



GOSPEL NEWS

IN AFRICA



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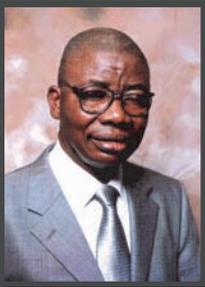
Once again, they came in their thousands! They came from Africa. They came from America. They came from Europe. They came from all over the world. They converged in Faith City, Igbesa, Nigeria. It was another glad reunion of brothers and sisters in the Lord. And so, the 2004 camp meeting began.

In his opening exhortation, during the Ministers and the Workers' Conference, the Africa

Overseer, Brother Paul Oge Akazue, emphasised the need for workers to consecrate and make self-sacrifice because Africa must be won for Christ. They should not mind that the available accommodation on the campgrounds was not yet comfortable. Jesus Christ left His own Home in glory for the salvation of mankind. Many veteran missionaries also gave their lives for the cause of the Gospel. Brother George Moore

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From the Africa Overseer



In April 2004, as I was travelling on a missionary trip to East Africa, we went through the rift valley in Kenya. My attention was caught by the pathetic condition of some city dwellers. The awesome conviction that Africa must be free, that Africa must be saved, gripped me. This thought continually haunted me until I could just not do without thinking about the salvation of Africa. It was at this rift valley that God gave me the song:

***“The Holy Spirit must come down,
And Africa must be saved”.***

As we continued to prepare for the 2004 camp meeting, the statement, “Africa must be saved”, kept ringing in my mind and I came to understand that this was God’s theme for the camp meeting.

A while later, as I was preparing for one of the camp meeting teachings, the following poem tumbled through my mind:

*I see Africa as a rising sun.
I see Africa as a mighty army;
I see Africa as an all- conquering army,
I see Africa, victorious Africa.
I see Africa, repentant and saved,
Africa sanctified; Africa baptised with the Holy Ghost
and fire.
Africa healed and healthy,
Africa peaceful and prosperous,
Africa saved and rapturable .
God, behold Africa.
God, bless Africa.
God, save Africa.*

Indeed Africa must be saved from sins, violence, adultery, civil wars, diseases and corruption. But for Africa to be saved, everybody must contribute his part. We must be willing to be sent by God. God is ready to save Africa. **Africa must be saved.**

P. O. Akazue

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Anthony Village, Lagos, NIGERIA.
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Hughes from Portland, Oregon, USA, came to Africa to preach the Gospel and died in Africa. Therefore ministers and workers should be ready to suffer for the salvation of fellow Africans.

The Conference Paper: **The Bible On Marriage**, by the first Africa Overseer, Rev. T. G. Oshokoya,



Brother Paul Akazue (left) addressing the workers (inset) during the Ministers and workers' Conference

generated interesting discussions. Brother Paul Akazue remarked that marriage, as ordained by God, is to make life complete for the man and the woman. Conjugal love, prompted by Divine love, sustains the marital life. If the relationship in a marriage breaks down, to make Heaven may be difficult. Couples, therefore, should not give room for bitterness. They should rather appreciate each other and show a lot of love, understanding and forgiveness.

At the close of the meeting, a book titled, **The History of The Apostolic Faith in Africa**, was introduced to the workers. The publication, compiled and edited by dedicated office workers commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the inception of The Apostolic Faith work in Nigeria.

The following day, at the Ministers' Conference, the deliberation was on **The Landmarks of the Gospel**. To remain a Church with an open door and a burning message, the ancient landmarks of the Bible must be maintained. All who come to Church must be encouraged to get saved. It is only then do they start the Heavenly race.

On Sunday, August 1, 2004, a special song was
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rendered by the Junior Choir to commemorate the 60th Anniversary. Afterwards, a birthday song was rendered by the entire congregation pointing to Brother Hector Elebute who was part of the Church in Lagos in 1944.

The Elementary Sunday School Children's programme focused on the theme of the camp meeting: **Africa Must be Saved** - saved from sin, violence, wars, poverty, corruption and destruction.

The first Sunday School lesson on **David's Prayer for God's Guidance** was taught by Brother Dayo Abe. The lesson was aptly concluded by a testimony from the teacher of how robbers broke into their Church and stole the tithe box, their new organ and some other valuables. The whole Church went into fervent prayers. The prayer session came to an abrupt end after four hours at the news of the recovery of all the stolen items. *"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* (James 5:16).

