



# Without Walls

VOL 2 NO. 2

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FREE

## WORLD CRISES: Leadership FAILURE



TURN YOUR MISTAKES INTO MOSAIC MASTERPIECE

'BRING BACK THE MESSAGE'

THINKING OUTSIDE THE 'BOX'

MINISTERS AS SPIRITUAL MENTORS



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# From the **PUBLISHER'S Desk**

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**H**ardly a day passes by now without people discussing the plight of asylum seekers. The report of death at sea and the rescue operation by European nations has become a household discussion. Migrants in recent time have been going to the sea in droves in an attempt to cross into Europe. This exodus has been attributed to conflicts and poverty.

Our main story – World Crises: Leadership Failures (Migrants' risks, gains & missing link) explores the possible solution not just telling the event. The Creator had solution before the present problems. However, solution not explored is problem not solved.

In addition we discussed the Foundation for a robust leadership. This exposed the root of conflict and poverty. Our intention is not to criticize leaders but to lay emphasis on the indispensability of the Holy Spirit and the Book many leaders dread; the religious people either despise or dismiss as fable yet contains the wisdom of the life of God for life-enriching leadership.

Following this, we believe our mistakes and failures that precipitated the present world socio-economic chaos can be put together by the inspiration of the Almighty God producing a mosaic masterpiece. Remain blessed and read with an open mind to receive the grace of God in the person of Jesus Christ.

## *Quote on MARBLE:*

"If you only hear one side of the story, you have no understanding at all"

- Chinua Achebe

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# WORLD CRISES: LEADERSHIP FAILURE



By Evang A.S David

## *Migrants' risks, gains and missing link*

**T**his article examines the preponderance of social, economic and political crises all the World that have engendered sea migration, poverty and starvation, violence, etc. It blames them all on leadership failure; that which has not put God first. It looks at migration, which have turned the seas into 'migrants' graves'. What are the risks, pains, 'gains' and the missing links? Find out!

It is worrisome to see many people die at sea in an attempt to get into countries they think offer opportunity for better life. They may have cogent reasons for their choices and actions yet there remain some questions begging for answers. The rate at which lives are lost at sea as asylum seekers risk all things to achieve their desire has turned the sea into 'water grave'. The international community is working round the clock to rescue these migrants who have continued to endanger their lives. It is unusual for people to embark on such dangerous journeys in the absence of a more dreaded danger. Life is only useful if it offers hope and in the absence of this, frustration sets in and desperation assumes the center stage. At this point nothing matters any longer, death is looked at as not only inevitable but a more desirable cause of action. This desperation is not really a survival instinct at work but a suicide bid without notice. The wave of violence in the world at

the moment has thrust out many from their homes and comfort zones into the world of uncertainty and despair. The world is gravitating to the culture of death as many find nothing strong enough to lean on. Many have passed death sentences on themselves and care little about the lives of others around them. This is evident in the current wave of violence; discrimination, torture and brutal executions. As a result, people take uncalculated risks resulting in mass loss of lives.

The risks of mass execution, ethnic cleansing, poverty and wars as a result of the quest for power and poor leadership at home seems to outweigh the raging wave at sea. It is therefore not easy to convince migrants to change their choices as that remains the best in the face of the prevailing circumstances.

Again, the belief that 'crossing over' to safe havens will bring relief in terms of job opportunities for those of them driven away by poverty; and protection for those driven by wars and violence are compelling factors. World leaders have done a lot towards peaceful co-existence and economic emancipation of their people for centuries now. It is, however, disheartening that

all these efforts are proving now abortive as we daily see the collapse of peace and economic meltdown in nations of the world. I have often asked this question: Do world leaders really know what to do? That is, do they have solution to these challenges?

In the face of the present economic meltdown and political and religious wars it is not wise to accept that world leaders are on top of the situation. Things are getting out of hand daily. Security situations and growing rate of unemployment all over the world speak volumes of leadership failure. The more leaders make efforts to create jobs and ensure security, the more human and natural factors unleash violence to erode their gains. This has resulted to the re-emergence of 'slave trade', increased number of asylum seekers who fall into the hands of human traffickers that treat them with no dignity or regard as they smuggle them by sea to their havens. These migrants die in the oceans of the world as they seek greener pastures in countries that are fast becoming gray pastures.

However, the missing link is that which is not yet considered let alone

*"The Spirit of God in man is full of love, peace and forgiveness. It is impossible for him to consider ethnic cleansing a virtue or corruption an option"*







about a royal family. It is about God and mankind he made in his image and likeness. It has nothing to do with religion. It is not just a book but a manual of life. It outlines the purpose of life and method of achieving just that. It is not a Jewish or a Christian book but God's own book for all men, nations, tribes and languages. It brings the search for life to a fruitful end as it fills the void in the heart of man. It reveals the lost kingdom and its constitution. It encapsulates the wisdom of God necessary for a robust leadership.

No one is interested in following a failure. As long as the Bible is neglected, leaders will continue to fail. I want to make it clear here that I do not preach religion but life that must be properly guided by the Giver of it. The challenge of true leadership has remained the refusal of world leaders to accept this all-encompassing wisdom of God documented for life-enriching leadership.

Life-enriching leaders see people as available resources waiting to be harnessed, developed and invested. They know that people are their greatest assets; that people produce what they ask for and therefore, should be treated as resources they can invest their best time, attention and care in. Life-enriching leadership brings out and invests the God-given resources lying dormant in people. This results in job creation and good living conditions, the absence of which has given rise to the prevailing soured life, desperation and 'death at sea' by fleeing human assets - the migrants!

understood in this whole issue. As mentioned earlier, poor leadership has remained the militating factor to the peace and progress of nations. Until this is properly addressed, people will continue to drift and die at sea. It is clear to a lot of people that leadership as taught learnt and practiced by man has failed.

*"The more leaders make efforts to create jobs and ensure security, the more human and natural factors unleash violence to erode their gains"*

The current trend: political, economic and social disorder, stand out as a witness of the abysmal failure of human wisdom for leadership.

Man was never created to proffer solution to human problems without the creator. The creator breathed his Spirit into man to dominate creation. This will include offering leadership to one another by this same Spirit. However, the fall of man through the disobedience of Adam denied him this relationship with his creator. This is why it is impossible for the man without the Spirit of God to lead people. Human wisdom can produce leadership but not great and lasting leadership which finds expression in peace and progress of a people.

This has nothing to do with religion but living according to the wisdom of God. The Spirit of God in man is full of love, peace and forgiveness. It is impossible for him to consider ethnic cleansing a virtue or corruption an option. The bible says "the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then

peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits without partiality and without hypocrisy" - James 3:17.

It is important to note that though everybody has not the Spirit of God yet he is available to those who desire him - both leaders and followers. Since it is impossible to have the wisdom from above without the Spirit of God, it is imperative for those who aspire to lead their people to first receive him. He makes healthy leadership possible. Jesus said in John 14: 17 "the world cannot receive him". The reason being that, 'they neither see nor know him'. He is given to those who believe in and obey Jesus Christ, not the world or religious people.

Religion is not God's wisdom. Christ is God's wisdom. Religion is war; Christ is God's wisdom and peace. No religion offers this wisdom and where there is no Godly wisdom there is no true peace. Religion is adherence to that set of beliefs that precipitate wars. World peace is only possible by turning to Jesus Christ - the wisdom of God.

I continue to submit that the Bible is about a king and his kingdom. It is





# RELEVANCE IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD



By Betty Amadi

The word "relevant" means to be closely connected; having ideas that are valuable and useful to people in their lives and work. It means to be current. It is to be significant to a group, community or a given assignment. If you are a part of the body of Christ, you must be ready to be relevant and identify with God.

Be relevant in your walk with God. Jesus commanded His disciples with these words: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 28:19-20). And Matt. 5:13-16 says:

"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its savor wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are light of the world, a city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on candlestick and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Beloved, Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven".

