



# GOSPEL NEWS IN AFRICA



July — Sept. 2005

A news magazine of The Apostolic Faith Church in Africa

Vol. 6 No. 3

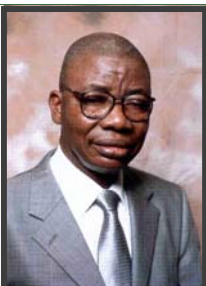


The 2005 camp meeting for the continent of Africa was ushered in with the Ministers' and Workers' Conference on Thursday, July 29, 2005, at Faith City, Igbesa, Ogun State, Nigeria. Delegates poured in from many nations including the Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Burkina Faso, Niger, Guinea, The Gambia, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, Botswana, United States of America, United Kingdom and of course, from all the states of Nigeria.

The conference started on a very happy note as the Africa Overseer announced the approval of the Crawford University by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Crawford University is owned by The Apostolic Faith and named after the Founder of the Church, Revd. (Mrs.) Florence Louise Crawford. The Licence to operate the University was handed to the Africa Overseer by the Minister of Education, on June 9, 2005, at Abuja, Nigeria. One of the objectives of the

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## From the Africa Overseer



Are you saved? The business of The Apostolic Faith in Africa is to make sure that people know how to be saved, and are also genuinely saved. It is also her preoccupation to see that those who are saved remain saved and **“are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20)**. Their names are in the Lamb’s Book of Life and they are thus members of **“the general assembly and Church of the first born, which are written in heaven” (Hebrews 12:23)**.

The theme of the 2005 camp meeting was, **“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2)**. True prosperity is hinged on true religion. As each soul prospers spiritually, he would be in health and would prosper all round. That is the wish of God.

In this edition, you will read of the discussion Jesus had with Nicodemus. After the meeting, Nicodemus was no longer the same person. The yearning and thirst of his heart was satisfied and his soul prospered.

Testimonies of delegates from all over Africa to the camp meeting, bear witness to the fact that an encounter with the saving grace of Jesus Christ ensures their soul’s prosperity till eternity, as they remain in the keeping power of God.

The undiluted Word of God as preached in our Church is cherished by the saints. The Word **“is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy” (Jude 24)**.

P. O. Akazue

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University is to produce young men and women of proven integrity for all facets of the economy. Honesty and kindness will be their watchword and they will be *living epistles*. In addition, jobs will be provided for the Children of God. Students will have a clean and conducive environment for study. Moreover, the University will maintain the facilities and infrastructure of the Church in-between the annual camp meetings. All delegates were then enjoined to pray for the successful take-off of the University.

The Overseer added that an Apostolic Faith Secondary School in Egosi, Kwara State of Nigeria, would start in September 2005. Two blocks of classrooms had been donated by the community for this purpose.

The theme of the Ministers’ and Workers’ Conference was **Membership of The Apostolic Faith**. Only saved souls, whose names have been written in the Lamb’s Book of Life, are members. The Church however, has an open door for everybody to come and worship. Members of the Church live to please the One who saved them from sin – Jesus Christ. They are followers of the lowly Nazarene. They avoid worldly fashions and amusements. They dress modestly as required by their Christian profession. Worldly amusements divert people’s attention from the Word of God and prayer. The Children of God take seriously the command of Jesus, **“Occupy till I come”**. The one-talent man, who hid his talent in a napkin and buried it, wasted away his time. Members take on them the yoke of Christ which is easy and will never go where Christ will not go.

The Ministers’ Conference took place on Friday, July 29, 2005. The theme was **Ministration to the Sick**.

The opening Sunday was on July 31, 2005. The Elementary Sunday School children staged a programme based on the theme of the camp meeting:

**“Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2)**.

They acted the story of Joseph as written in the Scriptures. As he was faithful to God and His Word, Joseph prospered. He had a lot of trials but the Lord delivered him from them all. He was eventually elevated to become the Governor of the land of Egypt.

The Sunday School lesson, was on **Blessings of the Gospel**. The lesson emphasised that our sufficiency is of Christ, Who has made us able ministers of the new testament.

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The Devotional Sermon was delivered by Brother Paul Akazue. The theme was 3 John 2. According to him, "Prosperity is the ability to eat, drink, sleep peacefully and be contented. Once a sinner is saved, the love of God is shed abroad in his heart. Those who love Christ without reservation are loved in return by God. The Holy Trinity abides with them. The body formerly racked with pain and disease is healed by God. There is then a healthy soul in a healthy body.

There is double cure in the Atonement.

*"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).*

The promise of God is premised on absolute obedience.

