



Without Walls

VOL NO. 1

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF 300 LEADERS CLUB INT'L APRIL, 2014

DECEITFUL DOCTRINES:

Be On Guard!

CHRISTIANS TOO
CAN CREATE
WEALTH

WHAT
SEEDS ARE
YOU SOWING

THE 'MONSTER'
CALLED **FREEDOM**

GOOD
LEADERSHIP
IS GOD'S ORDAINED





From the PUBLISHER'S Desk

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This journal – Without Walls – is berthing to function as a platform for the teaching ministry on leadership at grassroots within and outside Christendom; it will also educate readers on topical issues from the perspective of the Christian faith.

It is further designed to co-ordinate programmes and activities of the membership of the 300 Leaders Club International. Through this newsletter, it is expected that students of the Institute of Leadership and Christian Studies, based in Benin City will better interact on a variety of issues and interests.

Also, associate members and fellows of the 300 Leaders' Club will find for themselves a medium of exposition on new discoveries in leadership studies.

We elicit your editorial contributions and feed back in subsequent editions for mutual enlightenment, education and benefits.

Welcome on board!

Evang. A.S. David

A Message at Easter

At a time like this, the church of Jesus Christ gathers not just to mourn but to learn more about the importance of the death of Jesus Christ our Lord, on the cross of Calvary. It is true he suffered untold pain and humiliation yet the result of this is more important than the sympathy some within the Christendom seem to concentrate on.

Our Lord's death on the cross is the hope of all who live. His death is our salvation. He was wounded for our transgression, bruised for our iniquities and by his stripes we were healed. If he did not die we would not have been emancipated from the grips of the devil. His death was not accidental, he was not overpowered. It was a voluntary act aimed at the salvation of mankind.

The success of this deliberate submission of Jesus Christ cannot be overemphasized. However, success without leadership has limited effectiveness; hence Jesus wants us to develop into 'leaders who raise leaders' as we join him in spreading his success. The larger the number of us willing to accept his leadership and submit ourselves for leadership development through his mentorship the more the world is saved.

Our aim in this season will be to mourn, not for Jesus Christ, but for the salvation of the over five billion souls on earth that are not yet saved. As we accept his mentorship through his teachings which is the curriculum of study this season, we develop great leadership abilities needed for the spread of the gospel of our salvation.

This period is good and glorious; we must extend this understanding to people around us. God bless you.

By **Evang. A.S. David**

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What seeds are you sowing?



Mrs. Sarah David

When you open your heart, God will open His windows and pour His blessings. Everything you have or will have come from

"Your seed is anything that will benefit another person. What you have may not solve your problem, but it can solve another person's problem, give it out to that person that has need".

God; so be generous. The seed of generosity will produce greatness and great people.

In conclusion, laughter is a seed, anger is a seed, happiness is a seed, and bitterness is a seed. Plant the seed of

happiness in your home, office and community today and you will have harvest of happy people around you!

Sad people kill, non-generous people are thieves. Generous people are true friends; a candle losses nothing when it lights another. Helping another succeed will not reduce you but it will rather promote you.

Generosity is a ministry for those who have eyes and ears. Hear the cry of the poor at your gate

Listen to the tears of a helpless person around you; give a helping hand to the dying and help to lift the burden of others. For sure, there are many people you are better than, who look up to you for provisions. Don't seal your heart.

Pay school fees for someone who needs it. Help somebody register for WASC or NECO today and your children will not lack help. Give someone a cup of water or a pair of slippers or pants, help cover someone's nakedness and the Almighty will send you help on the day of your adversity.

Generosity is one word that has been misunderstood by many of us - pastors and members alike! The act of 'Giving' is for all and not for a select few who God has highly favoured (Gal: 7 - 8). As a matter of fact, if you do not sow, you cannot receive; again, the extent to which you sow is the extent you will receive. It is a spiritual fact.

What you receive as incomes or allowances can constitute the seed to sow, so that you can have and harvest, for it is God who giveth seed to the sower. (II Cor. 9:8).

When He (God) ministers seed to you, sow it and expect a harvest in course of time. God gives all grace (harvest) to the sower and all grace will produce all sufficiency. God gives you harvest to abound to every good work; harvest is for distribution. It is the ministry of sowers.

"Listen to the tears of a helpless person around you; give a helping hand to the dying and help to lift the burden of others. For sure, there are many people you are better than, who look up to you for provisions. Don't seal your heart".

In all lands and climes, good farmers do not play with their seedlings which are reserved for sowing. Any seed eaten is the loss of a harvest. Often, seeds are always very sweet to eat, hence the necessity for spiritual and personal

discipline. It is for this reason that many believers do not pay their tithes. Tithe is a seed; when it is sown, it multiplies for the sower.

The power of increase is in the seed. The power of harvest is also in the seed. Seed is not limited to money alone, it is anything that can multiply and this invariably leads us to the area of empowering others.

Love is a seed, money is a seed but in our contemporary experience as Christians, undue attention is given to money. Everything you possess is a seed that can be sown for greater harvest!

If you sow love, you harvest love

If you sow money, you harvest money

If you sow peace, you harvest peace

If you sow kindness, you harvest kindness

If you sow mercy, you harvest mercy

If you sow truth, you harvest truth

If you sow deceit, you harvest deceit

If you sow wickedness, you harvest wickedness

If you sow anger, you harvest anger

If you sow loiter words, you harvest same

If you sow sadness, you harvest sadness

If you sow clothes, shoes, bags, jewelries etc, same you will harvest.

Your seed is anything that will benefit another person. What you have may not solve your problem, but it can solve another person's problem, give it out to that person that has need.

There are a lot of fertile grounds for your seeds namely:

The Gospel - As you invest in God's project, you will have a bountiful harvest.

The Poor - The bible records that the poor shall not cease from the land. Therefore, give to the poor and wait for the harvest.

Generosity is for the leaders; Generosity is for the rich. You can decide to be a rich leader by being generous with your seed.

Seed faith simply means to plant something you have as a seed for a specific harvest, such as using that which you have been given to receive that which you have been promised (Prov. 13:4, 10:4).

"The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat (Prov. 13:4)".

"He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand; but the hand of the diligent maketh rich (Prov. 10:4)".

Jesus taught that giving is the beginning of blessing.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you....", Lk 6:38. Whatever you are, you will create around you. Giving is the only proof that you have conquered greed. (Mk 10: 29 - 30; Ps 84: 11).

When you let go what is in your hand; God will let go what is in His hand.

Leadership, the Big Business

By Evan, A.S. David



US PRESIDENT OBAMA



PRESIDENT JONATHAN



NELSON MANDELA



POPE FRANCIS

The concept of leadership varies with application and is misunderstood by many. While some see it as management, others confuse it with entrepreneur. The academia think of it as power through knowledge; yet some see it as position that goes with title. However, leadership stands out as an all-important concept of life when viewed from the perspective of the big business (the pursuit of purpose).

Leadership is empowering people to unleash their potentials through influence not leverage, manipulation or intimidation. The concept of leadership in this article is the empowering rather than the visionary approach.

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followers dependent and in the shadows. An empowering approach pulls followers to centre stage and addresses how a leader facilitates and unleashes the gifts and abilities of others," Charles C Manz in the 'Leadership Wisdom of Jesus'.

Empowering people to unleash their potential is getting them reconnected to their source. The source of man is God. The fall of man personified by Adam was a disconnection from source. The rebirth of man in Christ Jesus is the reconnection to source which is a new life of total dependence on God by the

Holy Spirit. Potentials remain dormant until reconnection is made possible. Leadership is getting people reconnected to their source. That is getting people to experience the new birth. It is adding value to people, repositioning them for effectiveness and reactivating them for a purposeful life.

Only people who have been where you want to go could be trusted to lead you there. Leaders are people who have been reconnected to the Source and who are willing to help others get reconnected. Leaders live a life of total dependence on the Source. They receive their nourishment from the source and serve as resource to feed people with same nourishment so as to get the people not dependent on them but on the Source. The nourishment from the source is the Holy Spirit

Leadership is the greatest challenge of the twenty-first century. This is for the simple reason that many leaders of people across the nations of the world are not connected to the source. They do not have the nourishment from the source. They are not led by this nourishing Holy Spirit. As a result, world leaders depend on factors incapable of helping their followers unleash their potentials.

Economic, political, military and diplomatic maneuvering are some of these invalid factors employed by world leaders. Man was not created to be controlled by these factors but by the Holy Spirit. None of these factors or a combination of them can activate the potentials of man in the positive. Rather they help spark off violent reactions, corruption and mistrust. This accounts for the twenty-first century political, religious extremism and insurgency all over the world.