It is a fact that we live in a fast changing world. The world is so dynamic that things keep evolving faster than many people can keep pace with. What was generally acceptable a few years back have become completely obsolete today, and new things are being created almost every hour. One of the major challenges we face today is how to remain relevant to our community without diluting the message that we are called to preach. When a man loses relevance he is cast away like the salt that has lost its saltiness. We are salt, and light means that we are relevant. We have a responsibility to maintain our relevance. When we remain relevant we glorify God.

## HOW DO YOU REMAIN RELEVANT?

You remain relevance by staying within your God-ordained purpose. Your purpose is what determines your place of relevance. You need to know why you exist and strive to fulfill it. When the purpose is not defined, there is abuse. Matt. 5:13-16 says that "Ye are salt," you as human being called by God you are the salt of the earth. The natural salt is used for two things (i) to add taste (ii) to preserve where there is no light. When

there is no light, salt is used to preserve meat so that it will not decay. So you must not deviate from your core assignment which is simply to maintain relevance in your walk with God and to add value to people's lives by preaching the good news which is the word of God to them. Also, be an example of what you preach. The bible says that we are

*"One of the major challenges we face today is how to remain relevant to our community without diluting the message that we are called to preach".*

the epistles that men read. Apostle Paul says that he was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision. He was determined to finish the race to the end. Our Lord Jesus Christ also understood the reason why He came to earth, that is why He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil for God was with him (Acts 10:38).

## SELF DEVELOPMENT

You remain relevant by self development which is a key to self preservation: To stay relevant you need to keep sharpening yourself. Those who made it to the end are those who work on themselves more than they do on any other things. Don't be an educated illiterate, (that is someone who stops reading the day he graduated from school) study and be eager, and do your utmost to present yourself to God, approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing (right handling and skillfully teaching) the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

## LIVING FOR POSTERITY AND PROSPERITY

If you pursue prosperity at the detriment of posterity you will soon lose relevance to people. God expects us to be a blessing and leave a legacy behind. Always ask yourself "what will I be remembered for". Remember the story of Gehazi 2Kings 5:20-27. He lost out because of greed. Good name is better than riches. Gehazi could have inherited double portion of Elisha's anointing if not for greed.

## BEING KNOWLEDGEABLE

Knowledge is the key to living (Hosea 4:6) what you don't know, you will never be known for. For your light to shine, you must deal with ignorance at every level.

## LEARN TO BE CREATIVE

People easily fall for new things. That is they easily follow fashion, what is in vogue. We must allow God to do new things through us on a constant basis. Use your God-given creative ability. Refuse to follow others, rather empower others by your creativity.

## PUT YOUR PRIORITIES IN PERSPECTIVE

To maintain significance (relevance) you must keep first things first. Set your priorities right and follow them. Don't just concentrate on the urgent things that cry loudly.

Focus on these things that are important:

Your number one priority should be your personal relationship with God. Acts 20:28.

Your family responsibility should follow.

Know why you are on the field and pursue it with zeal.

When you put your priority right you become organized.

*"When a man loses relevance he is cast away like the salt that has lost its saltness".*

## LIVE A PURE LIFE

Salt loses its saltiness when it becomes impure. Light that is contaminated cannot shine for men to see. Purity is a demand for those who desire to remain relevant. Show good example in your behavior.

## LIVE ALWAYS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Lord we serve can never be outdated so if you stay connected to Him you will remain relevant. This is why it is essential irrespective of the challenges of our world today to maintain our spiritual life through worshiping, reading, studying and meditating on God's Word.

## CONCLUSION

Beloved, reaching the lost is the word the Lord has commanded each of us to do. When we do what the Lord says effectively as stated above, we will not fail. The Bible says: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them. May we not disappoint Him in Jesus Name.





# INFIRMITY IS BONDAGE

BY SARAH DAVID

The healing of infirmities is most times seen from the perspective of physical comfort or relief enjoyed by the healed. Jesus Christ regarded the infirmity the woman suffered in Luke 13:10-17, for eighteen years as bondage of Satan upon her life.

Sickness and diseases are not gifts from God. They are messengers of Satan. Affliction is bondage on the afflicted. When a man is afflicted with infirmity, it ties him down restricting his freedom of fellowship with men and God.

Every afflicted person is one way or another denied access to freedom and the good things of life. Until the Ox or the ASS is loosed from the stall, they cannot be taken away for watering. In the same manner until the afflicted is loosed from the bond of infirmity, he cannot be taken for watering with the Living Water of the Word of God.

The word of God is medicine, it is the healing balm to all our flesh (Prov 4:20-22). Grace has a way of neutralizing the effect of Satanic bondage. Jesus Christ our high priest defied the Sabbath day to lose the bondage of the afflicted people. This was then a great sacrifice.

Sacrifices were made merely to cover sins and restore worship. Jesus however had power on earth to forgive sins and to restore man to peace with God which includes healing of infirmities; Jesus went about this by forgiving the afflicted.

## THE POSITION OF BELIEVERS IN DIVINE HEALTH

The believers in Christ are called to enjoy divine health; Jesus demonstrated this when he personally called the woman with an infirmity for eighteen years and loosed her of it. By this action, Jesus demonstrated that it was the right of the children of Abraham to be free from infirmities. While healing is the children's bread, divine health is the prosperity of their lives. 3John 1:2 says:

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth".

God does not just want his children healed; he wants them to enjoy life to the fullest including the area of divine health.

It is important to note that in (Prov 4:20-22) the word of God is healing to our flesh. Children of God who eat the word of God daily receive in themselves that which heals their flesh.

The word of God is both food and medicine to the children of God. As they dwell continually on

the word, they dwell continually in good health. This is divine health. You can live in divine health all through your life. Deviation from God and his word will result to all sorts of sickness, diseases, attack and bondage. Choose to love the lord and to live for him, so you can enjoy life to its fullest.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF 'LAYING OF HANDS' TO THE CHURCH

The church is the body of Christ and Christ is the head of the church and therefore, the source of power of the body. While Christ is in heaven sited on the throne, the church is on earth representing him. Jesus Christ is still very much at work on earth, though men do not see him physically. The church as his body and ambassador, physically reveal Christ to the world.

Jesus healed a lot of people by laying his hands on them. All manner of diseases were subject to Jesus Christ by the process of laying his hands on the oppressed; the touch portrays physical contact with the oppressed. Without this physical contact many of the oppressed did not receive their healings. Many by the spoken word also received their healings.

Now that he is in heaven, the church is saddled with the responsibility of doing good and healing all that are oppressed

of the devil. The process by which the church performs this duty must be same with that of Jesus. It follows that church has to 'lay hands' and to 'speak the words of Jesus' to alleviate the sufferings of the oppressed. The church is made up of individual believers. Each believer as part of the church is empowered to lay hands on the oppressed for healing. All over the world, people are hurting and the church is ordained by God to help them out of their sorrows and bondage. Believers' hands are chosen by God to do this. As the church teaches the doctrine of Christ and believers lay hands, the oppressed are healed. The world is saved, the kingdom of God is established here on earth.

Every believer must regard his hands as vessels for the impartation of the healing virtue from God to the oppressed. The world is oppressed physically, spiritually and doctrinally. God has equipped the believers to save the world. For one to qualify to use his hands for the deliverance of the oppressed, the individual must give his life fully and totally to Christ. For the church to qualify to save the world from doctrinal oppression we must preach the doctrine of Christ. The virtue of God to us for the healing of the sick should not be used for cheap popularity. Reverence

*"God does not just want his children healed; he wants them to enjoy life to the fullest including the area of divine health".*

should and must be given to the source of the virtue (God) and not the vessel (Room). Humility increases grace which is the ability to release virtue from the source.

Pride goes before a fall and a fall is a denial of God's grace to the people. The people suffer in the absence of grace yet God has made grace abundantly available to his people.

May God pour upon us his grace abundantly to help the afflicted of bondage they merely look at as mere sickness; In Jesus Name Amen.



# WEDDING BELLS TOLL FOR EVELYN ODIASE





# PHOTOGRASH

## 1ST INT'L CONFERENCE/BANQUET OF 300 LEADERS CLUB INT'L





# MINISTERS

## AS 'SPIRITUAL MENTORS'



By Emmanuel Aragie

A minister is he that teaches and preaches the gospel of the kingdom of God. The gospel refers to the person of Christ. The gospel is good news. The book of Acts 10: 38b talked about He, 'who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him'. Doing good was the good news He preached and people were saved.