*"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).*

Material wealth follows as one obeys God and works hard. A lot of money in the hands of some people may make them



The Africa Overseer, Brother Paul Akazue Preaching on Sunday Morning

stumble and send them to hell because they may become proud. The soul needs to prosper first, that is, he must be saved, sanctified and baptised with the Holy Ghost and fire. He will be helped to worship God acceptably and his heart becomes an altar of prayer. If we **seek and stay with Jesus**, we shall prosper.

*"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).*

As we run away from sin by obeying the Word, we will remain evergreen. We must acknowledge the Lord in all our ways and He will direct our paths to green pastures.

*"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).*

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

God will care for you and supply all your need. Anything He withholds from you is not good for you at that time.

*"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"*

*"Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?"*

*"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:*

*"And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.*

*"Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?"*

*"Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?"*

*"(For after all these things do*

*the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:26-33).*

There are immense promises in Deuteronomy 28:1-14. If we hearken diligently and observe to do God's commandments, the blessings shall overtake us. We are heirs to God's blessings and as we also pay our tithes and offerings, we will possess our possessions in Christ".

The whole day was packed full of blessings which was a foretaste of the showers of blessings of the camp meeting.

Other inspiring teachings and sermons during the camp meeting were: **Ye Must Be Born Again; Sanctification: A Holy Walk; Stones of The Foundation; Healing Provided in the Plan of God; Place Seeking, Envy and Division; The Word of God in the Heart; Have Faith in God; Controlling the Tongue; The Golden Rule; Christian Soldiering; Tithing; Beware of False Prophets; Christ's Waiting Bride; and Finally Brethren.**

The ordinances of **Water Baptism; The Lord's Supper and Washing of the Saints' Feet** were prayerfully observed.

God rained down mighty blessings from the beginning to the end of the camp meeting. There was great joy in the camp.



A traditional ruler, the Oloye of Oye and his wife at a service

# Ye Must Be Born Again

From A Sermon by Brother Paul Akazue

**“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:7).**

You were naturally born by your mother but our Saviour is making it clear here that you need to be born a second time by the Word. You must be born twice. If you are born only once, you will die twice; but if you want to die only once, you must make sure that you are born twice.

*“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*

*“And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.*

*“And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

*“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:12-15).*

If you don't want this second death, then you must be born twice. The Word of God declares that when death delivers all those who died, they will be judged and cast into the lake of fire that will burn forever and ever. Can you imagine somebody in the fire without being destroyed and being tormented forever without end? You must think about it and take an action now to avert such a calamity. By all means, you must seize this golden opportunity today and be born again. Don't wait till tomorrow.

But if you are born again, what will be your reward? Eternity in Heaven, bliss forever in that wonderful City, made by the hands of God. The walls are made of precious stones and the streets are made of gold, a place of surpassing beauty. You don't need the sun there, Jesus is the Light of that City. There is no disappointment, sickness, pain nor death there. You will behold the face of our Saviour forever and ever. Think of the shining river clear as crystal, the tree of life, the worthies of old, the patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and the kings who served God faithfully. Think of

our veterans, who made a lot of sacrifice so that we may know the Gospel. They will feel satisfied and fulfilled when they see us in Heaven. The fellowship will continue forever and ever.

*“THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:*

*“The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him” (John 3:1,2).*

Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews, a member of the Sanhedrin. He was a man of authority in the city of Jerusalem, he was highly respected and revered. But he was fed up with what was going on around him. He decided to do something about it when he had the opportunity.

When you come face to face with Jesus, what do you do with that wonderful opportunity? Do you know that any time you come to this holy assembly you are face to face with Jesus? Do you know that any time you come to the mourners' benches and kneel there reverently in prayer, you are face to face with Jesus? What do you do with that golden opportunity, do you while it away? Do you make unnecessary noise or do you address your matter directly? Do you hit the nail on the head? When people appear in the House of God, they must reverence God. We are warned in the Word of God: **“The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him”**. Some people indulge in useless conversation in the House of God, making a noise. This is undesirable.

Nicodemus had a wonderful answer from Jesus. He first gave Jesus all the necessary honour. He reverently addressed Him as Rabbi. He said, **“We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him”**. We know it. There is no doubt nor controversy about it. It was very clear that Jesus came from God. Anybody who does not acknowledge Jesus as the Son of the Living God is a fool. Such people would only face the wrath of God.

“We are convinced”. That is all that he said. He had not asked the question, but Jesus, Who knew the heart of man, gave him the answer to his question, point blank. Before you started coming, Jesus saw you. He knows your heart. He knows your problems. But He is waiting for you to do your own part. He is waiting for you to exercise faith; God does not act until you have exercised faith.

*“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3).*

Your qualification into the Kingdom of God is the new birth. You must be born again. You just must be born again. Nicodemus was thoroughly flabbergasted.