Abuse is the misuse of that which is supposed to be useful. The word useful means a full use of something. It connotes a proper use. That is, use for the rightful purpose. Potentials received on creation can only be put to full use when the carrier is reconnected to the source. That is the place of the big business which is the pursuit of purpose by leaders.

Reconnecting people to the source is the supreme purpose of leadership. It is the big business of leaders; it is the creation of the awareness that purpose and the pursuit of it not only by leaders but also by followers will help unleash potentials needed for peaceful co-existence, wealth creation and equitable distribution of resources, the absence of which has brought wars and woes worldwide.

A Poet's corner:

The Race For Eternity

If the race is worth it
Then will I run like the deer
Then will I fly like the Eagle
Not growing weary or fainty

If the race is worth it
Then will I be careful
To run with an aim
Letting nothing hinder me
Putting aside every weight

If the race is worth it
Then shall I be like the good soldier
Fighting to win the battle
Bearing all it takes to win

If the race is worth it
Then shall I run to win the crown
Looking not to the left nor to the right
Letting nothing hinder me

But if vain be the case
Then will I be like the bird on wing
Free to fly wherever the wind blows
But this is not to be
Eternity race! Eternity race!!

By Mrs Patricia Ohain

A DOCTRINAL PERSPECTIVE ON DRESSING, JEWELRY, HEAVEN/HELL 'VISITATIONS'

By Betty Amadi and Patricia Ohain

Emerging trends in Christendom today have set many perceptive Christians to ponder on some doctrines that are bandied around by some Christians, which for all intents and purposes negate sound biblical principles. These controversial issues are by no means exhaustive but include Dress modes for Christians, especially women; use of Jewelleries like finger and ear rings, necklaces, bracelets, ornaments A new dimension to it now is acclaimed 'visitations' to Heaven and Hell; what to eat and what not to eat; 'anointed' handkerchiefs, oils sold at enormous costs to congregants.

Concerns have, therefore, grown lately among genuine believers over some multi-media productions like CDs, DVDs, audio tapes – which have flooded Nigerian markets and clearly directed at gullible Christians.

These productions espouse some strange doctrines that are obviously leading some Christians astray and into the part of spiritual error. Ironically, many gullible Christians have embraced them as 'truths', unwittingly sidelining the true Biblical positions on the controversial issues.

We, therefore, seek to examine these issues one after the other and state what we consider the true Biblical perspective and standpoints on them.

DRESS MODE BY CHRISTIANS:

It is to be noted that when the primary purpose for a thing is not known, its abuse becomes inevitable. The purpose of dressing is to cover our nakedness and to look decent as humans. What appears as the first effort by man to dress himself occurred in the Garden of Eden when the eyes of Adam and Eve were opened and "both knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons". (Gen 3:7).

Ordinarily, nothing prevents the Christian man/woman to be fashionable; to look good and decent However, such dressing should not go to the ridiculous extent of exposing body parts to engender sexual provocations as there is a strong relationship between what you see and think. In this context, therefore, sexually provocative dressing can sow the seeds of immorality and sin; hence it should be avoided by Christians.

1 Tim 2:9 enjoins that women "adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety.."

The simple understanding is that

women should look good, decent and presentable in dressing and take care not to abuse the privilege to dress. For, when one dresses and becomes a symbol of lust or temptation to the opposite sex, it becomes something other than a righteous conduct. Jesus taught that woe is the man/woman who causes another to sin. Moreover, 2 Cor 3:2 says: "Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men".

In dressing, we must be modest and do the right thing to bring others to the Light; set a Godly limit to our liberty in dressing and teach our children to do same.

"Ordinarily, nothing prevents the Christian man/woman to be fashionable; to look good and decent However, such dressing should not go to the ridiculous extent of exposing body parts to engender sexual provocations as there is a strong relationship between what you see and think".

WEARING OF JEWELRIES AND ORNAMENTS:

For purpose of definition, jewelries include gold, silver, bronze and copper rings and ear rings, necklaces, bracelets, hand and neck beads, etc. Jewelry/ornaments are items of decoration which women use to look good and beautiful.

Let it be established that God made everything beautiful. He made Man, Woman. He made the gold, silver and bronze, etc. God appreciates beauty, for "in His sanctuary, there is beauty and strength" (Psalm 96:6).

Being a God of beauty, he directed Moses and the craftsmen to adorn the Tabernacle with gold and the Ark of Covenant with pure Gold. See Exodus 25, 26, 27 and 28. In early biblical times, wealth was measured in worth of gold, silver, cattle and servants. The rich adorned their wives, children, and even animals with gold as pointers to their success in life. This practice has transcended generations till date.

The fact that the Israelites massed their gold ornaments to create a false god – the golden calf - does not remove from the fact that gold in itself is a precious metal. In this case, its use was abused and mis-applied. Gold ornaments – rings, necklaces, and bracelets could be used modestly for personal beautification though the real

emphasis for Christians should be inward beauty.

Was Jezebel termed the epitome of evil because she wore jewelries? No! Her heart was simply evil and not the jewelry she wore. What defiles a man is not what goes into him but what cometh out of his heart. Matt 15:11, 18-20.

*(Mat 15:11) Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.

*(Mat 15:18) But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

*(Mat 15:19) For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies;

*(Mat 15:20) These are the things which defile a man; but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

We also learnt in Gen 24:22,53; how Jacob adorned Rebecca with jewelry for beautification.

*(Gen 24:22) And it came to pass, as the camels had done drinking, that the man took a golden earring of half a shekel weight, and two bracelets for her hands of ten shekels weight of gold;

*(Gen 24:53) And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah; he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.

Yes! Jacob ordered his servants to remove their ear rings in Bethel in Gen 35:1-4. This was because these ornaments were then being used as "items of idolatry" for charms and amulets, which Jacob knew God detested.

*(Gen 35:1-4) And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there; and make there an altar unto God, that appeared unto thee when thou fleddest from the face of Esau thy brother. Then Jacob said unto his household, and to all that were with him, Put away the strange gods that are among you, and be clean, and change your garments; And let us arise, and go up to Bethel; and I will make there an altar unto God, who answered me in the day of my distress, and was with me in the way which I went. And they gave unto Jacob all the strange gods which were in their hands, and all their earrings which were in their ears; and Jacob hid them under the oak which was by Shechem.

When you use gold as an ornament, it is different from when you use gold for superstitious purposes; that is, when you first consecrate it to some false gods or formed them under some constellation and stamped them with magical characters.

If any women choose to stop wearing rings, ear rings and other ornaments for strictly personal reasons, no problems but let such not be mistaken for biblical doctrine.

The golden calf incident is simply a negative application of gold. (Ex 32:2-3). Within this context, it depicted idolatry which offends God.

Again, 1st Pet 3:1-5 is a comparative text of outward and inward beauty; in this case, physical appearance and a good heart towards God.

(1Pet 3:3) Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

(1Pe 3:4) But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

The contention, therefore, by some believers these days that the wearing of ear rings is "demonic" is not true. It is a matter of application. The so-called 'vision' of people gone to hell on account of their wearing of jewelry is a spiritual error and should be discountenanced!

Some even claim that some invisible forces beat them up at night for wearing ear rings. These set of people obviously need deliverance!

The scripture stresses "a humble and meek spirit" as a great price in the service of God (1Tim 2:9).

In short, the Bible underscores moderation in all things including talking, eating, sleeping etc. Apostle Peter and Timothy were not condemning or sentencing the women but enjoining them to show strong virtues and bring people to the kingdom; not emphasis on expensive and outrageous appearances.

God's priority is not based on physical appearance alone but on our spiritual content which is our salvation and relationship with him.

Ps 24:3-5; 1Sam 16:7; Matt 5:8 refer.

* (Psa 24:3) Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

* (1Sa 16:7) But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

* (Mat 5:8) Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Jesu s is more concerned with our being born-again and sinlessness, without which, no one can make heaven.

"The Scripture warns us not to believe every spirit but to try them whether they be of God, because many false prophets have gone into the world. Lying spirits also abound as attested to by the scripture".

'VISITATIONS' TO HEAVEN/HELL:

Many video and audio productions are making the rounds in the country, alluding to 'visitations' to heaven and hell by some 'men/women-of-God'. These heavenly 'visitors' claim to have seen late prominent men and women of God languishing in Hell on account of their mode of dressing, wearing of ornaments, jewelry and what they ate or didn't while they were here on earth.

Many Christians, unfortunately, have fallen for this bait and are engaged in embarrassing practices today. Some women have stopped wearing ear rings, ornaments; they dress shabbily to become embarrassment to themselves in outlook. Some young ladies now dress like 'old women', looking haggard and older than their ages. How would the unmarried ones attract suitors to themselves and the married ones remain attractive to their husbands? These are serious issues.