So, ministers are to bring happiness to all and not fear. The good news does not talk demons but Christ. When you talk demons you are not talking Christ's good news. Today, ministers have given themselves ministries like 'Deliverance ministry', 'Healing ministry', etc. They fail to realize that when you preach the gospel of the kingdom, healings, deliverance will take place. Some Ministers are fervently praying for anointing to do miracles. Matthew 9:35 says that miracles occur when you preach the gospel of the kingdom. I advise such ministers to ask for the anointing to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

A mentor is an experienced person, who advises, and helps somebody with less experience over a period of time, so as to grow. Suffice it to say that ministers are experienced persons in the word of God while the less experienced persons learn the truth from them. The truth seekers seek happiness; the word of God that frees them from their oppressors – the devil. They need a teaching priest that will show them the way of the Lord. They want to walk in the commandments and fear of the Lord. They are desperate for the truth.

Jesus Christ is the true spiritual mentor that truth seekers are looking for. No other teaching we have for them other than Christ. The ministers should emulate Jesus Christ. John 5:19 says: "Verify, verily, I say unto you, the son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the father do". As ministers we are to do what Christ did.

We cannot formulate our own ways; the minister mentored by Christ should do likewise. We are not given another

doctrine. In John 5:34 Jesus said: "I receive not testimony from man; but these things I say that ye might be saved". In our pulpit today, ministers preach the testimony of man as their sermon. Testimony signifies the gospel of the kingdom. The 'testimony of man' brings fear into the heart of men as they teach the church the deep things of Satan.

I want to sound this to the ministers; no demon operates where I am because I have become a citizen of the kingdom of God. I am planted in His court and I flourish.

Matthew 7:18 says 'for a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither does a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit'. Any minister that preaches corrupt doctrine can never bring forth good fruit. The product of corrupt teachings is stated in Galatians 5:19-21.

The truth seekers are seeking for ministers that will bring them to the knowledge of the truth - Christ. Christ is the embodiment of truth, love and forgiveness.

Do we know that these truth seekers believe that ministers are redeemed to be saviors in their generation but we have laid aside the commandment of God and held to the tradition of men? Matthew 15:3-9

Today, Christians are told to come with brooms, with knives to the church as weapons to destroy their enemies. Where did they find these in the scripture? Galatians 1:6-8. Paul said to the Galatians brethren (Ministers) that he marveled that you Ministers are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel. If we read further down he said such Ministers are accursed. Matthew 24:11-12. Because of false prophets, the love of many has waxed cold. The world does not know whom to believe.

The ministers are to make the truth known; that Christ took our iniquities on the Cross. Firstly, let the people know that our soul needs to praise Him (Christ) because He forgives all our iniquities. Secondly, let them know that

Christ redeemed our lives from destruction

Thirdly, He crowned us with His loving kindness and tender mercies Psalm 103:3-4. There is a lot of success that is not a good success. You cannot know the Lord without His Word.

Some 'ministers' have muddled the gospel to suit their bellies. They are bold to tell people that if you go the way Christ did, you will never get the necessities of life. You will never get food on your table.

Ministers are quick to forget what Christ said; 'whosoever shall confess Me before men, him shall the son of man also confess before the angels of God.' Luke 12:8. Jesus Christ is the curriculum of Himself He has given us himself. We should learn of Him. Ministers should stand up for what's right, not just for what's popular. As you see the influx of people going for 'fall and die', 'die by fire', you, should not change overnight. You will abandon the gospel of the kingdom and turn a murderer if you do. Christ did not die to improve us; he died to regain and confirm us.

Luke 19:1-10, tells the story of Zaccheus the rich publican. This was a rich man who sought Christ but today ministers are seeking rich men and politicians. They are specialists in

raising money going from church to church pressurizing people to give; without recourse to their wellbeing. Our mentor,

"In his day, Zaccheus the rich publican sought Christ but today, ministers are seeking rich men and politicians".

Jesus Christ does not require our knowledge but we require Him.

In Matthew 5:14-16. Jesus stated that you are the light of the world. The light signifies truth. Let the truth be found in us. In verse 16, as you say the truth, men shall see your good works; the good work is that people are saved.

In conclusion, truth is rich; truth is the principle of life. John 8:32 'And ye shall know the truth; and the truth shall make you free'. Ministers are to speak life not death, to speak love not hatred, to speak blessings and not curses.



# 'BRING BACK THE MESSAGE'



And Jesus said unto them: "Go ye into the entire world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned". Mark 16:15-16.

The gospel is what our Lord Jesus Christ commissioned His ministers - past, present and future - to preach to every creature. The gospel means good news or glad tidings. And the good news is all about Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. He came down from above. He gave his life, shed His blood. He took our place for us to take His place. He became sin who knew no sin for us to become the righteousness of God in Him. This gospel is based on the propitiatory sacrifice and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This gospel was the same message of Apostle Peter in time of old and remains the same today! For, Peter standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice saying: "Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.....this Jesus hath God raised up whereof we all are witness.....therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ". Acts 2:14,22,32,36.

In these references, Apostle Peter pointed his hearers to Christ and the work of redemption He came to accomplish on the cross. Every word in Peter's message centred on Jesus Christ and every threat to his life by the Sanhedrim formed an opportunity for him to preach Christ's death and this resurrection. Peter was ready to face death with the gospel message than to change same. He knew the great commission Christ gave His ministers to preach; he did not deviate from it and at the end it cost him his life. Even when Apostle Peter used Old Testament references, he faithfully used them to point his audience to Jesus Christ without losing sight of the Gospel. Thank God, he is in heaven right now, enjoying the reward of his faithfulness!

Phillip was another gospel messenger of note. He went down to Samaria and preached Christ unto them. He did not preach religion; neither did he preach denomination nor philosophy. Phillip did not enter into the city of Samaria and rented an apartment where people lined up to see for them "visions and sell olive oil" to make money or build good houses and make name for himself. He went to Samaria with only one message - Christ. No wonder, he made waves and the bible recorded that there was great joy in that city.

Apostle Paul followed suit. For, when this

'prince' of preachers came on board, he beautified this message of the Gospel with a name - 'HEAVENLY VISION' (Acts 26:19-32). His zeal for the message was to a boiling point. He sowed his life into the Gospel of Christ. For him, it was 'it or never' hence he said: 'woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel'. Even while in prison because of the gospel, he never ceased to preach Christ to save souls. Don't forget that the central message of the Gospel is Jesus Christ and His finished work of redemption. Let us look at the Gospel message of Paul the Apostle.

Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus Christ) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sin;

And by him all that believes are justified from all things..... Acts 13:38-39.

*"Strange messages have taken over the pulpits. Television and radio slots which ought to be used to preach Christ to the world to save sinners have been grossly abused by preachers who have lost the message of the Gospel".*

This was the message with which Paul went into all nooks and crannies in his days in Asia and part of Europe and he paid with his life eventually for preaching Christ. The Gospel message is the only message that brings sinners to God. At Peter's first crusade, this message brought 3,000 souls to Christ and 5,000 souls were saved in the second crusade. He, with other minister-colleagues made great success in ministry to the extent that the multitudes came into God's kingdom with this gospel of Christ. Phillip turned the entire city of Samaria to Christ with Christ's gospel. Also, multitudes were swept into God's Kingdom by Apostle Paul with the same message of Christ. Acts 14:1.

## THE BIG QUESTION IS: WHAT MESSAGE ARE WE HEARING TODAY?

If you are a good observer, you will agree with me that much of the preaching we hear on televisions and radio today is not the true gospel Christ commissioned His ministers to preach. Strange messages have taken over the pulpits. Television and radio slots which ought to be used to preach Christ to the world to save sinners have been grossly abused by preachers who have lost the message of the Gospel. These days we hear some much of 'keys to prosperity', 'holy ghost koboko', 'fire and brimstone', 'my enemies must die', 'holy ghost fires' etc. Can these ranting really save a sinner who watches or listens to these programmes?

