



Without Walls

8th Edition

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DO WHAT YOU PREACH!

■ RETIREMENT
IS NOT "DEATH SENTENCE"

■ BEWARE OF YOUR
CHOICE

■ A PARABLE OF
"BRAVE REFUGEES"

■ THE OVERCOMER'S
MENTALITY

■ ONE DAY
AT A TIME



**BILLY
GRAHAM:**
A most admired
personality in America



From the PUBLISHER'S Desk

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Quote on MARBLE:

"Think you can and you will always succeed;
Think you cannot and you will always fall behind;
It's all a state of the mind".
- Cassius Marcellus Clay (Mohammed Ali)

The mere mention of Europe brings to mind the influx of suffering people from the boiling Middle East. The devastation of wars in this boiling 'pot' of the world and the hazardous move to escape what has become the most dangerous enclaves, is painting a gruesome picture of the world we intend leaving for future generations.

This unfortunate and heartbreaking situation has become a source of concern to all sectors of human endeavor. Our great magazine will not be left out in contributing positively to resolving this challenge.

To this end, we are in this edition giving our readers insight of how adversity could be turned into adventure by exploring the lessons of the brave refugees and emphasizing on the importance of waiting till you win.

As leaders on mission to bring the kingdom of God into the hearts of men, we want to first appreciate the efforts of world leaders in tackling the present human challenges.

We also consider it a disservice if we fail to bring to the knowledge of world leaders in particular and humanity in general the fact that no human can solve the recent incipient political and economic turmoil. For this reason, we also included in this edition resources that could help humanity go through these challenges. These ranges from living an overcomer's life to knowing what God is up to.

We believe you will be better equipped to face the challenges of life as you go through these resources, carefully packaged just for you. Wishing you happy reading.

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A Parable Of 'BRAVE REFUGEES'



By Evang. A.S. David

Jesus taught with parables and without parables he did not teach. This indicates the importance of parables in bringing out the mysteries of the Kingdom of God for the benefit of humanity. These parables were meant to bring out clearly the kingdom that is little known, yet the hope of man's security, prosperity and peace.

The present day turmoil in the Middle East could serve as another parable revealing this kingdom and the necessary actions expected of all men. To this end, I consider it helpful to bring out the mysteries of the kingdom of God from the story of the brave refugees moving into Europe from the Middle East

The kingdom of God is like unto a leader whose people revolted against, demanding his resignation and replacement. Their reason was that they have been too long under what was supposed to be a democracy but was now a dictatorship. The people took to the streets in protest but were handled with excessive force resulting in loss of lives. This turned the protest violent and the state of affairs more chaotic.

The kings of different nations made efforts to reconcile the leader and his people—all to no avail! When there was no solution in sight the situation turned so sour that many civilians lost their lives. This attracted sympathizers from all corners of the world, some in support of the leader; others for the protesting citizens of that country. The result was a sickening civil war that gathered all sorts of powerful groups with varying interests and life-snuffing agenda.

The presence and activities of these powerful and varying interest groups turned the country into a boiling pot. The result was evaporation so huge that shook the whole world. When the citizens saw their country turning into rubbles, like vapor they went seeking cooling surface and incurring losses along the way. Determined to return back to its normal state, the vapor remained undeterred by

those losses.

The Syrian civil war has been on for over five years with no solution in sight judging from the number of displaced persons desperate to escape one of the deadliest internal conflicts in recent times. At the onset of this conflict, it was unimaginable, to say the least, that about twelve million people will be displaced and a huge number of them declared refugees seeking protection from other countries; moreover, the European countries, a move that has revealed not mere desperation but unprecedented

bravery. This to my mind is the winning attitude everyone needs to have towards life.

The unbearable pressure brought on the people of Syria and the subsequent evaporation—refugee migration—is truly unprecedented. This situation has led to choices and actions by these migrating refugees that should be commended by all right-thinking and freedom-minded people. They crossed the seas with an unimaginable resolve, traveling in crowded boats. Many died and others survived.

Determined survivors traveled to Europe trekking distances; even journeying in forests to beat security at the borders of countries. Facing rejection in some countries they forged ahead, towards their havens. Many of them knew where they were going before setting out; they will not accept the offer of countries other than the country of their choice.

The actions and choices of these brave refugees teach us the need to revisit and redefine our decisions and priorities. The world has become a boiling pot. There is no safe place. We hear of wars and rumors of wars, climate change

and natural disasters.

The world offers no havens but God has made one available and that is the kingdom of God in the hearts of men. If we can borrow a leaf from the Syrian refugees; by reconsidering our actions and choices, that will help to get us there.

The refugees discerned that their country had no security for them. They knew that world leaders cannot change the mind of their leader. That he is hell-bent on retaining power and ready to snuff life out from anyone that opposes him.

They felt and recognized the impact of the life-snuffing agenda of the powers wrecking havoc in their country. They knew their continual stay in the country was not to their best interest; that by taking risk to get out of the country they save their lives. They decided to press into their haven. They knew, saw and confronted the odds. Many made it!

The kingdom of God in the hearts of men is the solution the world does not know or has refused to embrace out of ignorance. Anyone that has come to know it can testify of the peace of God in the face of the present global turmoil.

From the time of John the Baptist till now, the kingdom of God suffers violence and the violent takes it by force! This was how Jesus described the press into the kingdom of God by those who have found it. The same way the refugees are pressing into Europe.

However, the truth remains that the bravery of these refugees can only take them to another part of the troubled world.

As they go from the Middle East to Europe they face the realities of life in a strange land which cannot provide all the security and economic emancipation and this is contrary to their expectations. The present fear of taking in terrorists that may come in as refugees has become another challenge to these brave refugees.

Similarly, receiving the kingdom of God in the hearts of men does

"When one considers the odds the refugees confronted and overcame, the need for mankind to re-consider his stand concerning their rejection of Jesus and his message becomes a wise option".

"The kingdom of God in the hearts of men is the solution the world does not know or has refused to embrace out of ignorance. Anyone that has come to know it can testify of the peace of God in the face of the present global turmoil"

EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IS DOING WHAT YOU TEACH



By Dcns B. U. Amadi

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to His disciples, you would think these Jewish leaders and these Pharisees were Moses, the way they keep making up so many laws. And of course you should obey their whim! It may be alright to do what they say, but above anything else, **don't follow their examples** because they load you with impossible demands that they themselves don't even try to keep. Mathew 23: 1-4 (From A LIFE APPLICATION BIBLE) Romans 2 : 4-24 says, "Yes you teach others, then why don't you teach yourselves? You tell others not to steal, do you steal? You say it is wrong to commit adultery, do you do it? You say, "don't pray to idols, and then you make money your god instead. You are so proud of knowing God's laws, but you dishonor him by breaking them. No wonder the scripture says that the world speaks evil of God because of you.

INTRODUCTION

It is dangerous to be a preacher without being a partaker of your messages. It can be likened to being a motor park tout (agbero) who after working very hard to get people into a bus or taxi does not himself enter or go with the bus. In 1 Corinthians 9 : 27, Paul said: 'like an athlete, I punish my body, treating it roughly, training it to do what it should, not what it wants to. Otherwise, I fear that enlisting others for the race, I myself might be declared unfit and ordered to stand aside. The Bible in James 3: 1 warns us of the dangers of leadership, and Jesus in Luke 12: 48b says "to whom much is given, from him much will be required" As leaders, God expects us to be patterns for other to follow (the epistle men read). We should yield our totality of lives to God in everything we are and everything we do. So brethren, it is time to drop the double-standard attitude and believing and doing all that we preach and teach others.

1. DO WHAT YOU TELL OTHERS TO DO

As a leader, preachers and teacher, Apostle Paul boldly told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 4 : 16, to follow his example as their spiritual father. He was so interested in pleasing God that he knew his life would be a positive model for them as growing Christians. Hear this: Are you a "do as I say leader" or "do as I do" one? In Titus 2: 3-7 Paul mapped out a very commonsense path to growth, discipleship and healthy homes.

He says, the older men were to teach and model what it meant to be a husband and father to the younger men, while older women in the church were to teach the younger women how to live as wives and mothers.

