



THE ZEAL

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Promoting Revival and Missions

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... Come!, study with us to show ourselves approved unto God, work men and women that need not be ashamed ...

CONTENTS

COVER CHOICE: WE HAVE SINNED!

Bro. Inno Praise X-rays the prevailing situations in the Nigerian Churches in the light of God's word, and in view of the role expected of it towards the evangelisation of Africa. The verdict is as clear as it is obvious: "We have erred! Find out the reasons and the remedies as you prayerfully and soberly read on.

8

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION

Arc Adewunmi Okupe, himself a Pastor, raises an alarm over the apparent misuse of means in the Churches. He decries the lack of power and holiness in the Pentecostal Churches, charging that the pastors are responsible.

11

PREPARING FOR HIS COMING

Here, Dr. K. Adebiyi alerts believers on the imminence of Christ's sudden return in glory, and cautions all to be watchful. He points out certain issues that could disqualify us for the glory and enjoins us to be ready.

12

SLAVES BY CHOICE

The Evangelist Amobichukwu takes critical look on certain Bible personalities who went AWOL in time of crisis and compares them with the present trend of things in Nigeria.

He predicts that certain believers might be "checking out" to their own detriments. And warns the Church on the dangers of worldliness and love for money.

15

MASTER KEY TO OPEN HEAVEN

This is a call to return back to the Old and proven path of righteousness and virtue - the path of Discipline. This godly path to true prosperity and honour (Prov. 22:4) is the God's given key to open heavens.

18

THE FIELDS NEXT DOOR

Bro Inno-Praise assesses the progress of missions work in Nigeria and the contributions of the Pentecostal churches towards it. Pointing out that the Church might have squandered her resources and misguided her youths. Thus, there is an urgent need for revival if the heathens must hear the Gospel of deliverance.

ALSO

Letters	4
SYNOPSIS: The Great Controversy	5
Issues: The Cross in the Tamach	7
Missions Around the World	17
Missions Aid International	19

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The Zeal is published to serve as an instrument to promote Revival and Missions. We believe that only a revived Church can send out missionaries. And God's charge to us is to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus (Col. 1:28)"

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Publisher/Editor-in-Chief:

INNO-PRAISE IFEDIBA

Contributors:

Arc Adewunmi Okupe,

Dr. Kehinde Adebiyi

C.F.I. Jerusalem

The Intercessory Team.

Correspondents:

Vivien Okeudo

Blessing N. Ifediba

Advisory Board:

Dr. Kehinde Adebiyi

Mr. Sylvester N. Ejeh

Bro. Inno-Praise Ifediba

All Correspondence concerning the magazine, gifts toward its issue, and personal letters to:

The Chief Editor,

"THE ZEAL"

P. O. Box 3564,

Shomolu, Lagos, Nigeria.



Dear Inno-Praise,

Rejoice for Jesus Cares!

The Lord is committed to the welfare of man in time and in eternity. And in line with this, He has, by way of

HE RESTORETH MY SOUL

When like a careless sheep or a wondering bird I stray into the paths of the enemy; anon, "He restoreth my soul".

When darkness looms and sorrow and despair keep watch in turns, over my soul; "He restoreth my soul".

When in self-indulgence, I soil the plain sheet of my conscience, and my soul reels under the weight of bruised emotions, suddenly, peace comes and I hear a still small voice, whisper in my inner ear "I paid for that too".

And then with a sob and bewilderment, I run to the bleeding Cross where His blood has been made the atonement for my sins. "He restoreth my soul".

When my light is dim, and I seem to grope about even in the noonday. When the melody of men's laughter rings a note of compromise and mockery of the Truth. And my soul becomes sullen with fear and in security, immediately, He puts His soothing hands upon my shoulder, and smiling into my eyes He says "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". Thus, "He restoreth my soul".

When suddenly, life loses its beauty and meaning, and I am forced to live the way I like without a care. When I care less about His holiness and I am determined to do it my own way, even going the way of the world: Then a restraining light shines upon my way and I see His thorn-crowned head and nail-pierced hands; and I am forced to reconsider my actions, "He restoreth my soul".

Surely, the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

"Therefore, my heart is glad and my glory rejoiceth: My flesh also shall rest in hope.

Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures fore-ever more" Ps. 16:9,11.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: HE RESTORETH MY SOUL

PRAISE ON.

"The Zeal" lighted a candle (Reading through Vol. 3: No 1 1996 of this seasoned publication has exceedingly proved this). You must therefore feed the flame. Don't lose the vision of Christ. As to how and success, just think of how, even from the Patmos Island, "Revelation" became a reality - not just revealed, but written and read. God is wonderful! And that was John. Yours is no smaller calling.

I promise my support to the growth of "The Zeal" - I shall be praying.

IGADI U.N.N.

HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD

"Jesus changed the world with a few who were willing to die for what they believed. He began with only 12 men whom he chose to be with him: they were special because they learned from Him in person and He sent them out with the Good News of the Gospel. They were called apostles (But God's plan for ministry was not limited to the apostles). They were the multitude of listeners and learners, men and women who heard Jesus gladly.

God's method is still people willing to be counted on for change first in themselves and then in the World. THE CRYING NEED TODAY IS FOR BELIEVERS IN CHRIST TO HAVE A BURDEN FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THEIR WAY TO HELL. They need someone who will lovingly urge them to flee from the wrath to come.

(From Pastor Jerry Akuma, Abakaliki).



SYNOPSIS

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

The grand issue today between God and the 'Christians' and the Gentiles is, the INFALLIBILITY OF THE SCRIPTURES.

Many Christians today do not believe in the relevancy of certain Scriptures because of what is erroneously called "Bible cultures, or the customs of the Bible days." This error permits Christians to overlook certain passages of the Bible, because they are daubed "not relevant to the modern age". This is why certain passages like I Cor. 11 etc. are seen as only relevant to the Corinthian Church and therefore not necessary for our days. One professor of religion told me that "if we are to take I Pet. 3:1-6 literally, women should go naked;" therefore we should sever these from our Bibles or believe that they never meant what they say! I do not however wish to be understood as implying that "one will loose his/her holiness upon contact with an ornament" as it is equally believed in some quarters.

However, this open defiance and mockery of the inerrancy of the Holy Writ is characteristics of the spirit of antichrist.

If Jesus Christ did not analyse the Scriptures but lived to their fulfillment [even when they were written by inspired - "mortals"], what else but devilish pride can puff up a "fallen mind or intelligence" to cast aspersion

at the wisdom of the Omnipotent God; who sees through all ages and cultures, and does not regard time (Ps. 90:4, II Pet. 3:8), but lives in eternity? Both the apostles Paul (I Tim. 3:15-16) and Peter (II Pet. 1:20-21) foresaw this when they wrote to forewarn the saints of the lure of false knowledge by the "avenger" and his cohorts who take delight in their shame.

Everywhere today, directly and indirectly, the truth and the relevance of God's Word is being attacked. And even openly challenged by those whose good and interests it so vehemently defends: both now, and in the ages to come - the Christian professors.