The devotional service sermon by Brother Paul Akazue was: **Africa Must be Saved**. He said that God loves Africa as demonstrated by the fact that God sent Israel to Egypt, in Africa, in order to nurture and nourish the Israelites to become a mighty nation. When Herod wanted to kill the Baby Jesus, God instructed Joseph to take the Baby and His mother to Egypt, in Africa. Simon, a Cyrenian, an African, was made to bear the Cross on which Jesus was crucified for the sins of the world. Everybody was enjoined to pray for the peace and salvation of Africa. Africa must be saved and rapturable.

The evening evangelistic service



Some ministers singing the closing song on Sunday, August 15

was taken by Brother Olufunsho Sobowale. He exhorted every one present to be saved and then pray for the salvation of their neighbours and relations.

Inspiring teachings highlighting the Gospel landmarks were delivered from the pulpit.

These teachings included: **Africa Must Be Saved; Victory Over Sin: A Proof of Salvation; Consistent Christian Living; Obedience and the Value of Faith; All Out For God; Impor-tunity; Doctrine and Compro-mise; God's Care for His Chil-dren; Every Knee Shall Bow; Gospel of Certainty; Tithes and Offerings; The Antichrist's Rule; Godly Homes; and The Greatest Thing.**

In the evening of the first Sunday, four members of the Board of Trustees—Brothers Paul Akazue, Muiyiwa Olamijulo, Saviour Nnodim and Dealyn George — thrilled the congregation with the rendition of a hymn titled, 'Honey in the Rock'. The fifth member, Brother Emmanuel Aina, was on the organ.

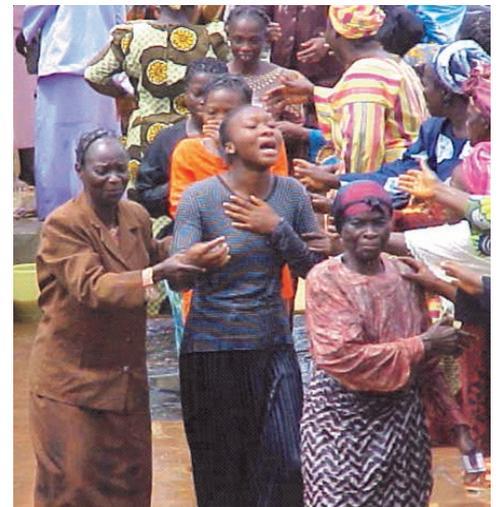
Other special renditions during the camp meeting included: the song 'Jesus, Lover of My Soul' signed by four hearing-impaired

brothers and sisters, as well as 'Stand Up, Stand up for Jesus' so sung by a blind sister from Ado-Ekiti.

Brother Dele Adeoye preached the baptismal service sermon on Friday, August 20. A total of 1,264 people were baptised in water on the last Friday of the convention. 4,856 brethren also took part in the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and the Washing of the Saints' Feet.

The final Sunday school lesson on **Persecution of Christ's Followers** was taken

by Sister Esther Ogunfowomu who assured all that Jesus was going to stand by them in their various stations, no matter the persecutions they might face. Brothers Soji Olamijulo and Ayo Obatusin had earlier taken the



A sister is overwhelmed with joy after her water baptism

second and the third Sunday School lessons respectively.

The Africa Overseer, Brother Akazue, preached the last sermon of the camp meeting titled: **Our Eternal Home**.

By the end of the meetings, a total of 1,888 souls were saved, 1,110 sanctified, 607 baptised with the Holy Ghost and 912 healed of diverse diseases.

I see Africa. As I was preparing this sermon and praying for Africa, God gave me the following words:

I see Africa as a rising sun.

I see Africa as a mighty army;

I see Africa as an all-conquering army,

I see Africa, victorious Africa.

I see Africa, repentant and saved,

Africa sanctified; Africa baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire.

Africa healed and healthy,

Africa peaceful and prosperous,

Africa saved and rapturable.

God, behold Africa.

God, bless Africa.

God, save Africa.

“BRETHREN, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel (Africa) is, that they might be saved” (Romans 10:1).

I love Africa. I appreciate Africa. Africa is beautiful. Africa is a good continent. Africa is rich. God loves Africa. Do you know that God highly esteems Africa? When God decided to have a place for His beloved people, the Jews, He took them to Africa to sojourn in Egypt.

There is something special about Africa. When the Son of God was born into this world, the enemy wanted to destroy Him. God found a place of refuge for the holy family in Egypt in Africa. There is something good in Africa. In the time of greatest need, when our Saviour Jesus Christ fell under the weight of the Cross, the soldiers sought for somebody to help Him. They found help in an African, Simon the Cyrenian.

There is no treasure needed anywhere in the world that God has not put in Africa. That is why the enemy has fought us so hard. Africa must be saved. God will remember Africa and look down in mercy to help her. God must save Africa. He will surely do it. Do you want the salvation of Africa?

