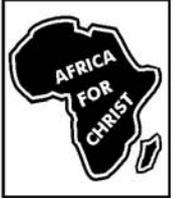




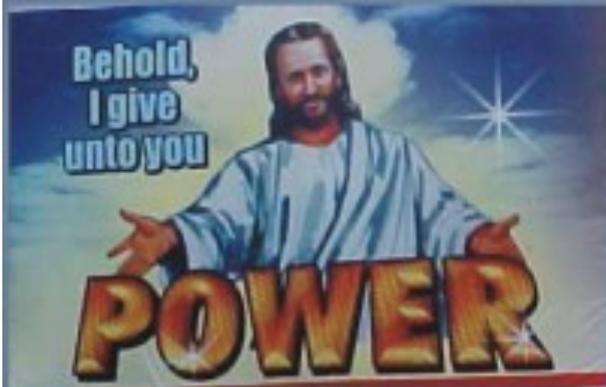
GOSPEL NEWS IN AFRICA



July — Sept. 2003

A news magazine of The Apostolic Faith Church in Africa

Vol. 4 No. 3



IGBESA--A DREAM
COME TRUE



THE FIRST CAMP MEETING IN FAITH CITY

TENT-MEETINGS IN FAITH CITY

The 2003 camp meeting was a wonderful experience in the wilderness! The first week's Sunday School lesson aptly captured the command given to the Africa Overseer, Brother Paul Akazue by the Lord that he should take the congregation to Igbesa and the Lord would heal them. Similarly

in the lesson, the Lord commanded Philip, saying, "Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went" (Acts 8:26, 27). Philip obeyed and a soul, hungry for God, was saved. Just as Abraham was called to go out into

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From the Africa Overseer



The first Camp Meeting in “Faith City”

The fact that we were able to hold our Annual Camp Meeting at Igbesa this year, brings two sublime truths to mind: firstly, there is no problem, no matter how grievous, which the world has, that Heaven has no solution for; secondly, faith in God brings into possibility, those things that seem impossible. The Word of God says: “All things are possible to him that believeth” (Mark 9:23). Faith in God makes one to cross all the rivers which seem uncrossable and tunnel through all mountains which seem insurmountable.

The Pioneers of this work had a dream when, in their faith and foresight, the land for a bigger place of worship was purchased at Igbesa in Ogun State.

In bringing the dream of our Fathers to reality, God spoke to me and said in an unequivocal language: “Take my people to Igbesa and I shall heal them”. Thus began preparations for making Igbesa 2003, a reality.

Humanly speaking, the commission seemed unattainable within the space of time between the time God spoke and the 2003 camp meeting. The driving force, behind this gigantic project however, is the fact that God has spoken and we know whatever He says, He is able to perform.

In Ezekiel 37:14 we read: “I ... shall put my Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: Then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD”.

The first camp meeting at Igbesa, the “Faith City”, has come and gone, and the Lord has proved Himself to the skeptics and the unbelieving that what He has spoken, He is able to perform.

The number of souls saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Spirit and healed is a confirmation of the supremacy and majesty of our Lord and Saviour.

All these and other miracles you will read in this edition of the Gospel News in Africa. As you read, may God rekindle your zeal, and increase your faith to do more exploits for God in the days ahead. Let us all purpose to build for our God. “And, behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spake unto David my father...” (1 Kings 5:5). God bless you.

P. O. Akazue

a place, “and he went out, not knowing whither he went”, the Africa Overseer and the Board of Trustees obeyed the Lord’s command to move into the New Campground (Continued from page 1)

located at Igbesa, Ogun State, near the Agbara Industrial layout. On Thursday, August 7, 2003, The Apostolic Faith, Africa, stepped out in faith into the New Campground christened: **Faith City**.

Large expanse of land areas had been cleared on the grounds. Two huge, white, multi-domed tents, reminiscent of the Tent Church, pitched in the wilderness by the Children of Israel, in their march to the land of Canaan, were erected. Thousands of plastic chairs had been provided. Land areas were allocated to all the branch Churches to erect tents for their people’s accommodation. Improvised thatched structures and tents were erected for the kitchens and conveniences. Saints joyfully took up the challenge because they loved the Lord.

The Ministers and Workers’ Conference started on Thursday, August 7. The Overseer highlighted the fact that since the Anthony Campground Tabernacle could not contain



Some Brass players praising the Lord

even half of the congregation, and the facilities had been stretched to the maximum limits, the wisest course to take, was to obey the Lord’s command and move to Igbesa. The Conference on August 7, focused on the **Sound Doctrine** and that of

August 8, on **Human Relations**.

The Camp Meeting Concert took place on Saturday, August 9, at 3.00 p.m. Since the concert was to take place in a new location, quite a distance from the Lagos metropolis, and considering the traffic hold-up usually experienced on Lagos roads, one felt many of the invited guests might be reluctant to come.

It was a pleasant surprise to see a huge crowd in attendance. The concert lasted for two hours. Announcements were made by the Africa Overseer and closing prayers were said by Prof. Peter Okebukola, the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC). Mr. Akintola Williams, who incidentally turned 84 years on that day, honoured the invitation with his wife and members of Music Society of Nigeria (MUSON). The traditional ruler, Onigbesa of Igbesa-Land and some of his chiefs; the Elegosi of Egosiland, Kwara State and the Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos (UNILAG), Prof. Ibidapo Obe, were also in attendance. A host of dignitaries, too numerous to mention, came to share in the blessings of the Camp Meeting Concert.

On the first Sunday of the camp meeting, on August 10, there was a sea of heads seen in the tents. Every available space was taken up.

The opening Sunday School lesson, titled **The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch**, was taught by Brother Ademola Sodipo from Ibadan, Nigeria. Philip, the Grecian Jew, had to

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walk many kilometers in the hot desert to help a hungry soul, an African, to find salvation and eternal life. Likewise the Lord Jesus Christ has stationed Himself in "Faith City", in a wilderness in Africa, to win hungry souls to His Kingdom.

The Devotional Sermon, preached by the Africa Overseer, Brother Paul Akazue had **Spiritual Power** as the theme.

All power in Heaven and in earth given to Jesus would be wielded to protect, guide and preserve every child of God till eternal life. He would be invincible. The attendance at the service was 20,674.