Some of these 'ignorant' professors do not seem to understand that should this blessed and holy article of the only true fellowship or communion between man and God - Christianity, loose its savour, their faith will loose its favour and they shall be more prone to errors and delusions.

But glory to God, that the heaven and earth shall pass away, but no "tittle" nor "jot" of the eternal Word shall fail to produce His design.



INNO-PRAISE

Inno-Praise
Editor-in-Chief

Lest - I - forget

Due to the peculiarity of this edition, we will not be able to include the concluding part of "The Four Horns that Rule Nigeria". Please look out for it in our next edition.

However, your favourite magazine is as hot as ever. Read it and report back to us.

We Have

SINNED

"O Foolish Galatians (or is it Nigerians?) who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the Gospel of Christ.

Tell me, ye that desire to be under the Law, do ye not hear the Law?

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the Law to do them"

Gal. 3:1; 1:6-7; 4:21; 3:10.

It is amazing that even after the gruesome ordeal of the Cross of Calvary and the triumphant Salvation purchased for man by Christ Jesus, the Devil and his agents were still able to confuse man, implying that there was something missing; that the Cross has not provided complete redemption for man. Satan recommends to man, that grace may be desirable but insufficient; therefore he still needed a little bit of self-effort to make it to his desired haven.

It was in the agony of this revelation that the apostle Paul wrote the rebuke above, which though it was literary written to the Galatians, is primarily a warning to all mankind against the dangers of perverting the true gospel of grace.

In our case, here in Nigeria, this warning is not only necessary but timely, even as we appear to be completely determined to lose all the gains of the Gospel; and undermine the efforts of the true fathers of the Gospel, and the missionaries who paid a supreme prize to bring unto us, the eternal truths that were so dear to them.

This is to be expected (but not tolerated), due to the divine mandate which God has placed upon the Nigerian Church to extend His Kingdom throughout Africa, and indeed the rest of the World. And if for any reason or collection of reasons we appear to have betrayed this mandate, or are in the process of betraying it, then WE HAVE SINNED! AND INDEED WE HAVE SINNED!! WE ARE BETRAYING IT!!!.

Hence, we must with diligence and patience review this issue to see how and where we have erred! "Remember Lot's Wife".

All through the Ages, the Gospel of Jesus Christ had had to contend with the "Gospel of alternatives". Even in the days of His Flesh, there were those who preached in His name but who refused to follow him. They preferred the benefit of His

name to the demands of His person (Mk. 9:38) Christ himself seemed to have given an indication of this danger in the parable of "the tares". According to this parable, there are bound to be "parallel gospels" whose focus shall not be Christ's interests, but the benefits of His name. So the gospel will have "Look - alikes" who are different in essence and objectives. But the Church shall triumph. [Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43; Act 19:13-20].

The Church of Jesus Christ had never been without enemies, both within and outside the Church. Sometimes, her most bitter conflicts tend to come from those within the fold, but who had circumvented the Truth for selfish interests.

In the early days of the Church, the Devil found a faithful ally in the "band of circumcision" - who used every opportunity to counter the effectiveness of the Cross; as every actions of the true apostles were either censored or outrightly reproached. (Act 11:1-18; 15:1-35).

Perhaps, the dynamic ministry of the noble apostle Paul would have been more effective and even, less burdensome, but for the oppositions and insinuations of the "band of circumcision". This group sought to refute every of his claims; and to destroy the benefits and merits of the Cross of Calvary [Gal. 2:11-17, Act 15:1-12, Gal. 5:11; 3:1].

This parallel gospel which Paul called "another gospel - Gal. 1:7" endeavoured to remove the importance of the Cross, and the necessity of the "New Birth", by introducing subtle religious practices and sensuous works of the flesh, as means of salvation. While pretending to promote Christ, its actual objective was to undermine the Lordship of Christ. For, of what relevance will Christ's death be without the Roman Cross?" Remove the Cross and Christ would not have any genuine claim upon the life of any man! (Gal. 2:21). And this is the goal of every "parallel gospel".

But the progress of "parallel gospel" has been chiefly due to the fact that it removes Discipleship from the centre stage of Christianity and replaces it with a life of ease, comfort, and pleasure. It gives a soothing blend between indulgence and a little self-effort to earn a salvation; using base logic and sensual reasonings to explain away any spiritual truth it could not suppress. John the Beloved called it "the spirit of antichrist", saying "they went out from us, but they were not of us" (1 Jn. 2:16-19).

The brightest moment for "parallel gospel" came with the birth of "Romanism". The herald of this error called Roman catholicism has brought the darkest darkness upon billions of human souls. Even after the fall of man, Adam could still hear the Voice of God. But "Romry" has successfully replaced God

with the statue of a woman named Mary: thereby deadening carnal man's senses to the nudgings of God. And having successfully undermined the Cross and the Lordship of Christ (though it still accords Jesus the statute of a baby in the hands of an all - powerful woman); it has proceeded to fashion for man, "a system of salvation" based on works and idolatry.

Roman Catholicism proposes to man that "God dwells in the tents of clay; and the more magnificent the works of man's hands, the greater shall be the desire of God to dwell with him". As if that was not enough, it went further to advocate and teach that man does not need to obey the just demands of God, because, she reasoned they are too hard for man. And since man could, by her theology, purchase his salvation with money and, a little act of penance; repentance from dead works and faith in Christ were no longer necessary for him".

To ensure that her captives were not freed, she provided even an alternative paradise for man, in a place she called "purgatory", where she adduced, "Man's soul could rest until

the sins he committed while in the flesh, are finally dissipated.¹ Then he will proceed to live with the God he rejected on earth!" Man, Oh! Man !!

But my focus here, is not "Romanism". For I have not yet, the army and the weapons required to take on this "great harlot" that has banished the souls of countless millions to eternal damnation. The time is yet !

My burden here is the sore of my people - The nakedness of the "Chosen generation" (I Pet. 2:4-10); for their Pastors have made them naked before their enemies ! (Jer. 50:6-7). There are, that are troubling the Church, whose mission is neither the advancement of the cause of Christ nor the Salvation of men's souls; but the satisfaction of their belies and the promotion of their selfish egos. (Phil. 3:17-19). These also, have robbed the Cross of its immense benefits and power; subverting in essence, the message of Christ and the authority of His Word." And their word will eat as doth a canker....and overthrow the faith of some".

They are the prosperity preachers, or better still, "the

Continued on page 10

THE CROSS IN THE TANACH (PART 1)

By Chuck & Karen Cohen, Jerusalem

Messianic terms used in this teaching: Yeshua = Jesus Messiah = Christ Tanach = Old Testament Unless stated otherwise, all scripture verses are from the New King James Version

Not fully understanding the cross can cause problems for believers. To comprehend what happened on the cross, we need to know more than just what the NT reveals. We can assume when we read the NT that the authors hoped their readers would study and know the Tanach as well. The cross as a means of execution was used only a couple of centuries before Yeshua, yet there are prophecies in the Tanach from much earlier which give deep insight about what was to occur on that "tree".

The NT states that the prophets had many things revealed to them about Messiah except the exact time of His coming. "Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of [Messiah] who was in them was indicating when He testified before hand the sufferings of [Messiah] and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you" (I Pet. 1:10-11).