A sinful millionaire with a bevy of ladies around him can't be persuaded with these kinds of message. How can a 'holy ghost Koboko' message save an occultist personality listening and watching? Our messages should be directed at Christ's love; on how it can redeem the prostitute in the brothel, the armed robber on the prowl, the occultist at his altar, etc, since the gospel of Christ, 'is the power of God unto salvation' (Roman 1:16).

Majority of the messages people hear today deal more on 'my enemies must die and catch fire', 'ancestral curses or ancestral powers'. These concentrate on the works of the 'enemies' instead of the works of Christ on the

cross. That is why you find today, church multitudes which are more 'enemies-conscious' than being 'God-conscious'. They see what the enemies are "doing" in their lives more than what God is for them. Ironically, you only hear Jesus mentioned when they 'command enemies to die' and at the tail end of their long message when they use only about two minutes to invite the hearers to Christ. They end up not really preaching to them.



By Chris Irekpita

This perhaps explains why many testimonies these days are all about 'how uncles, aunts, in-laws and village relations died after much fasting and prayers' to snuff life out of enemies! Any message time that does not point people to Christ and His redemptive work on the cross is time wasted for the preacher and the listeners.

A message devoid of Christ's mission to humanity is not worth hearing; because such preaching does not bring sinners to God's Kingdom. From that time Jesus preached saying, 'repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand', He showed us here the message of the Gospel.

This message must be brought back to the pulpit if we must expect the results Peter had when Christ's gospel cut the heart of the hearers of his preaching like a sharp sword which made them to cry out loud - 'men and brethren, what shall we do?' Peter led those 3,000 souls to Christ which is the purpose of preaching. Act 2:37-38.

Somebody once came to advise a Godly-minded pastor: 'Your messages are too hot to bear, if you want to gather crowd, slow or mellow down your messages and start preaching prosperity, breakthroughs and begin to 'see visions' for people and before you know it, your church will be crowded with multitude of people.

*"Messages that instil fear in the heart of the hearers are not helpful. Precious time and opportunities should not be wasted on the pulpit".*

Certainly, this is not the type of multitude that Peter, Paul and Phillip sought! Pastors and ministers must continue to preach Christ and his finished works because that is what brings repentance-minded multitude as was in Peter's days. 'Four keys to breakthroughs', 'Nine keys to deal with ancestral spirits', 'powers from your father's house', 'Fire must burn them', 'I must make money whether my enemies like it or not' without having a personal relationship with Christ?

The testimony of salvation is very scarce today because the gospel that brings salvation to hearers has been pushed aside or adulterated for reasons best known to such ministers. The gospel of Christ is the only hope for the world. I cannot but appeal to ministers who have no other message to preach other than 'works of the enemies' to retrace their steps back to the preaching of the true Gospel of Christ that ministers salvation to the people. Messages that instil fear in the heart of the hearers are not helpful. Precious time and opportunities should not be wasted on the pulpit.

Christ is coming soon; therefore, let us preach Christ to the people like Phillip did in Samaria - preparing the people for the coming of Christ. 'BRING BACK THE MESSAGE' is a sing-song that should always resonate in your mind!



# WOMEN IN MINISTRY

## ABOUT WOMEN IN MINISTRY



Women in Ministry (WIM), was formally inaugurated on the 24th of January 2015 here in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

The theme of the inaugural meeting was "You and Your Calling".

It was an impartation program that brought out the God-given gifts and abilities in the participant.

The aims and objectives of Women in Ministry (WIM) include the following:

1. To bring together women who have the call of God upon their lives.
2. To empower women for ministry.
3. To motivate women for world evangelization by making them know how to go about their calling and helping them to unleash potentials and develop their talents.
4. To network with women who are already in ministry in mentoring others who are just coming up.

If you share these objectives with us and desire partnership please contact us at this address:  
12, Iguma Street, off Medical Stores Road,



## GIVE THE WORLD A SMILE!

- The importance of "smile"
- Makes you look beautiful.
- It will make you look younger.
- It takes away wrinkles from your face.
- Makes others to feel free with you
- Your smile can build confidence and hope in others
- It is the quickest means of making friends
- You smile will lessen the burdens of others.

Give the world a smile for it costs very little on the giver but a great deal to the receiver!

Give them a smile and you will be reaping a harvest of happy, cheerful, healthy people around you.

Give the world a smile for your smile will pierce through that pain in the heart and bring a lasting cure to hypertension, stroke, frustration and bitterness against the unfair treatment life has melted out to people.

Keep on smiling; give a smile to one, then to two for you will certainly find those will reciprocate your smile of love.

Be a burden bearer by sharing your smile with many today, help lift their depressed souls with your smiles today, by tomorrow people will be waiting for another round of your beautiful, cheerful, warm and soul lifting smile that will cheer their day.

A merry heart does well like medicine. God bless you as you keep on shining.

- Sarah David

## TIPS TO SUSTAIN YOUR MARRIAGE

Sustenance of your marriage requires hard work and patience. Couples must make effort to keep their relationship harmonious by keeping a healthy marriage and family.

Some vital tips to note:

1. Appreciate your partner: Accept your partner the way he/she is. Make him/her feel that you love him despite his/her shortcomings.
2. Avoid argument and nagging: Sometimes, allow your partners to do things his/her own way, avoid the use of foul language even if you feel hurt. Everybody has a limit of tolerance.
3. Learn to say sorry: Whenever you discover that you made a mistake or you are wrong in an argument, say 'am sorry'. It has the power to heal wounds, bring forgiveness and help resolve quarrel quickly. Love does not keep record of offences.
4. Show love to your partner: Love is a deliberate giving away of yourself to your partner so that you become a source of blessing to him/her. If you want to sustain your marriage you must show love to your partner daily through confession of love not only by deeds but also by words.

Mutual love will build strong bond between you and your partner thereby help in sustaining your marriage!

By Mrs Mary Ehimen

## The Virtue of Patience!

**P**atience is the ability to endure difficult situations, delays and provocations without reacting in anger. Patience is to show forbearance when passing through stress of life.

The Webster's dictionary describes patience as "the suffering of affliction, pain, toil, calamity, provocation or other evils with a calm, unruffled temper, endurance without murmuring or fretfulness, from a kind of heroic pride, or from Christian submission to the divine will.

Patience is needed to prevail over the many trials and turbulence of life and to qualify for God's earthly blessings and eternal life.

We humans will always want to get what we want 'sharp, sharp!' I mean getting it immediately, but God's method is often times different from ours. So, we must learn to wait on him, because his time is the best.

Why do we need patience? We need patience to obtain God's promises.

Patience is needed to run the Christian race.

We need patience to relate with people (1Thess. 5:14). Patience always works for the good of those that love God (Romans 8:28).

God's time is always the best and perfect time for us his children; so patiently wait (James 1:4).

By Evelyn Andrew



# WEDDING BELLS TOLL FOR EVELYN ODIASE





PHOTOS

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OF 300 LEADERS CLUB INT'L





PHOTOGRAPHY

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# FOCUS: GOSPEL WOMEN TRAINING CENTRE

## WOMAN, YOU HAVE A CALL!

By Evelyn Andrew

**A**re you saved? If "yes" then you have a call!

God did not just save you out of the multitude of people in the world that are yet to be saved. He saved you so that you can in turn save others. You may say, 'but the power to save is not in my hand'. Yes, that is true but you have a part to play and God has his part to fulfill.

Woman, you have a call. God has deposited some good qualities in you which can benefit the unsaved ones. It is only that you have not discovered them.

Find out those things you like doing. I mean those things that when you do, you find joy and fulfillment; and that may be your calling.

After you have discovered those things you like doing, then go to the Lord in prayers and ask him his mind concerning them or alternatively pray to ask God what he will want you do for him (Acts 9:6).

There are some calling that are general to us all. In mark 16:15, Jesus said: "go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature. So, You are called to win souls.

You have a call to pray (1st Thess. 5:17).

You are called to be of help to your leaders.

You are called to live a holy life (1stThess 4:7).