IN COMMITMENT AND SERVICE

David was a good example of a committed leader. When David brought the Ark to the city of David with a great celebration he danced before the Lord with all his might, but Michal the wife came out to meet him and exclaimed in disgust, 'how glorious the king of Israel today! He exposed himself to the girls along the street like a common pervert'. David replied, " I was dancing before the Lord who chose me above your father and his family and who appointed me as a leader of Israel. Many of us do not support the ministry of our superiors, but we expect those we lead to support us. If you are not faithful in another man's business, yours will not be given to you. (Luke 16: 12), Ptl 3: 7-8, 11-4.

IN OBEDIENCE AND FAITH

In Acts 26, Paul expressed that he was not disobedient to that vision from heaven; he preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and through Judea and also to the gentiles that all must forsake their sins and turn to God and prove their repentance by doing good deeds.

IN INTEGRITY AND TRUTH

In 1 Cor. 4: 1-2, the false teachers in Corinth twisted the truth for selfish reasons; Apostle Paul rejected such deceptive practices. He chose to have a ministry marked by integrity and clear conscience before God. In the same way, we need to resist the temptation to trick or manipulate

members of our congregation. Manipulation is a selfish and deceitful way to fulfill your short term desires that falls short of the honesty interaction God wants us to have with others.

In 2 Cor. 6: 3-4, because Paul knew that others are watching him closely, he was extremely careful about how he lived. He wanted to make sure that he did what he told others to do. He did not want any hypocrisy in his life to keep some from God. In 2 Kings 5: 27, Prophet Elisha was another example of a leader who depended on absolute integrity. God's name in Israel depended on Elisha's character.

If Elisha served the Lord to get money or permitted his servant to extort payments from visitors, then he would be no more than an opportunist priest like the sons of Eli. Leaders live by integrity too. Leaders are servants to each other and must never deceive or exploit others. They must ensure that they show integrity to those they are leading.

IN CONDUCT

God's people must not be quarrelsome, they must be gentle, patient, teachers of those who are wrong. They should be humble when they are trying to teach those who are mixed up concerning the truth. For if you talk meekly and courteously to them, they are more likely, with God's help to turn away from their wrong ideas.

2. JESUS, A TRUE PATTERN

John 13: 12-17, Jesus is a true example of "DO WHAT YOU TELL OTHERS TO DO" leader. He was never pretentious, hypocritical or arrogant. He led His followers by example, commitment, sacrifice, purity, holiness, truth and integrity. John 4 : 34, 5 : 17 and Phil 2: 5-9.

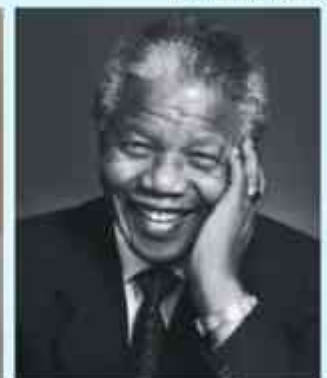
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Ban ki moon



A'Bishop Benson Idahosa



Nelson Mandela

ONE DAY AT A TIME

By Mrs Patricia Ohain



It is often said that "the true worth of a man is known by the number of challenges he has successfully gone through".

Life is full of challenges and most of us are at the verge of giving up; for while it seems we are through with solving one problem, another props up; and yet another and another! The circle goes on and on, thus making it difficult to catch up with the pace of life.

God himself, who is the citadel of wisdom foresaw the challenges of life man will encounter and thus he made available the solution in Matt 6:25-34: ".....therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body what ye shall put on; is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? (Matt 6:25).

These were more of the headache of that time, but in our own dispensation life has become more sophisticated that the above is not only what we care for, but more, thus making us unsatisfied with who we are or what we have at present. The lyrics of an old-time song that inspires me greatly – a song written by late Patsy Cline and sang by Marijohn Wilkin and Kristofferson titled "One Day at a Time Sweet Jesus" suffices.

An extract from the song goes thus:
"One day at a time sweet Jesus
That's all am asking of you
Just give me the strength
To do every day, what I have to do
Yesterday is gone sweet Jesus
And tomorrow may never be mine
Lord help me today
Show me the way
One day at a time"

This should be our heart cry and prayer at every new dawn. Life has become so challenging that if we do not take it easy we would be crushed under its pushing and shoving. In Matt. 6:34, the Master cautions: "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things, sufficient for the day is its own troubles. (Mtt 6:33) "But see first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you"

Seeking his kingdom and righteousness is

the paramount thing of human existence for in so doing, all the needs and wants of life will be added unto you. Living your life

"This should be our heart cry and prayer at every new dawn. Life has become so challenging that if we do not take it easy we would be crushed under its pushing and shoving"

one day at a time does not imply slothfulness but rather shows your confidence and dependency on the Lord, knowing that the Lord who settled your today is able to settle your tomorrow.

Life is all about cutting your coat according to your size and being contented with each stage of your life, but with the desire of still moving forward, Isaiah 28:10 advises thus: "For percept must be upon percept; line upon line; here a little, and there a little" This is the secret of a stress free life. Therefore, never compare yourself with anybody; simply understand God's purpose for your life and the means available for you to get there He will provide.

"Living your life one day at a time does not imply slothfulness but rather shows your confidence and dependency on the Lord, knowing that the Lord who settled your today is able to settle your tomorrow"

In the words of Williams Ward: "There are three enemies of personal peace – Regret over yesterday's mistake, Anxiety over tomorrow's problem and Ingratitude to God for today's blessing.

When the children of Israel were about crossing the Red Sea and being pursued by their

enemies, there were only two options left for them; either to surrender to their taskmaster and return back to their captivity or jump into the Red Sea and be drowned. But Moses, through the assurance of God's word was able to control the panicky state of the people and God gave them victory. In your rattled state therefore, be calm and take one step at a time, live one day at a time and you will live longer than the devil ever bargained for. In the words of John Mason: "Paths without obstacles don't lead anywhere". So, expect obstacles on your way to stardom.

SOME TIPS ON LIVING ONE DAY AT A TIME

*Dwell on the word of God through meditation for this will connect your faith

with him.

* Dwell more on satisfying your needs than your wants for human wants are insatiable.

*Know that Rome was not built in a day, what you cannot achieve today you can achieve tomorrow. So, don't engage yourself in any ungodly act.

* You are not in contest with anyone; for each destiny differs and the time of arrival differs.

* Peace and contentment does not depend on the abundant of what you have but in being that which you are created to be (i.e.) fulfilling your assignment.

* Being sensitive to God's leading will always make living less stressful because He knows the way even in the darkest of darkness.

* Know that no matter how "low" you think you are, you are still better than many others.

* Nobody has ever arrived at destiny by worrying but by doing the best you can; having faith in God and obtaining favour from God and men.

* Be grateful to God for each day's accomplishment; for, a grateful heart is a merry heart.

* Know that in life you are either running, walking or crawling; you cannot do all at the same time.

CONCLUSION:

Life itself is already tough. Why add more to it through your worries. Remember, when the going gets tough, the tough gets going in the Lord. The way out of every predicament of life is to be in God and to let Him be in you and be your all, for in doing all these, your needs will be met. (2 Corth 9:8) And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. In the words of Pastor E.A. Adeboye:

"God establishes your love for him through the big and the small test you face". So, don't give up, don't lose your sleep for if you have God, you have all. Shalom!

WAIT UNTIL YOU WIN



By Pastor Sarah David

The word 'wait' implies delay in doing something or delay before something happens. To wait has been used at various times by many people to describe their situations. Waiting in the true sense of it can be frustrating, demoralizing, painful and discouraging. It can lead to anxiety, sleeplessness, even confusion.

Can you imagine yourself waiting for your result after writing promotional examination that will take you to the next level in life; how do you feel? Or you have just had an interview and you are waiting for the result to be out; I tell you it is not always easy. Let's examine the case

of a man whose wife is in the labor room trying hard to bring a child into the world, and the husband outside waiting for hours without positive report from the nurses. What do you think will be happening to him at this point in time? I suppose anxiety will grow to frustration. Only by the mercies of God will he not collapse for panic.

In a situation where you are old enough to get married and have not found your better half and time is running out; years have passed, age has set in, your age mates are now having grand children and you are still waiting. You begin to ask yourself how long will I wait?