One of the most complete revelations of "(Yeshua the Messiah) and Him crucified" (I Cor 2:2) is found in Isaiah 52:13, 53:12. The following will help us see that looking into the Tanach to fully understand the NT is a very fruitful way to study the Word. (please note: comments below in brackets refer to additional or alternative meanings of the original Hebrew word).

Commentary on Isaiah 52:13, 53:12

52:13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently [prosper, deal wisely, succeed in that for which He is sent], He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. In Yeshua's time there were Aramaic translations of the Tanach with commentaries, called the Targums. They give insight into the thinking of the Jewish people of that day. Targum Jonathan translates this verse beginning "Behold, My Servant Messiah...."¹ Did Yeshua have this verse in mind when He said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself" (John 12:32)? Here is an interesting quote: "Our Rabbis expound this... of the King Messiah, saying 'He shall be higher than Abraham, exalted above Moses, and loftier than the ministering angels'²

52:14 Just as many were astonished [appalled, horrified] at you, so His visage (appearance) was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; This refers to the results of the beating and scourging Yeshua received before His crucifixion. By the time Messiah was crucified He was a bleeding, shocking sight. God is similarly repulsed by our sin.

52:15a So shall He sprinkle many nations [gentiles]. "This Hebrew word "sprinkle" is used for ceremonial cleansing through sprinkling of blood. Peter refers to this section of Isaiah several times in his first letter. For example: "...elect

Continued on page 13

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, as a signal of alarm in my holy mountain. (Joel 2:10)

Trumpets are used in the scriptures by the people of God, as a call to ORDER, for some important matters; viz as a signal of war, to announce the year of Jubilee, signals for Military camp etc.

In our time, especially NOW, there is an urgent need to blow the trumpet in Zion because:

"The meat offering and the drink offering is cut off from the house of the LORD; the priests, the LORD's ministers, mourn.

The fields is wasted, the land mourneth, for the corn is wasted; the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth. (Joel 1:1-10).

A lot of strange things are happening in the household of God, things that are not supposed to take place at all. A lot of disagreement on trivial issues, rumour mongering, church syndrome), kingdom building, worldliness and the like.

This is largely responsible for the meat offering and the drink offering being cut off from the house of the Lord. No wonder then, that the church that is born in power 2,000 years ago cannot hold up its head against the vices of the society. The Church which is supposed to be the salt of the earth (Matthew 5:18) is not really performing the function; what else do we expect to happen than to see that.

The field is wasted

The field is the world (Matthew 13:28). The world is wasting away, the world that God so loved that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life, is wasting away. And in the words of a

songwriter.
W h y
then are we
living a life full

of pleasures and simplicity

Why do we sing songs to God when the world refuses to believe

No one is telling the world anymore that the Saviour

is going to return, if we don't tell the sinners, who will?

We need to get back to our first love

We need to proclaim the message

We need to rescue the perishing.

Care for the dying

Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave

Weep o'er the erring ones lift up the falling

As the field is being

wasted ... the land

mourneth because it

appears there is no

hope of salvation.

This "no-hope-

situation" is

worsened by

the apos-

tacy of

some of

the
priests,
prophets,
pastors and
teachers, of our
time. According to
Jeremiah 2:8.

"The priests said not,
where is the Lord, and they
that handle the law, knew me not,
the pastors have transgressed against
me, and the prophets prophesied by
Baal, and walked after things that do not
profit!"

It seems like very few are really seeking after the Lord in the work of the ministry. Majority are seeking after their own gain, building their own kingdom, while proclaiming that they are building God's own Kingdom.

Are we not to seek first the kingdom of God and every other things shall be added unto us; or has the Bible been changed to read that we seek first every other thing and the kingdom of God shall be added unto us?

Those in position of authority in most gathering got there by democracy like David\Saul or were put there because of their apparent successes in the business world etc. and not because they have outstanding rela-

Continued on page 13

SUBSCRIPTION

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commercial Pastors, "who make merchandise of men. These also, have devised an "alternative gospel" to the message of the Cross. They see Discipleship as sufferings and the message of holiness, as demanding too much upon men. To them, the Gospel is a means to an end, not an end itself. It is a means to self - actualisation and financial gains. They see the Gospel as an avenue to create wealth and make a name for themselves. These are the merchants of the Gospel; or better still, "the hawkers of benediction". Their strength and success lies in the ignorance and the vulnerability of the masses.

But the power of ignorance is permissiveness, and the sting of permissiveness is error and greed, leading to damnable heresies. (II Pet. 3:3-7). It is permissiveness that taught men that "the scriptures can be broken". Permissiveness removed scalps from the heads of our women; and put caps on their Pastors. It removed faith from their hearts; and filled their mouths and bodies with olive oil. It removed faithfulness from their neck and replaced it with magic wands, sorry white hankerchiefs, that was meant to bring them good lucks and favours. It removed the Gospel of repentance from their mouths and filled it with shallow heathen mysteries. Finally it has substituted the efficacy of the eternal blood of sacrifice with bottles of coke, Fanta and Ribena. All these are done in the name of Christ; and for the comfort of man. Alas, alas!

The greatest pain of the creature shall be to discover that he had failed his Creator. The essence of sufferings in ministry is to prove the sincerity of your faith; and to fortify your commitment to your call. It is also, to prove your obedience and yieldedness to God.

Many Christians live a shallow life, because they prefer a shallow Gospel.

The blessings of God cannot come to us until we have submitted to do His will and by His own stipulations too. And God does not give a man a load he cannot carry. Even temptation is regulated.

The Sin of permissiveness is the most devastating sin against the Gospel.

Permissiveness is devastating because it leads to devialment. It also leads to the perversion of the Truth. It is evil because it robs the Word of God of its power and effectiveness; and produces men who hold a form of religion but deny the power thereof (II Tim. 3 : 5).

Permissiveness forms the greatest block against Discipleship. It teaches men that if they could only get a bit of the Truth and make it up with lots of religion/tradition, they will be accepted in heaven because God understands. It turns faith into covetousness because it claims everything that appeals to its appetite. (Phil. 3:18-19). It reduces beliefs and sacrifice to claims and indulgences - teaching men that patience means cowardice. It says "why wait and suffer for too long when you could get it the other way round?". It chooses 'the easier wrong; rather than the harder right'; and prefers compromise to conflicts.

It was permissiveness that reduced the effectual Gospel of Christ in our Churches into socialite slangs and mind

blowing phrases designed to tickle our emotions. It makes little of God's commandments; rationalizing whatever it cannot suppress of the Word of God.

Permissiveness gives impetus to men of questionable characters, to seek leadership influence in the Church of Christ. It also allows an escape for the merchants of death - the 419ers; the drug pushers; and the pen - robbers to try to buy their sinladden consciences with "mammons of unrighteousness;" even as they make donations to the never - ending building projects of the Pentecostals.

The strength of Permissiveness is the strange prosperity message that has robbed the Cross of its power.