We must pray for the salvation of Africa. We must bear a burden for the salvation of Africa. We do not know why God has called us in Africa, but one reason is that He wants to bless us.

I have not enjoyed as much sunshine anywhere else as I do in Africa. The vegetation is so good and luxuriant. I have not seen a continent so tormented as Africa, and yet Africa still survives. Don’t let that surprise you, Africa is the beautiful bride of all the continents. If you look at the map of the world and compare Africa with other continents, Africa stands out more elegantly, beautifully and artistically.

Today, it has pleased God to turn His attention to Africa. And I can tell you without mincing words, that there is nowhere on earth where people are seeking God as in Africa. Africans are the greatest lovers of



Paul Akazue

God on earth today. Doesn’t that gladden your heart? The population at this year’s camp meeting is staggering. People may gather in larger numbers elsewhere but not with such peace, such consecration, such concentration, such singleness of heart to

*From the 2004
Camp meeting
opening sermon*

seek God, to worship God in spirit and truth and in the beauty of holiness. God will bless Africa with peace. His peace passes all understanding. Nobody can rob us of that peace.

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

“Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

“For my brethren and companions’ sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee” (Psalm 122:6-8).

This Psalm was written by David, the man after God’s own heart. Because David loved God, God had a special love for him. If you love God as David did, you can pray that the peace of God will reign supreme in Africa; and that God will send prosperity into Africa.

If you love somebody, you are ready to give your life for that person. Do you love Africa? Seek the peace of Africa. Pray for the peace of Africa. Pray for the safety of Africa. We cannot exhaust the vices, the plagues and the afflictions in Africa. But God will deliver us from them all.

“I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety” (Psalm 4:8).

That is the promise from God. Africa shall dwell in safety. Africa will not be molested. Africa will not be bullied. Africa will be peaceful.

“The LORD will give strength unto his people; The LORD will bless his people with peace” (Psalm 29:11).

The Lord will do this for Africa.

“Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,

“To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace” (Luke 1:78,79).

The Dayspring from on High has come to Africa. Africa was known as the Dark Continent. Yes, a lot of evil things, a lot of horrible things, a lot of dark things happen in Africa. Africa is actually sitting in darkness and in the shadow of death. But the Dayspring from on High has come. Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, has come. Let not your heart be troubled that all parts of Africa have not embraced the Lord. They will surely embrace Him. We will surely have peace when we receive Jesus into our hearts. Peace will come into our lives. Jesus is The Prince of Peace. As Christians multiply on the continent of Africa, Africa will become a land of peace.

You can see how peaceful everywhere has been in the camp meeting because we have Jesus in our hearts. Jesus is ruling our lives. He is our Guide. We obey Him. We love Him. We honour Him. He is a Man of peace, The Prince of Peace, so nothing will perturb our peace here, by the grace of God.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:13,14).

Peace was proclaimed by the angels at the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. And as Africa embraces Jesus Christ, Africa will become a land of peace, a land of goodwill, a land of prosperity.

“For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

Anyone who does not have Jesus in his life is carnally minded but when he has Jesus, he is spiritually minded and has life and peace. Oh! Is there anyone who has not got Jesus in his life? Do the first thing first. Let salvation start in your soul.

“O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea” (Isaiah 48:18).

When you listen and hearken to the voice of the Saviour, Jesus Christ, which tells you to depart from iniquity, forsake your sins and walk in the light, peace like a river

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will break out in your heart. And flow continually like a living spring. This is the promise of God. Peace is a legacy from Jesus Christ. If you do not have Christ, you will not have peace. But when you have Christ you will have peace.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

There is something similar to this in John 16:33:

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”

The world can only offer troubles, torments, unrest, and all other unthinkable evils. But when you come to Jesus, He will give you a legacy of peace. You cannot compare anything to peace in this world. You may have money, property, education and fame but if you do not have peace, you have nothing, because you cannot even enjoy these possessions. But with peace in your heart, even if you are poor, you will flourish like a cedar tree, like a tree planted by the rivers of water. You will bring forth your fruit in its season, and your leaves will never wither.

“Acquaint now thyself with him, and be at peace: thereby good shall come unto thee” (Job 22:21).

God has focused His attention on Africa. Revival is in Africa, and it will continue as long as we desire it. But we have to take a step of faith and come to God. We have to come before God, confess and forsake our sins. When you acquaint yourself with God, it means you do the will of God, and then peace will come unto you.

“Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it” (Psalm 34:14).