*“Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?” (John 3:4).*

He was an honest inquirer. There was a young man who cried sore when he heard that he must be born again, because he thought it was going to be a physical rebirth. Why was he crying? His mother was dead. Even if his mother were alive, can a full grown boy or man enter his mother's womb again? This question of the new birth is still confusing a lot of people. It is not a physical rebirth. It is a spiritual new birth, a spiritual rebirth. A spiritual transaction, not physical.

Christ made it abundantly clear:

*“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*

*“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*

*“Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again” (John 3:5-7).*

Physical birth is the first birth, the second birth is the spiritual birth. When you are born again, and your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, everything about you changes. Everything about you becomes peculiar. You become a special person, an invincible person. Can you

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catch the air or wind? As a child of God, who is born again, nobody can catch you. If you want real power with God, make sure you are born again. All God's children are invincible. See how Christ Himself put it.

***"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).***

When the wind is blowing, though you cannot see it, nobody is in doubt that it is blowing. You feel it on your body, and on your clothes. A child of God is formidable as the wind. If anybody tries to stand in his way, the promise of God to Joshua would become true in his life. God said:

***"There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee" (Joshua 1:5).***

When you are born again, the Spirit Himself bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God,

***"There is therefore now no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit" (Romans 8:1).***

There will be no condemnation in your heart as a child of God. You will not walk after the flesh because the spiritual transaction has taken place in your life. You will walk after the Spirit.

***"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).***

All the bitterness, hatred, envy, jealousy, fighting and disputing in your heart will vanish. Everything will become new.

***"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:***

***"Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12, 13).***

When you are born again, God gives you the power to live above sin. Those sins that you used to succumb to, now mean nothing to you; you hate them. You are solidly a Christian. A Christian does not commit sin; there is no sinning Christian. If you are committing sins, you are a sinner. If you have confessed and forsaken your sins and you are born again, you are a Christian. You have been empowered to go and sin no more. Some people feel that we are boasting. How can we not say the things that God can do? It is the grace of God. It

is God Who has made us what we are, it is not by our own strength.

***"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).***

If you are weak and helpless, if you are wretched, come just as you are. As Jesus forgave that adulterous woman and told her, 'Neither do I condemn you but go and sin no more', He will tell you the same.

***"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.***

***"A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:25,26).***

***"And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight.***

***"Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury" (John 19:39, 40).***

This is the Nicodemus who did not understand at first. If this later action had not taken place, one would have wondered if Nicodemus actually got the new birth. The disciples of Jesus were in place when Nicodemus came by night. They were already faithful disciples while Nicodemus was still seeking an entrance into the Kingdom of God. When it mattered, the disciples ran away but Nicodemus rose to the occasion. Joseph of Arimathea, who also was a ruler, came up. 'We will not allow the body of our Saviour to hang on the cross like that. Pilate, please we want to take His body for a decent burial; kindly let us have it'. When it mattered, this man who was a new convert, rose to the occasion. Do not look down on anyone.

***"Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?" (John 3:9).***

How can somebody who is born again live above sin? How can old things pass away and all things become new? How can you obtain the power to go and sin no more? How can you not love the world? You may be wondering about it now, but when you settle it at the altar of prayer, you will know how it is. That which God did for Nicodemus, He will do for you.

***"Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?***

***"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We***

***speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.***

***"If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?***

***"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven" (John 3:10-13).***

It was difficult for Nicodemus, but our Saviour Jesus Christ is a wonderful Teacher. If you do not understand, do not go away. Tarry, still plead with Him: "My Saviour, I want to know more. I want to understand. Please explain to me". He will open your understanding. He will come to your level.

Jesus decided to use the example which Nicodemus could follow because he was a Jew and he knew the law.

***"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up (John 3:14).***

***"And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.***

***"And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived" (Numbers 21:8, 9).***

***"For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28).***

Nicodemus knew what transpired when the children of Israel murmured. God punished them by sending fiery serpents among them. They were bitten, and were dying in numbers. God told Moses to put the brazen serpent on a pole, a vantage point where everybody in the camp could easily behold it. Anybody bitten by the fiery serpent, if only he believed in the instruction given, looked and lived. It was so simple. Wherever they were in the camp, even if they were tired and were in pain, they could easily roll their eyes, and look on the pole. 'Behold the brazen serpent and live!' Any Israelite, who did not believe what Moses said would die and his blood would be upon him.

If you roll up your eyes in faith, behold our Saviour Jesus Christ on the Cross and see the Blood that is shed for your sake, you will be born again.