The evening service was conducted by Brother Akwasi Debra, the Ghana Overseer. He urged everyone to partake of the spiritual power as the Giver of power was present.

On Monday, August 11, there was general work for all the Campers. After the morning prayer, the cleaning of the vast compound was embarked upon.

Seminars were held on Acquisition of skills, First Aid, Sanitation, and Security consciousness. There was a film show in the evening after which the congregation poured out their souls to God for victory over their problems.

The first Teaching on Tuesday, August 12, on **The Foundation of our Hope**, which is Justification by Faith, was taken by Brother Akazue.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16, 17).

By faith, a repentant sinner is vindicated, forgiven, stands righteous and acceptable unto God through the grace and forbearance of God. He has peace with God, he is free from condemnation and Jesus Christ lives within him. He is a new creature. He does not backbite, does no evil and does not look down on anyone. He has clean hands and a pure heart. His actions and motives are pure.

On Wednesday, August 13, Brother Saviour Nnodim, the Overseer of our work in Rivers and Bayelsa districts gave the Teaching on **Christian Oneness**.

"How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalms 133:1).

We must preserve the genuine salvation and sanctification as taught in the Bible. It is only then that we have unity and our combined prayers will work miracles. We need also to forbear one another in love.

The Teaching on Thursday, August 14, by Brother Deayln George from Aba, was on **God's Perfect Will**. God's perfect will is His best for us. We are not to settle for the second best. We must pray for His will for our lives, and then yield to His control. He is the Captain, and He makes no mistake.

"He that doeth the will of God abideth forever" (I John 2:17).

On Friday, August 15, Brother Aaron Olamijulo taught on **The Baptism of Divine Power**. The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Divine Trinity. He comes in to abide with those who are saved, sanctified, obey the Word, retribute their wrong path of life and deeply hunger for Him.

On Sunday, August 17, Brother Baltzell from the International Headquarters in Portland, Oregon, USA, encouraged the congregation with a soul-stirring sermon on the **More Excellent Way**. The text of his message can be read on page 10.

Brother E. O. Aina gave the Teaching on Tuesday, August 19, on the **Promises of God To Heal the Sick**. Promises and accounts of healings by the Lord abound in the Bible. Since we would not go to a bricklayer to mend our torn clothes, we should approach our Creator to heal our sick bodies.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is" (Jeremiah 17:7).

On Wednesday, August 20, Brother Adegboye taught on **The Responsibilities of Parents and Children**. Divine love as found in 1 Corinthians 13, should be the basis of a Christian home. There should be no bickering, suspicion, harsh words or bitterness. Divine love suffers long, is kind, forbears, believes, hopes and endures all things. It is not selfish, not easily provoked and thinks no evil.

"O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for

ever!" (Deuteronomy 5:29).

The last Teaching for the camp meeting was given by Brother Dwight Baltzell on **The Christian's Future**. There are only two places of abode in eternity. It is either forever with God or forever with the Devil. The Christian must be connected with the Holy Spirit every moment, so as not to miss the Rapture. The five foolish virgins had a history of relationship with God. They tarried as we are doing now, but through careless living, their lamps went out.

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed" (John 8:31).

The Water Baptism Ordinance was held on Friday in spite of all odds. A



Water Baptism in progress

Baptistery was improvised by channeling water into one of the tunnels leading to the main bowl of the Tabernacle to make a pool. The congregation stood round singing inspiring songs and witnessed new converts demonstrate that they had become dead unto sin, but alive with Christ unto God and godly living. There was joy in every heart.

The Ordinances of the Lord's supper and Washing of The Saints' Feet were also held on Friday night with a lot of blessings from God.

On the last Sunday of the camp meeting, Brother Paul Akazue, preached on **Think on These Things**.

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things".

The carnal mind thinks on things of the flesh and is at enmity with God. The spiritual mind thinks of eternal life, peace, and things pleasing to God.

Revival services were held every

The Journey So Far

In 1978, the pioneer Overseer for the work in Africa, Rev. T. G. Oshokoya, the man of vision, in his characteristic way, observed that the Great Tabernacle built in 1972 at Anthony Village would soon become too small for the congregation. He dreamt of the day when the Church would move to a more commodious accommodation. He therefore had an urge to look for a vast land to be used as campground where a suitable tabernacle could be built.

Thus in 1982, a 79-acre piece of land was purchased in Adie-owe in Igbesa, Ado-Odo Local Government Area of Ogun State. Brother T., being a dynamic person, immediately constituted a committee of brethren who were experts in Agriculture and mandated them to put the land into use. God prospered their labour and Igbesa became a source of regular supply of fruits and food items such as oranges, lemon, grapefruit,

pineapple, tangerine, cassava, maize, rice and palm oil.

However, Igbesa was not

meant to be just a farmland. The Campus A.V.S (an evangelistic outreach of the Church for higher institution students) organized their first Work- Rally at Igbesa in December, 1995. This gave the students the opportunity of evangelizing the surrounding villages. God visited them in a mighty way; many souls were saved and an Apostolic Faith Church was established at Igbesa. **Igbesa Students' Rally** then became an annual event.

Brother Paul Akazue, after taking over the mantle of leadership of The Apostolic Faith work in Africa on October 3, 1999, said that God told him, in his prayers, to take the congregation to Igbesa. The severe strain on the available facilities on the campground at Anthony Village also made the

development of the campground started in February 2000. On March 4, 2000, the Churches in Lagos State and some brethren from the Republic of Benin came together to clear the site.

The new tabernacle design consists of a six-arm star. It is 260 metres in diameter, free of obstructing columns and could accommodate 75,000 worshippers. The basement and gallery would increase the sitting capacity to about 100,000.

The planning exercise involved the children of God who are architects, structural engineers, surveyors and planners. They worked untiringly day and night in order to submit the plan as quickly as possible to the Government for approval. Fortunately, the approval was given before the end of 2001.

Coincidentally, God in a wonderful way, moved the Superintendent General of The Apostolic Faith Church worldwide, Brother Darrel Lee, to decide to visit Nigeria in January 2002. This gave him the singular honour of laying the first block of this Mighty Tabernacle in a ceremony on Monday, January 28, 2002.

Thus, a dream of about a quarter of a century ago

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The Tabernacle Grounds

development of a new campground at Igbesa imperative.

The planning and develop-

(Continued from page 4)



Welding work in progress

started to become a reality.