This is similar to Job’s line of thought. If we depart from evil, seek peace and pursue it, God will bless us with peace. He will also bless Africa with peace for our sake. ***“Fury is not in me: who would set the briars and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together.***

“Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me” (Isaiah 27:4,5).

What has Africa not gone through? Slave trade, wars, poverty! Africans were scattered all over the world, but instead of being destroyed, they have been preserved and are prospering. Africa has proved indestructible. Today, people try to test their new weapons on the continent of Africa. Soldiers of fortune—mercenaries—try to

earn their living in Africa. We have problems in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Cote D’Ivoire, Niger, and Chad. There was a problem between Nigeria and Cameroon. But God intervened because His children are there. Problems are ravaging Congo, Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan and Algeria. Oh! Africa has been in so much battle.

Some think that Africa is an endangered species, but no. We have a God Who is a Man of war and He will conquer for us. We do not have any strength of our own to solve our problems, so, we must embrace Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, the Captain of the Heavenly Host. How are we going about it?

“BRETHREN, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel (Africa) is, that they might be saved.

“For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

“For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

“For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them” (Romans 10:1-5).

It is not easy, to live by the righteousness of the law. Man will just perish if left to that kind of situation. That is why God sent His Son Jesus Christ and we see a new picture from verse 6.

“But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

“Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

“For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

“For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed” (Romans 10:6-11).

You are not going to pay any money nor render any service to buy this salvation. You will obtain it through the word of faith. If only you will believe the Word of

God! If only you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is the Son of God, you will be saved. You need to confess your sins, forsake them and promise God you will never go back to them again. You will be saved and will not be put to shame. We have been put to shame in Africa for too long. People snub us and despise us. Africa is synonymous with diseases, poverty, civil war, ignorance, corruption and failure. These must not be our lot. But you cannot deliver yourself from the state of shame. It is Jesus Who can save you from shame.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

“And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things” (Romans 10:13-15).

Is it not wonderful that we have come here for a spiritual refreshing, a spiritual feast, a spiritual re-awakening for the salvation of Africa and our own souls? Is it not wonderful that we have come here for the blessings of God? All those whom God used to preach the glorious Gospel, are blessed people. The Word of God says, their feet are beautiful. Their journeys are blessed. Their efforts will not go unrewarded. Missionaries have come to Africa to preach the Gospel to us. Brother George Hughes a missionary from Portland, Oregon, USA came to Africa and died here. We believe as he believed. We are saved, sanctified and baptised like him. These missionary efforts have yielded fruit today. Great is the company of believers!

Shall we not do something, so that, Africa will be saved and have a new name? Africa will be desirable; you can feel proud when people see you as an African; you can hold up your head when you go to other places! Think about it.

How can Africa be saved without preachers? If you are not saved you do not have the word of salvation. If you are not a possessor of salvation, how can you preach about salvation? Africa needs the message of salvation from the Cape to Cairo, from Dakar to the Horn of Africa. Every inch of Africa needs salvation. ***“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me”.***

Also I heard the Lord saying, whom shall I send and who will go for us? let us say, here am I; send me.

CAMP MEETING 2004



Brother Gumbo (left) preaching at the Camp Meeting



The approach to the proposed University end of the Campground



A view of the tent church



The Administrative Block for the proposed Crawford University used for accommodating campers



The Cafeteria/Canteen



One of the public conveniences

They were all there

The Physically Handicapped But Spiritually Active



The Hearing-Impaired signing 'Jesus Lover of My Soul'



Though she cannot use her physical eyes, Victoria Owoye could sing 'Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus'



Dupe Omogbaya playing a Flute Solo



Signing for the Hearing-Impaired during a service

The Solo Singers



Funmilayo Adeyemo



Tony Ademuyiwa



Freddie Adesina



Lydie Zounvoe'ha singing Handel's 'I Know that My Redeemer Liveth' in French

The People



Traditional Rulers



Diplomats and Public Figures



Brother Akazue answering questions from the Gentlemen of the Press

The topic of this morning's teaching is: **Tithes and Offerings**. Giving tithes and offerings is a way of life for the godly. You cannot observe these things if your heart is not right with God. Christianity is to be lived by people. And for Christianity to be in-depth, it has to be driven by praying, reading the Bible, preaching, testifying, and paying of tithes and freewill offerings among others.

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

"And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

"And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all" (Genesis 14:18-20).

The Bible does not state where Abraham was taught about tithes.

Immediately he met the Lord, the Spirit of God made him to know that he should pay tithes. People may want to be involved in many activities in the Church such as singing and preaching. But one aspect which is being ignored is the paying of tithes.