# CAMP MEETING 2005



Workers' Conference in Progress



Brother Solomon Onabolu, an Octogenarian, presenting a Solo



Brother Seyi Hounpkevi from Cotonou, giving a Trumpet Solo



L-R: Brothers Hector Elebute, Muyiwa Olamijulo, Dealyn George and Albert Adegbeye, listening to a Sermon



Sister Toyin Emiola, giving an Inspiring Testimony



Sister Edna Eben from Cameroon, giving an Opening Prayer



Sister Rachel Fakorede presenting a Sunday School Lesson, while Sister Fola Onanuga Interpretes



Video Recording in Progress



The Recording Crew



Brother John Adeodu presenting a Trumpet and Vocal Solo



Brother Refuge Chinyenge from Botswana giving his testimony



A Female Trio



Brother M'Bengani from Congo Republic praying

# Childrens' Presentation



Solomon crowned King by Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet



... On His Father's Throne



... Prays at Gilgal



... Judges between Two Women

# The Choir and Orchestra



The Cellos



The Trumpets



The Euphoniums



The Flutes



Brother Seyi Asaya from the USA on the Organ



The Music Director, Brother John Aina, conducting the Choir and Orchestra

From  
the

Pulpit

## GOD STILL HEALS THE SICK

God wants to heal us because He loves us. He wants us to be always healthy and strong. Jesus is our Maker and knows all about us. He is the Great Physician. It is the maker that knows best how to repair the object made. If we believe God exists and that He is our Maker, why are people afraid to take their sick bodies to Him for healing? God has the spare parts of our body with Him and can replace any damaged system. When man gives you a spare part, your body may reject it, but when God repairs the body, it is perfect.

As far as God is concerned, there are no bad cases with Him. He has healed people who fell from air planes, palm trees, had motor accidents and even worse cases. If only people will believe God, the Blood of Jesus can avail for any condition.

In most cases, sickness does not just come. It could be as a result of sin, as in the Garden of Eden. From then on, sickness passed on to the human race.

Disobedience can also cause sickness. Because man has become morally bankrupt, there is the prevalence of incurable diseases.

But not all sicknesses are as a result of sin or disobedience. God could permit sickness in our lives to try our faith like He did for Job. It is only God Who can heal such people. Also, sorrow, grief or heaviness of spirit can bring sickness as it happened to Daniel. (Daniel 8:27). In such cases, you spend more time with God and when God solves the problem that brought the sorrow, He will also heal the sickness that came along with it. So, draw nigh to God at such times and do not run to the arm of flesh. Trusting in the arm of flesh will only bring a curse on the person. (Jeremiah 17:5 -8).

God's promises for healing us abound in the Bible. Some of them are found in: Mark 16:17,18; James 5: 13 – 16; Psalm 50: 14, 15.

Despite this, God has the prerogative over our life, whether to heal us or take us away. Healing received is only death adjourned. It will come when God's time for us is up.

Healing is one of the fringe benefits a child of God enjoys. Those who cannot trust God for the healing of their bodies only have a form of godliness; they have denied the power thereof.

It is, however, the will of God that we be in health and prosper, even as our soul prospereth. (3 John 2).

*Paul Akazue*

## A HOLY WALK

*“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).*

Justified people do not sin because God has given them the power to go and sin no more. At sanctification, God does the second work of grace. When a person does not know where he stands with God, or the Christian experiences he has got, he just keeps going round and round without making progress. **“Make straight paths for your feet” (Hebrews 12:13)**. Walking straight can be of help to others who are watching us. Search, find the way and ask God for grace to do the right thing. Build, make progress, don't demolish, so that at the end of the camp meeting God will make you a part of the Gospel team to rescue the perishing.

*“For none of us liveth to himself” (Romans 14:7).*

The real Christian's desire is to live a holy life. If people get sanctified, stay sanctified and live sanctified lives, everything will fall in place. Sanctified people are controllable; they don't pose any problem to the church or nation. They don't seek to introduce new ways of doing things that will lower the Gospel standard. They assist the Ministry to preserve the good heritage for posterity. They love the elders who do this. They don't get unequally yoked with the world.

The Gospel has reproach, but we overcome if we are sanctified. Jesus has walked the way and made a straight path for us to tread to eternal life.

When we are sanctified, we have the Spirit and the love of God in our hearts that motivate everything we do.

Some people, when accosted, do not see anything wrong in what they do. Their conscience has been seared and defiled.

*“ BUT speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:*

*“That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.*

*“The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;*

*“That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,*

*“To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed” (Titus 2:1-5).*

This is the high standard of a sanctified life.

*Dealyn George*



## THE WORD OF GOD IN THE HEART

Let us first consider what we mean by the Word of God. It means the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The Bible is a wonderful Book. Part of It was written by God Himself. For example, God wrote the Ten Commandments. Some were dictated to holy men of God. Others were written through the inspiration of God. (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17).