This is indeed another gospel; for rather than advance the cause of Christ, it has frustrated the gains of the Gospel of Christ. Prosperity message has removed sacrifice from Christianity and replaced it with despondency and self-indulgence. It has replaced Discipleship with an easy - going and pleasure seeking religion. Prosperity has slackened the hands of the diligent; making fools with cheap and unaccountable cash, the dreams of the Church". It has substituted faithfulness and accountability with fanfare and hypocrisy. Ah! The Lord will help us.

Prosperity has perverted the teachings of Christ: for the Scripture says "when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee...." (Matt.6 : 2); but the Pastors say" unless you display your affluence money in a manner to intimidate your less - privileged brethren you will not be recognised".

The Bible teaches "He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise." (Lk. 3 : 11). But the prosperity preachers measure their spiritual success and prowess by the volume of their possessions and ability to claim the best for themselves. Thus, we now have ministers of the Gospel (Pastors) with the "state-of-the art" cars and Jets; while the widows in their midst go hungry and destitute. Their youths are unemployed and wayward; and the unreached tribes "cry" The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved" (Jer. 8 : 20).

But "They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they over pass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.

Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" (Jer. 5:28, 29).

Indeed, this be the era of the ungodly; therefore, let the contending saint watch and pray for the days are evil!

However, the CROSS must return to the centre stage of Christianity. "And the Kingdom shall not be left to other people...." Dan.2 : 44. There is no other Gospel except that which we have heard and which has been from the beginning. "But God forbid that I should glory, save in the CROSS of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the World. (Gal. 6:14-16).

Any believer who considers himself as a candidate for heaven but has no understanding of the criticality of our time might well regard himself yet unfit to meet the Master. We are in the last days and the sign speaks clearly of the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Thess. 5:1-8 makes us to understand that. Since we are already aware of the events taking place presently in the world and in particular the middle east (Verse 3) then we should know that the trumpet may sound any time from now. "Therefore let us not sleep as do others; but let us watch and be sober (Ver. 6). To watch means to be on the alert, vigilant and in readiness to meet the Lord. Unfortunately many believers in the church today are already sleeping. They have been carried away by the cares and challenges of this world outside of God's programme and will for the church. Many have their lives full of sins and ungodly habits. They are like barren and fruitless tree. They have no spiritual fruit to show for the grace of God that they daily enjoy. How prepared are you for his coming.

Let us examine Luke 12:32-46

Verse 33 says "sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens which faileth not where o thief approacheth

will return from the wedding: that when he cometh and Knocketh, they may open unto him immediately (Vrs. 35-36).

Girding your loins means equipping yourself to "fight the good fight of faith" to overcome every power that militates against your readiness

for the Lord's return.

must be constantly burning member the parable of the

gins in Matt. 25. Be like the virgins who had oil with the bridegroom (Lord) met

with their lamps burning. The

for the Holy spirit. Be full and by the Holy spirit (Eph. 5:18) and

fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16).

If the comes, he down to you

Lord find you watching when he will guard himself, make you to sit meat, and he will come forth and serve (Lk. 12:37). Do you know what it means for the Lord himself to serve you? Think about it and may the Lord give you understanding.

"Be ye therefore ready also: for the son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not (Vs. 40).

Are you prepared, if the Lord should come right now? Do you even think it

is possible for him to come at this moment? He will come even at the hour that you think not, when you least expect. Many people have calculated and predicted the date of his coming. The day of the Lord will not be as people have calculated, not as ye think, but it shall be as a thief in the night so be prepared.

"But if that servant say in his heart, my Lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the men servant and maidens, and to eat and drink and be drunken.

The Lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint his portion with the unbelievers. (Vs. 45-46).

I want you to critically examine your life to see if you are truly prepared for his coming. For very soon every man will come face to face with the reality of eternity. This is the time to repent of every form of ungodliness i.e. fornication, adultery, idolatry, hatred, malice, strife, drunkenness, witchcraft and such like and live your life to the glory of God that when he comes he may find you ready. See Rom. 13:11-14.

Dr. Kehinde Adebiyi

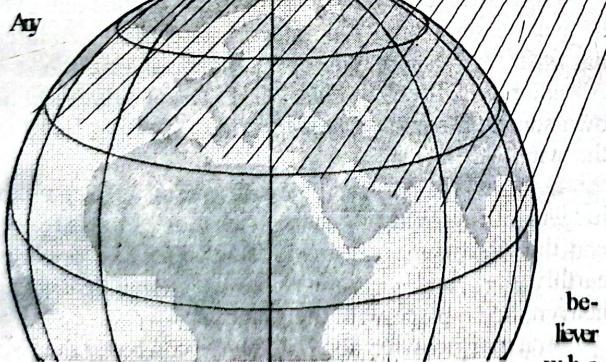
lives in LUTH, Idi-Araba,
with his wife and little daughter -
Jesu-lo-luwa.

(Culled from "The Zeal" Mar/Apr. '94).

Preparing for His Coming

neither moth corrupteth.

"For where your treasure is there will your heart be also"



is truly preparing for Lord's coming and for his heavenly home, must of necessity deny himself of his world and lay up treasures for himself in heaven. If your treasures are in heaven, you will work towards getting there. Heaven will be your goal. But if your treasures are on earth, you cannot be truly preparing for heaven because your life will be attached to the things of this world. Preparing for the Lord's coming requires complete consecration unto God. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning. And yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when he

"SLAVES BY CHOICE"

By EVANGELIST AMOBICHUKWU

F"For the Love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the Faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows". I Tim. 6:10.

The present distress in the Land, has produced some strange developments; some positive and others unimaginable.

Suddenly, the only ambition of most Nigerian Youths became how to emigrate to another country: any country other than Nigeria! Many changed their nationality in order to secure the elusive VISAS to their promised lands of U.S. and notable European countries.

Ideally, this wouldn't have provoked any interest in some of us, but for some fundamental problems it has introduced into our theology. For instance, Christians generally condemn Gambling, Pool-betting and Lotteries of all sorts. This is because Christianity does not promote indolence and unaccountable wealth. The Scriptures demand that men must work with their hands so as to be responsible, and to have enough to give to the needy.

In those days of responsible Christianity in Nigeria, especially among Bible-believing christians, it would have been unimaginable for a Christian to be involved in gambling under whatever guise; since he will be most unwilling to get involved in anything he was not sure of its origin or purpose. Even the usual ploys of soft-drinks manufacturers to sell their drinks would create a measure of some apprehension in some christian quarters.

But not any longer! These days, Christians do not only take part in, but sponsor and preach in favour of it. A more recent example is courtesy of the ambitions of the U.S. government to create a mini-world in New York, where every race on earth shall be represented. Don't ask me for further details; the agenda is still hidden. But beware of one world government; or the world-citizen status.

However, the current quest by even Nigerian Christians both young and old, to gamble their ways into the United States of America; for the more pursuit of dollars and material comfort, reveals a Church that has not defined its objectives.

Ac. 17:24-28, reveals God's desire for making us Nigerians, Africans: That we may seek Him in our peculiar environment and find Him to be all that we needed. And to show forth His praises and kindness in the riches of His glory towards us that believe. But many have gone a whoring unto the ungodly altars of Europe and America. And it is from there that they have imported all the errors that are threatening to snuff out the emerging light in our

dark continent. The Church is in danger in the hands of these scavengers\habingers of the accursed things. But I shall not hope to exhaust this now.