There is something unique about physical appearance that you cannot ignore. Prospective husbands still have eyes for decency in the ladies! These should not create problems for spinsters. Physical attraction is a sound reality.

Jesus warned about false prophets and their teachings, (See Matt 7:15-20; 2Pet 2:1-3)

* (Mat 7:15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

* (2Pet 2:1) But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom

the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you; whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Seducing spirits and doctrines of the devil (1Tim 6:10)

* (1Tim 6:10) For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Interestingly, some of these CD producers are smiling to their banks on account of sales benefit from their productions while the viewers are groping and locked down in spiritual error. Some are obviously parading themselves as angels of light whereas they are angels of darkness (2 Cor 11:14);

* (2 Cor 11:14) And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

The Scripture warns us not to believe every spirit but to try them whether they be of God, because many false prophets have gone into the world. Lying spirits also abound as attested to by the scripture. 1Kgs 22:22-23; 2 Chn 18:21-22. Beloved, we are enjoined to test the spirit (1John 4:1-6; Jude 1 7-18. We need to be sober, vigilant: (2Peter 4:18)

Do people really come back from the dead according to these 'visioners' and the testimonies in their CDs?

Hebrew states that it is appointed unto man to die once and after that judgment (Heb 9:27)

No one knows the D-Day, not even the angels in heaven except the Father (Matt 24:34-36)

* (Mat 24:36) But of that day and hour knoweth no man; no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

These persons' claims of Jesus taking them to heaven and hell are all rubbish! They are not biblical but fallacies and deceit from the pit of hell. Even if God decides to take a man to heaven or hell, it will be for a strong reason of warning man to turn away from evil and not for an insignificant act of wearing of jewelries. This is quite absurd and inconsequential as regards the essence of salvation.

WHAT TO EAT AND WHAT NOT TO EAT:

God does not delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of God. Walking in obedience delights God, much more than self-denial of adornments. What defiles a man is not what goes into him but what comes out of him.

Scripture says: Let no man judge us in meat or in drink or in respect of any holy day; or of the new moon or the Sabbath day (Col 2:16). The scripture is also explicit on foods described as forbidden or otherwise because of the spiritual weakness/immaturity of some brethren (1Cor 8:4-13)

FOCUS:



GOSPEL WOMEN INTERNATIONAL EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

By Sarah David

Gospel Women International (GWI) is the body of women who believe in the doctrine of our Lord and Master Jesus Christ and commissioned to take this same gospel to other women all over the world.

We are committed to helping women from all denominations; nationalities, age groups and background to grow emotionally, spiritually and relationally. We are dedicated to helping women experience life to its fullest as God intended them to do and equipping them to become a vital part of their families, churches and communities.

We recognize that women play a variety of roles throughout their lives. We, therefore, help to edify, encourage, renew, strengthen, and unify their commitment to God and their families at large.

Women, as we know, constitute the majority in any society, tribe or nation. Without progress in the situation of women, there can never be any true social development. The woman's influence determines the spiritual life of the family, church, community and her nation.

To a large degree, she is the key to a successful family or the cause of its failure. In recognition of this, the Gospel Women International has decided to embark on free empowerment program in addition to the faith conference that has been on since 2005 in Edo State. In these conferences, we build up the faith of women to keep trusting in God irrespective of circumstances facing them. We also educate women on how to be better mothers, keep their homes and train their children in the fear of God.

The Gospel Women International was formally known as Women-for-Women Gospel Campaign. It started in the year 2000 in a village called Oza N'ogogo in Delta State of Nigeria, with about 80 women in attendance. However, the Edo chapter of the Gospel Women International started in 2005.

In 2010, the free Empowerment Program of the body was introduced with just few items on our list such as, bead-

making, fish farming and poultry farming. This program was highly welcomed and appreciated by all. Before the end of 2012, other products were added to the list such as liquid soap, jik, vaseline, hair cream robb, scrubbing powder, disinfectants, toilet wash etc.

We have travelled to about 12 villages in Delta State teaching, not only women but youths and teenagers. God has enlarged us in this year 2014 by giving us a training school, where we can, on weekly basis, train up women and youths to

"We recognize that women play a variety of roles throughout their lives. We, therefore, help to edify, encourage, renew, strengthen, and unify their commitment to God and their families at large".

be independent and self sufficient. The school kicked off on the 5th of March, 2014. Classes are held twice a week - Wednesdays and Fridays - with about 14 regular students.

This program is geared towards economic empowerment of the members of the body of Christ. In this programme, we promote productivity, self-sustaining business and above all, create investment opportunities to redress the issue of unemployment, poverty, hunger, and their associated problems among believers. It is our desire to see participants establish cottage, small and medium scale industries and invest in agriculture.

In this empowerment programme, we are currently offering the following courses;

- Farming – Poultry farming, fish farming, plantain and pawpaw plantation, etc
- Liquid soap, Bar soap, Soda, toilet soap.
- Disinfectants, Dettol, Robb, Jik/Bleach, Izal.
- Hat production, bags, Belts, treatment, Knitting of cardigans etc.
- Bead making, flower vase,

Pastries; Buns, Poff poff, chin chin, doughnut, egg roll, Bread and Cake.

This empowerment programme has brought smiles and laughter to many. The list of beneficiaries is endless and many are still undergoing training. We believe that in the nearest future crime and poverty will be reduced if given the right support and encouragement. The Gospel Women Free Empowerment Program hopes to help the needy, the widows, and the less privileged, the unemployed and orphans to come out of poverty.

To be able to accomplish this, we have plans to get the following facilities in place.

- [1] Well equipped Kitchen for practical
- [2] Training space to accommodate the increasing number of students i.e. classrooms, boards, chairs, desks, fans, etc.

We have need of volunteers to train the students. We have to impact lives positively and give hope to the hopeless. Gospel women international transcends religious, denomination and legalistic beliefs and doctrines. We want women to join us enthroned Christ in every woman in our faith conferences.

We hope to graduate the first batch of the students before the end of this year. We encourage all, especially the women to come all out and receive this training in order to better their tomorrow.

1Thess 4:12 encourages us to study to be quiet and to do our own business, to work with our own hands as we commanded you...vs 12 'That you may work honestly towards them that are without and that ye may have lack of nothing'.

The Gospel Women International is here to teach us how to fish, so that you can have enough.

The training duration is between 3 - 6 Months.

May the good Lord empower you by Himself as you attend in Jesus name. Amen.

The 'MONSTER' CALLED FREEDOM



By A. S. David

More than any time else in history, the twenty-first century has witnessed the highest cry for freedom. Initially, this cry was a revolution in Eastern Europe, leading to the toppling of governments and power structures believed to have been oppressive to the people.

In this twenty-first century, the cry for freedom has become a global revolution with unspeakable devastation. Virtually all nations of the world are experiencing the 'challenge-the-authority' syndrome, 'we-want-freedom', 'we want our own shade of democracy' and so on.

Freedom without control or limitation is implied in all these cries. However, no one has considered the consequences of this type of freedom. Myles Munroe in his book – 'Maximizing Your Potentials', said that "freedom without law is anarchy; liberty without responsibility is irresponsibility".

Everybody wants freedom. The way freedom is presented gives it a pleasant fragrance yet it remains a monster if uncontrolled. For example abortion, gay-marriage, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, indiscipline and cultism in schools and so on.

The quest for freedom by ethnic groups has brought about ethnic cleansing as in Rwanda, Uganda and many others. Religious groups seeking freedom have precipitated wars in many countries including Lebanon while Islamic extremists have engendered insurgency in Syria, Nigeria and Niger, just to name a few.

Phrases like Freedom of religion, Freedom of speech, Freedom of choice, Freedom of the press, testify of man's longing for unrestricted lifestyle. These demands, good or bad, judged from sound moral ethics are upheld globally. The word freedom connotes "free" and "dominion". This could be traced back to

the condition of man in the Garden of Eden on creation. Man was free to eat of any of the trees including the Tree of Life, but not the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God also gave man dominion over everything he created.

However, nothing is truly free. Man's freedom was limited. One tree was the limitation. Man was not created to have unrestricted freedom. Unfortunately, man has not come to terms with this truth. That is why people are still fascinated with the idea of 'free airtime', 'free advert', 'buy one and get one free'.

Nothing is ever free. Freedom has a price. When you receive freedom from something, another is instantly enslaved. When Adam freed himself from God's word he lost the freedom of living in the garden. When a woman aborts a child, mankind suffers the loss of potentials.