The work on the main hall started before the end of 2002. The floor of the platform area which is expected to hold more than 4,000 ministers, choristers and workers was concreted soon after. Then work began on the terraces in the main hall. The main structure is supported by six columns 100 feet (about 30 metres) high.

When it was realized that the main hall would not be ready for the conduct of the 2003 camp meeting, prayers went up to God. He provided the money for the purchase and freight of two giant tents each of which could accommodate about 10,000 people. These tents arrived just a few days before the camp meeting



The tents ends firmly anchored

began. God gave the wisdom to some children of God, who volunteered to set up the tents even though they had never undertaken such a job before.

Meanwhile, six blocks of twenty 2-bedroom flats had been built for accommodation purposes. These housed the **Africa Overseer's Office**, the General Office, the French Department, some District Overseers as well as some foreign guests during the camp meeting.

On the opposite side of the campground is the *Jesus Reserved Area*, otherwise known as the *Faith Community*, where members of the Church, who have purchased pieces of land, built their lodgings for the camp meeting. On the campground proper, a large area of land was allocated to different countries and Nigerian districts and states' Churches. This was to enable them put up tents and other temporary accommodation for their members, who do not have their own personal accommodation.

A few days before the camp meeting, a temporary kitchen, a dining facility, public

bathrooms and other conveniences were quickly erected. Some of the brethren that came for the convention joined hands with other workers to complete many of the structures during the meetings.

The Lord provided 2 generators; a 200 KVA and a 250 KVA. Shortly before the start of the meetings The National Electric Power PLC installed a 500 KVA transformer on the campground.



Blocks of flats for accommodation



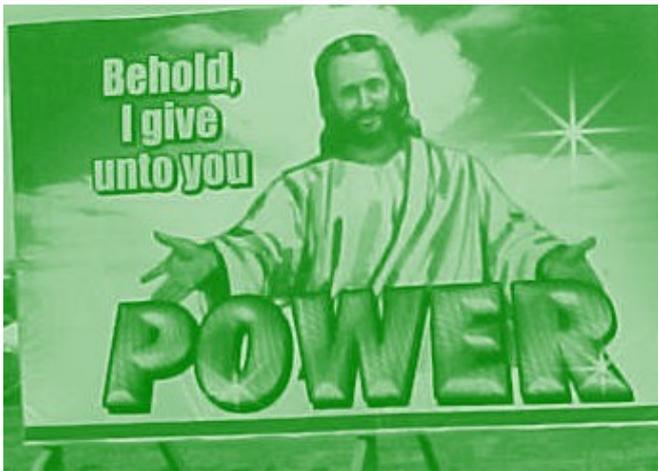
Tents from the Nigerian Air Force

For the supply of water, five boreholes were sunk.

There is a network of roads in the making, which includes a ring road around the main tabernacle and a dual carriage road from the main highway.

What the Lord has done so far is beyond our wildest imaginations.

“It is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous in our eyes”.



From the 2003 Camp meeting opening sermon

by Paul Akazue

Our Saviour, Jesus Christ declared to His disciples:

“Behold, I give unto you power” (Luke 10:19).

Are you a disciple of Jesus Christ? Jesus is going to give you Power right now!

But sometimes people don't realize what we mean when we talk of power. Power is very desirable. If I don't have physical power as well as spiritual power, I will not be able to address you. If you have a good car, and there is no fuel or battery to supply power, that vehicle is good for nothing. Many other appliances for these modern days, need one form of power or the other to work. An animal, in fact, all creatures of God, need one form of power or the other to operate.

When we talk of physical power, that is a small thing. Somebody may be endowed with physical power but if he has no spiritual power, he is nothing. Goliath had a lot of physical power, but small David had a lot of spiritual power. Goliath approached David with physical power, but David faced Goliath with spiritual power. Who won the battle? David won, with one small stone, without even striking a blow!

Spiritual power is indispensable for any Christian. If you are a Christian and you are not a spiritual powerhouse, you are a civilian in God's army, you just endanger yourself for nothing, you are a hypocrite. Spiritual power from God is what makes you a Christian. Who gives this power? Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Giver of the power. That is why the theme of this camp meeting is: ***“Behold, I give unto you power”***.

have a foretaste of the millennial reign. It is wonderful that this place is filled to capacity with human beings; but it will be more wonderful if everybody here would believe. Then God will generate unprecedented power among us.

I said earlier that Jesus is the Giver of power. If my face is dry and I need to apply some oil on it, I may say to my brother whose face is shining because he has some oil: “My dear Brother, give me some oil”. But if his face is dry, I will not ask him for oil, because you cannot give what you don't have. If somebody owes you some money and you go there to say: “I must collect my money today, you must pay me this debt today”; if he doesn't have, the man will simply tell you, “Well, if you beat me from this moment till night, you cannot beat out one kobo, because I don't have it”. But when you go to somebody who has, before you are through, he will say, “Oh, have you come for your money?” He will put his hands into his pocket and pay your money. But in the case of Christ, it is not as if you have gone to retrieve a debt. He doesn't owe anybody anything. We are the people who are indebted to Him. He is the Giver of power. He is overflowing with power. He is actually waiting for you to come and receive the power. That is why He came to earth. That is why this camp meeting has been organized.

Who is this Jesus we are talking about? Let us see Isaiah 9:6. This prophecy was made about Jesus Christ seven hundred years before He was born.

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty

God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Because Jesus has all these qualities and attributes, He is an embodiment of all we have read. He is able to give you power to be a wonderful person. He would give you wisdom to be a counsellor because He is the mighty God. He is the Controller, the Maker of everything. All power belongs to Him. He is the everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. If your life is in turmoil, our Saviour Jesus Christ is able to give you power to be peaceful. He will bring peace into your life. There is nothing, I say, nothing you ask from our Saviour, Jesus Christ, that He will not supply today.

There is nothing you need from Jesus that you will not get, but when you withdraw yourself from Jesus, you are a loser. Sometimes, people come to Jesus, they just taste a little of His goodness and draw back. They are not wise. When you taste Jesus and find Jesus to be sweet, you should come closer, walk closely with Him, and tell Him to bind you to Himself. Then you will realize more the power of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. This is the testimony the Son of God, the Holy One of God, the Second Person in the Trinity made about Himself. The One that cannot lie, the One whose testimony is true. He declared in Matthew 28:18:

“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”.