Nevertheless, I shall draw your attention to the life of three notable characters in the Bible: Great men with rare opportunities and priviledges to serve God, but whose appetites for the world; the fleeting pleasures of sin; and uncertain riches, brought their walk with God to a shameful end.

LOT:

First in our List is Mr. LOT; Father Abraham's cousin. A man who had every opportunity to be great with God, but whom "the lusts of the flesh; the lusts of the eyes; and the pride of life" made him blind to the eternal treasures of Canaan. He sought the blessings of God rather than His person. He had no personal record with God, and no interest in the things of God: He never for once built an altar to God; and there was no sign that Lot ever worshipped God. "And Lot also, which went with Abram, had flocks, and herds; and tents". (Gen. 13:5). He preferred the glamour of earthly possessions to the Solitude of Godliness.

His love for Money\riches and Materialism made him dis-respectful to the Man who took him out of bondage. He became hardened to the warnings of God that the Lands of Sodom and Gomorrah were set for destruction.

His marraige with the world system, robbed him of all he ever possessed: his properties; his riches; his children; his wife; and had it not been for the intercessions of Abraham - the friend of God, Mr. Lot would have lost his own soul in the perdition of the wicked. He laboured for the wind. (Gen. 19:29).

But Lot will not stand alone in eternity! Even on the judgement day. What about the "rich fool" (Lk. 12:16-21); and the rich young ruler (Lk. 18:18-25) who preferred earthly glory, and uncertain riches to "eternal treasures in heaven, and a place with the Lamb"?

And moreso, what about you? Are you better than Mr. Lot? Why did you become a Christian? Was it to secure the favour of God upon your business? or to enable you get a good wife: since all the fine ladies are now in the Church? Was it not to enable you obtain an anointed handkerchief for favour to pursue your contracts? Or was it for the olive oil you were told represents the power of heaven? Consider the end of Mr. Lot: He lost everything in one single day. (Gen. 18:15-17). And the two daughters that survived with him were so sinful that God cursed them! The rich

Continued on page 14

Continued from page 8

tionship/experience with God. Most are the people's choice for God, and not God's choice for people.

Hence, God saith in the Holy Book: "The priests said not, where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not. The pastor also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal and walked after things that do not profit". (Jeremiah 2:8).

"Be astonished O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate saith the Lord.

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water!" (Jeremiah 2:12-13). "Oh, the Land mourneth" for the corn is wasted.

The spiritual manna from above, given to the children of God is being gathered in baskets full of holes; the water flowing from the Rock is being collected in broken containers. How then do we expect spiritual stamina for spiritual growth when we do not contain enough spiritual nourishment. With all the leakages in the vessels carrying the anointing: the "wine is dried up" and the oil languisheth.

The anointing is being wasted. The Pentecostal experience - itself is fast becoming a denomination. The Vitality, and lustre of the new experience is spirituality is gradually becoming of a mere religious propaganda!

Instead of the Holy Spirit, what we have is "Holy Spurts" like a vehicle that has run short of fuel and is being forced to move on. Where is the one accord that was present on the day of Pentecost! Is it no longer one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, the Father of all? Where then do we get out own doctrines? Why then do we have schisms in the body? Oh God where do we go from here?

We need to be ashamed of our lack of performance because the harvest of the field is perished. Many unbelievers are being banished to hell because we are not proclaiming the message in spirit and in truth. For the scripture saith.

How will they hear except there be a preacher? For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth in him shall not be ashamed, For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him".

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

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom

they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10:13, 14).

But you may say that there are many evangelistic programmes all around our towns and villages, why then should anybody say that he has not heard the gospel

The Truth, my friend, is that, our lives are the greatest epistles that we can preach and we need to do a lot more than what we already have done. We need to use the master's plans, principles, methods, and strategies. We need to allow the blood of Jesus to flow through us for the blood of Jesus speaketh better than that of Abel.

We need to redirect our evangelistic goals in conformity with the master's. We should seek to save the lost because we want them to be saved, and have a relationship with the master, instead of seeking them for our selfish motives; to increase the population of the church (i.e. for Numerical strength), or to increase the capital base of our company (in tithes and offerings).

Truly, the vine (the reservoir of sweetness) is dried up. There is a withering going on in various fellowships, because there is no sap from the source (the fountain of living waters) to maintain the body. Alas! "Joy is withered from the sons of men".

"Ye ministers of my God! Give yourselves and lament, ye priests howl, ye ministers of the altar, come lie all night in sack-cloth ye ministers of my God, for the meat offering and the drink offering is withheld from the house of your God.

Blow ye the trumpet in Zion! and sound the alarm in my holy mountain.

THE CROSS IN THE TANACH (Part I)

begins on page 7

according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of [Yeshua the Messiah] ..." (1 Pet. 1:2).

52:15b Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider. Compare this with Isaiah 49:7.

53:1a Who has believed our report? John 12:37-38 quotes this as the reason why more Jewish people did not believe in Yeshua despite His miracles. "But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled... 'Lord, who has believed our report...?' Paul combines Isaiah 52:7 with 53:1 (Romans 10:15 -16) showing that although the gospel was preached as prophesied, not all believed, also as prophesied.

To be continued

Continued from page 12

and wealthy Lot died in a cave, without a burial ceremony! How will your own end be? Pause and ponder.

Please don't stop reading. Let us look at another character: Elimelech...

ELIMELECH was a Jew and a type of a Christian, who could not endure the trials of faith, necessary for every time blessings from God, and His promises to come to pass.

There was famine in the Land of Judah and Elimelech took his wife Naomi and his two sons, to a cursed land; the land of Moab, because he felt that there was food in Moab.

Thus, Elimelech despised his Godly heritage for more material prosperity. He preferred "the Onions of" Moab to "the dews of" Judah. And the Scripture says "not long after, the man died". And his two sons who married in this land of self-exile, or is it "slavery by choice?", lived a childless and fruitless ten years, before they also perished in Moab.

Meanwhile, Naomi, the only surviving member of the team "heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD had visited his people in giving them bread". Ruth 1:6. But the news did not come until her entire household had perished in Moab. And had they remained in Judah, perhaps they would have lived to see the revival of God (Ps. 112:4).

The Lord will surely visit his people who are called by His name, for He said unto Isaac: "Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee. (Gen. 26:1, 12).

Now, beloved, why are you here? Are you in the centre of God's will, or have you moved down into Moab\Egypt? Have you gone in pursuit of dollars and a little life of ease? Europe and America are not God's promised heaven. Infact, the dollars of Europe could be the Devil's ploy to drown your soul in destruction. (I Tim. 6:9, 10). Have you lost your grip on eternal life for a mere pot of Pizza? Stolen bread may look sweet for a while, but it will soon taste like gravels.

A Christian who gets rich by selling cocaine e.t.c. or through "419" might have already bought himself a one way ticket to Hell. As Elimelech, learnt, "the pleasures of sin are for a season (Heb. 11:25) but the renewal of faiffulness is eternal life and peace with God. Repent! Return both to God and to your home; for "it is time to favour Zion".