All the Word of God is the will of God revealed to man. All the needs of man are put in the Bible. The Bible is not just an ordinary Book but It is the Word of God to mankind. It is sacred, and will endure forever. It also illuminates a dark heart. It is a Book that no one should oppose. The Word of God is kept in the heart, to prosper those who heed It.

There are four types of hearts for the reception of God's Word as mentioned in the Parable of the Sower. The heart that receives the Word and bears fruit is the most benefited. It is not good to have mental knowledge of the Word of God. It does not lead to salvation. The Word of God in the heart leads one to seek the salvation of one's soul and leads to other benefits.

There is a difference between keeping the Word in the heart and in the head. The two bear different kinds of fruit. While those who have It in the head argue some basic principles of the Bible, those who have It in the heart ask for God's grace to abide by It.

There are benefits that accrue to those who keep the Word in the heart. These benefits are uncountable. Some of them are: deliverance from affliction, ability to do the will of God and victory over sin, self and Satan.

We have in the Bible those who keep the Word in the heart and are victorious over situations around them. We remember Joseph in the house of Potiphar. He could not sin against God because the Word of God was in his heart. (Genesis 39:7-9).

Job succeeded in his trials because he kept the Word in his heart. (Job 23:12). The three Hebrew children in Babylon refused to bow down to the king's image because they kept the Word of God in their hearts.

If you want to succeed in life, let the Word of God control your life.

*Gabriel Ajayi*

## STONES OF THE FOUNDATION

The foundation of any building is very important and the materials for building are also very important. Of all the materials needed for building, stones are very vital and are the basic materials.

Who is this Foundation? It is Jesus. (Matthew 16:15-18). Jesus is the Rock on which our spiritual building rests. Christ is also the Head Stone of our salvation. (Psalm 118:22,23). Nobody can make the journey to Heaven without Christ Who died for our redemption. In 1 Peter 2:5, reference is made to the lively stones. The children of God are the lively stones.

No matter how solid a house is, it cannot stand for ever because it has a life span. But the buildings of God are eternal. (Hebrews 3:6). God the Father is the Owner of the building. Jesus, the Heir apparent, and Christians are co-heirs with Him.

To have enduring buildings, we must build according to specifications. The stones of the foundation represent the doctrine of Jesus Christ. They are not man-made, so they cannot be treated with levity. They cannot be changed or destroyed. Jesus' followers have to build according to specifications. Some fall short of building to specifications because they rely on their own power to go through. Some fall short and backslide because they have fears and doubts in their minds.

One of the stones of the foundation is **Repentance**. When our first parents sinned, God made a way for mankind to return to Him. This is through repentance. (2 Chronicles 7:14). The sinner's responsibility is to confess and forsake his sins. God's part is to forgive. This is called **Salvation**. (2 Corinthians 5:17). **Sanctification** is another foundation stone. (1 Thessalonians 4:3). It is the nucleus or hub of the Christian's walk with God. It is the bridge between salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. **The Baptism of the Holy Ghost**, another foundation stone, gives power for the service of God. (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4). The three distinct Christian experiences should be sought and received, one after the other. These experiences give you joy and pleasure.

**Restitution** is one of the vital foundation stones. (Leviticus 6:1-4). If a person offends or wrongs another, it is compulsory to apologise and show remorse for the offence committed.

**No Divorce and Remarriage** is another important foundation stone. God sanctions the union between a man and a woman. There is no provision at all for divorce and remarriage. (Romans 7:1-3). But the union between a man and another man, or a woman and another woman, is an abomination. God abhors it.

Another stone of the foundation is the payment of **Tithes and Offerings**. (Malachi 3:10). This doctrine is easy to obey for those who have been saved.

**Divine Healing** is also a vital foundation stone. (James 5:14-16). In Matthew 4:23, Jesus performed many miracles, healing diverse diseases. He is still doing the same today.

**The Second Coming of Christ** in its two phases is a foundation stone. The second coming of Christ calls for adequate preparation on the part of God's children. The first part is the **Rapture of the Saints** (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) and the corresponding **Tribulation** on earth. (Isaiah 26:20, 21). The second phase is the **Revelation of Christ** in the sky and His coming back with the saints. (Jude 14, 15; Revelation 1:7).

Another stone is **The Great White Throne Judgment**. (Revelation 20:11). This will be a terrible scene. Of course, the children of God will not be partakers of this but will be partakers of **The New Heaven and the New Earth**. (Isaiah 65:17).

One other stone is the fact that **Eternal Heaven and Eternal Hell** exist. Enduring to the end gives us the travelling permit to live eternally with God in Heaven. Hell is made for Satan and his emissaries but those whose sins were not forgiven will live eternally with Satan in hell. (Revelation 20:15).