“Jesus has all power in His mighty hands divine”. When you come to Jesus, He picks up your problem just like a small pebble and throws it away. He is the one that you should go to for power. When we were young, we heard about the Indians and Egyptians. We used to write letters to them to send us talisman and other charms. But it was all fake. When we came to Jesus, we realized that the real source of power is from Jesus.

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Some people because they fall sick often, or some parents because they suffer infant mortality, run from pillar to post, looking for power so that they or their children may live. But they waste their time by going to the wrong place. The right thing to do is to come to Jesus. If you come to Jesus without delay, all your problems will be over.

Jesus has power over death. He carried the offensive into the territory of death three times in His three and half years' ministry. He went actually to the realms of death aggressively and rescued people who were held captive by death. Do you remember Jairus' daughter? Death killed her. Christ went there and rescued her. The son of the woman of Nain died and was put in a coffin. Christ got there and said, "Young man...arise" and He pulled the boy up. Lazarus too died and was buried for four days. Christ came there and said, "Lazarus, come forth". Lazarus came out. He has power over death.

There was a time he sent seventy of His disciples out in pairs. They went, preached and were amazed.

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven" (Luke 10:17, 18).

Do you know why Satan fell? Satan enthrones himself in the hearts of the sons of men. But when a soul is rescued, he tumbles and falls. If you know that Satan has maltreated you too much, this is the right time to tarry and say: "It will be settled today, Satan, go away, I will serve you no longer. Jesus wash me with your Blood". When you mention the Blood of Jesus, Satan will tumble. He will run away.

When Jesus heard all these wonderful testimonies and saw that the disciples were faithful in carrying out the assignment He gave them, He declared: **"Behold, I give unto you power"**. It makes my heart glad that we are on the right way. God will give us power and we will work with it.

He said: "I give unto you power" power to do what? "to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you". If you realize your

worth you will be floating in the air. The power Jesus gives us is power over all the enemy—enemies of the Gospel and of your soul. You will trample them under your feet. And He says that nothing, I repeat nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The spiritual power from Jesus makes you inviolable, invincible and unconquerable. It is an aggressive power, to carry out offensives against the enemy. It is a defensive power; It is a protecting power and it is an upholding power.

It beats my imagination when people talk of witches and wizards. Who is a witch? Who is a wizard? Miserable people, crying to be rescued, crying to be delivered. How then can a child of God with spiritual power, as well as physical power from our Saviour Jesus Christ, begin to fear these things which he should trample under his feet? What kind of a Christian are you? What kind of a soldier of Christ are you? The trouble with some children of God is that they don't realize what they have and so, they don't make use of their power. Some of them also, who have this power, out of carelessness, through prayerlessness, not reading the Word of God and not assembling with the people of God have lost out. You should realize that once you kneel down, even when you have not started praying, Satan begins to shake. Why? He knows you have gone to get power from God, and by the time you begin to pray, the devil and his agents are in real trouble. That is why when you begin to pray, the people whom Satan has captured and put in his pocket and whom he uses as his agents get worried; your prayer burns them like fire. If you say that witches or wizards are worrying you, you are not a Christian at all. Stop pitying yourself, get down on your knees and ask Jesus: "Where am I? Where is my power? Why is this happening to me?" Pour out your heart and free yourself. Witches and wizards should run from you, it is not for you to run from them. If there are witches and wizards that want to come to Church, let them come. But make the place hot with prayers. They will soon confess their sins, and there is power in the Blood to set them free. If they don't want to confess, can a fly remain in the face of fire? No. Can a maggot remain in the midst of salt? No.

Let us understand what we are doing. If you are already in the net of the enemy, and you are neither hot nor cold, Satan will try everything possible to discourage you when you want to pray. You must work out your own salvation, you must free yourself. If all these workers of darkness have any power over you, it is your fault. Jesus gives us the power to trample them under our feet but what did you do with the power given you?

Christ told His disciples in verse 20.

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven".

Jesus is the Owner of the Lamb's Book of Life, and anybody whose name is entering in there, He knows. So, He told His disciples to rejoice because their names were already in the Book of Life. They were not to rejoice because Satan and his emissaries were subject unto them. All that happens in the course of the spiritual battle. A Christian warrior is a soldier of Christ. As he does exploits, Satan and his emissaries will be falling left and right. That is not what we are rejoicing mostly about, this is just the victory God gives us on our pilgrimage towards Heavenly Canaan. But we rejoice because our names are written in the Book of Life.

In John chapter 1 verse 12, Jesus says:

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name".

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God" (1 John 3:9).

When you believe Jesus, exercise faith, confess and forsake your sins, and your sins are gone, your name is written in the Book of Life. He gives you power to become the son of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ. Christ gives the power to live above sins. Remember the woman who was an adulteress. When Christ forgave her, He said: "Go and sin no more". He gave her power to sin no more. He is the Son of God that will reveal the Father to us. When we know Him, we will know the power of God. We will have the power to go and sin no more. We will have this power to trample over sin and Satan.

CAMP MEETING 2003



God gave wisdom to raise the tent Church



...and up it went



...until the first tent Church was ready for use



Time for service in the two tents



The tents were filled to the brim and additional smaller tents were pitched outside



The children also had their own hall



The opening song by the Junior Choir



.. and the first children's programme by children from Lagos State



The first Sunday School lesson taught by Brother Sodipo from Ibadan



.. And the first sermon by Brother Akazue (left), with Brother Gabriel Ajayi interpreting

At the Concert

Even though the concert was held far from Lagos metropolis, lovers of music and the Church still came in large numbers. And they were thoroughly blessed by the spiritual experience.