Finally, let us ponder on a Man whose departure from the faith has remained one of the most daring and rare success of the Devil in luring men unto perdition.

A man who like Judas Iscariot deserted his Master at the point of need. A man who betrayed the confidence and trust reposed on him, and put his Master's joy to open reproach. That man is Demas!

DEMAS (Col. 4:14; Philem 24; II Tim. 4:10).

The story of Demas reads like a case of cursed

ambition. It is pathetic as it is unfortunate. It is one of those rare successes of the "demon of Materialism".

For a man who had had the special privilege of ministering alongside one of the most gifted and anointed apostle Paul; a man who had served as the servant of one of the "satelite" churches of Asia Minor (The Church in Colosse); a man who had earned a worthy compliment from "the duke of service" - Paul the apostle (Philem. 24); a man well-beloved to the saints; for such a man to turn his back on the Gospel for the mere glory of worldly fame and material prosperity, is one of those gem-Master-mind of the great evil and subtlety, the enemy of Mern's souls called the avenger, the Devil, is known for.

What did Demas lack under Paul? Nothing!; but deception and cheap christianity which however, had become the vogue in his days. And it was this, none the less, which held the deadly and irresistible appeals to Demas, and which finally snatched him away from that glory that will soon be revealed.

Demas, the beloved of Paul the apostle and God; a friend of the Church, and an encourager of the saints. Demas, well beloved and gifted. A preacher of righteousness; and a man with great power of endurance for the afflictions of the Gospel. A zealous man in religion; and respected. A one-time defender of the Faith; Demas turned his back on the Gospel and on Christ; and even on his faithful and diligent friend - Paul the apostle. Demas forsook them and embraced the world. Selah.

The warmth of passion, and the feel of material possessions; the caresses and lusts of the flesh; the lusts of the eyes, and that venomous fluid called "the pride of life", all combined as a rare and enticing mixture to numb, and finally kill the feelings of Love for God and thirst for reality that once existed in the recess of Demas soul: "having loved this present (evil) world" II Tim. 4:10. And so, the Devil's gain became our loss!.

How clearly demonstrated this has become in our days. How many Demases do we see everyday? Multitudes! Look at the Church of Jesus Christ in our land. Take a solemn inventory of her leaders, and see how many of them there be, that have become the modern Demases! "Wealth, women, fame and applause - the desire to perform; to keep at the game; have killed our zeal for the Truth, says one of the Pentecostal reverends". And "money and sex have separated us", was the shameful verdict of a Pentecostal Bishop and her revered husband, on the pages of secular Newspapers in Lagos, during a divorce proceedings!

The Holy altar has been broken down, and the holy seed has mingled itself with the harlots (Ezra 9:1, 2). A dark and threatening cloud now hovers over that house where once, the ascent of Praise and devotion rose to the heavens - an ominous sign that another Demas has gone to the world!

Oh, who will light our lamps?

Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

And Jesus answering said unto him, 'suffer it be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness; Then he suffered him.

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straight way out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him..." (Matt. 3:13-16).

Prior to this time, the situation in Israel and indeed all over the world; in that all have sinned; and there was none that regardeth nor any that seeketh after God; was exactly as foretold in Leviticus Chapter 26.

"But if ye will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgements, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror... and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as Iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain..." (Lev. 26:14-16; 19, 20).

It was under this condition that men had laboured before now; and it was under it that my Master refused to be cajoled into, even by John the Baptist, His forerunner: "I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?". And Jesus answering said unto him, "suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness: Then he suffered him".

Thus, my Master refused to labour under "closed heavens". He refused to ignore God's command, and to sow in vain. He knew that when men labour under closed heaven, "their strength shall be spent in vain...".

He chose to walk in Obedience to God: "for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness". He knew that before we could overcome and avenge our enemies, "our obedience must be complete". (II Cor. 10:5). He also knew that every true obedience must lead to death. "For the carnal man receiveth not the things of God; they are foolishness unto him". Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. (Rom. 8:7, 8).

He knew that for heaven to open unto him, he must die to "the systems of this world", by submitting to John's baptism. "Then cometh Jesus... unto John to be baptized

MASTER KEY TO OPEN HEAVEN

- By Inno. Praise

of him" (Matt. 3:13). God went to man to fulfil His ordinances of baptisms, just to make sure that none of the demands of Discipleship was broken.

Thus, He established that the only way to open heaven is through the crucified life. And the key to the crucified life is Discipleship. And the bedrock of Discipleship is complete obedience and whole-hearted submission to the total counsel of God.

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straight way out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him..." (Matt. 3:16).

We go to God the way we are, but when we leave, we leave the way He is. Discipleship gags the excesses of the sinful human nature. It guides a man securely to the crucified life (Gal. 2:20); and leaves him in the hands of his Creator as a chosen instrument to fulfil His pleasure.

Discipleship leads men to die to the flesh, and the world, and to live for God in the spirit: Men whose minds are set on God and His interests. Thus, it produces men that have focus and proper re-orientation.

Discipleship is a call for every Christian. And until we have allowed God to pummel, trim, and trample upon us to make us conform to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ, we have not responded to that call (Matt. 11:29). The Holy Spirit can only walk with a dead Man. As long as you are alive to your sensibilities and wild emotions - which the Holy Scriptures call "excess of riot" (I Pet. 4:1-7), you are useless to the Holy Spirit - "the spirit of glory and of God". Even in the Old Testament, before any levite or Priest could minister before the Lord, he must be offered as an offering unto God - a sign of crucification and dedication (Num. 8) thereby signifying that the only acceptable way to open heaven and to God is "dead to the flesh", the crucified life.

A dead Man has no premonition of time, space and conditionalities. To be crucified means to do nothing in your own strength. It excludes smartness and worldly brilliance. You must be "fool and glad to be so for Christ". Whenever believers are willing to be crucified, the testimony of Jesus the Lord in Jn. 12:30-33 becomes a

reality again!

A dead man is never angry. He knows no irritation or comfort. He is neither bothered by the censors nor approvals of the world, his friends, or the church (1 Cor. 2:14-16). He does not strife because whatever condition he finds himself is suitable.

A dead man does not gossip or backbite. He does not seek company or party. Because he is dead, he is open to all parties. They, and not him, feel sorry for their actions and treatments of him. He is mute, and without a care. He has neither lusts nor restrictions, because in him has been condemned all the sins of the flesh. To be precise, in him all the desires of "sinful human nature" has had their full: For the wages of sin is death. Rom. 3:23). **ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE IN THE FLESH?**

The greatest problem of the Church in Nigeria is lack of Discipleship. And carnality breeds confusion. Proper knowledge brings right living habits. And true knowledge is spiritual knowledge. By spiritual knowledge I mean the practical contact of a soul with his creator.

And this can only come about through obedience. A man who does not know God cannot obey Him; he cannot submit to his laws. At worst he will fight against God's will (Rom. 8:6-8). You can know the spiritual level of a people i.e. their level of obedience to God through their desires; through those things which matter to them most: are they the things of this world; or are they the things which make one conscious of that glorious place called heaven?