Or you are married with children, having your family together but no job, no steady income, no good business, you have been living from hand to mouth, hoping against hope that things will soon get better; yet things are getting worst. You may be tempted to ask: How long will I wait?

Again, it could be that you are married and for years you have waited for the fruit of the womb and it has not come and your husband may or may not be fed up with your monthly report of "I have seen my ...". Perhaps not your husband but the family members are not friendly anymore because there are no children for their brother; they may give you new names

such as our brother married 'a fellow man'.

Even your own family members may feel you have over stayed your welcome in your husband's house because of your inability to bear children. Your friends will often call to let you know that they have given birth to so and so number of children. Then you ask yourself 'how long further am I going to wait?'

'How long am I going to wait further', is a serious question without an immediate answer but there is hope with God, no matter how long you have to wait. The scripture

"When we consciously and cheerfully wait by faith upon the Lord, though it carries it must come to pass; for our God is faithful, merciful, compassionate, loving and a caring Father"

says that 'they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength'. Isa 40:31.

The strength you need for your heart desire to materialize can only come from God. Those who wait upon parents, doctors, sisters, brothers, friends or their idols will wait in vain; for they that put their trust in man are cursed, says the scriptures -Jer 17:5-8. For our waiting to be profitable, we must look unto the Lord our God, the Creator and the Giver of life.

When we consciously and cheerfully wait by faith upon the Lord, though it carries it must come to pass; for our God is faithful, merciful, compassionate, loving and a caring Father. He will not allow us to suffer and be tempted more

than we can bear; but through the same problem will make a way of escape for us and for all those who look unto him as their source and success.

Friends, waiting is highly demanding, it moves you from the place of patience to long suffering and finally to the place of total submission to the will of the

Why not try the Lord like the woman with the issue of blood. In your waiting, knock, seek and ask from the Lord. The Lord is waiting for

Almighty. Waiting is a tool in God's hands to try us and to process us and to draw us out of trouble and bring us back to Himself.

The woman with the 'issue of blood' waited for twelve whole years before turning to the Lord. She sought help from the hands of doctors to no avail. She spent all her money; frustrated and battered she decided to reach out and touch the hem of Jesus' garment and was made whole.

Many people today go through the rigor of trips abroad for medical check-ups and pay no attention to the touch of the Lord for divine healing. They have rejected the offer of the Master that says, "come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". The Lord is asking you to knock and the door will be opened unto you, seek and you shall find, ask and you shall receive.

Why not try the Lord like the woman with the issue of blood. In your waiting, knock, seek and ask from the Lord. The Lord is waiting for you to come to him now. He will do you good as he remembered Abraham, Joseph, David, Hannah, Sarah, Rachel and Elizabeth. Their expectations were met by the Lord.

The Lord is waiting to make the journey of your life great and prosperous. Turn to the Lord today for solution to your problems. He has the solution to your waiting; he will renew your strength, your joy will be full and your waiting will not only be over but make you a winner at all times.

WHAT SHALL I GIVE TO JESUS?

MRS. DAVIDS B. SHALOM

Last night I had a dream and was invited to heaven for a birthday party of our Lord Jesus Christ. On my way to the party, I found myself in the state of confusion; thinking of the kind of gift to buy for Him. The more these thoughts came to me the more confused I became. I thought of buying him a pair of shoes; but what size will be fitting for He who uses the earth as his foot stool! However, I thought of buying a suit but what kind of clothing will fit him whose cloth fills the temple. If I invite him for dinner after the birthday party, can that be like feeding five thousand men with five loaves of bread and two fishes. I thought of giving him books to read but what earthly book can match his omniscience. Then I thought of baking a cake for him but what earthly cake would be compared with the heavenly manner with which he feed the Israelite for about forty years in the wilderness. I thought of giving him a ticket to fly in the best airline, but I remembered when it was time for him to ascend to heaven he just went up.

I thought of building him mansion, but which house will I give to one who said 'in my father's house there are many mansions'. I thought of buying assorted drinks but I remembered the bible mentioned that at the wedding at Cana he turned water into wine. When I thought of asking a group of choir to sing for him but what earthly choir compares with the host of angels in heaven that daily sing his praise. I thought of buying cell-phone but what use is a

cell-phone to him who is present everywhere at the same time. I thought of giving him money to buy whatever he wanted but I remembered in the bible that he said 'silver and gold are mine'. In my confusion I heard a voice from heaven like voice saying "the only gift I long to receive from you every day which I never get enough is: Thanks and Quality Worship

Then I exclaimed from my spirit, Lord for you are

- the God of women in ministry
- the art of Noah
- the strength of Israel
- the boldness of Elijah
- the confidence of Paul
- the wisdom of Solomon
- the Almighty
- the miracles of Elisha
- the ultimate warrior
- the sword of Gideon
- the mighty man in battle
- the Excellency of Daniel
- the only true God
- the sacrifice of Abel
- the Great supplier
- the victorious God
- the rod of Moses
- the Lord that has the final say
- the Grace of all ministries
- the five stones of David
- my laughter and everyday joy

O give thanks and quality worship to our God; for he is worthy of our praise!

BILLY GRAHAM MAKES 'MOST ADMIRABLE' LIST FOR 58th TIME

For a record 58th time, Charlotte-born evangelist Billy Graham has made the Gallup Poll's annual list of the men Americans most admire. The nonagenarian Graham, who rarely leaves his Montreat home anymore, tied with former President George W. Bush at No. 4 in the 2014 list of the 11 most admired men. (There was a six-way tie for the fifth spot). Leading that list, for the seventh year in a row, was President Barack Obama. The most admired woman, meanwhile, was former Secretary of State – and 2016 presidential candidate – Hillary Clinton. She has now led that list 17 times in 18 years. (Former first lady Laura Bush took the top spot in 2001.) Graham was not the most admired religious figure, according to the poll conducted Dec. 8-11. Pope Francis was No. 2 on the list of men, trailing only Obama. The runner-up on the most-admired-women list was Oprah Winfrey.

But no one comes close to Graham's record of total appearances on the annual list. He has finished in the top 10 every year since 1963 (except 1976, when Gallup didn't ask

the most-admired question) as well as from 1955 through 1961. The evangelist, who preached to millions at crusades around the globe, has never ranked first in the poll, but he finished second every year from 1969 through 1974. Graham's 58 appearances on the most-admired-men list puts him far ahead of former President Ronald Reagan, the runner-up in total appearances with

31. Queen Elizabeth of England is the top repeater on the most-admired-women list, with 46 appearances. She didn't make the 2014 list, but Princess Kate Middleton, the wife of Elizabeth's grandson – Prince William – did.

Here are the lists:

Most Admired Women: Hillary Clinton (12 percent mentioned her); Oprah Winfrey (8 percent); Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan (6 percent); Condoleezza Rice (4 percent); Michelle Obama (3 percent); Angelina Jolie (2 percent); Sarah Palin (2 percent); Princess Kate (2 percent); Sen. Elizabeth Warren (1 percent); and Laura Bush (1 percent). **Most**

Admired Men: Obama (19 percent); Pope Francis (6 percent); Bill Clinton (3 percent); the Rev. Billy Graham (2 percent); George W. Bush (2 percent); surgeon Ben Carson (1 percent); Stephen Hawking (1 percent); Bill Gates (1 percent); Bill O'Reilly (1 percent); Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (1 percent); and Russian President Vladimir Putin (1 percent).



Standing BEFORE GOD'S OPEN DOOR

What an exciting time this is to be alive and serving the lord! Think about the unparalleled door of opportunities that stand wide open before us to reach the entire world for Jesus Christ. It is tremendously motivating and inspiring to be able to participate in delivering the Gospel to so many people. The Apostle Paul must have felt the same way when he wrote to the Corinthians and told them of the wide door for effective service that the lord had opened for him in Ephesus (1 Corinthians 16:9). The same great door is also open for us today as many that believe in our lord Jesus Christ to preach the gospel to every

living creature.

God is like that. He's opening doors for each of us all the time. Everyday, we wake up to new opportunities to affect others for good. When you follow Jesus, we begin to understand that doors do not just swing ajar as we approach them. Every opportunity signifies that someone has gone before us to open that door.