Man's first step in communicating with God should be to thank God for what He has done for him. Serving God is not a selective enterprise, where you choose what is best for you. To serve God is to do that which makes you intimate with Him. Abraham, therefore, chose to please God Who saved him from his enemies, by giving Him a tenth of all he had. As a result, Abraham was granted good health, a godly home and surrounded with the goodness of God.

"And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee" (Genesis 28:22).

Nobody asked Jacob to pay his tithes but because of his closeness to God, it was easy for him to do what God wanted. Jacob ran away from home after deceitfully taking Esau's blessing. When he met the Lord, he promised to pay a tenth of all his belongings. Brethren, we cannot just do what we feel, what we think or what we like. We have a job to do if we are to follow the examples we are given in the Scriptures. Let us examine ourselves. Are we still following the steps of our veterans? If we are not, then our spiritual state is doubtful before God.

"THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want" (Psalm 23:1).

Do you have wants in your life? Here, we are given an example of David's life. He told the world that the Lord was his Shepherd and in his life, there was no want. If you are in touch with and blessed by God, you don't have to write a lot of prayer requests all the

time on wants. If you are on the Lord's side you will not lack. You cannot withdraw money from a bank unless you have deposited money in your account. Some people want to receive from God all the time. They want to keep withdrawing even when they are no longer in credit. If you try to get money out of the bank without depositing money, it is fraud. So, how do people want to get blessings from God when they don't give anything

Sinners do not have the fullness of God's blessings because they do not fully understand the benefit of paying tithes. If your heart is right with the Lord, paying tithes is going to be part of your life.

"In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

"Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother.

And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (1

John 3:10-12).

Cain and Abel offered sacrifices unto God. Cain's was rejected because his heart was not right with God. Abel was in touch with God, knew God and knew what God wanted. Cain, because of his evil heart, did not know what to do. He brought in fruits for sacrifice but God did not accept that. He therefore strove with his brother because he could not receive the blessing from God. So, if we too are not very careful, we may not know the value of paying tithes. And that is why some people are suffering.

Let us read the Bible to see the purpose of paying tithes.

"And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

"Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die.

"But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.

"But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance" (Numbers 18:21-24).

From these verses it is very clear that tithes belong to God for His work. Tithes are meant to finance God's business. If you have been brought into the Gospel and have been enlightened, it should be part and parcel of

Tithes and Offerings

From a Sermon By

Onias Gumbo

to Him? It is fraudulent. If you put something in God's house as Jacob did, the gesture will be reciprocated by God.

"THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want". That 'want' means more than 'need'. The total social requirement of people is their basic need. After the basic need, you may just want some other things. Because David's heart was right with God, he had no want in his life; everything he wanted was supplied. We may check our lives, how many wants do we have? Some are anxious about their need and are always under a heavy load of need. This message is meant to help you come out of your wants and come to God.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters.

"He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me: thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever" (Psalm 23:2-6).

When your life is under the benefit of God you will not fear anyone. You will walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you will not fear any evil, because His rod and staff, comfort you. He will prepare a table before you in the presence of your enemies; even when they are around you, they cannot harm you. People may come up with all sorts of evil plans; God will spare you and the plans will come to naught.

your life to provide for God's service. You mustn't be a saboteur, someone who comes only to sing, preach, testify and do other things, but when it comes to financing of God's business you are not there.

"And I perceived that the portions of the Levites had not been given them: for the Levites and the singers, that did the work, were fled every one to his field" (Nehemiah 13:10).

Some blessings are going to be withheld by God because people do not pay their tithes to God's house. As a result, people who are supposed to be committed to God's work run away from God's business. People don't want to join full-time ministry because of hunger. They know that they may be abandoned by their brothers and sisters.

"Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing" (Nehemiah 13:2).

These were the people who did not receive the children of Israel well. In the house where they do not receive the people of God well, they will be having curses instead of blessings.

"And brought in the offerings and the tithes and the dedicated things faithfully: over which Cononiah the Levite was ruler, and Shimei his brother was the next" (2 Chronicles 31:12).

In the passage above, we read of a committee established to manage the tithes brought by the children of Israel. In some organizations, you may find there are no committees to manage things, because there is nothing to manage.

Who owns the tithes or Who is the receiver of the tithes?

"And all the tithes of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.

"And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.

"And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD" (Leviticus 27:30-32).

All the tithes belong to the Lord. So, if you are not bringing tithes, you are stealing from God. I hope most of us here by God's grace, are not thieves.

"Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?"

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

"Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:7-10).

We have read from this Scripture that not providing tithes to the house of the Lord, is stealing. A robber or thief cannot go to Heaven. What then do you want to preach when you are a thief? Can thieves still perform their duties? To withhold your tithes is stealing.