If you live for the Devil and his interests in his world (this present evil world, Gal. 1:4), you cannot hope to go to heaven. You won't even experience the blessings of open heavens now. You will ultimately end up in the eternal resting place of the Devil - "lake of fire" or hell - "where their worms dieth not; and the fire is not quenched". But if you live for Christ and His interests, you will hate this present evil world and her poisonous passions and pleasure. You will set your mind on the things above. Col. 3:1-3. You will seek God. You will not be like "Demas" (1 Tim. 4:10) who abandoned eternal peace with God, for the fleeting pleasures of sin and the lure of uncertain riches (Heb. 11:24-27; Lk. 8).

To desert holiness and Godly living, for the lustful and covetous demands of the present falsehood called "prosperity or new mysteries", is to live for the Devil and his interests. It is to abandon Christ and depart, "having loved this present world". It is to mock God in the world that hated Truth. To choose Error instead of the Truth; and to make the costly sacrifice of Christ's death on the cross, of none effect on your behalf, thereby destroying

your wonderful soul in perdition.

But can we sincerely expect you to live better than you are presently doing, since right living is based on the knowledge of the Truth? And it is not everything you hear on Sundays, and on your anointing services that are part of the Truth?

Truth is scarce, and the Word is rare. There are no more open vision (i.e. plain knowledge of the will of God). We have corrupted the Cross and changed the altar. We have completed the priesthood. Certain men have crept unawares unto the pulpit; and carnality has run riot. Therefore, Nigeria cannot know peace. It cannot know peace because there is no peace for the wicked says my God; and those who handle the Truth are corrupt; thus equity is slain. And the Lord has sworn, "I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as Iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain..." (Lev. 26:19, 20).

Therefore, only revival, personal revival, can save us. We must experience personal revival to open our individual heavens; and collectively too: "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men". (Hos. 10:12, 13).

We must renounce our sinful ways. Our carnal human nature and its desires must be crucified. Natural man must die. And spiritual life must gain ascendancy. There must be an open and genuine repentance from dead works - which includes inept corruption and excessive materialism. We must forsake our old ways and return to God in dust and ashes; otherwise, even our very blessings might be blighted by misfortunes.

Spiritual men must return to the affairs of God and Man. Both the Church and the human authority of the government, must experience the touch of God. Men in leadership must be humble and diligent men. They must submit to God, and teach his people, denouncing materialism and upholding the virtues of hard work and true faith in God. **THIS IS THE MASTER KEY TO OPEN HEAVENS.**

WARRIORS OF THE KINGDOM

Dear Inno-Praise

I thought that I should write to you and bring you up to date with some encouraging information about the countries that we have prayed for so far this year.

North Korea: "Evangelism Explosion celebrated its use in every country of the world at the end of 1995. Evangelism Explosion is a strategy for local churches to train and send out lay evangelists. At the beginning of 1995, 37 countries still had no EE ministry, but with the unexpected addition of North Korea, today every nation has participated to some degree in the EE strategy". (Source: Global Glimpse).

Cambodia: "There is no other place like Cambodia within the 10/40 Window where there is such receptivity to the gospel message. Truly, He has raised us up for a time like this, as the window of opportunity is wide for those willing to commit their lives to His purpose!" (Source: CSI Missionary).

You can understand my excitement at being involved in encouraging Prayer Warriors to pray for Asia, and then hearing how God is moving in the very countries that we have been praying for. So, as we pray this month for the people of Tibet, let's praise God for the way He is moving in Asia, and also call upon Him to touch Tibet.

In January of this year the AD 2000 movement, of which AO is a part, held a congress on evangelism in the Himalayas. The purpose of the gathering was to pray and consider how the gospel could be taken to all the peoples of the Himalayas by the year 2000. One of the highlights of this conference was the testimony that came out of Nepal. In 1961 there were only 25 known Christians in Nepal, however dramatic growth has taken place, with between 200,000 and 300,000 Christians today. Many people have been praying for the Nepal with intercession trips visiting this Hindu kingdom - and Nepal is experiencing an amazing spiritual harvest.

As you will see in the Prayer Challenge, Tibet has not seen such dramatic changes. However, as we pray, and as intercession teams continue to go to Tibet, we will see the Holy Spirit moving across this area known as the 'Forbidden Land'.

Yours sincerely

David Gartler
Asia 2000 & Beyond.

ASIAN OUTREACH

FOOT SOLDIER PROFILE

Brother Abraham of Pakistan

It is now four years since Brother Abraham became a Christian. Today he and his wife Sarah run one of the safe houses for Muslim converts in Multan. Since he used to lead and teach the people in the mosque. Ahmad felt that his gifting would be put to use for the 'kingdom', leading and teaching the new disciples.

Abraham was the mullah at the mosque, but one day came to Ahmad with questions about Christianity. Ahmad told him that he was not important enough to answer the questions and Abraham accepted this, thinking that it would be better to speak to someone with authority. However when Ahmad told him that what he had to do was to go home and prepare his mind and then ask Jesus the questions, the mullah thought that Ahmad was just trying to brush him off. Ahmad told him that if he was serious that he would do this and that only Jesus could answer his questions.

4-5 days passed and then late at night

Abraham returned, due to the lateness Ahmad allowed him to stay and sleep. In the morning he talked to him over breakfast and Abraham told him that 'Your Jesus has answered my questions'. It turned out that Abraham had returned to his home at the mosque and had prepared his mind and asked Christ the questions. The night he moved to Ahmad's house he had woken at around 2.00 a.m. and had prayed to Jesus and in the curve of the dome at the back of the mosque he saw a cross. He went to try and touch it but thought it must be a dream so he walked out of the mosque. However, when he went back into the mosque the cross was still there. Realising that the people would be coming to morning prayer at 4.30, Brother Abraham thought they would see the cross and blame him for putting it there, so he packed his bag and went to Ahmad's house.

The next week he stood up in the Church and said, "When I came to Ahmad's house that night I said, 'Your Jesus has answered my questions'. Today I can say, My Jesus has answered my questions and today I have no questions left".

THE FIELDS NEXT DOOR

The shame of Nigerian Christianity - By Inno Praise

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved". Jer. 8:20.

More than ten years after the discovery of the primitive tribe of the KOMAS in 1985 by Col. Yohanna Madaki, the then Governor of the former Gongola State in the Mambila Plateau of Northern Nigeria; and the challenge to the Gospel, to bring "the light" to those that "walk through the valley and shadow of death"; the sordid fact remains that inspite of the fuss about the strength, the power and the various forms of anointing and shades of prosperity of the pentecostals; the holiness and ready-for-rapture attitudes of the evangelicals, it is a shame, a great shame, that it was still the "white Roman Catholic Missionaries that presented to the world again - an ordained priest for "the sanctuary of the KOMAS" on July the 2nd 1996!.

No one raised an eyebrow: no, not a single Pentecostal Pastor that I know of; Instead they were busy running money campaigns in the name of prosperity, and advancing "a cheat" gospel that robs the Cross of Calvary of its power; and disdains the good name of the Lord.

This however, is with due regards and acknowledgement of the efforts of few but hardworking Missionaries and Missions agencies such as the Missionary Crusaders e.t.c. who had been toiling to bring forth fruits out of these forgotten tribes.