Brother Akazue led the opening song



Brother John Aina, the Music Director, leads the audience in another song



The Double Bass Section



Orchestration in progress



There was singing too



A Violin trio by Jossy Adenuga (left), Foluso Oladunni and Seye Adeyemo



A section of the audience



The traditional ruler of Igbesa (in white cap) flanked by his chiefs



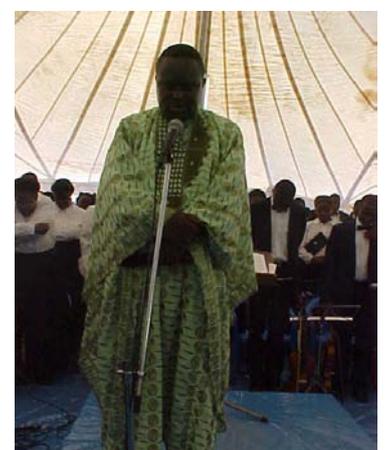
The Elegosi of Egosi (with staff) and his wife



Mr. Akintola Williams, a world renowned accountant, who regularly attends our concerts, and wife being congratulated by Brother Akazue on his 84th birthday



The Vice Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Professor Ayo Ibidapo-Obe, sitting



The Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Prof. Okebukola, offering the closing prayers

I see and feel great victory. There is much unity here. God's people are moving forward. I am very happy to be able to join you this year at your camp meeting of 2003 at Igbesa.

We would look into God's Word together. Let us read from the Gospel according to St. John 21:15-17:

"So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest

that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

"He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

"He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep".

God has truly given us a quality Gospel. Some may choose to see it and handle it in a lesser way, but there is a **more excellent way**.

The theme of the verses we read is 'Lovest' and perhaps the key word would be 'More'. We might say: "More than what? " I've always looked at this and figured that, the Lord meant more than all the abundance of fish in the world around. And that very well could be. Peter loved to fish. You probably have something that you love.

If you had extra time, it didn't matter what you did with it, there is probably something you would rather do most. Fishing was Peter's comfort zone. He had to consecrate fishing when he followed the Lord. There was nothing wrong with fishing, yet he determined he would follow the Lord. Peter had to reconsecrate fishing.

We might have consecrated something to God and say, "Lord, I love you

more". But many times, the Lord would come along from time to time and say, "Do you still love Me more?". This is a quality Gospel. The Lord always knows what He needs from us. Someone said a

me?" But the Lord has not only said those words to Peter! If you want the quality Gospel and the excellent way that it is, you're going to determine you love God more than anything. Many

times people want the blessing and the power of God on their lives but they would not pay the price of the quality Gospel. We must determine ourselves, whether we want the **more excellent way**.

We all know

what it is to go shopping. How do we shop? Well, that depends on how much we want to spend and how much you are willing to spend de-

pends on the quality you want, and it is alright to bargain shop when you are shopping, but we cannot bargain shop in the Gospel.

The quality of the Gospel is beyond the world's comprehension. If you owned the whole world you could not purchase the Gospel with it. The Lord Himself says if a man should gain the whole world but lose his own soul, what has it profited him.

Everytime people begin to listen intently to the Lord, He begins to say things like, "You must take up your cross and follow me".

Many times you might want to ask, "What does take up your cross mean; what will that require; what exactly are you talking about? I must know what it is before I am able to decide". The fact is, we need to have determination in our heart to take up the cross, whatever it means and say, "Lord, I love you more and would do it". So, if anyone is thinking lesser, when it comes to the Gospel, they would say, "Maybe you better count me out". But I do not think all of you who are here in this camp meeting want to be counted out of the Gospel. We want to come with all our heart and say, "Lord count me in". As the song says, "**Lord, when you count up those who love the Lord, count me**". "I don't care what that means, just count me". This is how the Gospel in its qual-

The More Excellent Way

The More Excellent Way

A Sermon given by
Dwight Baltzell on Sunday,
August 17, 2003 in Faith City

while back, "Maybe the Lord was talking about the disciples and all the other people, when He said, "Do you love me more?" The fact is, it does not matter what it is, do you love me more? There were the other people around; the other disciples. He would have to determine he loved Jesus more than whatever those people chose to do themselves. After all, when the Lord was asking Peter and began to tell him some things he would have to do for Him, Peter said, "What about John?" However, Jesus did not want Peter to bother himself about John.

Peter did run into trouble worrying too much about what other people thought. The Lord had earlier said to him, "Peter, you are only willing to stand for me in word, but I know you are going to deny me". And when that happened, it was not about fish, he was worrying about what other people thought. When people standing around him were accusing him of being a follower of Christ, he denied it. It was easy for Peter to say when he felt on the mountain top, "Lord I love you more", but when he wondered where his following Christ would take him, it became a different story. When it looked like he might be in jeopardy and people said, "I think you are one of them", then he backed down. So, we can easily see why the Lord took this time to say, "Peter, how much do you really love

ity is attained in our lives. If we want to take a quality Gospel, we have to pay the price and the price is very cheap. We have nothing that could purchase the salvation Christ has purchased already.

One of our old time stories tells of a saint that has gone up to the Lord; his name is Brother Loy Montgomery. I remember hearing his testimony as a boy. He said, "Before I was saved, I was stingy and I was tight with my money". He must have had some kind of store, because he said, "I loved when the cash register would ring. The ringing of the cash register was music to my ear", and he said, "I used to keep my wife from having many things we could have easily afforded. When he heard this Gospel, he said, "Lord, I would give anything to have this". But I remember what he said the Lord said to him, "This is going to take all you have or ever hope to have". Our Brother Montgomery was not going to find it easy, but he said, "Sink or swim, live or die, I want salvation".

When the Lord tells us about the parable of the Sower and the Seed, all of us could find ourselves in that parable. According to the parable some of the seeds fell on shallow ground. It says with joy they received it, but when hardness began to come, because they had no depth in them, it withered away.

This is the quality Gospel, we must love the Lord more. We heard in the Scripture reading of the young ruler. The rich young ruler came running to the Lord and he was proud of himself, and he did have an amazingly clean life. According to this world, he had a lot to be proud of and he did love God, but how much? That is always God's question to us. He came running and said, "I am ready to do it, I have all these other things, but I want to obtain eternal life". But he went away sorrowful. That was not God's will for him; God did not want him to go away sorrowful. The Lord does not want you to go away sorrowful. The Lord called him and said, "Come and follow me". Who knows the position Jesus would have had for him in mind. He would never know that because he chose to go away sorrowful. All the Lord would have us to say is, "Lord, whatever it is you want me to do, I am doing it, and I am doing it now". If he had done that, he wouldn't even have to wait for eternal life, he would

have had it right away. When he put down his head that night, his whole day would have been different if he looked back on it. He would have said, "I began the day following myself and my own desires, but I ended the day following the Lord".