The question is, will you walk through the doorway or keep to your own path? Today, we have unprecedented technological capabilities and can transmit the gospel broadly and effectively. The door is wide open, providing expanded opportunities to participate in the primary task of the church and the Kingdom – the redemption of mankind!

As followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are all under a commission (Matthew 28:19-20); we have been given the assignment from Almighty God to get the gospel to every person on the face of the globe. It is not a matter of choice, we are under obligation.

We stand before an open door. Are you willing to step through it and go with the

gospel to every man on earth? In times like this, we should be asking ourselves where we personally fit into God's plan. We can't afford to sit back and act as if this job were intended for only preachers and missionaries. We may have all kinds of reason why we think we are not qualified but it's time we get past our excuses and begin to share with others the Savior in whom we believe and have received eternal life from Him.

This is the time to impact the entire world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We can no longer think in terms of just my work place, my city, my community or my country; it is the world that matters.

We begin at home, but we are not to stop until we have reached every single people group on the face of this earth. Jesus died to purchase men from every tribe, tongue, and nation. Don't discredit yourself or count yourself out. You can walk through your open door and have a significant path in this worldwide ministry.

BY EVANG. DOUGLAS IGBINOSA

JESUS, AN ONLY CURE FOR A SICK WORLD!

BY EVANG. DOUGLAS IGBINOSA

Associations, societal groups and organizations of various forms have emerged over the years with different aims and objectives to help cure the world of one ailment or the other. Some are trying to bring peace to war-torn zones, but none of these groups has succeeded totally, though they have tried in one way or the other to make a change.

Remember, a man without peace cannot give or offer peace to a fellow man because you can't give what you don't have. And by **s t r e n g t h** shall no man prevail. Righteousness exalts a nation not laws.

The United Nation (UN), European Union (EU), the African Union (AU), etc., have evolved a lot of protocols and treaties to foster peace as overseer-bodies over the

world, in addition to individual countries' governmental policies to try and cure the world. Have these protocols and treaties produced cure for the world's problems?

Not really, instead they have aggravated the sicknesses and diseases confronting the world. Industrialization, nuclearisation and other governmental policies have compounded same or how do you explain climate change for instance?

Industrialization has virtually helped in destroying this beautiful garden – Planet Earth, wherein the Almighty God kept us to live and manage. Why and how we may ask! The intentions of some of these **p o l i c i e s** are good but their implementation has never yielded the right results because there is no truth in the world.

Some of these have been perceived by some to oppress some tribes or religions, to promote immorality, while they are also said to infringe on the fundamental human rights of people and groups. Some human rights issues have indeed led the human race astray and to the brinks – that is, to a corner where the light of the word of God seems not to be needed.

The world today seems to be sitting on a keg of gunpowder, waiting or about to explode. Why? Because various crises happen around us simultaneously, among them, diseases, famine, insurgencies, wars, kidnapping, tribal and ethnic violence – all these are on the increase every day yet there are functional governments, agencies put in place to checkmate them. Amidst all these, every religion is clamoring for peace, love and unity among tribes, races, and religious sects; yet violence is still on the increase.

A swift return to God now by all (human race) will be the only cure. Do you know that even the animals, plants and nature itself are also reacting to man's separation from God? Nature itself is sick – climate change, storms with various names, earthquakes here and there!

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WIM's HOSTS 2016 FAITH INT'L CONFERENCE

The Women in Ministry (WIM) International Conference tagged "Faith Conference" was held on Sat. 7th May, 2016. With the Theme, "When the Going Gets Tough", the conference took off at exactly 9:00am was attended by Women from different denominations.

The host and President of (WIM), Pst. (Mrs) Sarah David in her welcome address assured the women of very refreshing time in God's presence.

They were varieties of presentations by the women which included drama, choir ministration and health talk. The drama presentation buttressed the essence of having a sound knowledge of the word of God and effectively using it to combat the attacks of the adversary in the home.

On the health talk, the speaker, Mrs. Bunmi Oludiran admonished the women to take care of their health for when the mother of the home is down with health challenge, the whole family suffers. Women, she said, should go for constant checkups for early detection of ailments like cancer which have become very rampant; for when there is an early detection, there is a great chance of survival.

She also encouraged the women to be their brothers' keepers by discouraging our young girls from being sexually active before the age of 21 years because of the dire consequences of cervical cancer later in life and the incidents of VVF. They were also encouraged to be of help to pregnant women around them who are in need financially or otherwise; educating them on how to take good care of themselves, and the right foods to eat.

She said that the maternal mortality rate in Nigeria ranked amongst the highest in the world, but that this can be reduced through good medical attention during pregnancy and after delivery. The God factor, she admonished, must not be ignored because He is the one that preserves our life.

The climax of the event was the introduction of the Guest Speaker for the Conference, Evang. I. Juliet from Italy, whose message was titled: "When the going gets tough". She said that the kingdom of God is not for "butter Christians" neither is it for babies but it is for the strong.

She asked a rhetoric question: "How strong are you in the face of trial and temptation?. In her text which was taken from Gal 3: 26-29, she said that God has given us his spirit just as he has given our male counterpart. Therefore, we cannot say we are weak. No man can stop any woman from preaching the good news if she determines to do so. God expects us to shine for Him no matter what we are going through in life, 'for, greater is the God in us than the challenges that we face daily as women'.

All that the Lord expects from us as daughters of Zion is boldness to stand for him in the face of trials and temptations. She encouraged the women to be focused in their calling because God has invested so much in them. Your calling will set you apart if you are focused.

The faith conference came to an end with an impartation prayer and ministration from the father of the day, Evang. A.S. David who also admonished the women to put to use that which God has invested in them and to see themselves as very relevant in the Kingdom business.

By Mrs Patricia Ohain

THE OVERCOMER'S MENTALITY By Tim Funk

You must possess a peculiar mentality to overcome in life – that is the overcomer's mentality. It is the victory consciousness. Until you have it, you could as well remain in bondage of circumstances; a victim rather than the victor you were created to be. It is important to note that you are not here on earth by chance. God designed you to walk in the realm of signs and wonders on a daily basis. 'For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith'. (1Jn. 5:4) This is not the case with the world. The scripture says 'they know not, neither will they understand, they walk on in darkness all the foundations of the earth are out of course' Ps. 82:5 To overcome you need to renew your mind by submitting to the Holy Spirit in you. He is not the Spirit of fear 'but of power, of love and of a sound mind'. 2Tim 1:7. One of the greatest gifts we have from God is sound mind. You cannot receive anything from God without your mind being attuned to the miraculous.

Abraham 'staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith giving glory to God and being fully persuaded that what He had promised He was able also to perform and therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness'. Rom. 4:20-22. The thoughts of today manifest tomorrow. Watch those imaginations. Imagination is the springboard for manifestation. It is an act of forming images in the mind. It is a function of the mind. Once the enemy gets at your mind he has gotten you. Remember God gave you his Spirit to overcome the battle of the mind; always listen to him. With God you can handle all the challenges that you are facing now. God will not allow anything above your capacity to come your way. 'There has no temptation taken you but such as common to man but God is faithful who will not suffer ye to be tempted above that you are able to but will the temptation make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it'. 1 Cor. 10:13. What God does is to show you his word that will get you out of that situation. The word of God is 'life unto those that find them and health to all their flesh' Proverbs 4:22. Remember situations are common, not strange or above you. You can bank on God's faithfulness for there is a way out. When you locate the way out, you march gallantly to victory.

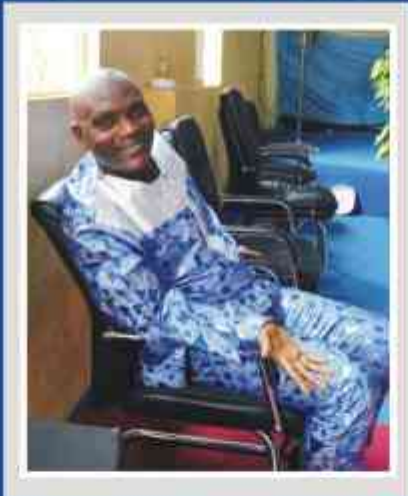
WIM's FAITH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016



WIM's FAITH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016



WIM'S FAITH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2016



BIRTHDAY BASH FOR MR OZONE OBAJI



RETIREMENT IS NOT DEATH SENTENCE

HOW MASS MEDIA CAN HELP RETIREES



By Celsus Ohain

The Mass Media could be described as a variety of organs and channels involved in the process of mass dissemination of a vast volume of information or specialized data as the case may be, to the widest possible audience. We may here narrow such channels to the radio, television, newspaper, magazines, promo boards, and specialized books.

