal. As the people were unable to pay the taxes levied by the Turkish government upon every tree, they were compelled to cut the trees, thus Palestine became a wilderness. For about 2000 years that Palestine was under Turkish and Arabian governments, hardly anything grew there.

The restoration of the nation of Israel following the Balfour Declaration in 1948 is a warning signal to the world that the Gentile Age is fast running out (Matthew 24:32-35). Following the restoration, God restored the former and latter rains such that the land that laid barren for 20 centuries has regained its fame as the 'land flowing with milk and honey.'

God's promise of protection has also been fulfilled in their regard. In spite of its small land mass, Israel has been victorious in the many Arab-Israeli conflicts beginning from 1948. In the 1948-1949 war, the armies of Egypt, Transjordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq were defeated to the chagrin of the world. In 1967, Egypt, Syria and Jordan armies and air force were humiliated by Israel. In October 1973, the Arabs attacked Israel on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year, though they caught Israel by surprise, Israel regained strength after the first two days of the war and emerged victorious.

The rise and fall and the eventual restoration of Israel as foretold by God has put them in focus as the world's timetable. Besides, Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:32 warns: *Now learn a parable of the fig tree. When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the door.*

God revealed to His prophets (Jeremiah 24:1-10, Hosea 9:10 and Micah 7:1) that the *Fig Tree* refers to the nation of Israel. It behooves us therefore to look up and lift up our heads, for our “redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28).