Regarding products, there is always bargain, there is always a copy of the real thing; something that looks like it, but really isn't it. That happens when it comes to the Gospel. There is a lot of pretence, a lot of fake. There was a merchant looking for a **Perfect Pearl**. The man knew what he was looking for. Oh! to have a heart like that. We can all say, "Lord, give me a heart that would look for the **Truth** like that merchant. Give me a heart that would recognize the Truth like that pearl merchant; that when it comes my way, it will strike my heart and I'll say, "that is what is going to be my life". That is what that man did. He didn't just see something that looked good but he looked it over and said, "This is the Perfect Pearl, this will be cheap to purchase even if it takes everything I have". It is true some products could improve over time, but the Gospel cannot be improved upon. It is Perfect. It is the **Perfect Pearl**.

We want a high quality Gospel. It was paid at the highest price. Christ shed His own Blood to purchase your salvation. There is nothing we can pay that can compare to the Gospel.

The Lord says the Gospel is also likened to the treasure hidden in the field. How did the man purchase it? Now, if we want to be shrewd, as good businessmen, we might say, "Well, I found where the treasure is, maybe I don't have to purchase the whole field. I will just try to purchase no more than where the treasure is". But he was not troubled with any of that. He gladly, quickly went and sold all that he had. He bought the whole thing. He knew he had it. You will never get the quality Gospel without buying the whole field.

Can we say, "Lord, whatever it takes from me to have full salvation as you really mean for me, whatever it takes for me to have the kind of salvation that takes everything out that displeases you and makes me new, that pleases me". Can we say, "Lord, whatever it takes, I must be sanctified. I want to see the Lord. Lord, whatever it takes, I must be filled with the Holy

Ghost and with power". I remember, when I was seeking for my baptism of the Holy Ghost, God blessed me with the hunger. Sometimes the hunger does not feel good, but this is what brings us crisis to feel and to consecrate before God and gives us the victory. I had such a hunger that I had difficulty eating and sleeping, but I knew I needed that to stay alive. I was not trying to be foolish, but I was more hungry for the power of God. And I remember just thinking, "Is not a matter of me becoming discouraged, I am going to receive the baptism, or I am going to die seeking it". When we come to God that way, He gives us His best. He will withhold no good thing from you. He gives nothing but good. "Every good and perfect gift comes from above", nowhere else. That is the quality Gospel. God will give you His best. We know we cannot afford to purchase it, so, what we can do is to say, "Lord, I bring what I have". And the Lord says, "That is enough". Or, we want to be able to say, "Lord, whatever it takes, I want your perfect will in my life".

Quality Gospel is available to anybody who would pay the price. We need to pray for "a new me that pleases the Lord". We need to be sanctified to see God; and we need to have a hunger for the Spirit of God. We would then be endued with power from on high. If we would pray that we want the perfect will of God, whatever it takes, God would bless.

Many try to improve upon the Gospel, but all they do is bring it down to man's level. This is the **Heavenly Treasure** and now the Lord has offered it to us. Do we want men's product or God's product? Oh! it feels so good to come before the Lord and say, "Lord, I take your Word, and I take everything you mean. I want everything you said that applied to my heart and life". Most of us have received wonderful things from God, but the Lord is saying He has more for us. He even has more than we can think or ask.

Whatever your need today, just be sure to say, "Lord, I will hold back nothing, and I know you will hold nothing back from me". That is the Lord's way. As you pray with all your heart, may God grant the desire of your heart today.

How Do You Feel?

I am from Ndola district of Zambia, .

When I arrived here, I was very amazed. The Church tents are quite a sight to behold. They are unfamiliar to me. I have seen only smaller tents in the Southern Hemisphere of Africa. The camp ground has been very beautifully laid out. The saints of God are warm. It has been a surprise to see great things like these. It is a foretaste of Heaven.

Gabre Pelekelo
Ndola District
Zambia

To God be the glory, great things He has done. To me and my wife, this is the real camp meeting we have ever attended in our lives.

I lodge in a tent here but the joy and satisfaction I have is more than that of staying in a luxurious apartment. My wife was healed of cold here in the camp. I love the settlement and the way the power of God has descended on me both in the concert and on the first Sunday morning. It is great and wonderful. Should Jesus tarry, I will love to visit this Faith City again before 2004 camp meeting

John Reuben
Port Harcourt
Nigeria

I am very grateful to God for making me a partaker of the reality of the 2003 camp meeting at Igbesa.

The glory and power of God evident since the beginning of the convention couldn't have been appreciated if I were not present.

Despite the initial inconveniencies experienced in locating one's lodging center on arrival, there appears to be generally, a feeling of spiritual liberty, radiating from the faces of the campers.

The most thrilling aspect is the fact that there are enough space and seats for everybody during each meeting. The giant tents and the sitting arrangements all add to the beauty of the "Faith City".

Indeed God has brought us into this wonderful place to do us good and make us glad.

Mercy Lawson
Port Harcourt
Nigeria.

When sometime last year, I was given a verbal invitation by the Africa Overseer, Bro. Paul Ogechukwu Akazue, to attend the 2003 camp-meeting of The Aposto-

lic Faith Church, I did not give the idea any serious thought. The feeling I had then was that the possibility of my attending was too remote for me to bother about. So, the month of August came with my characteristically tight programme laid out without any provision for the camp meeting.

Well, it turned out that when certain things are ordained in one's life, it is hardly possible to run away from them. So, without planning for it, I found myself in the camp – thanks to my cousin and his wife, Professor and Mrs. Asokhia, who facilitated my attendance.

We arrived the camp in the evening of August 14, 2003, to behold the great work that has been done in the camp site which houses the proposed university. I did not see the usual big signboards that usually decorate Nigeria's construction sites, listing a chain of consultants and contractors. Yet, everything is falling in place here at the university site. What I saw reminded me of the cardinal principle of The Apostolic Faith, which others should emulate. The three days I spent in the

camp brought this out vividly; as everybody does his/her little bit, things get done.

The crown of the camp meeting to me is the huge twin-tent Church where the crowds worship. That the tents were set up by in-house engineers gives me special satisfaction.

I must not fail to mention the other things I enjoyed very much. This includes the power-packed sermons and the inspirational songs by the Church Choir. I was told that I missed the grand performance by the Choir, which had taken place before my arrival at the camp. But, I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed the much I witnessed of the Choir's performance.