"Freedom without control or limitation is implied in all these cries. However, no one has considered the consequences of this type of freedom. Myles Munroe in his book – 'Maximizing Your Potentials', said that "freedom without law is anarchy; liberty without responsibility is irresponsibility".

price. When you receive freedom from something, another is instantly enslaved. When Adam freed himself from God's word he lost the freedom of living in the garden. When a woman aborts a child, mankind suffers the loss of potentials.

The more man cries for freedom, the more destruction the political and religious rebellion inflicts on mankind. This insurgency has brought death to many people and a loss of inestimable amount of potentials that would have been channeled towards improving the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of many nations and standard of living of their people.

Freedom is not a vice if there are laws that limit its sphere of operation and influence. Without doubt, mankind in the present dispensation looks at such restriction as a breach of their fundamental human rights. This accounts for the global rejection of biblical injunctions. These are viewed as ancient Jewish laws that have no relevance in the present dispensation. Moreover, the biases of certain religious bodies and the anti-Semitic prejudices

have put the bible in seemingly difficult position to serve the God-intended purpose of guiding mankind in the use of freedom.

However, the bible remains God's word needed to guide man. Freedom without God's guidance is death. Adam set aside God's guidance and died spiritually and physically. The ground for Adam's craving for freedom lost its fertility. Man's labour became death as he now eats by the sweat of his body.

Originally, freedom was meant for man to eat food divinely provided and dominate all things created. Freedom is no freedom except it gives divine provision and dominion over creation. Divine provision can only be possible through dependence on source. That source is God. Dependence will mean a relationship that has a parameter. This once more implies freedom with limitations.

Myles Munroe quipped: "a man without God is potential without purpose and that man is dangerous. He is a live wire".

Freedom, no matter how sweet it sounds, has become the monster devastating mankind in this twenty-first century. A redefinition is necessary to stem the tide of the torrent of devastation. God cannot be neglected in the affairs of man. Freedom by God's definition is divine provision and dominion over creation.

Since divine provision comes by relationship with God, man must understand freedom from the point of control of his actions by his source and provider – GOD.



Learning LEADERSHIP GOD'S WAY



For nineteen years, I have been a student of the biblical leadership as taught in this mission. I must confess that every day is a school and everyone you meet is a teacher. Leadership from my point of view is a daily learning process and people-oriented discipline.

God has always used people's experiences, challenges, successes and failures to teach and train up leaders. As the scripture puts it: "now these things were our example..." 1Cor.10:6

Over the years, I witnessed many challenges that had no solution from any conventional method of solving problems, but each time I find the unconventional methods of the scriptures the right solution comes. This has built my faith on the scriptures as the best of ways to handle life's challenges. Challenge in life is, knowing what to do! As is evident in the life of many,

knowing what to do has been an illusion. This is why many are not stable on anything. They try all things and find nothing satisfying; they finally give up on life and become a problem to themselves, their families and nations.

My years of studying leadership, has given me insight as to how to handle challenges, avoid mistakes; being busy and not effective. I have also learnt that failure is being successful in the wrong assignment. Leadership is the ability to influence others to participate in the cause you pursue.

I have not yet learnt all I should; therefore, I make myself available for more learning. I have come to understand that truly, there are four phases of learning leadership and these phases are:

- (i). I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DON'T KNOW
- (ii) I KNOW WHAT I DON'T KNOW
- (iii) I GROW AND KNOW IT, START

TO SHOW.

(iv) I SIMPLY GO BECAUSE OF WHAT I KNOW.

I have written all these to say that learning leadership is not only important for success; it is an unending process that keeps increasing our level of success the more we apply ourselves to it. Secondly, leadership is not acquired over a weekend course or seminar, but is learnt daily and on the long haul shapes the student's life and his success.

I encourage those of you that have just graduated not to think you have completed your course on leadership. You have just entered a lifelong learning process that will distinguish

"Challenge in life is, knowing what to do! As is evident in the life of many, knowing what to do has been an illusion. This is why many are not stable on anything".

you. People will look for you as you grow. You will be a reward to someone as you develop yourself.

As the scripture puts it: "Give your complete attention to these matters; Throw yourself into your task so that everyone will see your progress -

1Tim4:15 [NLT]

Again, I say congratulations and may God be with you as you rule things and lead people.

INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP AND CHRISTIAN STUDIES GRADUATION

THIS ADDRESS WAS PRESENTED BY EVANG ABRAHAM SIMEON DAVID, PRESIDENT, INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP AND CHRISTIAN STUDIES ON THEIR 19th MISSIONS' DAY CELEBRATION SERVICE AND GRADUATION CEREMONY ON NOV. 17, 2013

Ministers of the gospel

Special guests

Men and Brethren

I greet you, in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

I welcome you first to the 19th annual Missions' Day Celebration Service, this day, 17th of November 2013 here at the Convention/Mission center, 12 Iguma Street, Medical Stores Road, Benin City. The Missions' Day is the 11th of November every year. It is the day God has commanded us to cast the vision of this mission.

The Missions' Day celebration service is an annual service held the Sunday following the 11th November each year to commemorate the giving of this vision. Secondly, I welcome you to the 2013 graduation ceremony of the Institute for Leadership and Christian Studies.

As follow-up to the Divine command to cast our vision, I am here compelled to give a concise background history of the institute, its purpose and how it has been divinely sustained. In 1981, the Lord called me to be a priest in the order of Melchisedek. This came with a great challenge of how to go about this mission of being a priest "without walls" - that is, no theology, no philosophy but only Christ. It took me thirteen years to answer this call, not because I understood but because I had to. This was in 1994.

This mission started in 1994 as a Bible study group of two in Lagos Nigeria. The

two students were my wife, Sarah, and I and could pass for Abraham and Sarah School of the Bible. As if my fear was really founded, no one bought in! By January, 1995 Abraham and Sarah school of the Bible with her two students relocated to Nsukka in Enugu State, partly because of Sarah's studies at UNN.

This move did not increase our number but we suddenly started seeing God's presence as we studied. These studies will start as morning devotion about 6am and end about 4pm on daily bases. God came as the unseen person teaching and deepening our wisdom and understanding.

In 1995, we went back to Lagos. This time the school began to grow with the addition of two people, namely, Mrs. B. Emecheta and Engineer Abiodun Pitan. Then God added to the school as many as will be trained. In 1997, the group sent out Sarah and me for missions and this was a turning point for this study group - it became a teaching mission. This missionary journey took us to Oza n'ogogo in Delta state. The school recorded great success in Oza n'ogogo that when we came into Benin City the news of the great miracles that follow the teachings preceded our arrival, making it easy to have students. Abraham and Sarah teaching mission has grown in Benin City establishing:

- [1] Institute for Leadership and Christian Studies.
- [2] Benin City Mission Center.
- [3] Edo and Delta State Outreaches.

While the institute is to raise leaders by leaders for missions, the mission center and its outreaches focus on ordaining ministers equipped to build people in love as they embark on local and global evangelism.

In addition, the Institute and mission center jointly issue preaching licenses to distinguished ministers that have received both trainings.

However, it has not been easy for the people to draw a distinction between theology and philosophy on one hand and Christ on the other; ordinary Church setting and the teaching mission; leadership and pastoring. Every move to change the direction of the mission to take the form of a church has met with both internal and external resistance. I realize with the benefit of hindsight, insight and foresight that it is only wise to follow the heavenly vision of running a teaching mission.

The way Christianity is presented in this teaching mission is not religion but the life of God's wisdom. We do not aim at pastors or Churches but people. To raise them leaders with the wisdom of God in carrying out their day-to-day activities in their work places, at home, businesses, churches and chosen careers. We have the divine instruction to train leaders: not pastors, people who influence and change their world yet not carried by its wind. The curriculum of the Institute for Leadership and Christian Studies is robustly structured to do just that.

CONTD IN PG 14

OUR TEACHING MISSION INITIATIVE

Dear partners,

We congratulate you in this season of the Teaching Mission Convention for the success of your divine investments. Your obedience to kingdom instructions will always yield supernatural profits; 2013 has again proved this. God has further advanced his kingdom on earth with your giving, prayers and encouragement. The Lord prosper you in Jesus name, Amen.

Reaching the dying world with the Living Christ remains our goal. To this end, we remain committed to world evangelization through the teaching mission. As we reported in 2012, we carried out series of crusades with the assistance of the

Anglican Communion. This trend continued in 2013 with wider reach and greater co-operation of the Anglican Communion. However, the field work is only a fraction of the work of the teaching mission.

World evangelization involves building convening places where we teach to train leaders and release them as a workforce to reach the world and spread the good news that the earth be filled with the glory of the knowledge of the Lord as waters cover the seas. Benin City is one of the five cities in Nigeria we plan to build this teaching mission center. Other cities in Nigeria are Port Harcourt, Enugu, Lagos and Abuja.