We pray that as you read this journal, God will open your eyes to discover your call in Jesus Name. Amen.

## ALL ABOUT US AT GWTC

(EMPOWERING PEOPLE IS OUR BUSINESS)

Blessed people,

You are welcome once again to the empowerment section. We are happy to let you know that our door is still wide open to accommodate you all as our friends and partners. We remain committed to adding value to your lives. We want you to join us in the months of July –August 2015 for another life-enriching, life transforming session with this training center and get yourself well established by the end of the program.

It is free; all you need is to come with a positive and a willing attitude. In this program the Mighty God will take you to the next level in Jesus Name Amen. We love you and are expecting you.

Just call us on: 08077896577 to find out the take off date and time remain blessed.

## MY TESTIMONY

Dcns Esther Adeleye

I am a beneficiary of the free empowerment program of this centre!

You need to empower yourself by learning a skill in addition to your education so as to remain relevant in today's labor market. Every day is a school and everyone you meet is a teacher.

The Gospel Women Training Centre has really been a good centre for all. I thank God for choosing me as one of the pioneer students of this training center.

My mother in the Lord, Pastor (Mrs) Sarah David initiated this empowerment program as her God-given vision. I will appreciate God for giving her this vision; and also appreciate her for pouring her life into it. God used her to bring out those gifts (creativity) that is in me. God will continue to enlarge her coast.

My wonderful testimony is that, the training centre is there for us, like the

needy, the jobless; the less privileged and even the illiterates. People always saw me as a lazy person; that was the thought of men but God came into my life, through my mentor, Mrs. Sarah David and now I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, as in Phil. 4:13

This training center has taken me as a member of the gospel women team to 13 villages in Delta State, meeting different

people, women, young men and young girls, adding value to their lives through the free empowerment program. I was also given the opportunity to minister to widows in those villages, so that they could have something doing in addition to their farm work.

Today, I can make what people buy such as beads and cross-chain; I sell my products at home and abroad. My work has been to Spain, Italy, and

London even the United of America! Empowerment has made me to touch lives and has given me friends in Christ. I have learnt so many things like beads, perfumes, shine-your-pot, air-freshener, liquid soap, face powder, pastries: cake, meat-pie, fish-pie, and dough-nut. It is now goodbye to poverty and stagnation.

My heart is full of joy today. I was a woman of no reputation, in the eyes of the children of this world, but when I heard what the word of God said in Thess. 4:11b-12: 'Do your business and work with your own hands as we commanded you that ye may walk honestly towards them that are without and that ye may have lack of nothing'. I held onto this and my life has never been the same.

So you can separate yourself from poverty. Today, I am self sufficient; I am not begging to eat anymore.

Thank God for the free empowerment program. You too can be a part of it. Remain blessed.

*"Today, I can make what people buy such as beads and cross-chain; I sell my products at home and abroad. My work has been to Spain, Italy, and London even the United of America!"*



# FOUNDATION FOR ROBUST LEADERSHIP

By A.S. David

In the light of the prevailing circumstances in the leadership situation of nations of the world, there is the need to go back to the drawing board. Like a house, leadership must be built on a solid foundation and to this end; we need to approach this study with maturity and creativity of a master builder.

The concept of leadership in this article is the empowering rather than the visionary approach. Therefore, we here take leadership as empowering people to unleash their potentials through influence not leverage, manipulation or intimidation. The ability to do this effectively depends on the foundation laid by the leader.

Foundation is best defined as the rock upon which to build a house to avoid disaster. Jesus gave this definition in Mt 7:24-27.

He identified that rock as his doctrine. That is his teachings. This master definition is a robust foundation upon which leadership should be built. Basic principles

must be followed in building a house as important as leadership. Some of these principles will include the following.

1. Trust is the foundation of leadership. This is generally known among leaders as the Law of Solid Ground. This principle teaches that to build trust, a leader must exemplify competence, connection and character. People will forgive occasional mistakes based on ability, especially if they can see that you are still growing as a leader. But they will not trust someone who has slips in character. Even occasional lapses in character are lethal. All effective leaders know this truth. "People will tolerate honest mistakes but if you violate their trust you will find it very difficult to ever regain their confidence. That is one reason you need to treat trust as your most precious asset. You may fool your boss but you can never fool your colleagues or subordinates" - Craig Weatherup (Pepsi Co Chairman and CEO).

"Leadership is a potent combination of strategy and character; but if you must be without one, be without strategy" - Gen H.; Norman Schwarzkopf. Character and

leadership credibility always go hand in hand. Character makes trust possible. This is the law of solid Ground.

Character communicates many things to followers.

Character communicates consistency. Leaders without inner strength (character) cannot be counted on day after day because their ability to perform changes day after day.

In the late 1980s, several high profile Christian leaders stumbled and fell due to moral issues. That lack of consistency compromised the ability to lead their people. It gave a black eye to every pastor across America because it caused people to become suspicious of all church leaders, regardless of their

personal track records. The flawed characters of those fallen leaders destroyed the foundation for their leadership.

Thank God for Billy Graham. He epitomizes consistency of

character. Regardless of personal religious beliefs everybody trusts him because he has modeled high character for more than half a century. He never makes a commitment unless he is going to keep it. He goes out of his way to personify integrity.

Character communicates potentials

"No man can climb out beyond the limitations of his own character" - John Morley. This implies your leadership can not go beyond the limitations of your character. When a leader's character is strong people trust him and they trust in his ability to release their potentials. This not only gives followers hope for the future but it also promotes a strong belief in themselves and their organizations.

Character communicates respect.

When you do not have strength within, you

cannot earn respect without. Respect is absolutely essential for lasting leadership. Leaders earn respect by making sound decisions admitting their mistakes and putting what is best for their followers and the organization ahead of their personal agendas.

The only thing that walks back from the tomb with the mourners and refuses to be buried is the character of the man. This is true. What a man survives him. It can never be buried - J.R. MILLER.

2. Becoming a person people trust. Can it be said of you that "Your teachings are like walking stick in the hands of an old man. It makes his walks steady and sure". It is important to do what you teach and ask other to do.

We teach what we know but we produce who we are. To teach others to do right is wonderful. To do right is even more wonderful. It may be a harder way to teach but it is a much easier way to learn. In

words of Zig Ziglar your children pay more attention to what you do than what you say "so the most valuable gift you can give your little ones is the example of a clear consistent, disciplined approach to faith in God. Make them

see this beginning in their earliest years what they learn and establish in their lives during these years can go a long way toward getting them through the tumult of adolescence.

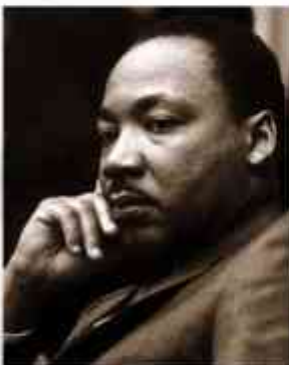
3. People principle.

(a) People who receive a high level of trust have developed their character and have earned the right to be trusted. When this important foundation exists, strong, positive relationships are built and are fed by encouragement and consistency.

(b) Trust depends very little on a person's

*"In the late 1980s, several high profile Christian leaders stumbled and fell due to moral issues. That lack of consistency compromised the ability to lead their people".*

*No one is interested in following a failure. As long as the manual of life (the Bible) is neglected, leaders will continue to fail. I want to make it clear here that I do not preach religion but life that must be properly guided by the giver of it.*



Martin Luther King



Ban Ki-moon



Barack Obama

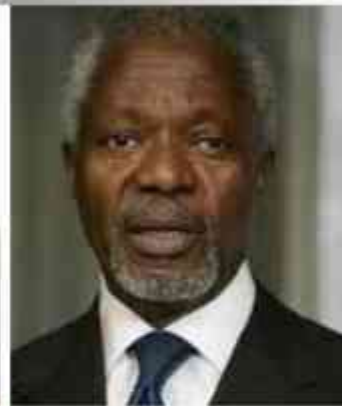




Nelson Mandela



Robert Mugabe



Kofi Anan



Vladimir Putin

name, his station in life, how much money he has in the bank, or his position. The key to consistent and dependable trust lies in the character of the person who leads.