**Water Baptism** is one of the stones. Jesus partook of this exercise while on earth. He also initiated the ordinances of **The Lord's Supper** and **Washing of the Saints' Feet**, which are other foundation stones. (John 13:14, 15).

Genuine Christians have no problem with all these precious foundation stones. (Isaiah 28:16). They were laid by God Himself and it is a serious offence to kick against any. Trials and afflictions cannot make a child of God to shift grounds. Neither are the children of God overtaken by any new light which is nothing but falsehood. The foundation stones of the Gospel cannot be broken or destroyed. Anybody who dares it will find them hard nuts impossible to crack. Our eternal life is guaranteed if we remain on these precious foundation stones. (Psalm 48:14).

*Muyiwa Olamijulo*

# God Did it For Me

## Camp Meeting Delegates Testify to the Power of God

I came into the Gospel with deep sorrow and I never knew I could live for three months after the demise of my husband. His sudden departure brought untold sadness into my heart. I even prayed God to take my life. It was at this traumatic time that I had a close contact with the children of God who were members of my brother-in-law's Church. Even though I was not a member then, they rallied round, gave me the needed provision and showed me true love.

Despite their love and concern, I was still sorrowful and sad. They encouraged me to come to Church but I did not see the need to pray for salvation. It was repulsive to me to pray in the *new way*. I wondered why they should ask me to pray for salvation; after all, I had prayed all my life. They also persuaded me to come to the 2004 camp meeting. I came in order to please them and to show appreciation for all they did for me. But I refused to pray and I closed my heart to their entreaties.

Thank God, He prevailed upon me to pray just a night before my scheduled time for departure. When I prayed sincerely, God answered my prayers and gave me His wonderful salvation. The first thing He did was to remove the sadness that had bottled up in my heart and the blue days were gone. He replaced my sadness with joy. I never knew I could live for three months after my husband's death but by God's grace, it is now over one year that he died and the joy of salvation has remained with me

***Foluke Obajomo,  
Ikirun, Nigeria.***

I came to Lagos as a trader. A neighbour from another church introduced me to the Gospel in 1979. Before then, I did not know that there was an Apostolic Faith Church behind my house but God led me there and I prayed through to salvation in 1980.

Before relocating to Lagos, I had lived in the Northern part of Nigeria as a very rich woman, but my wealth at that time was gotten through dubious means. On coming to the Gospel, God made me realise that the ill-gotten wealth will not allow me to make the Portals of Glory. I felt sincerely sorry for my sins; I desisted immediately from my evil means of getting wealth and I started living from hand to mouth. Before coming to the Gospel, my husband had abandoned me for another woman, taking away our belongings with him. Nevertheless, this pushed me to seek God.

I came penniless and naked seeking the mercy of God. This Great God did not cast me off as my husband did. He accepted me. He saved my soul and gave me joy once again. God directed me to be selling iced water at various bus terminus and the proceeds of this catered for the feeding of my family members.

Through the prayers and love of the children of God, the Lord paved a way for me to start selling firewood. Gradually, my children started schooling and had their school fees paid through the proceeds of this sale. Today, to the glory of God, my last child is in a higher institution while three of them are overseas. The Lord has blessed me bountifully; my naked body He has clothed while my children lack nothing.

By the grace of God, I found myself in the music class. My

children too got registered. Today, I play flute in the orchestra and my daughter too plays flute. The Lord bought all these instruments for us. About a week ago, God bought a trumpet for my son. Is not the love of Jesus something wonderful?

The sale of firewood, as mean a career as it appears, has been used of God to send my children to school, some abroad and even erect a private building for me. I used to be a stark illiterate, but God has taught me without attending any formal school. I now communicate in English language and even teach my Sunday School class in English. I cannot exhaust the goodness and mercies of God in my life.

***Cecilia, Lagos.***

I thank God that there is power in the Blood of Jesus to heal and to deliver. A few years ago, I came to Jesus as a sinner. He accepted, saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

As we were coming for the 2004 camp meeting, our vehicle was involved in an accident. To the glory of God, nobody died in the accident but some of us sustained injuries. My shoulder was badly wounded with the bone dislocated. When I regained consciousness, I became very weak and was ill for about three weeks. I thank God that I am serving a Living God. He came, touched me and healed my dislocated shoulder. Today, I lift up the hand to show that God can heal. He is powerful.

I want to serve this God the more and at the end of my life, see Him as He is.