It was pleasant to celebrate the last graduation of the students of the Institute of Leadership and Christian studies on the 17th of Nov., 2013. We congratulate all our partners for this wonderful performance because your contributions and understanding made it happen.

We, however, must here remind ourselves that we are still using rented space with

agreement subject to review at short notice. It is only reasonable to acquire a piece of land to build teaching mission center considering the nature of the work of the mission. No training institute of this magnitude survives the uncertainties of tenancy arrangements.

In this new year 2014, we have resolved to acquire land for the center. To this end, we encourage everyone to join this collective effort of world evangelization through the teaching mission. Your professional input, prayer, financial contribution or even donating the much needed piece of land will be highly appreciated and divinely rewarded.

Your generous giving has made our projects possible. The proper management of these resources is of great concern to us. This is why we take time to explain situations and our decisions which we judge to be to the best interest of the purpose of your giving.

Thank you for the continued corporation for together we shall win.

Evang. A.S. David

Our purpose is to show forth the glory of God by telling the story of the life of Christ that the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the water covers the seas.

Our goal is to witness in our lifetime a revival that will bring five billion souls to Christ.

Our vision is to build people in love and raise leaders by leaders for missions.

Our plan is to raise leaders with sound wisdom of the life of God that they may operate in apostolic anointing and ministry, and then release them into their different worlds. We hope to do this in different locations, with different people on continuous basis. In 2014, the teaching mission will start publishing their leadership journal --"Without Walls". In addition, a leadership club of the mission will be formally launched. The membership will be for students and graduate members of ILCS; leadership experts and participants of the monthly leadership conferences.

In pursuit of the vision, we have a target of five billion souls for Christ before the end of the 21st century. Sequel to this we have embarked on

- a. Crusades in cities, towns and villages
- b. Gathering, publishing and distributing evangelism materials
- c. Care for the poor, needy, orphans and rural dwellers.

For effectiveness, the mission is divided into seven ministry areas

1. Crusaders: conducting love

crusades to reach out to five billion souls

2. **Believers' Fellowship International:** gathering and mobilizing those won to evangelize their communities and society

3. **Gospel Women International:** organizing and teaching the women faith and mobilizing them to care for ministers of the gospel, the poor and needy, the orphans and widows

4. **Men with a vision for missions:** mobilizing men to raise and send missionaries into the field

5. **International Christian Youths Association:** mobilizing youths to discover volunteers for mission work and talents for church growth.

6. **Bible Club International:** gathering and distributing materials to new converts and training children to know and live out the word of God.

7. **Soul Winners Association:** making disciples and transforming them into leaders that build leaders.

Leadership is the greatest challenge of humanity in this 21st century. The misconception of leadership has blinded the world to the wisdom of God. This neglect is the reason for all sorts of failure in the political and socioeconomic arena. The Institute for Leadership and Christian Studies will immerse you into the wisdom and power of God for 'leadership without walls'. This does not make you a pastor and does not take you into the religious circle but prepares you to cause changes in your world, a change that will honor God and bless mankind.

It is not aimed at drawing you away from your church, profession or discipline but to make you more profitable to mankind as you unleash your potentials. You are a reward to someone. You are the solution to the problem you discover. The world is in trouble except you unleash your potentials. Many projects cannot be started let alone completed without your input.

In this institute, we offer you inspired leadership training that will activate and release your highly valued potentials. The leaders we produce are people who are able to deploy others by first deploying themselves. They accept the original intent of the word of God to rule things and influence people and are thereby transformed. They in turn serve as agents of change to others by passing on the good news in simple, uncomplicated way in their natural environment, devoid of religious connotations but with the wisdom of the life of God, which results in miraculous change of lives, circumstances and situations.

The scripture said "write the vision and make it plain that he may herald that reads it" Habakkuk 2:2. The vision of the mission has been cast 'that we all that read may carry it out'. We, therefore extend to you the opportunity of heralding this vision as you join us today for the 2013 graduation ceremony /mission day celebration service.

Thank you for your participation and May God bless you in Jesus name. Amen.

A DOCTRINAL PERSPECTIVE

SALES OF SPECIAL 'ANNOINTED' OILS, HANDKERCHIEFS, ETC

It is highly regrettable that

"We must be circumspect as Christians in all that we do so as not to be led astray. The Lord Jesus who is our model never received financial rewards for his healings, deliverance and teachings".

som

e Christians have started to idolize these items. Some of these are sold for outrageous sums by some church leaders. For the love of money many have erred from the truth and are much more inclined to "filthy lucre". (1Tim 4: 1-5)

1Pet 5:2 - Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the

oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

We must be circumspect as Christians in all that we do so as not to be led astray.

The Lord Jesus who is our model never received financial rewards for his healings, deliverance and teachings. Jesus says:

(Mat 10:8)

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, Christians should be the people of the WORD. The Berean Christians were noted for their zeal for the Word. After they were taught by their teachers, they went back home

to search the scriptures to know and confirm the Truth.

These days, many Christians are no longer people of the Word; they have become like the reed, tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. They have refused to grow, but grown up babies that are still spoon-fed on milk

Timothy advises: Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2Tim 2:15)

This is the call; the heartbeat of God. This is the answer and solution to the darkness that has invaded Christendom today. The WORD!

H: 2ND GRADUATION OF INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP AND



GRADUANDS WITH INSTITUTE PRESIDENT



FEMINE TOUCH @ THE GRADUATION



THE GRADAUNDS



GRADUANDS



INSTITUTE'S PRESIDENT
EVANG. A.S. DAVID



EVANG. SUNDAY ODIASE



OTHER GRADAUNDS

By A.S. David

Wealth Creation AND MANAGEMENT



The mention of wealth sparks a lot of thoughts in the heart of many. While some think of it as evil others look at it as the source of life.

Wealth has a place in the affairs of life and must be properly managed for the benefit of mankind.

Wealth to many is an illusion. They see it as unattainable height of achievement or something reserved exclusively for a few people.

They even think that some people are specially born to possess and manage wealth, while others serve them as slaves that were never designed to be wealthy.

It is important to find out what wealth is and how it could be created and managed. Without doubt, God created heaven and earth and everything that is in it. Wealth is one of those things God created. The simple definition of wealth according to Wikipedia website is that wealth is 'the abundance of resources or material possession'. The former will include forest, mineral resources and others.

For a quick understanding of wealth creation we limit our definition to the latter, which is material possession. Wealth is not paid for but created. It is not a remunerated possession but produced possession.

When a man is employed on a job he is remunerated. A job keeper receives paycheck or pay packet. Job most times does not give satisfaction to those who keep it. They always complain of time, office politics and poor remuneration. Job makes one a perpetual slave, even where there are incentives. Though incentives are aimed at improving positive attitude to duty, this has not erased the slave attitude of job keepers.

They see themselves pined away under their employers whom they see as slave drivers. Incentives have failed to motivate employees as it is evident in their constant demand for pay raise and better conditions. They even form pressure groups to twist the arm of their employers to meet their insatiable demands.

Work on the other hand creates wealth. Work is the pursuit of purpose. It means to deploy self or someone. While job employs people work deploys people. The word deploy implies positioning oneself for effective use of talent, gift and ability. Conversely, the word employ

implies engaging someone's service for a pay. When someone is deployed it is for him to discover himself, his purpose, talents, gifts and abilities that he may effectively use them. The aim is not to work for the one who deployed but for the one who is deployed to unleash

his potentials as he begins the pursuit of his God given purpose. You may start with a job and end up with work. When you realize your purpose in life, your mission, your vision, you experience an obsession for something different from your job. That which you are passionate about is your assignment or purpose. It consumes your thoughts and

time. It is the work you work you were created to do. It is superior to your job, it creates abundance of resources that job cannot give. Though it is tough and rough, its passion absorbs all. There is this air of assurance and perseverance.

This stay-on attitude will inevitably create wealth - material possession. 'The hand of the diligent makes rich' - Proverbs 10:4, that means through work wealth is created.

'Hard work brings a profit' - Proverbs 14:23. This scripture is true because it is the word of God. It implies that hard work brings profit. Employees do not earn profit but salaries. Though both are incomes, the latter is received for rendering service while the former is created through work.

Further scriptures teach that God gives power to make wealth [Deut 8:18]. Power is ability to do work and it is a gift from God. Wealth creation invariably starts from the magnanimity of God. He gives the wealth making power. This power is for work not job.

It is important to note how God is the initiator of wealth creation. He gives the power to start off the process. He also gives the sense of purpose: an assignment which when discovered and pursued forms the basis of the work that releases the much needed wealth.