The scope of dissemination of this information is expanding rapidly everyday and assuming increased global dimension. However, mass communication experts are quick to point to the concept of the "global village" by which vast volume of information from diverse and varied sides of the globe could be assessed or exchanged from within a very limited domain. Today we have satellite broadcasts CNN, BBC, DSTV, VOA, Aljazeera, etc.

The mass media basically exist to Inform, Educate, Entertain and Enhance socialization Relevance to Retirees

With the above roles outlined, may we then look at relevance of the Mass Media to retirees from three perspectives namely – Pre-Retirement, At Retirement and In Retirement! We must not shy away from the fact that retirement throws up a lot of anxieties and worries in most people. It is a phenomenon which most workers hope will never come but which inevitably comes.

The reasons are not far-fetched! At retirement, you are either caught up with age 60 or the maximum service years of 35 years as in Nigeria's civil service. It is not often that a man retires at 60 years and by coincidence is simultaneously clocking the 35 years of maximum service. This is only possible if you started your career at 25 years of age.

You may be 60 years at retirement but may have only put in 20 years of service-which impacts ultimately on your retirement benefits; on the other hand, and for those who started their careers early, you may be 52 or 53 years and yet you have reached your

maximum service years at which point you must retire but with full benefit and age still on your side. Yet for others, you may have just reached your "enjoyment level" when suddenly retirement knocks at the door.

These scenarios, in their own unique ways evoke or throw up anxieties and worries. There are worries like – "not having my own house to move into", "children still fee-paying at school", "no

fat bank account to fall back on" and most worrisome in the present times – "the non-payment of pensions and gratuities". By reason of these scenarios pointed out, a prospective retiree must therefore make preparations for the eventual fate as a worker and these could be two pronged: Psychological Preparation and Actual/Realistic Preparation.

With the Psychological Preparation, you must come to grips with the reality of your situation. It is not a dream likened to that of a wild romance in a distant galaxy. Get to grips with the situation. See it exactly as it is and deal with it as you can possibly do. The operating commandment here is – "thou must cast out that fear". You must learn to cast out that fear.

Here, the Mass Media could be of help. Read articles in newspapers and magazines as well as books about retirement; read about the experiences of pensioners – how they are coping as well as watch/listen to documentaries, discussion programmes on Radio and Television about retirement. In all these, brace up your mind to regard what looks like an end, as the beginning of yet a new thing – one relative to your age and experience. Most certainly, your world will not collapse!

Actual/Realistic Preparation: In this world, no man is an Island unto himself. It's a world of integrated relationship and a place where ideas ought and should indeed cross-fertilise. No single man is an embodiment of wisdom. Certain facts you cannot know about except you read or hear from others.

There is an Africa proverb which says that "you cannot sit in your parlour and expect to see the sun in the sky". Learn to break away from your shell. You may develop brilliant ideas but could be well handicapped on how to crystallize or actualize them. These may be contacts required to consolidate your projections. In all these, the mass media could be of great assistance.

You may imagine why some people are leaving Benin to Abuja in search of greener pastures while yet others are leaving Abuja to come to Benin for the same greener pastures. Where one is seeing ashes and running away, the other is seeing gold and running in! What makes the difference in the level of success he or she makes is insight and access to facts to enhance knowledge of hidden treasures as well as a correct orientation. The bible says: "My people perish for lack of knowledge".

Critically appraise those things/past-times you have always had passion for; take advantage of

your retirement to now fully explore and exploit the potentials therein. Some people have found, in two years of retirement, the fortunes that eluded them in 35 years of service.

The Mass Media is a veritable source of vast information; Take pains to read as many newspapers, magazines as you can lay hands on;

you can buy on daily basis if you have the means; read old copies sold cheaply; they are always useful. Read books on specialized subjects related to your interest or pastimes.

Politic: Some of you may be politics-inclined. Read/listen to the mass media to know the political parties, their structures, their focus

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"With the Psychological Preparation, you must come to grips with the reality of your situation. It is not a dream likened to that of a wild romance in a distant galaxy. Get to grips with the situation. See it exactly as it is and deal with it as you can possibly do"

"Critically appraise those things/past-times you have always had passion for; take advantage of your retirement to now fully explore and exploit the potentials therein. Some people have found, in two years of retirement, the fortunes that eluded them in 35 years of service!"

FOCUS: GOSPEL WOMEN INT'L TRAINING CENTRE

We greet our cherished friends and partners.

We bring you good news from the "GWI" corner to remind you of our 2016 free empowerment program starting June 6 to 27th of August.

Please avail yourself of this opportunity and be empowered to enable you set up your own business on a small or medium scale and help your family.

Many of the beneficiaries have set up their own outfits and are helping to empower others to get established; that is uppermost in our hearts. We hope to impart more people this year by the grace of God.

This empowerment program is the only program that has brought both Christians and Muslims and pagans together without strife; sharing in love with no religious sentiments. The empowerment is for all age grades - male and female. God bless you as you attend.

Hear the testimonies of some of the participants.

AMADASUN: My benefits in this empowerment are so much that if I start to say them all today, it will not even finish tomorrow. First of all, I want to thank this God of all men, the God that does not sleep. He is so good to us. Then, I also want to thank God for the life of Pastor (Mrs) Sarah David, who was used by

God to advise us; a good woman that never leaves any one aside in anything. She is a mother to all; she made me learn a lot of things in the empowerment programme. You will not believe that I now know how to make bags that are now so hard to find or buy in the market. I know how to make buns, fish roll, roll bread, short cake, and doughnuts.

God will bless you ma; you will continue to be a blessing to others in Jesus Name. Amen.

By Tracy Amadasun

CHETACHUKWU: My name is Nnamani Chetachukwu. I am in basic (6) and I am eleven years old; I came from Enugu State to Benin-city to be part of the free empowerment program organized by Gospel Women Int'l Training here in Benin-city.

In fact, I benefited a lot from this program and may God bless Mummy and Daddy for empowering us. I learnt how to make the following: beads, belts, fish roll, cake and hats. I pray that this ministry continues this empowerment programme for the benefit of mankind. God has good plans for you all. I love you Daddy and Mummy so much. Thank you.

By: Chetachukwu. (Enugu Obe)

OMOKPIA: I want to thank God for big mama - Pastor Sarah David, who God has used to change my life; physically, spiritually and

otherwise. I knew that I should love but I never knew how to show love this much. I now bridle my tongue, mindful of the kind of friends I keep around me. I am now creative; doing things on my own and with my hands. Before now, I thought that it's only my parents that should take care of the family. But now, I participate and it is real fun. I have also learnt that being idle is not the best. When I wrote my WASC, I just said I will wait till next year before I start work, but when I heard of this empowerment thing, I decided to come and now I can do even things I never thought I could do all my life. I never had interest in bead making but now I do more than I can imagine. I make bags and snacks.

Mummy thought me that it's not about my parents; I can do all things through Christ that gives me strength. I learnt that I should never depend on boyfriends to help me succeed in life; that if have something doing I will be respected. I want to say a very big thank you to mummy Sarah David. God will richly bless you, empower you beyond your imagination and your expectations will never be cut short.

I also say thank you Mummy 'K' for your advice and encouragement. God will grant you your heart desires. Lastly, a very big 'thank you' to our big daddy, Evang A.S. David! God's grace upon your life will never run dry in Jesus Name. Amen. Thank you all.

By OMOKPIA MERCY

WOMEN, REALIZE YOUR WORTH IN SOCIETY

By Mrs. B.S Davids

It is important for women to have the right information concerning life and their makeup. There are series of issues in the life of women that society takes advantage of to suppress them and make them look down on themselves. My counsel is that women should stop looking down on themselves. They should consider the following pieces of information: God made male and female when he made man. The Spirit man in every male and female is a leader. The female are different in the way they think, act and react. The female is emotionally creative while the male is a logical thinker. What a woman speaks is an expression of what she feels, but what man speaks is an expression of what he thinks. When it comes to memory, women tend to remember the details, but men remember the essence of the matter. Women don't forget easily, but men have to be reminded again

and again. She sees possibilities and potentials, ponder words, actions and relationships. She processes words, ideas; needs and problems she conceives and invents.