Don't do selective service like what is done in the place I am going to read.

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matthew 23:23).

Here in the New Testament, tithing is confirmed.

"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

"So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Proverbs 3:9, 10).

The Bible says, come with your substance, so that the Lord can bless you. If you don't, God will not bless you.

What about offerings?

"Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering" (Exodus 25:2).

Offering has to come from you willingly. We have examples of people who have given willingly. Cornelius, in his time, offered alms of his increase and he was blessed. Dorcas was raised from the dead, because she gave to God willingly. Sometimes, we may give out ourselves for God's services. In the Old Testament, Elijah asked the Zarephath widow to bring him a piece of bread. She said she hadn't more than a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil which she and her son would eat and die. But Elijah said, 'make mine first'. Acts 20:35 says, ***"It is more blessed to give than to receive"***. Jesus Christ gave Himself for us. If you are a sound Christian you will be able to give yourself.

I want to give you my testimony. Before I came to the Gospel, I was a nobody. The Lord saved me in 1970, when I was in school. I determined within myself that I wanted to serve the Lord with all my heart. Before I got married, I was giving the Lord half of my salary. In other words, six months' salary was mine and the other six months' salary belonged to God. I did that for years. I did not worry about the future. Sometimes, even the money which I saved for myself, when the work of God demanded money, I would close my account and give it to the Lord. Today, I

have seen the miracle of the Lord in my life. It is not just a matter of taking and taking from the Lord; it is necessary for us as Christians to be seen, and numbered among the people of God. You don't have to fight for position in the Church.

"Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

"But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

"That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly" (Matthew 6:2-4).

I followed this text very seriously. To tell you the truth, the Lord has blessed me abundantly. I never chose to be known by anybody, I chose to be known by God. I work in secret, the Lord blesses me openly. I am not a politician, but I sit with the President of my country. I advise the President on economic policies. I am not a minister, but when things become difficult, they come to see me.

Sometimes, when it comes to the work of God in Zimbabwe, I do my best, I don't publicise myself, but I only want people to see how God can bless. In Zimbabwe, our church building collapsed and it needed a lot of money. I closed my account and decided to give a billion dollars. It is not that I want to be known by anybody, but my God knows me. During the period, I never lacked anything. After I had done that, the government came to me and said, "We want to be in partnership with your company", and gave me a contract worth trillions. They wanted the cooperation of my company to develop the country; to make roads, and provide other facilities. But when I was offering myself to build the house of the Lord, I thought my company would close down and I would suffer. I said, "I am staying in a beautiful house, but God's house must be better than mine". So, if we can challenge God, God is going to surprise us. You can never outdo God in giving.

"Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to ye again" (Luke 6:38).

How many of us are willing to give? 'Good measure, pressed down and shaken together,... shall men give into your bosom. The same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again'. If you are very miserly in giving, blessings will sparingly come your way. If you become generous, God will also become generous with you. I do believe that in this camp meeting, God wants to bless us. God is going to bless you, if you give willingly to God.

God Did it For Me

Camp Meeting Delegates Testify to the Power of God

Before I came into the Gospel in 1977, I was a “Prophetess” in a church, but my life was not devoid of sin. A brother told me of the Gospel, but I declined his invitation. He encouraged me to come and see. The first Sunday I attended the Church, I had doubts in my mind and decided to go back. On my way I heard an audible Voice that called, “Woman, come and have life” This happened three times. I was afraid and I had to return to the Church, trembling.

The reception given me by the ushers left a wonderful impression on me. The preacher seemed to have had a foreknowledge of my way of life, for his sermon pointed straight to my sins. What hit me hardest was the fact that on the last day, Jesus would deny the hypocrites and say unto them, ‘I never knew you: depart from me, you workers of iniquity’. This drove me to my knees at the mourners’ bench! Broken down in total repentance, I confessed my numerous sins and asked for pardon. The people of God rallied round me and prayed with me.

A wonderful experience followed, my sins were forgiven and an inexpressible joy flooded my heart. I was saved. I prayed further and I was sanctified. I was baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire, at which time I spoke in another tongue as the Spirit gave me utterance. Glory be to God!

Margaret Chukwu
Nara, Enugu State, Nigeria

I thank God for this glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a little child without the knowledge of God, I went deep into sin. God in His love and mercy sought me out and brought me into the Gospel in a wonderful way.

When I first came to this Church, the Word of God showed me my sinful life. There is power in the Blood of Jesus! If Jesus saved a bad sinner like me, it shows that He can save all sinners. I was told to pray for salvation; the Spirit of God helped me and I prayed through to victory. The joy of God flooded my heart, the old life and sinful behaviour were gone. I pressed forward in prayer for sanctification and Jesus sanctified me.