From the foregoing, wealth creation will involve first getting to know your life purpose. This can only be possible when you have been reconnected to your source. God is your source. You get reconnected when you receive His gift of

"It is important to note how God is the initiator of wealth creation. He gives the power to start off the process. He also gives the sense of purpose: an assignment which when discovered and pursued forms the basis of the work that releases the much needed wealth".

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forgiveness. That is accepting Christ Jesus as Lord and saviour. The much needed illumination that reveals purpose is only possible when reconciliation through the blood of Jesus has taken place in a man's life.

Secondly, God gives power in the person of the Holy Spirit to lead the reconnected in all his enterprise in line with his life - purpose. Generally speaking, wealth creation is the result of the pursuit of purpose through work by the enabling Holy Spirit.

Having settled the issue of wealth creation, it is imperative to consider the best possible ways of managing wealth. Management is the maintaining of systems. The system in question here is the assignment itself. The God-given

assignment when pursued through work yields wealth. This is not to build ourselves empires but to keep the assignment running until it is perfectly finished. It is like revenue generated within a country being used to run the country.

The country is a system that must be kept functional. Only a properly designed system can be maintained. No one can maintain a system that does not exist or is not properly designed.

The God-given assignment is always properly designed. When He gave Moses the assignment of delivering the children of Israel from Egypt, He systematically designed and educated Moses on how to go about it. Moses instructed his people to borrow jewelries from the Egyptians. These were used to build the tabernacle that became the identity of Israel and today explained as Christ who is the head of the church.

As we pursue our assignments, we create wealth which must be ploughed back into the assignment to keep it running, so that the purpose of our lives is fulfilled.

FAMILY & LIFESTYLES

SUSTAINING GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

By Patricia Ohain



Who is a neighbour? A neighbor can universally be defined as a person standing or sitting close to you at a particular time and place, or a person who lives next to you.

A good neighbor, therefore, is that close shoulder you can lean on in time of adversity when no one else is there; a friend to share your laughter with in time of merriment and who extends a helping hand in time of your need.

Jesus gave an illustration of who a good neighbor is in the story of the Good Samaritan.

"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise, a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where the victim was had compassion on him.

"He did not only stop at this but he bandaged his wound and took him to an inn, so that he will be taken care of, and even paid some money for his treatment with the promise to pay what is left on his journey back (Lk 10 v 30-36) NKJV.

This parable by Jesus is a good illustration of the role that a good neighbor is expected to play. Therefore, a neighbor is meant to be a friend and not an enemy and this will

depend on the cultivated relationship - a positive or a negative one.

Our world is full of suspicions, stress and tension and these, increasingly erode the tendencies for good neighbourliness. On account of many ugly experiences, many people no longer are willing to extend hands of fellowship to their neighbours or others in need.

For instance, "Mrs A", who just moved into a neighbourhood found herself relating very closely to "Mrs B" as a result of her helping hand and good attitude. She decided to make her a friend and a sister. "Mrs. B" had been married for years but without any issue, while "Mrs. A" was blessed with two boys and a baby girl who were

being nursed when she moved into her new apartment.

"Mrs. A" decided on one fateful morning to drop her baby with her friend while she went shopping.

This was not the first time she would do such a thing since both families had become very close. But by an uncanny twist of fate, as "Mrs. B" fed the baby with the feeding bottle that contained her food, the baby choked and before any help could come, the baby passed on.

The rest story was unpalatable for

"Mrs. B" who was arrested and detained for months for alleged murder of the innocent baby despite her plea of innocence. When she was eventually released, the hurt and the 'shame' never left her as she was roundly stigmatized as a 'witch' who killed her neighbour's child.

This kind of experience and many other unfortunate ones could readily form basis and excuses for many not to help their neighbours next time, to thus negate good neighbourliness.

The Bible enjoins us to do good to others in as much as it is in our power to do so, irrespective of who they are, just like the Samaritan who should not have extended help to the wounded man because it was then a taboo for the Samaritans to have anything to do with the "Jews" but did so. This is true love, this is true sacrifice!

An adage goes that "if you close your eyes so as not to see bad people when they are passing, when the good ones come along, your eyes will still remain close". Therefore, the "buts" in giving a helping hand should not be a setback in reaching out to others. A world without love and sacrifice is a dark world, and an ill-fated world.

In conclusion, if we create an enabling environment for a good relationship with our neighbours and everyone we come across; we will make this world a better place.

You too have a part to play. Extend a hand of love to someone and be a shoulder to lean on!

Shalom!

"Our world is full of suspicions, stress and tension and these, increasingly erode the tendencies for good neighbourliness. On account of many ugly experiences, many people no longer are willing to extend hands of fellowship to their neighbours or others in need".

Frank Talk:

WHAT TRUE FASTING IS ALL ABOUT!

In Mark 7:6-7a Jesus replied, "You bunch of hypocrites! Isaiah the prophet described you very well when he said, 'These people speak very prettily about the Lord but they have no love for him at all. THEIR WORSHIP IS A FARCE (Living Bible)

1 Sam 15:22 Samuel replied, "Has the Lord as much pleasure in your burnt offerings and sacrifices as in your obedience? Obedience is far better than sacrifice. Living Bible.

Fasting is very important! Our Master, Jesus Christ, made it clear that fasting

"Doesn't fasting become a farce when after fasts of 7 days, 14 days, 21 days, 40 days, and even more, the same stench of unrighteousness continues to rise up from polluted worship?"

asked him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting". KJV.

When teaching about fasting, Jesus referred to "when" we fast, not "if" we fast, a presumption that fasting is a required discipline we should follow. Matt 6:16 "And now about fasting. When you fast, declining your food for a spiritual purpose...Living Bible.

The Apostle Paul who we admire much fasted often. 2 Cor 11:277 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. KJV.

Testimonies abound of tangible changes and results in the lives of individuals, families and nations for which fasting was an important ingredient.

Beyond a doubt, fasting is very important. By all means, we should fast, and regularly too. Several churches in Nigeria are either currently in the course of an extended fast or have just concluded one. Nigeria is arguably a nation with one of the highest number of aggregate fasting days logged through various corporate and individual fasting programs across the country.

How come we fast so much and have very little changes in our country?

Doesn't fasting become a farce when many Christians fast without any intention of stepping into a greater level of sanctification and intimacy with God?

Doesn't fasting become a farce when many Christians fast but continue paying and receiving bribes as an unavoidable fact of life?

"Nigeria is arguably a nation with one of the highest number of aggregate fasting days logged through various corporate and individual fasting programs across the country."

Doesn't fasting become a farce when many unmarried Christians continue living in sexual immorality?

Doesn't fasting become a farce when many fasting Christians, including pastors and ministers, do not maintain the sanctity of their marriage vows?

Doesn't fasting become a farce when after fasts of 7 days, 14 days, 21 days, 40 days, and even more, the same stench of unrighteousness continues to rise up from polluted worship?

What manner of fast does the Lord really require?

Is my fast a farce? Is yours?

Culled from: "These Lies Must Stop" on FACEBOOK

What ISAIAH SAYS:

Isaiah 58:6 – 14 "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?"

"Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

"Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

"Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

"And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

"And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

"If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

"Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it".

GOD'S FORGIVENESS IS UNLIMITED

By Betty U. Amadi



Forgiveness is the miracle of a fresh start, a new beginning and a second chance.

On Mount Sinai, God revealed Himself as a God who delights in forgiving sins. Because of His compassion, love, grace, and mercy, God offers pardon for our sins by putting them out of sight, out of reach, out of mind and out of existence.

Christ's shedding of His blood on the Cross was the final and ultimate sacrifice, where He took all our sins; all our selfishness, the hatred, the deceit, the pride, and nailed them to the cross, so that those who believe might be declared innocent and free from sin's controlling power.

In God's sight, no offence is so great as to be beyond forgiveness. One could have a mountain of sins and still bury them in the ocean of God's love (2 Peter 3 vs 9) says that God is not willing that the vilest sinner should be lost. God's forgiveness through Jesus is boundless as the heavens.

He has not dealt with us after our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is above the earth, so great is His mercy towards them that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us (Psalm. 103 vs 10-13).

God's divine mercy has provided for forgiveness of every man. His pardon is available to every nation, group and class. Forgiveness is for the rich, and for the poor, for the educated and the uneducated, for the intelligent and for the not so intelligent. Divine forgiveness is a possibility for every man, women and child (John 3

vs 16-17).

God's forgiveness is unlimited, but many by their attitude limit God's forgiveness on their behalf. Some hate themselves for the things they have done in the past, they seem to think that God hates them too. But this is not so.