She develops ideas, plans and program. She is an incubator; protects what she has received while it develops. She produces something new from what she receives. She multiplies what she is given. Remember in the bible, God said: Abram, your name will be Abraham for I have made you a father of many nations, yet no matter how much of an anointing Abraham had in order to become father of many nations; he still needed a woman (mother Sarah to fulfill his calling) God designed the male to be a leader by position and the female to be a leader by influence. The man has position power. There is a difference between these two levels of leadership. A man (male) receives his leadership

by his position in that he was created first. However, their power and influence are equal but different.

A woman and a man are equal in leadership; the difference is in their functions. A woman may have a title but she doesn't need a title in order to lead she leads by influence. This is why women usually run the household with their eyes and men it with their mouth by shouting or scolding e.g. 'hey take your feet off that chair', but women would just look at you and your feet would be down off the chair! She just looks and people respond - this is powerful influence by God, so women, you are important in any area God calls you. Rise up to multiply what God has given to you in Jesus name. Amen.

LEADERSHIP FOR

MISSION



By Evang. A.S. David

Leadership is influence. A mission is the effort of man to bring the governmental influence of the kingdom of God to the Nations of the world.

This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the all the world as a witness to all Nations before the end shall come'. This statement was made by Jesus Christ in Matthew 24:14.

There are many leaders on earth but not all these influencers are interested in the gospel of the kingdom of God. This study examines leading for the purposes of extending the kingdom of God to all nations.

To properly understand this kind of leadership, we will not only examine how best to lead but get what constitutes the gospel we are commanded to preach.

The misconception that has lingered within the leadership circle is the belief that leadership is of man; that it has nothing to do with God. There can be no meaningful leadership without the creator. He that created had a purpose for everything he made and this includes how men should relate to one another. Leadership can only be influence to be leader. Any form of

manipulation, intimidation or charismatic imposition does not qualify for leadership.

Leading for missions gives us the idea of how best to lead. This can best be defined as that leadership that is divinely structured and constituted, but naturally executed. This leadership is God in man influencing the domain of man through man. This arrangement is at variant with world leadership. This accounts for its rejection being tagged religious fanaticism or ancient Jewish cultural expansionism having no bearing with the modern world.

However, this arrangement remains the best leadership approach to socio-political and economic issues confronting the world today. This kind of leadership has its root in the love of God poured into the heart of man by the Spirit of Christ. Romans 5:5. Without this love there will be no true leadership.

For clarity, leadership as was earlier mentioned is influence. It is however qualified as 'influencing people with love to release their potentials'. The potential of any individual was deposited in

him by his creator and it takes the creator to activate it. The creator however uses a man in whom he has poured his love to deploy another. That is positioning the beneficiary for effective use of his talents, gifts, and abilities for kingdom business.

For your leadership to be geared towards kingdom business otherwise known as world evangelization or missions; you must practice self-leadership which in this case will mean inner preparation of receiving the kingdom of God in your heart by accepting the Lord Jesus as your Lord and personal savior.

As you apply yourself to learn the words and ways of God by the Holy Spirit you received, your heart will be filled with the love of God and by this you lead yourself. This exercise restructures your belief system. This will mean re-examining your ideas, actions and

choices and aligning them with the word of God.

Now that you have self-leadership, you can embark on super-leadership. That is helping others lead themselves. This is evangelism in action.

The mandate of preaching the gospel to all nations cannot be achieved by one man working alone but by many working with same

mind and purpose. Again, if all have the same message, the destructive and divisive doctrines will not thrive. For these reasons, efforts should be geared towards educating the body of Christ as to the message to be preached.

Jesus called it the Gospel of the Kingdom. That is the good news of the arrival on earth of the governmental influence of heaven. This accounts for the salvation of individuals and nations, the numerous unbelievable miracles of healings, deliverances and prosperity.

"The mandate of preaching the gospel to all nations cannot be achieved by one man working alone but by many working with same mind and purpose."

"The misconception that has lingered within the leadership circle is the belief that leadership is of man; that it has nothing to do with God. There can be no meaningful leadership without the creator."

MONTHLY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE: A REFLECTION

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 all 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.

By C. Ohain

BEWARE OF YOUR CHOICE!

By Chris Irekpita

What is 'Choice' if I may ask? Choice simply means an act of deciding between two or more possibilities or put it in a simpler form, 'an act of CHOOSING'. In Gen. 2:15-17; we read where God instructed Adam on what he should eat and what he should not eat; '...but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day that thou eateth thereof, thou shalt surely die'. But the Serpent said unto the woman, Eve, 'ye shall not surely die'. God said 'thou shalt surely die' but the devil said through the serpent, 'ye shall not surely die'. Here, the devil played the game of choice with Eve because he did not force her. She was in-between the two choices: "thou shalt surely die and ye shall not surely die". She made her choice to neglect God's command and to choose Satan's lie thereby plunging the human race into chaos. The salient thing about choice is that the effect thereof is inexplicable. Another thing to note about choice is that the maker of it may not only be affected but also his family members, the society and the human race!

Choice is so strong that it programmes the entire destiny of a man. Today's status of a man speaks volume of the choice he made yesterday because a man's life goes the direction of the choice he had made. Your choice has the ability to make you or mar you. So, beware of your decision-making because you never can tell the end-product of it all. There are two major decisions that exist – positive or negative. Every other choice hangs on any of these two major choices. But let us first of all treat the first negative choice because it took place first in the Garden of Eden

"Choice is so strong that it programmes the entire destiny of a man. Today's status of a man speaks volume of the choice he made yesterday because a man's life goes the direction of the choice he had made"

NEGATIVE CHOICE AND ITS EFFECT

There are dangerous effects and very powerful forces that reside in every negative choice. The consequence of the choice Eve made in the garden was unknown to her; that inside that choice was sicknesses of all kinds, deadly diseases and incurable sickness. She did not know that that single choice would introduce dangerous consequences on mankind and his planet; little did she know that her choice would give birth to wickedness of all sorts to the earth. She did not know that her choice would bring hatred, malice, enmity, craftiness, death and hell to mankind. Do you know how many millions of souls that goes to hell every year because of that choice? Do you also know that you stand the chance of going to hell because of Eve's choice if you do not make the right choice to follow Christ now? Eve never knew that her choice would bring poverty, hardship, pains and emotional problems to the human race. That singular choice resides in brothers killing brothers, husbands killing wives, etc. Recently, the police paraded a young boy who killed his parents and his two sisters. Wives kill husbands, terrorism and other vices have come into being as a result of that choice of Adam and Eve. Negative choice is very contagious and that is why many humans follow suit till today. "Had I known" is the crying voice of every wrong choice made. The list of wrong choices is by no means exhaustive but

mentioning a few out of numerous wrong choices suffices.

*Wrong choice of who to marry: Many persons today may be regretting their choice of spouses, because the one they thought was God's angel before marriage has turned to be the opposite. Many men and women have died before their time because of who they got married to. Single ladies and young men should there take heed on their choice of future partners because your future depends on the decision you are making today. *Wrong choice of business partners: Many business empires have collapsed and many are still collapsing till now because of wrong choice of partnership. Some governments have nothing left for the citizenry to live on because of wrong people who found themselves in offices with the unholy mission to loot thereby plunging national economies into a mess. Churches and ministries are not left out of this malaise. Many have folded up because they made the wrong choice to put the wrong people in those positions. *Wrong choice of friendship: One thing about friendship is that it is also a matter of choice. Nobody forces anyone to choose a friend. Wrong choice of friendship has led many to their misfortunes and early graves. Even those who are living are shadows of themselves. Armed robbery, cultism, kidnapping and hard drugs addicts, amongst others are products of wrong choice of friends. We may also now look at the positive choices.