I wish in particular to thank the Africa Overseer and his workers for the warm reception, care and in particular, for making it possible for me to share in the spiritual blessing of the 2003 camp meeting.

As I leave with the sweet memory of the enjoyable and rewarding time I had, it is my prayer that God should continue to shower His blessings on the entire family of The Apostolic Faith and strengthen the

bond of familyhood they have built across the globe. God bless you all.

*Professor T. A. Imobighe,
Director of Strategic Studies,
Ambrose Alli University,
Ekpoma, Nigeria.*

I am Deli Gilbert, an Ivoirian national. I am 52 years old. It is almost two months that I have started coming to The Apostolic Faith Church.

I have noticed that the members love and respect each other. The discipline is total in this organization. The dressing is just different from what we are used to. The members, whatever their position, were involved in keeping the campground clean. I was happy to be appointed as a toilet guard soon after I was saved and sanctified.

I like the way we pray here and it is unique. I don't regret my coming. I thank God for everything.

Deli Gilbert
Cote D'Ivoire

I am Yate Sopie Nicole. I am an Ivorian, I am 28 years old. This is my first time of attending an Apostolic Faith Camp meeting.

First of all, the organization of the Church in terms of transportation, lodging and restaurant is just wonderful. Everything is perfectly

and orderly organized.

Secondly, we see the presence of the Holy Spirit during Church services through the preaching and Bible teachings.

The prayer brings many blessings such as salvation of souls, sanctification and baptism of the Holy Ghost.

The testimonies builds me up as a new comer and the learning of the memory verses helps me to grow in knowledge and faith. I bless and glorify the Lord for all these wonders.

Yate Sopie Nicole
Cote D'Ivoire

Well, I feel the campground (Faith City) is very big, not too noisy and orderly. Even though they have just started building it, it is beautiful. I also feel they have done a very good job on the tents. The tents are very many and large; you hardly see someone who says he/she doesn't have a place to sleep. It is also very exciting. The main Church is not yet built but it looks promising. The Church tents are very spacious. They look very beautiful. There are also enough chairs for people to sit on. May God help the Africa Overseer and bless him.

Tolu Odunsi (11 years)
Ibadan, Nigeria

I thank God Who had given me the opportunity to attend this 2003 camp meeting at Igbesa.

I am also grateful to the people who helped in lodging and in feeding us. They are very hospitable. I am also impressed to see Rev. Paul Akazue preach to us the Word of Truth with the power of the Holy Spirit. I was blessed by the inspiring songs of the Choir.

In fact, the organization of The Apostolic Faith is very wonderful.

Kan Kolie
Conakry- Guinea

I am very pleased with this camp meeting. I have learnt much. I am closer to Jesus than I was before coming.

I can see that everything is done and said according to the Bible. I also notice that the Sound Doctrine is really well taught; people are taught how to behave, how to get dressed, how to work and respect the elders. It is wonderful, I cannot tell it all.

Now, I decide to be a member of this Church which I have known through the work of Sister Blessing. Glory be to God!

Charles Yattara
Conakry-Guinea

At my first impression on the campground, I was overwhelmed and

speechless.

The sight of the tents was another breathtaking experience. The size of the tent, its erection and how well it worked, though on temporary basis to accommodate the people, were very impressive. I was amazed at how so very many people were able to listen effectively to the programs.

Walking around, I was also impressed by the harmony, the satisfaction and the joy of the campers just for being on the campground. Even though the structures were temporary and not very comfortable, they enjoy it and would rather be on the campground. The feeling is very excellent right from the beginning.

During the Sunday school, it was amazing that the memory verse was recited in different languages and yet there was perfect harmony. It is impossible to find this elsewhere. This is the Spirit of the Gospel. It is wonderful and exciting to be a member of the one family of God.

Dwight Baltzell,
Portland, Oregon,
USA

God Did it For Me

Camp Meeting Delegates Testify to the Power of God

I thank God for bringing me to this Gospel of peace and love. About fifteen days ago, God spared me from shedding hot tears. My child was involved in an accident while coming back home from the Elementary Sunday School Choir Practice in the Church. The accident was so serious that the boy was unconscious. The sympathizers searched the child to get useful information about him. They succeeded in getting his name which they took to the Radio House and made public announcement regarding the accident.

When I got the news, I became perplexed and troubled. In the midst of my fears, God reminded me of what I told the boy when he was leaving for practice: *"The Blood of Jesus will cover you"*. God assured me that the Blood of Jesus can never get dry. My faith held on to that and I went straight to the Accident Ward to see my child.

Before I got there, he had been placed on a drip, the deep cut had been stitched and artificial oxygen had been connected. It was a very frightful sight. With all these, he laid there lifeless. When I saw this, I was scared and told God that I would simply rely on His resuscitating power, and that He should not share His glory in any way with anybody. I forgot I was in the hospital and started praying and begging God to give me back my child alive.

The devil kept whispering to me that the child would soon give up and that I should go and see him for the last time. I told the

devil that on the contrary, God would make my child well enough to call for me. At 4.00 am., the Lord stepped in and my child called out for me. I went near him and told him that by God's special grace he would not die.

God proved His power. The doctors found that the water in the drip did not flow. The oxygen gadget connected was not functioning. They tried to fix them but all efforts proved abortive. The boy later made the matter worse by removing all the gadgets. God did the work and my child was revived.

I thank God that He showed mercy on a poor widow like me. It was seven years after the death of my husband that this incident took place. I am full of gratitude that Jesus did not put me to shame. That is why I can tell of His goodness at this great camp meeting.

*Celestine Kiki,
Porto-Novo, Republic of Benin.*

I met the Lord in 1955 and also knew the power in the Blood of Jesus. However, the devil came, showed me the world and I became his servant. Then I fell and lost the grace of God. I became a very bad young man.

I thank God that He did not give me up. He drew me to Himself and gave me the Christian experiences of salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Since then I have peace of mind. There were three specific things He did for me. He removed the love of women; rescued me from lying lips; and freed me from all the cares of the world.

God sent me to school, thereby making me an educated person. He gave me good children as well. I pray God will bring my friends and relations in the world to this great Gospel.