We must not let our past stand in the way of our forgiveness. Only one man has ever lived above sin and that

is Jesus Christ the Righteous. He is the substitute for our sins (1Jn 2:1). And He stands at the Right Hand of God interceding on every person's behalf. Christ is not interested in our past; He is interested in our future. So don't let your attitude toward your past rob you of God's saving grace.

Two things that can be a hindrance to forgiveness are; Unbelief – a lack of confidence in what God has done for each of us through Jesus Christ, and Doubt – being uncertain that your sins have been forgiven you.

A lack of confidence can only pull a soul away from God. Don't let your unbelief rob you of God's saving grace. A failure to understand the Bible frustrates God's grace. The only key to remove the shackles of sin is God's forgiveness, and if one continues to limit his/her own forgiveness by erroneous attitudes he/she throws away the only key which will set one free.

"God's divine mercy has provided for forgiveness of every man. His pardon is available to every nation, group and class. Forgiveness is for the rich, and for the poor, for the educated and the uneducated...."

God's word is designed to communicate God's grace to every lost soul when properly studied and obeyed. The bible will take every person from wherever he/she may be to where, God wants him/her to go and that place is in heaven, to live with Him. The Bible is not designed to further enslave and condemn (John 3: 17). Only your attitude can hinder the communication of God's grace. We are expected to obey God's commandment. Obedience to God's commands brought forgiveness to Noah the drunk, Abraham the liar, David the adulterer and murderer, Peter the betrayer and to the thief in his dying moment on the cross.

God's promises are immutable Hebrews 6 v 17. And Jn 3 vs 16, says: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. A belief that accepts what God says and does what He asks us to do will save anyone.

In conclusion, remember that you are a part of that world stated in Jn 3 vs 16. Remember also that God's forgiveness is unlimited and have a right attitude toward your past so that it will not rob you of God's saving grace.



LIFE is ALL ABOUT iMPACT

Let us first find out the literal meaning of 'life' and 'impact', as their meaning will be the outline of this writing.

Life comprises activities and experiences that are unique to persons in the challenge of living. Impact, on the other hand is the powerful effect had on somebody or something. From these, we can deduce that life simply means - not living in yourself (on your own) but doing good to humanity and the society.

Life does not seek its own. Life is love. Loving is sowing yourself into someone. Christ laid his life and raised the saints. And from the perspective of leadership which is influence and service, we may ask this question: What is your assignment as a leader?

Today, we are not raising leaders but militants and terrorists. By their violent activities, these restless youths are not impacting anything positive on the society other than chaos and anarchy. In fact, they further separate themselves from God.

Rich people continue to pour their wealth into the pot of the already rich and by this, they impact on nothing laudable. A worthy life is all about sacrifice; it is touching the people with God-given talents, namely - wisdom, strength and money.

How have our leaders affected the society today?

Most of our so-called leaders lack a good knowledge of what leadership is all about against the backdrop of the various crises that they engender in the society they claim to lead.

God gave man dominion to rule over all creatures; God did not give man to rule over man but to influence him and render service to mankind in what is real relationship.

Our leaders are ignorant of what real leadership is all about; what they know is 'positional leadership', which means appointment or selection to sensitive positions.

Many go great length to achieve such 'positional leadership' even at the expense of their fellow human beings. For some, it is do-or-die and in the process they oppress, intimidate and engage in corrupt practices;

These 'leaders' totally lack compassion for the people, who they readily subvert and plunder their collective resources. As a matter of fact, life is all about passion for humanity.

The greatest leader the world has yet seen is our Lord Jesus Christ!

If you can draw your mind back to the definition of life, you will realize that Jesus Christ demonstrated it perfectly. John 3:16. Jesus sacrificed his life for mankind. He brought hope to the hopeless. He brought life to the dying ones. He placed food on the table of the poor (Matt 14:13-21).

What remains baffling to perceptive citizens is that many of our leaders profess Christianity, when indeed they do not know what they are talking about. They lay claim to Christ's life when they say that they are Christians. This is a far cry from the truth since they negate the noble virtues of Jesus Christ by reason of their actions in office.

John 15:13 tells us that 'greater love hath no man than this, that a leader lay down his life for his friends'. In our context, these friends are the people or the nation. A leader is a sower who releases/unleashes his potential into the people. Life, talents are not for self aggrandizement; they are to touch mankind. Do you know that the poor sees the nation as an enemy because his life has not been impacted for good?

In democracy which we practice today, the electorate chooses leaders they believe will impact their lives positively through a variety of development initiatives. Do these political leaders really meet expectations? Definitely "no"! On the contrary, our Lord Jesus puts smiles on our faces daily while our other 'leaders' put sufferings on our faces.

Christ put smile on the face of the world when he gave us His life (eternal life); His blood for the atonement of our sins. Wealth and prosperity is for God's chosen. Wealth is God's approval. But the Lord has not given us wealth for



Pst Emma Arogie

accumulation; it is to be used to touch the life of mankind.

Mathew 16:26. Christ teaches us here on what was it that would profit us if we gain the whole world (wealth) and lose eternal life? Lazarus and the rich man refers.

Your lifestyle determines your destiny. In its totality, wealth is not a destination.

The demise of Nelson Mandela was widely celebrated. He once said during his struggles: "This my exile in Nigeria; what dividends will it give to my people? I think I better go home. Two things will happen if I go home; they will either kill me or they will send me to prison. And whichever they do will give new impetus to the ANC to continue the struggle". This was selflessness on the part of a leader of this era!

In the nutshell, leaders should learn from the success of others. Truth has no language barrier. When you begin to speak the truth, you become a statesman.



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



NELSON MANDELA



MOTHER TERESA

AUTHORITY in the Name of JESUS

By Chucks Oshiko

Before we get to know the meaning of the word 'Authority', we need to understand the name and personality of Jesus Christ.

The name and the person of Jesus Christ are one and the same and are inseparable. The name has existed from eternity. His name and His person are one.

He is in the Old Testament concealed and in the New Testament revealed! As we study the entire bible, we can see him beneath every verse in it. He told the Pharisees: "for had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me". John 5:46.

He was witnessed by the law and the prophets. He is God's righteousness without the works of the law to everyone that was saved, is saved and will be saved. Salvation comes only by Jesus Christ.

His name is visible in the spirit of the laws of the Old Testament and not in the letters. He is the only hope of entire humanity. Salvation is only possible by his name. "Neither is there salvation in any other name; for there is none other under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved" Acts 4:12.

He was the one qualified to pay for the sins of the whole world; "...who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification". Rom.4:25. When He rose from the grave the third day, He said: "...and Jesus came and spake unto them, saying all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth". Matt.28:18. The word 'power' here is translated "authority". He received this authority from the Father after his resurrection.

AUTHORITY: This means the delegated right and liberty to exercise the full power of attorney in all God's interests - complete authority to act in Christ's stead as if he were the one doing the work. This authority can only be manifested in the name of Jesus Christ. This is the only authorized name by the father given to all Christians for total,

victorious life on earth. The total authority and fullness of Godhead is summed in the name of Jesus. "...for it pleased the father that in Him (Jesus) should all fullness dwell". Col.2:9. "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily". Col.2:9.

Outside the name of Jesus, no powers remain elsewhere. God vested all authority in the matchless and unimpeachable name of Jesus. That name is the greatest name ever revealed to man. It has no equivalent anywhere.

"...that at the name of Jesus, all knees should bow, of things in the heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is lord, to the glory of God the father", Phil.2:10-11.

Many of us Christians think that when scripture said that "at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow" refers to only when we mention it in prayer.

"At the name of Jesus" means when we mention it in prayers, in praises, in worships, in preachings, in teaching and when ever that name sounds in our heart, every knee should bow and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is lord.

They all have ears to hear the word of God. Every Christian is equally given the name by the Father, but not every Christian equally understands the power it carries, and not every Christian equally uses the name. The name of Jesus summed up the totality of God's omnipotence that Jesus Christ is lord. All of God's creatures have knees with which they bow to the name - Omnipotence. All the authority in heaven and on earth is given to the name of Jesus. All Christians on earth have been given that name. We have been authorized to use it at all times. We inherited that supreme name and it is the greatest asset the believer has on earth.

By the reason of our redemptive placement, we have been made to seat together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. This joint enthronement we

believers have with Christ is far above all principality and power, and might, and dominion and every name that is named. We are joint-heirs with Christ in all things. What he possesses, we possess, what He has we have, as He is in heaven, so are we on earth, 1 John 4:17b The authority in the name of Jesus is your personal possession in Christ as Christian.