All the bitterness and root of sin were taken away.

At the camp meeting in 1986 in Lagos, Jesus gave me the baptism of the Holy Ghost. From that time, Jesus became my all in all.

Notwithstanding, I have been meeting with many challenges. At first, my parents told me to choose between my education and the Church. Jesus helped me to choose the Gospel and He gave me victory. Before the completion of my school career, I lost both parents in an accident on the same day. Jesus comforted me and the saints of God rallied round and assisted me. There is love in this Gospel.

Despite the fact that I became an orphan unexpectedly, Jesus sponsored me and saw me through the Teacher Training College and College of Education successfully. He also provided a good job for me. May His name be praised.

The last challenge was about marriage. Satan laughed at me and said you would not get married if you do not leave the Church. Satan pointed out many of my younger brothers who had got married and had children. How thankful I am to God, for giving me a Christian wife who is not hearing-impaired. Jesus did our wedding for us in a wonderful way in November, 2001.

When my wife became pregnant, people asked in which hospital we registered. Our answer was always, “In the hospital of Jesus”. When the time came for my wife to be delivered, Jesus delivered her of a handsome baby boy without any problem. Satan was put to shame. I give God the balance of my life.

Adewole Nkanlola (hearing-impaired)
Eruwa, Oyo State, Nigeria

I observed a lump in my breast that was said to be cancer of the breast. Earlier, I noticed that my body was hot and I had pains in my left arm, coupled with throbbing pains in my left breast region. I did not know what it was, until the day I noticed the lump. My husband and I then started praying. I wrote prayer requests and told the people of God.

One day, after a Bible study titled, “Prayer, Make it a Habit”, I was

touched by the reference in Mark 11:24: “Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”. I claimed the promise of God concerning my case, believing that God has healed me. Somehow, I forgot about the matter. One day, a Voice reminded me and said, “What about the lump in your breast?” I touched the place and the lump was no longer there. I could eat anything now. Whenever I ate carbohydrate before, I would be in trouble and my body would heat up; but now I am whole.

Uchenna Agboola
Bauchi, Bauchi State, Nigeria

I was born into a Muslim family and my father was the Chief Imam of my community. As a result, it was an abomination to call the name of Jesus, let alone recognising Him as the true Son of God in our home.

As I was growing up, I followed my parents to the mosque to offer prayers where we believed strongly in repetition. However, no positive changes were seen in our behaviour as there was no inspiration to live a life above sin. This compelled me to ask my father where we were going to spend eternity. My father feigned ignorance. I felt disturbed and blamed God for creating me into the world to have my end in hell.

In my quest for God, I found Him at the age of fourteen at Oke-Bola, Ibadan, Nigeria, in 1963. There, God saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Then my life changed.

My sudden change of heart fetched me persecutions ranging from forceful ejection from home to aborted education. My family did not want to set eyes on me. I was poisoned twice but throughout my travails, God did not let me down. He saw me through all the problems. God saw me through my education as well. Today, I am a proprietor of a school. God gave me a wonderful wife, and blessed the marriage with children. He has also made me a force to be reckoned with in the family that had once rejected

me.

Pray with me that the whole family will belong to Jesus. God has started answering the prayers; my father ordered that all my brothers and sisters should start following me to Church. Thank God for this. I owe God the balance of my life.

Paul Olarinde
Ede, Osun State, Nigeria

I was brought to the Gospel when I was young. God saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Recently, I was struck by diabetes and was so sick that the hair on my head fell off, remaining nothing. I was prayed for, and God healed me, and God brought back my hair.

In our branch church, somebody got seriously sick and started vomiting blood. Prayers were said on his behalf and he was healed. A pregnant woman who had prolonged labour was prayed for and God delivered her safely. Jesus is performing wonders in our midst. I praise God for this.

Florence Olunyo
Lagos, Nigeria

I thank the Lord for the privilege of being in the Gospel. Jesus saved my soul in my bedroom in 1980. He later sanctified me and made me clean within. It took me a while before I got the Holy Ghost baptism. God led me to consecrate so many things, yet I did not get the baptism. One day, when I decided that I was not going to ask anything from God again, I started thanking Him for all He did for me. The Spirit of God came down and I was baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire.

In 1981, the Lord took me to London and He has been keeping me in the Gospel since then. In 1984, I was privileged to join the choir where the Lord is still keeping me.