*Peter Esueh,
Cameroon*

God brought me to the Gospel in a wonderful way. On that same day, God gave me the three Christian experiences of salvation, sanctification and baptism of the Holy Spirit. In June, this year I took ill. The sickness was so serious that people prayed earnestly on my behalf. To God be the glory that He answered the prayers of His children.

When the devil saw that he could not put an end to my life through that illness, he planned to wipe out my entire family.

In July this year, my family and I were sleeping in the dead of the night, when I heard some sounds like that of an approaching rain. I got up with the mind of removing the clothes we spread outside on the line. By the time I got out, I found that my house was on fire. I just screamed and my wife and children came out to see me. This was God's timely intervention. If we had stayed in, one minute longer, the burning ceiling would have collapsed on us and we would have been burnt to death.

In just one night all I had laboured for got burnt into ashes leaving us with the night dresses we slept in. I thank God that I could still sing on that memorable

day the song”, “He is able to deliver thee”

I thank God for the love of God’s children and for God’s great salvation.

*John Chike
Anthony, Lagos, Nigeria*

I thank God for the victory

God is wonderful and faithful. I came to the Gospel very wretched. But when God saved my soul, He changed my lot and blessed me. He sanctified me and baptized me with the Holy Ghost.

I was convicted to seek for salvation the day I heard the content of I Corinthians 16:22. God told me I would be under a curse if I remained unsaved. That put fear of the curse in me. It made me to seriously seek for salvation in order to be free from the curse.

When God saved me, He filled me with the joy of salvation. My major happiness was that I am no longer under any curse because Jesus has set me free.

I have been saved from many motor accidents by God. God granted me sound and good health these long years. I have had no cause to regret serving God. Praise Him for me.

*Simeon Oyewole
Nigeria*

He gave me over sin. I once thought I could worship God in my own power but this was impossible until I was saved. Seven years after my salvation, our Church in Cameroon was sealed off by the Government and so we were scattered. At school, being a young man who was determined to lead a righteous life, my fellow students found my life a complete opposite to theirs and they felt condemned. This led to my desertion and so I was isolated completely with no human

friend in the school, but Jesus was very faithful to me and He never left nor forsook me.

God saw me successfully through my education and kept me intact in His grace while the closure of the Church lasted. At the completion of my education, God provided me with a good job, as a teacher and gave me a Christian wife. At each duty station where I was posted as a teacher, God established a Church. I had an ailment called epilepsy but I trusted my God for healing and I was completely made whole. May God keep me till the end.

*James
Cameroon*

I thank the Lord for bringing

I thank God Who made me know that self-righteousness is different from genuine salvation. God revealed to me that it is not good to use Church posts as a veil to cover one’s sins. Posts cannot save one from sin.

One day, I listened to a song, “Are you washed in the Blood?” I was convicted, I prayed, God saved my soul, sanctified and baptized me with the Holy Ghost.

God taught me to trust Him. I was seeking appointment and it became a problem. Although I had people who could help me, God did not let them take His glory. They abandoned me, so I trusted God and many job opportunities came at the same time. They were all surprised that without them God has done it for me.

When I was saved, I was persecuted, even driven into the bush and pursued with the power of darkness. Today I have victory.

Pray for me. I have decided to serve God the rest of my life.

*Jacob Ighere
Sapele, Delta, Nigeria*

me to this glorious Gospel in my youth. It is indeed a very glorious and wonderful Gospel. God cornered me up in my first year in the university when I determined to go further into the world. He drew me to Himself with a cord of love, saved my soul, sanctified and baptized me with the Holy Ghost. Ever since then, my path has been strewn with miracles.

In November 2000, I became terribly ill. I was grossly anaemic and weak. In no time, I emaciated until I was but skin and bone. My relatives became worried. Some were offering suggestions but I trusted God. I could take my stand for the Lord. Children of God incessantly agonized in prayers before the throne of mercy on my behalf. Brethren in the faith kept on encouraging me not to look at my emaciated body, but unto God Who can do and undo. God Himself kept on affirming that He would heal me.

On the outside, it appeared God’s promise to me was a mirage. When all hope was gone, I told God to spare my life so as to manifest His power that His name would be glorified. And He did.

“A mighty fortress is our God”. Jesus never fails.

*Funke Awomoyi
Agege, Lagos, Nigeria*

GUESTS FROM PORTLAND, OREGON

On Friday, August 15, the Leader of the Foreign Work in the Portland Headquarters, Rev. Dwight Baltzell and Brother Cliff Paulsen arrived in *Faith city*. Just as the Church in Jerusalem sent Peter and John to help in the revival at Samaria, the two brothers came to fan the revival fires.

Their plane touched down at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja at Lagos, airport at 5.00 p.m. on Friday. They were received on arrival by the Africa Overseer, Rev. Paul Akazue and some brethren. The congregation waited after the evening evangelistic service to welcome them.

The American National Anthem, as well as the Nigerian National Anthem were played by the Brass Ensemble. The children from the Elementary Sunday School Department had a short welcome programme in which they recited verses of the Scriptures with the first letters of the words forming B A L T Z E L L.

After the programme, the Choir and Orchestra praised God for the safe arrival of the Guests in the hymn, *Great is the Lord*. Brother Akazue then introduced them. The congregation gave them a rousing welcome. A shout of "African" reechoed when Brother Cliff Paulsen was introduced. It was explained to those who wondered why he was called "African" that he loved Africa and had been here number of times.

In his response, Bro. Dwight said that he was happy to be in our midst. He had come to congratulate and rejoice with us. He could see only unity, harmony and love. He praised God for the Spirit of the Gospel.

In his farewell speech, Brother Dwight said that he had tried to be at our camp meeting but it had not been possible. He thanked God for opening the way through Brother Darrell Lee's decision to send him this year. He said that he had thought of changing his mind when he learnt that the camp meeting was taking place at Igbesa but God prevailed. He commended the congregation for being of one mind. He enjoined us to press forward in the faith, earnestly contending for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints, so that we shall meet again in Heaven if not on this earth.

He thanked the Church for her love and hospitality.

On Thursday, August 28, the guests left Nigeria for Ghana camp meeting.



Brother Baltzell acknowledges the cheers from the congregation



Children read Bible verses representing the mnemonics of Baltzell



Brother Cliff leads in congregational prayers



The Lord will prosper the work of thy hands... So said Tolu Odunsi on Sunday morning



Brother Dwight conducts the orchestra and preaches