POSITIVE CHOICE AND BLESSINGS THAT FOLLOW

In Luke 15:17-24, I will use the latter choice of the prodigal son to make a point here that the blessings that follow a right choice cannot be quantified. We all knew that this young man made a choice in his life which brought him down to a life of penury. Whoever thought that by taking a job to feed pigs will mitigate his suffering, only to discover that the condition had grown worse! Wrong choice can make you suffer untold hardships. This young man was wise at the end. He made wise and positive choice to return to the father who had everything that could change his life for the better. We all knew the end of the story very well. He was accepted and welcomed back by his lovely father's arms. His rags were removed for a clean robe, cow slaughtered for celebration. His positive choice brought him back from want into abundance and an

enviable life.

The choice to give your life to Christ and a strong decision to follow Jesus Christ is the positive choice I am talking about. This choice enables you to receive forgiveness, healings, reconciles you back to the father for changing your filthy rags of self righteousness and to put on you the robe of righteousness in Christ. This positive choice makes Jesus Christ to be your Redeemer, Deliverer, and Shepherd who will never leave nor forsake you. Heb 13:4. Positive choice of following Christ will at the end of your race here on earth grant you eternal rest in Heaven while those who made a wrong choice to follow Satan will languish in hellfire forever. The choice is yours today! Like Joshua said: "Choose this day who you will serve. (Joshua 24:15). Jesus or Satan? The choice is yours but remember – there are consequences for your choice, and so beware!

"Another thing to note about choice is that the maker of it may not only be affected but also his family members, the society and the human race!"



CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ABOUT

Love

By Mrs. Patricia Ohain



The hallmark of Christianity is love without inhibition; for, when you take away love from Christianity, Christianity will cease to exist. Love is one of the greatest pillars of Christianity; for this is the umbrella that covers everything about Christianity.

Christianity is not a religion but a way of life. A way of life for the people who have chosen to be different, a way of life that has been chosen by the wise that wants to be like their Master – their Lord and Creator of the Universe.

God is love and love is God; that is why He went to the extent of giving his only begotten Son to die for the remission of our sins. John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him will not perish but have everlasting life" This is "agape love" – love without inhibition.

In the words of Mike Murdock "God never consults your past to determine your future. He never consulted with us about his plan for our salvation, nor the package involved. This is why that "while we were yet sinners Christ died for us". (Jhn 15:13): "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man may lay down his life for his friends".

Love is sacrificial and if we must walk in the step of our master, we must love one another. We must love beyond our Christian boundary, our Love must be "without walls", for if we say that we love God whom we have not seen but do not love our neighbor whom we see daily, it's a contradiction and hypocrisy!

Giving to the needy without genuinely expecting a payback is the true love and God assured us of the blessing or reward attached to this in Matt 25:35-40. We must therefore walk in the path of love if we must be like our master and if we must please him. Love is the perfume of life; it's

the flavor that garnishes life. Love entails everything that is good that makes life worth living. It has been scientifically proven that love is "therapeutic"; for, most sick people recover faster when they are shown love in

"A man without the heart of love will find it difficult to give because it is love that ignites our giving and through our giving God opens the floodgate of heaven and pours out his rain of blessing upon us"

contrast to their counterparts who neither receive love nor care. Wishes may not come true, a dream may not survive, but all it takes is love to keep one's hope alive" to keep one going.

Love is liberal in giving, sowing into the lives of people both monetary and otherwise. A man without the heart of love will find it difficult to give because it is love that ignites our giving and through our giving God opens the floodgate of heaven and pours out his rain of blessing upon us.

King Solomon was an ardent giver. He sacrificed a thousand oxen; this opened the door of wealth, wisdom, and honour to him. He did not stop there. But by faith and more love towards God, he gave God an offering of 22,000 oxen and the Lord opened more doors of blessing unto him in (1Kings 10:24-27). It was said that Solomon was so prosperous in silver and gold and was filled with divine wisdom that the whole world sought after him.

It took the widow of Zarephat sacrificial giving to the servant of God for the windows of heaven to open unto her. For God through divine multiplication kept her satisfied throughout the period of famine. Father Abraham out of his love for God was ready to sacrifice his only Son – the Covenant seed Isaac.

We cannot, therefore say that we

love God without practicalizing it; for God practicalized his love towards us by giving his only begotten Son. The reason why many of us are stuck in our life journey is because the act of love is lacking in our lives. Love can be shown in diverse ways towards people; we can demonstrate our love towards the forsaken, the lost, the discouraged through words of encouragement. Somebody rightly said that "a word of encouragement can repair a cracked wall in a man's life" This is love.

When Jesus was asked by a Pharisees which is the greatest commandment in the Law, Jesus replied that "loving the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your minds is the first and the second is like it "Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments". (Matt 22: 37-40)

Love is the umbrella that unites and fosters peace. Apostle Paul saw the essence of love and thus admonished the people to "owe no men any debt except the debt of love". As we live as shining light in this world of darkness, we must adhere to this commandment.

In conclusion, no price is too much to pay for love; so, if we profess that we love God, we must be ready to go any length in our work with Him, whether it is pleasant or not for nothing should separate us from the love of Christ.

Love is the golden rule by which whatever gift or services we render to God is measured. Without love, we are like a sounding cymbal. (Rom 13:10). Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Shalom!!

TURN YOUR MISTAKES INTO A MOSAIC MASTERPIECE

BY A. S. DAVID



Life is full of ups and downs. The struggle to survive the obvious obstacles and detours of life give rise to many mistakes and blame games. Mistake can be defined as 'being busy but not effective'. It could also mean doing the wrong thing at the right time. Failure is being successful in the wrong assignment. That is doing the right thing at the wrong time resulting in resistance. Mistake occurs first, then failure. Failure is the mismanagement of mistake. When mistake occurs, it is not the time to criticize; rather it is time to forgive. Though critical appraisal makes for better performance, it should be avoided at this point. Success is a process that suffers mistakes and even failures but eventually gathers the pieces and produces a masterwork that calls for celebration. Mistake is never a deliberate act. It is the result of good intention that missed out on basic principles. Mistake could be devastating on relationships and productivity. Initial reaction of stakeholders when mistake occurs will be to find fault with the system, particularly with the one that missed it. This time should rather be the defining moment; a time in life we tell ourselves the truth. It is an opportunity to examine our choices and actions. We need to be sincere and absolve blame; then pick up the pieces. Mistake, if seen as an opportunity, could yield a tremendous breakthrough. Many inventions were as a result of finding solution to mistakes. Great leaders maximize opportunities including that offered on the platform of mistakes. They rely on their inner promptings at a time like this. The law of intuition states that leaders evaluate everything with a leadership bias. "Great leaders see things others cannot, make changes and move forward before others know what is happening." John Maxwell. "Our instincts inspire us to look beyond the usual and identify the unusual. If we're attuned, our instinct transfers principles from one field of study to another, mix metaphors that yield new insight, and create fresh designs from tired traditions Listen to your instincts and you will find your power. When you follow your instinct and transform your vision into reality, you will discover that accident, mistakes and conflicts become creative materials". -T.D Jakes.

"Successful individuals think in terms of what they can do. Successful leaders see everything in terms of available resources: money, raw materials, technology and most importantly, people. They never forget that people are their greatest asset," said John Maxwell. I dare to add that leaders' greatest assets include the people who committed the blunder for which the organization suffered loss. An intuitive leader quickly reads mistake as a leakage in training session. Recycling his assets in the crucible of training could be rewarding and is advisable. In mosaic art, broken pieces are never regarded as waste. This art wisely puts together broken pieces called mistakes and transform that into a masterpiece, a stunning success, the work of genius, a magnum opus! This is creativity made possible by the inner prompting. "The calling of creativity, the calling to teach, to give, to build are all part of allowing your instincts to guide you to the 'something more' that you suspect is out there"-T.D Jakes You may have made lots of mistakes in life; that is alright! You are not alone in this. Your success is more important than the guilt you nurse because of what people may say. Mistake is being original. It is the result of good intention that missed out on basic principles. The low grade plagiarism of popularity will never lead you to true contentment. Therefore, be original; make mistakes and move on. "People who accomplish massive feats don't play by man-made rules. They are trend-setters and game changers. They lead the world into paradigm shifts that you can only study after they've done what they set out to do. They do what they think they should, instead of living beyond what logic