***Victoria Abebi, Cote d'Ivoire***

I thank the Lord for the privilege given me to testify of His faithfulness to me. Were salvation a thing that money could buy, I would not have been privileged to be saved. But God in His goodness called me at a very young age from a Muslim family in the city of Lagos. At the children's Sunday School, I learnt that the best friend to have is Jesus. God told me that I should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, that all other things would be added unto me. I prayed and Jesus saved me. He later sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

When we were in Benue State, my husband's boss declined giving him permission to go for camp meeting in one year. My only child then was ill and had become paralysed for weeks. All the people in the neighbourhood rose against us for not taking the child to the hospital. My husband's boss had even threatened us with police action if the child should die. We trusted in the Great Physician Who had promised to heal our diseases. On the first Sunday of the camp meeting, we came to the living room for prayers. We decided with one mind that the camp meeting power should descend into our own house too.

At the exact hour for the Sunday School, my husband started playing a Sunday School song on his violin. Suddenly, my three year old sick child got up and started marching. I shouted that somebody should help me hold her lest she fall down but she did not fall. God had healed her. Instead of falling, she recovered instantly and her paralysed legs were straightened. Jesus is a wonderful Friend. I wish to serve Him all the days of my life.

***Mabel Odunsi,  
Ibadan, Nigeria***

I came to the Gospel as a small boy. God saved, sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost. He has been taking care of me ever since I made Him my Lord and Saviour.

I wrote my school certificate examinations some years back. My result was not very good. I however, succeeded in getting admission for an NCE programme. God saw me through and I passed out in good grades.

To obtain a job became a problem. I roamed round the cities and towns for a job but got nothing. I thank God for the caption of the 2002 camp meeting – **Behold I Will Do A New Thing**. God helped me to make good my promise to attend the meetings. I simply asked God to do two things for me. One, that He should give me a permanent job, and two, get me direct admission to the University for a regular programme. God surprised me so much that He granted the two requests. The day I received the letter for a permanent job was the day I got my admission letter to a University for a regular programme.

I thank God that He still answers prayer.

*Peter Benjamin,  
Ogun State, Nigeria*

I thank the Lord for bringing me into the Gospel with His mighty Hand. I had earlier been worshipping for several years in a church where I had been decked with a lot of titles and positions.

I used to be an ardent lover of music and dances but at a point in time, I grew sick of all these pastimes. Instead of deriving pleasure from them, my heart was filled with sorrow and anguish. There was always a nagging question in my heart: "How will I make Heaven with all these yokes of titles heaped on me?"

As the music coordinator for my church then, I loved attending concerts and music festivals in any other church. As a result of this interest, in December 2004, I was invited to the Christmas concert of The Apostolic Faith Church in the Republic of Benin. Despite my busy schedule in my church during the season, I was able to honour the invitation.

As soon as I stepped into the Church, my thirst for God was assuaged. I even heard a Voice whisper to me, "Here is where I will make use of you". Furthermore, as soon as the curtain was drawn and the artistes started performing, I felt I had arrived at the Pearly Gate. All the activities of the evening drew my heart to Heaven. After that evening, I worshipped at The Apostolic Faith branch church closest to me. At the end of the service, the ushers encouraged me to go to the altar to pray but I declined, being mindful of the titles and high ranking positions I had been yoked with.

My former church elders later invited me to an emergency meeting wishing to know my stand. I told them of my decision to start attending The Apostolic Faith Church in Dessá (Republic of Benin). They were not happy at this information and it generated a heated argument which made the meeting that started at 7.00pm to end at 2.00am.

The next day was a Sunday, and I found myself worshipping at The Apostolic Faith again. I needed only a bit of encouragement to be at the altar of prayer. There, Jesus saved my soul gloriously. I later got sanctified and baptised with the Holy Ghost. The joy of the Lord filled me like a river. God gave my family and I the hope of Heaven. I have decided to give Him my entire life. The Lord is good!

*Kumolu Adeniyi Norbert,  
Republic of Benin*

I thank God for His plan for my life. The Lord saved me when I had made up my mind to go into the world. I met some people who told me about Jesus. They said if I could come to Jesus, my night would turn to day. My heart was touched. When I came to my room, the Lord showed me all my sins; they were lined up right in front of

me and I was ashamed of myself. Though, there was no preacher, the Spirit of God was there. I wished the ground would open for me to hide from the presence of God. I cried unto God for mercy; and the Lord came down. I confessed all my sins and the Lord saved my soul. Heaven came down into my heart, my life was changed and everything became new. Two years later, the Lord brought me into The Apostolic Faith. With the deep hunger in my heart for more of God, right in the Sunday School, I was convinced that I had reached where I was going. The Lord later sanctified and filled me with the Holy Ghost. The Lord started dealing with me about my job. Two years later, I resigned my appointment with the Ministry of Health, because the Lord said to me, "As long as you are there, you do not believe I can heal". Then the enemy came in to say, "You will soon beg because your husband will soon resign and you will both become beggars".