And by this authority you wield on earth, not even the devil can bring you under his control. Nothing could be so thrilling on earth than for a believer to understand that Jesus gave him His authority to act in His stead.

"You have been given the name to use at all times. All Christians have equal rights to use it. The pastor does not have more right to use the name of Jesus than you have. Every Christian can cast out devils in that name".

"God vested all authority in the matchless and unimpeachable name of Jesus. That name is the greatest name ever revealed to man. It has no equivalent anywhere".

Satan, his cohorts and worth are to bow before you in the name of Jesus wherever you go on earth. The fact that all the enemies are under you is non-negotiable. We have the divine backing of the godhead in the name of Jesus Christ. You got to exercise this authority over all situations of life. Jesus will not come down to exercise it for you, not even the Father will do.

You have been given the name to use at all times. All Christians have equal rights to use it. The pastor does not have more right to use the name of Jesus than you have. Every Christian can cast out devils in that name. With the name, you have miracles, signs and wonders at your command. There is nothing on earth that can hinder you as you have the awareness that Satan is already a defeated foe. Jesus single-handedly got us the victory. He, only, fought for the victory for us. We are only fighting from victory unto victory. Our duty is to maintain the victory he gave to us in His Name.

The act of fighting for a new victory on the part of a Christian is practicing self-defeat before the enemy. A Christian can practice self defeat unknowingly, which can be one of the greatest tragedies in life.

Why Christians can't Ignore Politics

By Chris E. Irekpa

Politics is perceived by many as a dirty game, which genuine Christians should have nothing to do with. Invariably, these people seem to be saying that light is not needed to shine in this dark world.

The fact that people play dirty games in politics does not make Politics a dirty art. In the main, politics is managing people and resources, sometimes amidst crises, towards achieving mutually beneficial ends for the players and the people. It is essentially people-centred and oriented.

If Christians understand the true meaning of politics, which also is using power wisely and being able to influence decisions that affect a nation or society positively, they will not shy away from active participation.

Christ-like attributes are noble and heavenly-oriented. They encompass honesty, fairness, justice, diligence, prudence, dedication to duty and many more. Their absence in our polity has literally thrown our nation into darkness of sort.

The Holy bible describes believers as the light of the world, persons whose light should so shine that men will see their good works to give glory to the Father in heaven.

If Christians should exercise their Godly virtues while in various political offices and say no to the evil of embezzlement, extortion, giving and taking of bribes, corruption will be greatly reduced because where light shines, darkness flees.

Many Christians seem to lack a good perception of who they are as 'light of the world'. So therefore, if they permit the ungodly personalities to take over the political activities of their country or the society, they cannot absolve themselves from blame for the consequent decadence in the polity.

Christians who shun politics must be reminded of the sayings of Jesus Christ in Matt 5: 14 that "ye are the light of the world". We all know the function of light very well. It is fearless and it shines in darkness for men to see.

If Christians stay aside and allow dirty people to play national politics, the polity will remain dirty and laws and policies may even emerge, which will negate rights and interests of the Christians themselves, nay the generality of the citizens.

It is important to point out that

we are talking about people with the fear of God in them and not just nominal church goers, who openly identify with Christianity but are worse than heathens in conduct and character. What we mean are those that will play politics to genuinely improve the lives of the people for the better.

Who is the EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN COUNSELOR

By Ngozi J.J.

Counseling encompasses a wide-ranging capacity to render Godly advice to people; to assist them at solving a multiplicity of mostly personal problems. The Counselor, therefore, gives hope, comfort and succour to the hopeless, to the counselee.

An effective Christian counselor is that person who is able to make an individual to realize that there is solution to problems; thus building confidence and faith in God Almighty to surmount such problems. He or she must be born again, filled with the Holy Spirit and should have deep knowledge of the word of God. Isa. 50:4, Prov. 10: 11a 21a.

An effective Christian counselor should be able to pray very well and have faith in God in all situations (Luke 1: 37), believing that there is no mountain God cannot climb. He or she must be a good and patient listener, not given to hurry to hear people's complaints, so as to be in the position to appraise issues and give realistic solutions. Encouraging words should not be far from his lips. Credence must be given to the time-honoured saying that 'the problem shared, is problem half solved'.

The dearth of effective Christian counselors these times is worrisome! Prov. 15: 22 says that without counsel, purposes are disappointed but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

The devil knows that without godly counsel many purposes are disappointed, hence he has polluted the minds of many Christian counselors to act on the opposite of Godly counsel to the counselee. Godly counseling helps people to develop shock absorbers in difficult moments.

Ironically, part of the problems faced by many counselors in the body of Christ is the unwillingness of people to disclose their problems which are then heard from the pulpits or some other places to endanger their interests. Such tendencies erode trust from the counselee. Some pastors, ministers of God or even counselors sometimes compound people's problems.

Instances abound when counselors tell counselee things like – 'This your problem is a difficult one; I have never seen this type of problem, I don't think there is any solution to this problem'. They readily forget Luke 1:37. They put fear into them. What about those categories of "pastors" who told their counsees that their problem could only be solved in the river, 'don't tell anybody, come alone', or those 'counselors', who engage in extortion of their counselee-victim.

Most unfortunately, some so-called 'counselors' or pastors tend to take God's glory for themselves. You can hear them say – 'if not me, you couldn't have come out of this your problem. I made you to get children, buy car, marry.' May God have mercy.

For unfortunate situations as these, many choose to die with their problems and refuse to tell anyone.

By and large, to be an effective Christian counselor, you must allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you. Depend absolutely on God and his word. (Isa. 50: 4) and that as far as ground could not swallow Jesus Christ, then there is no problem that God cannot solve, no mountain that God cannot climb, no valley that God cannot reach.

Peace. Amen.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: A REFLECTION

By C. Ohain



Intellectual atrophy is a malaise for any society and it pervades every sphere of life. Its antidote is simply continuous learning because 'the day you cease to learn, you begin to die'. No wonder the Bible notes that "my people perish for lack of knowledge". The monthly three-day leadership conference of the Soul Winners Association, held under the auspices of the Benin-based Institute of Leadership and Christian Studies, has been of profound secular and spiritual benefits.

The conference has proven to be of profound drill in the dynamics of leadership, explored from a 360-degree perspectives. Certain things you get to know about working environments, inter-personal and official relationships, among others, are indeed life-

changing and shape enormously one's perception of leadership. Participation at the workshop is across denominations and not restricted to the clergy or church workers alone; it is open to all with Godly mind and desire to serve humanity, especially as leadership principles are all-encompassing and all-pervading just as they break all barriers to embrace home, church, and work environments.

Obviously, Evang A.S. David, the principal resource person in the monthly conference has exploited his

years of vast experience in secular life and the ecclesia to enrich participants, sometimes with dumbfounding scenarios that bring to bear practical application of leadership principles in aspects of our lives.

Because the conference is largely "class-participatory", individual experiences are shared by participants to underscore certain realities irrespective of personal state of spiritual growth. Since July, 2013, different themes have been

addressed such as -

"Identifying and staying on your assignment", "Thinking for a change", "Wealth Creation and Management", amongst others.

Through various insights, it has become obvious that sound leadership principles are Godly and largely derive from biblical precepts. For instance, trust, integrity, good

character, honesty, truthfulness and such-like qualities around which excellent leadership revolve are divinely inspired.

In all, participants have learnt that you cannot be too holy to be oblivious of your secular environment just as you cannot be too enthralled with your secular existence as to ignore Godliness because of the eternal consequences.

No doubt, participants have received free, what is as good and even surpasses what management consultants and schools at corporate seminars, executive management

programmes etc, at astronomic costs.

For participants, there is no fee. The centre's founder says he is only heeding a divine call to impart Godly virtues in leaders of our time in all spheres of human endeavour. The sacrifice on your part is just Time.

Remarkably, the monthly conference is on the sideline of the Advanced Leadership Programme offered by the centre, which runs for a year and at the end of which the participants are formally graduated. I have been privileged to pry into the advanced leadership class at few times and sincerely speaking, it is most stimulating and enlightening.

The monthly conference on its own is highly recommended for all – clergy, laymen, employees and employers and even housewives – so as to make better whatever enterprise they find themselves.

You must learn new things about life, yourself, the environment and the broad and specific principles of living and working in ways that advance our spirituality.

See you at the next monthly leadership conference!

"Participation at the workshop is across denominations and not restricted to the clergy or church workers alone; it is open to all with Godly mind and desire to serve humanity, especially as leadership principles are all-encompassing and all-pervading just as they break all barriers to embrace home, church, and work environments".



Evang A.S. David
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Sarah and I wish all students and members of the Institute for Leadership & Christian Studies, friends and partners of the mission a joyous holiday.

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