He provided a husband for me in this Gospel and He has blessed us with three lovely kids. During the labour of my first baby, there were complications but the Lord gave me a safe natural delivery. The doctor told me they would have to perform an operation to deliver the baby, but I told my husband that I was going to trust God for the delivery. God put the baby there and at God's own time God brought her out.

My little boy was knocked down in front of our London church in 1997, two days before we were to travel to Nigeria for camp meeting. We took him home, my husband called the whole family and we asked Jesus to undertake for us. We had to

bring the boy to Nigeria with one injured leg. When we got to Lagos, Nigeria, he was examined, prayed for and the boy started to walk. I am thankful that whenever we put our trust in the Lord, He does not disappoint us.

We have been coming to camp meeting every year since 1992 and the Lord has always granted us journey mercies. Many times, the entire family has been sick and the Lord has always helped us. He is our Doctor and our all in all.

I went to London with only my Secondary School examination results, but today, God has made me a qualified Architect. He provided a small company for us and God has been very wonderful. All glory, honour and majesty to Jesus for His love and kindness to us.

I want to be faithful to the end of my life.

Ayo Sobowale
London, United Kingdom

I came across The Apostolic Faith Church through an open air service on a street at Port Harcourt, Nigeria. On that day, I was invited to the Church. I had been searching for a job for many years, so I thought I would ask for a job in my prayers. However, I was asked to pray for salvation. I remember that the shirt I wore that day was borrowed because I was in a state of penury. I was told that it was sin that caused my problems. God saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire. Not too long after my salvation, God gave me a lucrative job. He totally changed my life and situation. God gave me a wife and children. After some time God changed my job. He established some schools for me. I became an employer.

I remember the year the first Africa Overseer, Rev. T. G. Oshokoya, and his team visited the Eastern States of Nigeria. I had the privilege of receiving him and his team in my school. When he was leaving, he pointed to a parcel of land opposite my schools. He said I should try and purchase it for a church building. For many years, the owners of the land refused to sell it. But glory be to God, two years ago, I was told that they wanted to sell the land. All the land areas around this particular parcel of land had been sold but God kept the land. God is faithful. The land has now been bought, cleared and blocks moulded ready for the foundation of a church building. May God build a magnificent church for His Glory!

Praise God with me.
Simeon Dimkpa Ojim
Port Harcourt
Rivers State, Nigeria

I am thankful to God for what He has done in my life. I was brought up in this glorious Gospel right from my youth, but I was not saved. In the year 1972, I had a bitter experience in my life. I was expelled from the college in my third year, because of stealing and other sinful acts. On my arrival at home, my father drove me away. Life became more bitter for me because I had lost my mother at birth.

In December 1973, I found my way to Lagos where I continued in my sinful ways. In a miraculous way, at The Apostolic Faith in Anthony Village in 1975, God saved my soul, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

After 1976 camp meeting, late Rev. Francis Akinboye was sent to the then Cross River State to conduct a revival meeting. When he came back, he was asked to give the report of the work there in the state. In summary, he said that the fields were ripe but the labourers were few, that those of us who were from there should go back home. The message was for me; there was a great burden in my heart to go back home. After 1977 camp meeting, I resigned my appointment in Lagos and went back home. Back at home, my father welcomed me with open arms and restored me once again as his son. This confirmed God's Word which says that when a man's ways please the Lord, He too makes his enemies to be at peace with him. God opened a way for me to be trained in various institutions of learning.

After my graduation in 1988, the government placed an embargo on employment. Only those who studied the Sciences were employed, but I studied the Arts. God changed the policy and I was the only Arts graduate in the whole state who was employed. God told me He did this because I obeyed Him in 1977 by resigning my appointment and by coming back home. God gave me a wife and four sons.

In 1992, God posted me to the school from which I was expelled in 1972. I am still working there till today. He has given me some sheep to pasture and he is helping me to do this. I vow to surrender the balance of my life to Him.

James E. Nkanga
Ikot Nya, Uyo District
Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria



— Coming Events —

CAMP MEETING

DECEMBER 19, 2004 - JANUARY 2, 2005
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

CAMPUS A. V. S. NATIONAL STUDENTS' RALLY

DECEMBER 27 - 30, 2004
Apostolic Faith New Campground
FAITH CITY, IGBESA

*Since the work started in Igbesa, God has been working miracles of healing and supply. Many people from the states of Nigeria and neighbouring countries like to come and work at Igbesa. All the people who came to work with illness, usually went back home healed. Only God knows the number of miracles that have been wrought. Since the work started at Igbesa, there has never been any lack. Two people who died were miraculously raised by God. A lady from Togo was wonderfully healed of AIDS. **IGBESA IS TRULY A FAITH CITY.***