Four years later, God cornered up my husband and demanded his full time. He also resigned. With our two girls, one in the nursery school and the other yet to start school, we moved out of the official quarters where we were living. God provided us a place to live in. Before my husband resigned, he had prayed to God concerning our children and God had assured him that He would take care of them.

In 1983, we came to Lagos as full-time workers. Not knowing where God was leading us to, we just surrendered all to Him. I bless God today, because I can say that He does not owe anybody. Those two girls are university graduates today. We have never begged nor owed anybody. God gives us all we need. He heals us when we are sick.

In 1997, we were sent to Liberia, a war-torn country, but before we got there, the Lord had prepared us. He fitted us into the situation and condition of the country. There was joy in our heart that we are where God wanted us to be. He brought us back to Nigeria in 2002.

Now, we are in Abia State. Our desire everyday is, wherever He leads we will follow. Please pray for us to be faithful to the end.

*Nne George, Aba, Nigeria*

I thank God for bringing me into contact with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, at age sixteen when I was a sinner. As the sermon was preached, I realised the need of Jesus coming into my life. I prayed, confessed my sins and God saved me. Later, God sanctified and baptised me with the Holy Ghost and fire.

After I graduated from the higher institution as a professional teacher in technical education, all my efforts to get a job failed, the high need of technical teachers at that time notwithstanding. The frustration led me to engage in earnest prayers for days. I prayed God to provide me with a job in the public or private sector, or establish me as a self-employed man. God answered by providing a job for me as a full-time Gospel worker. I did not expect that the answer was going to come that way because that was not my area of interest. So I went back to God in prayer to change it because I felt that if I had to be a full-time worker, I needed to marry first. But God told me that I asked for a job and that He had given me a job. That settled it! In His own time, God gave me a loving and caring wife in the Gospel and I am enjoying a happy and peaceful marriage.

In March 2005, I was involved in an accident in which the vehicle somersaulted three times. The vehicle was damaged beyond repairs but God brought me out unhurt. A month later, my wife was afflicted with breast cancer. The disease was spreading with corresponding excruciating pains daily. We prayed and trusted God for healing. On the first Sunday in May 2005, my wife came to Church with the problem. After the morning service, she was prayed over. In the evening of that same day, the pain disappeared and the following morning the lump in her breast vanished. Today, she is hale and hearty. That is how God healed my wife. God has never failed me, He provides my needs, heals and protects me and my family. May His name be praised for ever. I promise Him the balance of my life.

*Igwe Kalu, Enugu.*

# Speak Out!

## What Do You Cherish Most About This Church?

The Sermons and Teachings undiluted and unadulterated. These cannot be found elsewhere.

- **Dotun Oduwole,**  
Anthony, Lagos

The Word of God and practical christianity in deed and dressing. Also the humility of the children of God.

- **Bisi Olamijulo,**  
Anthony, Lagos

I cherish the genuine salvation and the hope of Heaven that the members have.

- **Bridget Aavaze,**  
Okene, Nigeria

The undiluted Bible-based doctrine that can prepare one for Heaven, as well as the unparalleled sacred music that draws souls to Heaven.

- **Kayode Adesanya,**  
Abeokuta, Nigeria

The influence of godly parents.

- **Sola Oduola,**  
Anthony, Lagos.

**Sustained orderliness, inspiring choir renditions, sound Bible teachings and a constant reminder of Christ's Second Coming.**

- **Stella Osakwe,**  
Ogwashi-Uku, Nigeria

Salvation of souls, quietness and orderliness during service, guidance of the Holy Spirit, efforts of the choir, especially the elders among them. No theft—where you leave your belonging you meet it there.

- **Christiana Adenegan,**  
Okitipupa, Nigeria

**I love the standard, the mode of worship, the uncompromising stand on the Truth; the cordial approach to a sinner friend.**

- **Okechukwu Machie,**  
Abakaliki, Nigeria

Music is what I cherish; also the love that brings unity among the brethren.

- **Mary Omuiza,**  
Jos, Nigeria

**I love everything about this glorious Gospel, including the sound doctrine.**

- **Joy Duntoye,**  
Oro, Nigeria

I cherish the sound doctrine and the solemn way God's ministration is carried out by the saints. I also cherish very much the music which thrills my soul always.

- **Priscilla Eben,**  
Kumba, Cameroon

**I really thank God for the Gospel of Jesus Christ as preached by The Apostolic Faith. Truly, God still answers prayers. He saves souls, sanctifies, baptises and heals sicknesses.**

- **Mbet-Obong Ududo,**  
Uruk Atta II, Nigeria

I cherish the sound doctrine and the Godly Heritage that God has given to us. I also cherish the music in the Church.

- **Mary Ibikunle,**  
Ilorin, Nigeria