**KEYS TO BEING TRUSTWORTHY PERSON**

Demonstrate what you want to instill. Be an encourager; encouragement has the effect of a gentle rain; it causes steady growth. Practice this; to be an encourager. Appreciate people for who they are. Appreciates they will do their best looking at them not as they are but what they can be. Admire their accomplishment. Accept your personal responsibility. Believe the best of others.

If we have a high expectation level and believe in people we encourage them. This is the principle of seeing people not as they are but as they can be. Help others experience success

Develop confidence in others by helping them experience success. Make sure their gifts and ability match their tasks. Otherwise you set them up for sure failure. Visionary leadership puts the spotlight on the leader's charisma and inspiration and tends to leave the followers in the shadows. An empowering leadership pulls followers to the center stage and facilitates and unleashes the gifts and ability of others" –Charles C. Manz.

Everyone enjoys the Glory of the spotlight and the opportunity to shine; but it is a sign of mature leader to afford another that prized position of recognition. He sees success for the leader as a single victory and a double win when his protégé experiences success

Equip people for future growth. "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he eats for a lifetime". If you want to help a man do not give him a fish give him a fishing rod. You cannot grow another person, but you can give the equipment to develop himself. [see note]

Jesus said his teaching is the foundation rock. Among leaders it is said trust is the foundation of leadership. The teaching of Christ is the trust that is the foundation of leadership. Christ is the king of the kingdom of God and he raises leaders in his kingdom. He mentors them to have his

teachings as their foundation: A firm foundation; reliable and a robust foundation.

The word of a king is law. His teachings are not subject for debate. For these are the words of a king, His subjects (citizens) must obey these as the king's commandment.

His teachings keep us steady and sure in our walk of life. They work on us to produce his character.

The scripture says 'other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ'. 1cor 3:11. This means his teachings are the only recognized foundation even for leadership.

Again the scripture says 'walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (which is flawed character)' Gal 5:16. Rather the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and self-control) will become our character.

As we learnt earlier character makes trust possible and trust makes leadership possible. As the fruit of the Holy Spirit becomes our character this makes people to trust us and gives credibility to our leadership.

No man can truly have a robust leadership without the Holy Spirit and his fruit.

*Leaders earn respect by making sound decisions admitting their mistakes and putting what is best for their followers and the organization ahead of their personal agendas.*

This accounts for why leadership is the greatest challenge of the 21st century. Many leaders across the nations of the world are not connected to this source. They are not led by the character-building Holy Spirit.

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 21st century political, religious extremism and insurgency all over the world. Potentials received on creation can

only be put to full use when the carrier is reconnected to the source. Reconnecting people to the source is the supreme purpose of leadership.

I enjoin world leaders to get for themselves the manual of life – the Word of God, prepared by the inspiration of the Almighty. In this manual, leadership is not only made simple but highly effective, if sincerely followed. In it, you learn to approve things that are excellent and to be sincere. This eventually earns you the trust of your people.

No one is interested in following a failure. As long as the manual of life (the Bible) is neglected, leaders will continue to fail. I want to make it clear here that I do not preach religion but life that must be properly guided by the giver of it. The challenge of true leadership has remained the refusal to accept the manual of life as the supreme constitution for leadership in all nations of the world. People are resources waiting to be harnessed, developed and invested. People produce what they ask for, if there will arise a man that knows how to harness and invest the resource called people. True leadership brings out and invests the God given resource lying dormant in people. They are not asking leaders to manufacture jobs, good living conditions from the moon but from within them. It takes a true leader to achieve this.

True leaders have and adhere to the manual of life, knowing that only this can bring out from the people the resources they need to meet the people's needs and aspirations. Leaders that still shy away from this manual of life will certainly fail to harness let alone invest the resources available to them.

So long as the resources remain untapped, the people remain the problem instead of the solution to the leadership of their nation and to themselves.

**Notes**

1. John C. Maxwell: 21 irrefutable laws of leadership.
2. John C. Maxwell: Be a people person.
3. Charles C. MANZ: The leadership wisdom of Jesus.



# THE OTHER SIDE OF PROSPERITY



By Mrs Patricia Ohain

The word 'prosperity' or 'to prosper', means to thrive to flourish, to succeed or to have good fortune. Prosperity is a language or slogan that is common in our time and many people want to prosper by crook or hook means in as much as they are counted amongst the league.

Prosperity, in its entire ramification is good that God himself desires it for his own children, especially the (Godly) kind of prosperity. Prosperity is far better than poverty in that a person that is financially prosperous is

emotionally stable even when the evil wind of lack is everywhere. For, he can still afford his daily comfort and do not fret much about tomorrow, unlike the poor

who is always fretting and in distress most of the time, as to what to do, to meet his unending financial obligations such as the family's next meal, house rent, children's school fees, medical bills, electricity bills, etc.

In as much as prosperity is good, it can become very disadvantageous when one becomes so prosperous that he forgets the God who has prospered him. In Prov. 30:8-9, Agur the son of Jakeh declared: "Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches, feed me with food convenient for me; lest I be full and deny thee and say, 'who is the Lord?'; or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God in vain.

Many Christians are zealous for the Lord when the going is bad, they cannot be found missing any church activities but when prosperity sets in, it becomes a different ball game. King David worshipped the Lord thus: "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name (Psm 103:5), "who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagles".

The difference between the poor and the rich is very glaring. For, while the rich at advanced age appears ageless due to good nourishing meals and maintenance, the poor is already wrinkled at just thirty! Prosperity, if not well handled can lead to eternal damnation just like any other sin. Prov: 1:32 warns: "for the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity

of fools shall destroy them".

A man is regarded by God as a fool when such one's heart is drawn away from following Him as a result of comfort and such one sets his affection on the things on earth rather than on the things above. Matt. 6:20-21 further affirms: "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rot doth corrupt, and where thieve do not break through nor steal; for where your treasure is there will your heart be also".

If you are therefore being enslaved by prosperity the Lord as given you, know that you are doing so at your detriment and opening doors for satanic domination and affliction. The Lord himself cautions that those who want to be rich in this world will fall into many temptations, because some will not be able to handle the rain of prosperity in their life.

Among the negative fallouts of prosperity are:

**Self Indulgence:** David was a victim of this. 2Sam 11:1-14 is a story of how King David was in his comfort zone whilst the nation of Israel as at war. In his idle state, he climbed the top of his roof and beheld a sight he could not resist - the nakedness of Bathsheba, wife of Uriah, one of his soldiers in the war zone! King David went further in committing adultery with her and in other to cover up his sinful act sent the innocent man to an early grave! This is the same David, the great warrior who didn't have time for frivolities but was running from cave to cave to save his life from king Saul, but when prosperity set in, it became a different ball game.

**Pride:** King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was so prosperous that when he beheld the beauty of his kingdom, he ascribed the glory to himself saying "Is not this great Babylon that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power and for the honor of my majesty? While the word was still in his mouth, the Lord passed judgment upon him. He was driven away from men and his dwelling was with the beasts of the field for seven years. When the seventh year was completed, he acknowledged

that "the most High" ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he wills".

The Lord restored him back after this acknowledgement and gave him back the kingdom.

Nabal the husband of Abigail was another arrogant man who saw his prosperity as a result of his hard work. Thus when David asked of him through his servant for food, he bluntly refused saying: "who is David and who is the son of Jesse that I should take my bread, and my water and my flesh that I have killed for my sharers and give it unto men whom I know not where they be". Ten days after this it was recorded that the Lord smote Nabal that he died (1Sam 25:28).

**Disobedience:** Prosperity when not well handled can turn some people from the obedient servant that they were to insubordinate servants. King Saul decided to give God half obedience after he had prospered him and made him ruler over his people Israel. He decided to do what he had chosen to do and not what God has commanded in two instances. Firstly, he spared Agag, the King of the Amalekites whom the Lord commanded him to kill and also spared the best of the sheep & cattle and all that was good which were meant to be destroyed. Secondly, he offered the sacrifice that he was not meant to offer (1Sam 13:10-14); and as a result the kingdom of Israel was taken away from him for the Lord rejected him.