But what about our big brothers with their numerous thousands of followers in Lagos and other major cities; and their Millions of Naira? What happened to their superior anointings and great powers of miracles? Don't they believe, their anointed handkerchiefs and olive oils could be beneficial to the KOMAS, the Mumuyes and the Gbagis e.t.c.? Or is it that their Jets and State-of-the art cars cannot penetrate these jungles, right behind their mansions?.

"Paul's handkerchiefs" which they quote, was never used for contracts and debt recovery; neither was it ever used for favour in Antioch. But it was manifestly effectual for the "Komas of Ephesus" (Ac. 19:11-12).

Peter did not bless drums of Olive oils for the Churches in Jerusalem and Judea to use in driving away evil spirits; to sprinkle on their foods to secure the approval of erring husband or to apply on their bodies to attract an elusive spouse cum suitors.

And James the apostle did not wash the feet of the brethren so they could obtain favour from a sinful world; neither did he give them magic wands (Mantles) to enable them make an easy purchase from the coastal markets of Galilee.

No! No!! No!!! All these are distractive errors to keep the

Church focused on shadows while the heathens for whom she was ordained slip into the pit in millions, with multitudes crying:

"Therefore is judgement far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.

We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noon day as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead man.

We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgement, but there is none; for Salvation, but it is far off from us" (Isa. 59:9-11).

What more shall we say; for just when we will say this, we would remember another: The Church has neglected her Youths. No she has confused them! For desiring to keep them under their religious garbs, they have frustrated the strength of the Gospel.

Our Youths no longer abound in power with the Gospel because they have not "the Word of God dwelling mightily in them". Instead, they have been filled with all manners of vain and earthly pursuits, that they have become slaves to the world and bondmen to religion.

Their Pastors have made thugs of them; and rather than train them as disciples and sent to the Missions fields to win the world for Christ, they have recruited them as second class - rated guards and amateur security operatives made to oversee cars and auditorium furniture. Worse still, some now act as personal body-guards and club bouncers, when like Timothy and Titus, they ought to be in the Missions field contending for the Gospel. And for "the Faith once delivered to the saints"

The shame of Nigerian Christianity also, is the menace of the cults. Gone are the days when the voice of the Gospel was a terror to evil doers. Our moral values are gone! The spiritual orientation is corrupted. Therefore, violence shall be the portion of evil doers.

Our higher institutions of learning have been cursed by campus cults; and our youths have become so violent, that they now kill on instinct. Schools have been closed; Exams postponed, and whole course of education altered because children from rotten homes have laid hold on the reins of the society. And it is amazing that even the few surviving fellowships on our campuses are caving in under the pressures of the ungodly. We can no longer preach the truth - the whole truth as taught in the Scriptures to avoid hurting the conscience of our benefactors and perhaps for fear of reprisals. But a Gospel that cannot reprove error is like salt that has lost its savour.

Therefore, only revival can save us. Spiritual men must return to the affairs of God and man. Both the Church and the human authority of the government, must experience the touch of God, otherwise we are heading for disaster. Discipleship must return to the centre stage of the Gospel, or we cannot leave a light for the next generation ... And the wasting Missions fields around us will continue to ask: "Blind reapers, carest thou not that we perish?".

MAY GOD HEAR YOUR RESPONSE.

MISSIONS AID INTERNATIONAL

I WILL WIPE AWAY THEIR TEARS

"I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldst be for salvation unto the ends of the earth". Acts 13:47.

"And in His name shall the Gentiles trust". - Matt. 12:21.

"He has given me beauty for ashes and put a new song in my mouth" appears to be the expression on this woman's face - a clear testimony to the potency of fervent prayers for the Salvation of the heathen and the progress of Missions work.

Pictures like this give great encouragement to those who labour under difficult conditions to preach the Gospel of deliverance. It also bear testimony to the united efforts of the Church in fulfilling the Divine mandate. "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;

Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest". (Matt. 9:37, 38).

But have you a part in their joy?

What effort have you made to pray, to give; even to go that they may have the light of life - Jesus Christ our Lord?

We urge you to let your thoughts and decisions be reflected in the lives of these that are still bound in the

fear and torment of Satan's forces, on the mountains and valleys here in our country and beyond.

Please act now! Tomorrow may be too late either for you or for them!!



Distance does not exist in the realm of the Spirit. Our prayers are effective, both in the spiritual and the physical, to set the captives free.

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Watchman's Prayer Letter

Christian Friends of Israel

THE ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE OF JERUSALEM

Jewish Year 5757

(A message delivered by Lance Lambert in Jerusalem on May 27, 1987)

I would like to read one or two Scriptures from the Old and the New Testament First *Ezekiel 5:5*: "Thus says the Lord God, *This is Jerusalem, I have set her in the midst of the nations and countries around about her*." Then *Psalm 87*: "His foundation is in the holy mountains, He loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O City of God".

Then in the prophecy of *Zechariah 12:2,3,9*: "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of reeling unto all the peoples round about and upon Judea, also shall it be in the siege against Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in that day that I will make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the peoples, all that burden themselves with it shall be sore wounded and the nations of the earth shall be gathered together against it . . . it shall come to pass in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem."

Then *Zechariah 14:2*: "For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle and the city shall be taken, the houses rifled and the women vanished and part of the city shall go forth into captivity and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations as when He fought in the day of battle and His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives which is before Jerusalem."

Then in the New Testament, *Luke 21:23,24*, the words of the Lord Jesus, "Woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days for there shall be great distress upon the land of wrath unto this people and they shall fall by the edge of the sword and shall be led captive into all the nations and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles

until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled." And lastly in *Revelations 21:9*: "And there came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls who were laden with the seven last plagues and he spake with me saying, 'Come hither, I will show thee the Bride, the wife of the Lamb', and he carried me away in the spirit to a mountain great and high and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her light was like unto a stone most precious as it were a jasper stone clear as crystal."

Jerusalem is a household word, known all over the world from the Far East to the Far West, from the Far North to the Far South only because God chose her. God chose no other city, only Jerusalem. From its beginning to its end, the Bible speaks of Jerusalem. Wherever you look, it is the story, the history and the destiny of Jerusalem.

Who else, we might ask, would have chosen Jerusalem? For Jerusalem had none of those attributes or advantages that we normally associate with a capital city. All the great cities of the ancient world of antiquity and all the capital cities of today are chosen for either great commercial assets or great commercial advantages.

Jerusalem has endured all to this day because she represents eternal and spiritual realities. She represents the Kingdom of God over the Kingdom of men. She represents the Kingdom of Heaven over the empires and ideologies of this earth. She is a symbol of God's eternal purpose for mankind. She is a symbol of the heart of God, of the mind of God for mankind, for the universe. That's why God will never let this city disappear until she fades into the glory of that eternal Jerusalem which will come down out of heaven, having the glory of God . . .

(Watch out for the full text in the next edition of The Zeal Magazine)

All Correspondence concerning the Magazine, gifts towards its issue, and personal letter to: The Chief Editor, 'THE ZEAL', P. O. Box 3564, SHOMOLU, LAGOS, NIGERIA.