alone can dictate. Put your seal, your scent, your essence, and your DNA on what you produce and it will forever have that uniqueness. Stop copying and start discovering what is intrinsically within you." -T.D. Jakes. As was mentioned earlier, success is a process that suffers mistakes and even failures but eventually gathers the pieces and produces a masterwork that calls for celebration. A life without mistakes does not spell a life of success. Rather your ability to transform your mistakes will distinguish you from the rest of the world. You were created to bring something into this earth that has never crystallized throughout the eons of time. That mistake might just be the opportunity you have been waiting for to launch out. This is success! To turn mistakes into success, great leaders apply the principle of the three most important words: 'all is forgiven'! Forgiveness is essentially needful and primary in achieving success out of a mess. Forgiveness here includes self-pardon. This means overcoming guilt by seeing greater opportunity ahead. God is not surprised when people fall. He knows how to turn the situation for good. He does not concentrate on our failure but finds a way for us to win. The scripture says "a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again," Pro. 24:16. Again in Romans 14: 4, we learn that God will make us stand. Examples abound of people whose mistakes God forgave and turned them into magnificent laborers for the gospel of the kingdom of God. When Peter denied Jesus, it was not recorded that Jesus condemned or criticized Peter, rather we saw a transformed Peter, a great leader of the world changing church. King David failed in the case of Beersheba but was forgiven and raised to be the most powerful king of Israel. We should not forget Samson who failed at the hands of Delilah. He was humiliated but God forgave him and gave him a great victory over the philistines. He killed more philistines at his death between the pillars than at other times.

Mistake or failure should not be regarded as the end; rather great leaders should see that as an opportunity to get the best out of life. Uncommon achievers will forgive the culprit and then birth hope in them by telling who they would be instead of what they are. One glaring example of turning mistake into a masterpiece is the story from organization folklore that reportedly occurred at IBM. A senior executive made a very poor decision that cost the company \$600,000. When called to the CEO's office, he logically expected to be harshly dismissed from his position. He entered the office cautiously and engaged in a conversation with the CEO. Eventually beginning to become bewildered, he raised the topic that he most feared but assumed was inevitable: he asked if he was to be fired. The CEO's response was very insightful and apparently wise. The essence of what he said was simply "fire you? No way. We just spent six hundred thousand dollars training you why would I want somebody to hire your experience?" This person became a wonderful asset to IBM. Great leaders value relationships above material gains. They see people from what they could be if given another chance after a mistake. They are trail-blazers changing mistakes to fortunes as they lead by their inner prompting rather than mere intellect. Their decisions remain a mirage to many even after the innuendo is unveiled. They always come up with the unknown yet having inner understanding of what the eyes fail to see.

A Parable Of 'BRAVE REFUGEES'

Cont'd from page 4.

not eliminate sufferings and persecutions. If the Syrian refugees remain committed to their pursuit in the face of these odds how much more should those who have become the citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven – where there is no death, sorrow or poverty; for the streets are made of gold – press into this heavenly kingdom. So much good are reserved for anyone that turns a citizen of this kingdom. These include among others, sonship, kingship and partnership.

When one considers the odds the refugees confronted and overcame, the need for mankind

to re-consider his stand concerning their rejection of Jesus and his message becomes a wise option. Jesus did not bring a religion but solution to the mounting problems of the dying world. There can be no man-made solution to the problems the world is going through now. World leaders, with due respect to their intelligence, have no solution; neither can they with all their technology proffer a viable one in the nearest future.

In the same vein, religion with all its reach cannot help mankind in the present situation. Like the Syrian refugees, mankind should come to terms with this truth and take a brave step towards the only hope. The Syrian refugees set religion aside heading to nations that they could have regarded as 'infidels' from the standpoint

of their beliefs at home.

Since neither world leaders nor religion is any solution and wisdom teaches that a move towards solution is the best and most rational decision, it will be naïve of mankind not to embrace the good news of the kingdom that Jesus has offered.

For clarity, the way to this kingdom is one and that is Jesus Christ. When you believe that Jesus is the son of God and that he died to save you from the bondage of sin; he rose from the dead to justify all that believe in him, you are received as a citizen of the of kingdom of God. Wisdom advises you make this quality decision now.

JESUS, AN ONLY CURE FOR A SICK WORLD!

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THE WORD OF GOD WHICH IS TRUE, LIVING, FULL OF LOVE, PEACE, HEALTH, JOY, can cure the world of these sicknesses, diseases, violence, and natural disasters ravaging the world today; not policies, protocols or treaties. The undiluted word of God can bring about lasting peace, healthy leaving, while erasing corruption and restoring marriages to its original beauty.

Outside the word of God, every other cure is inadequate and ineffective and will always be. No man can guarantee peace, joy, good health, etc. The UN, EU, NATO, ECOWAS etc. Do not have cure or solution to the problems of the world. No statesman, politician, scientist, prophet, philosopher can proffer solution or meet the need of mankind. No government round the world can satisfy its citizens except the world turns to God with a sincere heart of repentance and accept the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ.

The gospel solves all problems and it's a perfect cure for all aches and pains. Unless the world accepts, believes the Gospel as the only solution and cure, the entire world will always walk and work in circles without any meaningful result.

The undiluted Word of God is the only cure for wars, sickness, disease, immorality, corruption, lawlessness; without it there can be no recovery and the world will remain sick. Let's return to God by His Word and have a perfect cure.

EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP IS DOING WHAT YOU TEACH

Cont'd from Page 5

If we will be true to ourselves, quite a number of us are yet to have an encounter with the Lord Jesus. Some of us are in our present leadership positions just because of our zeal, and not because we know or love the Lord Jesus. Mathew 7 : 15-19 says, because of false teachers who came disguised as harmless sheep but are wolves and will tear you apart. You can detect them by the way they act, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit. Different kinds of fruit trees can quickly be identified by examining their fruit. A variety that produces delicious fruit never produces an inedible kind. And a tree producing an inedible kind can't produce

RETIREMENT IS NOT DEATH SENTENCE HOW MASS MEDIA CAN HELP RETIREES

Cont'd from Page 15

and strength in your areas; how and where you can fit into them, either as an active player or as godfather' if indeed you have the means.

Agrie: Some of you are farming-inclined. Recruit labour and expertise and only supervise. These you will do after thoroughly acquainting yourself with the intricacies involved. If it is Piggery, Fishery, Horticulture or Poultry farming, know what to do rightly.

Sundry Products: Candles, pomade, soaps detergents, ice blocks, ice cream, fast food joints, Eatries etc.

Stock Markets: Some of you may have piled up shares in companies to now live on dividends. You may as well be in the category that is just-knowing about shares – there are short-term businesses with shares if you have good monies to invest. The stock brokers will be greater use for you here.

Other Facilities: There are loan opportunities in Banks and Financial institutions on selected sectors you may be involved in. There have also been special grants provided by the Federal Government on special projects/programmes.

Your Health: Retirement is usually associated with age and that presupposes that certain issues of health will come to the fore in old age. Some are natural with age and others due to certain afflictions. There are health shows, talk shops on the electronic media – Radio/TV/Satellite as well as columns in the newspapers and magazines which could thoroughly educate you or rest certain fears within you. Good information will help you to cope adequately.

Entertainment/Relations/Leisure: It is unfortunate that the word – Leisure – is out of the African's lexicon. The media is replete with entertaining programmes that you look up to daily and in watching them, relax your mind and body. Good music, English or native depending on taste should not be forgotten.

These tips one hopes will make you look forward to your retirement when it comes rather than seeing same as a "death sentence"!

what is good; so the trees having the inedible fruit are chopped down and thrown into the fire.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, brethren, drop the double standard, God has not called us to struggle to please Him. He had made grace available. All we need is to tap into His grace, and cultivate a heart where God can dwell. Desire and pursue intimacy with God. Rid your heart of every form of defilement. A change is about to occur. God will soon replace all leaders who are hypocritical and unrepentant. It is my prayer that you and I, will not be replaced in Jesus Name, Amen.

About WIM's Free **EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME!**

Women in Ministry (WIM) 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 Women in Ministry 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 Women in Ministry International was formally known as Women-for-Women Gospel Campaign and later, Gospel Women International. 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 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 WIM 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. Women in Ministry International transcend religious, denomination and legalistic beliefs and doctrines. We want women to join us enthrone 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 Women in Ministry 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.

By Sarah David



Admission! Admission!! Admission!!!

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