Many examples abound of men and women who have abused their offices as a result of prosperity. But despite these, there are also people who served the Lord in their prosperity. A notable example is Father Abraham, whom God called his friend as a result of his love for God despite his riches. King Solomon, Daniel, Joseph are others!

Many wise men and women of God are still doing so in our present age; serving the Lord in humanity and love despite their prosperity.

In conclusion, prosperity itself is good and desirable but will turn sour when the prospered turns away from the source of his fortune. Shalom!

*Many Christians are zealous for the Lord when the going is bad; they cannot be found missing any church activities but when prosperity sets in, it becomes a different ball game.*

*Many examples abound of men and women who have abused their offices as a result of prosperity. But despite these, there are also people who served the Lord in their prosperity.*



# 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 fail. 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.



## 300 LEADERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

No 12, Iguma Street, Off Medical Stores Road  
P.O. Box 804, Benin City, Edo State.

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The 300 Leaders Club International aims at the following objectives:

- (i) To bring together leaders that place high premium on international crusade as a way of expanding the Kingdom of God on Earth
- (ii) To network with leaders internationally, with a view to having properly coordinated programmes and activities aimed at reaching out to all peoples and groups with the Living Christ
- (iii) To bring leadership to the grassroots within Christendom and raise leaders from amongst the people for global evangelism
- (iv) To promote and support evangelism via all outlets including print and electronic media
- (v) To promote global peace via emphasis on integrity and honesty

*\*If you share these objectives with us and desire membership, please fill the form below and send to us as a first step.*

### Membership Form

Name (Surname first): .....

Nationality: .....

State/LGA ..... Age: .....

Marital Status: ..... Denomination: .....

Present place of worship: .....

Are you born again?.....Date/Place of conversion: .....

Postal/Mailing Address: .....

.....E-mail: ..... GSM:.....

Residential Address: .....

.....

Names and addresses of two referees: .....

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Signature..... Date: .....

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# THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX



By Celsus Ohain

We may quickly examine the two words here - "thinking" and "box". The former is essentially abstract but fundamental to human existence while the latter is a metaphor that could be locational, experiential and circumstantial. "Thinking" finds expression in "thoughts" which are unique to man in the sense that they are ordinarily subject to rationalization; and moderated by prevailing philosophies, prejudices, biases and belief system.

"Thought", the holy scripture advises must be guarded jealously and not corrupted, else it becomes something else! If you utilise it on the positive side, you expand your coast and improve your circumstances but if you choose to apply negatively, it can lead to the path of damnation - sin.

By 'boxing' our thoughts, we confine, cage and restrict our imagination, creativity and adventurism, which ordinarily will lead us to breaking new grounds and expanding our horizons; and extending the frontiers of our skills and knowledge. 'Boxing' our thoughts makes us to think along popular lines; we side-track changes, stifle innovativeness, creativity and initiatives. In the circumstance, stereotype becomes the norm.

The Christian in this age, should, therefore be broad-minded and receptive to environmental changes that do not erode or compromise our Christian/Godly principles and values. Our outlook must go beyond the confines of dogmatism; many Christians tend to "spiritualize everything" even when simple wisdom should apply. The world has become dynamic though the spiritual dimensions to our existence remain constant. Jesus said that "heaven and earth may pass away but not a dot of His word shall fail". The world indeed has gone digital in many ways and we cannot remain at analogue mode.

On adapting to changes; a renowned 20th century economist, John Keynes, says that "the difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas but in escaping from old ones. He adds that "going against popular thinking can be difficult whether you are a businessman, a house wife, a pastor introducing new types of music to his church or a new mother rejecting old wives tales handed down from her parents?"

More often than not, man is too inclined to 'status quo' because of the fear of the unknown. Even Christians are not exempted from this as we tend to stay put in our comfort zones. A 'comfort zone' is a place of 'business as usual', a place of 'stagnation', a place of 'stunted growth', and a place of 'stifled initiative'. In the status quo scenario, you become an 'unchanged person in a changing land' The mentality always is: 'the bird in hand is worth more than two in the bush'.

In his time, Jesus Christ was a "revolutionary", not by force of arms but by wisdom and divine power. He upset the status quo of his day. It was important He did that to fulfill His purpose and because He was clear in his vision, mission and purpose. He prevailed and won for mankind salvation and reconciliation to the Father in Heaven.

From our contemporary experiences, what are

those things that limit our thoughts? Are they self-induced or extraneously induced? How can we break away from stereotypes?

History is replete with innovations, inventions and philosophical thoughts which have impacted on humanity either positively or negatively. The field of science is particularly unique where old thoughts (theories) gave way to new ones. Archimedes, Copernicus, Galileo, Einstein, and Isaac Newton, amongst others, did not go along line popular thinking of their days. By their imaginative minds, they expanded the boundaries of science that opened up the atomic age, nuclear age and cyber age. The Christian reformer, Martin Luther was also noted for his 95 theses, which revolutionized the Roman Catholic establishment.

They looked beyond their immediate experiences and environment to impact on history and mankind. Therefore, the most effective way to break out of your thinking box is to expose yourself to new paradigms, that is, read about people and their works, do new things or do old ones in new ways; meet new people and go new places. In so doing, you explore other people's culture, environments and experiences for your ultimate benefit. You cannot remain an unchanging man in a changing land!

Many careers, family lives, personal finances and businesses, professions and vocations have raised their own challenges one way or the other which demand new insights and ideas for solutions.

We can effectively break out of our 'boxes' for greater glory in four areas, namely: Creativity/Innovativeness, Business/Careers, Relationships and Church Traditions.

For the Christian, however, any radical thought must be guided by the Holy Spirit to avoid any errors, for 'there are ways that seemeth right to a man but at the end leadeth to his destruction' (Prov. 16:25). Insights are possible by the leading of the Holy Spirit, for as Jer. 33:3 says: "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not".

In the present age, Christians are increasingly faced with challenges of all sorts. Perverted doctrines and false prophets abound as had been foretold by Jesus Christ Himself, while societal values have eroded significantly leading to social chaos. We must, therefore, seek divine wisdom which comes from above. James 1:5, Eccl 2:26a, Eccl 9:11 suffice.

God's wisdom finds expression in ideas, insights and concepts, which when rightly tapped can make a difference in a man's life. Ideas, insights and concepts are precursors to creativity. As Christians, let us not be hesitant to learn new things, especially from those who know more than us; it is a sign of humility. Prov. 6:6 challenges: "Ye sluggard, go to the ants and learn". When you stoop to learn people will be too willing to teach you! Pro 1:5: A wise man will hear, and will

increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels. Dan 1:17: As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Pro 27:17: Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

If you have been facing challenges in your economic circumstances, now is the moment to start a new orientation. Conceive of new ideas in your business or career, especially one that you have passion for. Ask questions, relate with experts in that field; read books and begin to evolve plans.

Above all, you must learn to be very prayerful and avoid procrastination - an evil to any purposeful advancement. Ensure the big-picture outlook towards that intention or dream of yours.

How is our relationship? This aspect of our existence is of absolute primacy as it affects all other aspects of our lives. If you have been experiencing challenges and stagnation, examine this aspect of your life. Right attitude is crucial to a successful life. Relationship encompasses family life, matrimony, friendship and partnerships. In life, anything good is sustained by good character and relationship, hence the Bible advises that as much as it is possible be at peace with all men. You must develop a right attitude towards others to court good friendship. Pro 18:24: A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly... Pro 27:9: Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

Use right and edifying words; be honest, diligent, and principled and be one of integrity. If you exhibit repulsive behaviour, people will shun you. Give good counsels, love, empathy, substance, spiritual and physical support to as many as come your way and is within your power to render. They can never be lost, rather, they are seeds that you sow that will yield fruits in due season! For, as a man sows his seeds, so he shall reap. A man must consciously see himself as a solution to somebody else's problems. This is a Godly virtue. This is a prerequisite to gain friendship. It is more blessed to give than to receive - not just money! But as Aristotle advises: "Wishing to be friends is quick work, but friendship is a slow-ripening fruit"

Tradition is one area of great friction in our time in homes; offices; churches and everywhere. Culture and traditions are good but we must not be slavish to them. Because men are too inclined to status quo, we cling to old traditions, refusing to embrace new thinking and ideas mostly aimed at development and advance. It took the emergence of new banks with radical ideas to change the face of banking in Nigeria in the 1990s.

Some Christians still think it is not proper to use electronic bibles for whatever reasons. For them, bible must be the hard copy - book or nothing else. Elsewhere, some housewives will never use electric blender to grind their foods; it is the grindstone or nothing. For others yet, you should not eat pounded yam with cutlery, for, 'it makes eating not pleasurable! TVs stay shut down because most of us do not know how to use remote controls. Washing machines, others say can never wash as clean as the hands.

Churches should embrace the IT age and not be slavish to 'Church/Christian' traditions that are not doctrinal but engender stagnation. We must not be ultra-conservative! There are electronic bibles, satellite broadcasts, radical transformations in modes of worship and several other new-age innovations that Christians must embrace without compromising Godly values. Since ideas shape the new world, we must embrace positive changes in our homes, churches and workplaces.

Purposeful and reflective thinking could be what you critically need to surmount your current challenges. Just do your own bit and allow God to do his own part. Be proactive in respect of challenges as reactive measures are often too late. Be always prepared because 'when opportunity knocks, it is too late to prepare'.





By Chusa Ostinigun

# SALVATION FOR THE TOTAL MAN (I)

**T**he total man is made up of three beings in one person. Man is a spirit which has a soul and lives in a body. With his spirit he relates with God in the spirit realm. With his soul or mind, he learns, understands and gains consciousness of his environment. And with his body, he contacts and lives in the physical world. Without body, no man can live in this earth.

God made man in this way so he can have all-round relationship needed for him to live as a complete man here on earth. All these work together to make man achieve God's purpose on earth. When man fell, his three-part being was affected. When man sinned, he died the same day spiritually. He became separated from God. This spiritual death passed across from his spirit to both his soul and body. The day the spirit of a man died was not the day his body died. The death of a man's soul and body became a gradual process.

The sin of Adam brought the law of decay upon all men as well as the entire creatures on the earth. This law is working upon everything on earth. No man is free from it. From the day a child is born, while he is growing, the law of decay begins to work on his body, and he begins to wear out gradually until he eventually dies a physical death.

The law of decay which came as a result of sin is the reason why we grow old every day. No man on earth is free from this law, no matter how believing he is. Everything on earth grows old whether living or non living thing. The whole creation is facing corruption. God saw man in this total destruction and sought for a way out. He decided to plan for man's salvation. Just like the total man became subject to death, so also God made a plan for the total man to be saved.

God's plan for salvation cuts across man's total being. God then undertook the redemption of man by sending his only begotten son, Jesus Christ to die in man's place. He being capable, of redeeming man, met the requirements of the law and became the legal substitute by paying the only redemptive price for those who are condemned to death for breaking the law.

This is absolute protection from eternal punishment through the blood of the perfect and spotless substitute. This is only what God needed to restore man fully to himself. The entire humanity has nothing to add, nor remove from it. All what is required is for man to believe in all-saving sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But many people do not understand how this salvation works in their lives.

They are left in oblivion, where by opening door for Satan's operation in their lives. When God begins the work of salvation in a man's life, his three part beings are not automatically saved immediately. God begins this work in his spirit, then moves on to the salvation of his soul and consummates it with his body being born again.

The salvation of man's body is the

last stage which will take place at rapture. Not having this understanding is the reason while many Christians are still in the captivity of the devil. Many believers do not understand why they go through what they go through. Many are being deceived with different heresies from half baked ministers of God, while many among those who preach these heresies are direct ministers of the devil sent to destroy their souls.

Some other ministers of God go out of context of salvation only by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. This is a big mistake in ministry. Some preach, no matter how born again a believer is, demon can still live in his spirit or body. Other ministers still preach, born again believers can be under ancestral curses, generational curses and evils of negative blood line patterns until they go through personal or foundational deliverance.

They conduct a day or some days of deliverance prayers to these sincere but ignorant believers who fall prey to their heresies. Many ministers believe in foundational deliverance. They say without it, you cannot go far in life and ministry. They are sincerely preaching another gospel not of Jesus Christ. They do not believe that the redemptive sacrifice of Jesus is meant by God to redeem a believer's spirit, soul and body.

They do not believe this is the only sacrifice God requires to save the total man. In their preaching and illustration, they carry experiences from the Old Testament they do not know their origin and why they happened. They want to apply these experiences to the New Testament believers without understanding the essence of Jesus sacrifice. They do not understand the Old Testament believers were not born again, compel to the New Testament believers. They lack the least understanding how it requires only the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to work out the totality of man's salvation. Some of them see vision that does not exist and by pretence make a merchandise of their prey. They leave the real gospel of the kingdom and get engage in church marketing system.

They become more simony and made Corinthian of the people of God who fall victim to them. I wonder whether they know the consequences of what they preach and do or could it be that their consciences are sealed with a hot iron? Do not crucify Christ the second time by what you preach and do. Heb. 10: 28-29, Acts 7: 51. Some of these ministers charge these believers heavily to conduct the foundational deliverance for them. Indirectly, they are saying the money the people pay and the prayers offered is the price of their redemption. The blood of Jesus is the only price for our redemption nothing more and nothing less.

On the other hand, many Christians do not like the truth. They do not prioritize God's word in their lives. They become miracle seekers instead of the truth. Many have mixed and impure faith. They

believe in traditions and philosophies of men. They practice the traditions, customs and cultures of the world. They believe in what the devil can do instead of what God can do. They do not like the church where truth is preached. They want to be at ease in Zion. They believe the deceptions and lies of these ministers.

They believe it is possible to be born again and be possessed with demons, which is against the word of God. They go about wanting to be delivered from generational curses and foundational problems that do not have bearing to Christians or born again believers, who have their minds renewed daily by the word of God, and keep their bodies under and make them subject to the word of God. Rom. 12: 1-2, 1 Cor 9: 24-27.

If you have a mixed or impure faith, things will go with you in a mixed or impure ways. If a born again believer accedes to those evil patterns (if there be any) happening to his unbelieving relations can happen to you, it will definitely happen to you. It must be according to your faith. You cannot believe it, and it will not happen, no matter how filled with the Holy Spirit you are. The scripture said, "the just shall live by his faith" Hab. 2: 4b. We believers have been saved and delivered from all these patterns, when we became born again in Christ.

When we are born again, we should be careful to have our minds renewed by the word of God daily, and present our bodies a living sacrifice and holy unto God or else we open a door to these things to come upon us. Remember the scripture said, "He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it and whose breaketh an hedge a serpent will bite him". Eccl. 10: 8. Note this, when you dig a pit for yourself, you will fall into it. If you break an hedge, the serpent will bite you.

These things can only happen when we live in works of the flesh and yield our bodies to sin and to do evil as born again believers. When all these things begin to happen to a believer, he begins to go from one, deliverance to another. He begins to see and accuse enemies instead of dealing with the works of the flesh in his life. Under this condition, the individual is expected to deal with sin, and put in place whatever that is wrong in his life.

When we by disobedience to God, and His word open a door to the enemies operations in our lives, we need not to go and seek deliverance anywhere from any man of God. We need to go back to God in repentance, seek His mercy, and put whatever that is wrong in our lives right instead of dealing with what they call negative blood line patterns, which will not bring any result. When you handle problems in a wrong way, you will not get solution.

Demons can attack a child of God within God's protection, but can never succeed. Luke 10: 19, 1 John 5: 4-5, 1 John 4: 4, John 16: 33, Heb 2: 14. When a child of God goes out of His protection, demons can prevail against him. As a child of God, you need to stand fast in the victory Christ has wrought for you. Declare this victory in your life. Stand on the word of God against the devil and his cohorts.

Allow your mind to be renewed by the word of God and present your body as a living sacrifice to God, then you can live in total victory. Watch out for the part two of this writing in the next edition of this magazine.



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