

# THE HEALING CROSS

ISSUE 1 2023



THE CHAPEL OF THE HEALING CROSS  
CMUL/LUTH, IDI-ARABA, LAGOS



*Diamond Jubilee*  
*Jubilee*  
**THANKSGIVING SERVICE**

*Change of Baton*  
**HANDOVER CEREMONY**

*Anglican*  
**CONFIRMATION SERVICE**

*Mothering*  
**SUNDAY 2023**



## OUR VISION

A Christ centered worshipping community ministering total wholeness to society under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God.

## OUR MISSION

- Developing the Youth and Children in balanced Christianity.
- Winning souls through Bible-based evangelism
- Caring for the less-privileged and the aged.
- Operating Economic Self-sufficiency.



### HIGHLIGHTS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2023

#### CHOIR FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2023

#### COMMUNITY HYMN SINGING

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023

#### ADULT HARVEST 2023

SUNDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2023

#### CHRISTMAS CAROL

SUNDAY 10 DECEMBER 2023

#### METHODIST CONFIRMATION

SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2023

#### COMMEMORATION OF NATIVITY

MONDAY 25 DECEMBER 2023

### SPIRITUAL COUNSELING HELP LINES

0802 059 8437 0816 345 6661  
 0803 052 4300 0703 018 2584  
 0802 281 5966 0803 301 1472

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES OF THE CHAPEL OF THE HEALING CROSS *where a warm welcome awaits you!*

SUNDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HOLY COMMUNION 8.00AM - 9.00AM	CHOIR PRACTICE 7.00 P M	ABRIDGED HOLY COMMUNION 5.00M - 5.40PM	TOTAL WHOLENESS CLINIC (FREE FOR ALL) 3.00PM	ABRIDGED HOLY COMMUNION 5.00M - 5.40PM	CHOIR PRACTICE 11.00 AM
CORPORATE WORSHIP 10.00AM		CORPORATE BIBLE STUDY 5.45PM - 7.00PM	GROWTH IN SPIRITUALITY SERVICE 5.00-6.00PM	COME LET US PRAY TOGETHER (CLUPT) 5.45 - 7.00PM	

# Editor's Note

In the words of late Venerable and Prof. Sam Ade Olaitan, it is with an overflowing cornucopia of joy that we welcome you to this edition of The Healing Cross, our beloved Chapel Newsletter. Coming back to print after a nearly 3-year post-covid hiatus, our gratitude to the Almighty cannot be quantified.

Indeed, 2023 has been a milestone year in the annals of the Chapel. From the celebration of the Chapel's 60th Anniversary, to the handover from one chief shepherd to another, there has been no dull moment.

In this Chapel we are so blessed that a second Lord Bishop has been elevated from our retinue of Resident Ministers. While we pray for God's guidance and resounding impact in his episcopal calling for the outgoing Chief Resident Minister, the Rt. Rev. Albert Olorunmade, we wish our new CRM, Ven. Samuel Olusegun Onafeso a warm welcome to this worshipping community.

Brethren, the wait has been long,

therefore, this edition is loaded!

From the Chapel's Central Theme - Justification: Be Justified and Glory in the Lord - Isaiah 45:25, ushered in by the 2023 Adult Mission, and intensified during the Mid-Year Crusade, you will traverse through an exciting journey of God's faithfulness to His children, recounted through the Fellowship Group Anniversary Celebrations, Milestone Birthdays and refreshingly engaging Sunday School and Youth Service Activities.

And to enrich the banquet, critical areas of social currency such as Artificial Intelligence, Cosmetic Surgery and Key Business Insights as well as Chapel's Outreach programmes and lots more are served sizzling!

We hope you will enjoy this edition. From the entire editorial team, it's been a privilege to serve with you in the Lord's vineyard.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

## Editorial Team

- Gloria Ugo-Nwachukwu
- Ibukun Sanni
- Gloria Bassey
- Kemi Awe

- Ugochukwu Nwachukwu
- Iheanyi Osuji
- Canon Deji Awe
- Teni Oniha
- Kodichi Anigbogu

## Get in touch

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- 🌐 www: thechapelofthehealingcross.org

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Chapel and the acceptance of advertising does not indicate editorial endorsement.

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# FROM THE DESK OF THE CRM

Ven. Samuel Olusegun  
ONAFESO

Chief Resident Minister/  
Chairman, Chapel Council

## "I SEE MEN LIKE TREES"

Mark 8:24

Jesus performed many miracles in diversities of means. Some He healed by merely speaking, some by touching and some by anointing the eyes with mud and spit or just only spitting. In one case He instructed the blind to go and wash off the mud pasted on his eyes in the pool of Siloam. Indeed, God works in mysterious ways because His ways are above ours.

Isaiah 55:8-9

"8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

People have been making the mistake of putting God in a straight jacket. They expect and even instruct God to act in a

certain manner in answering the petitions they brought to Him. Thus, it is not surprising to read that the people that brought the blind man to Jesus to be healed told Jesus how to conduct the healing. They told Jesus to lay His hand on him rather simply requesting Jesus to open the eyes of the blind man they brought to him.

Mark 8:22

"And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him".

The miracle of healing this blind man was dramatic, as there were many dramatic miracles Jesus performed in Bethsaida where this event occurred. Bethsaida was the home town of Peter, Andrew and Philip, it was the place where the feeding of 5000 people with five loaves and two fishes happened. It was also the location where Jesus walked on water to join His terrified disciples in the boat.

The focus of this write-up is on the testimony of the blind man in the process of getting his eyes opened. Apparently, the healing of this blind man happened installmentally. Unlike in many other instances that instantaneous healing happened. Jesus had to lay hand on the man the second time before he could see clearly. However, we need to examine the response of this man when Jesus enquired about his sight after spitting on his eyes and laying hands on him the first time.

Mark 8:23c-24

"And when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought".

The answer of this man whose eyes were being opened is the import of the short writing, he said.

"And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking" Mark 8:24

A tree is vastly inferior to a human in term of intrinsic values.

A human person is of unquantifiable value. When a person, or a leader fails to see the infinite value of a human being, he will only see people as objects to be used and dumped to fulfil his/her lust for pleasure, power, possession and position.

People that practiced slave trade in the past and those that are still practicing it today, in form of cheap labour, human trafficking, pimping are merely seeing their fellow human beings as trees.

Jesus wants us to put value on the human person beyond the weights of gold and silver. Jesus demonstrated this in a town called Gadara in Mark 5:1-20 when he cast a legion of demons from a demons-possessed man, and the demon left the man for a herd of about two thousand pigs, the pigs, driven by the demons rushed into a nearby river and got drowned. The economic loss to the owner of the pigs must have been colossal. In today's value, it must be in tens of millions of naira.

Thus, Jesus demonstrated that for the man to live a quality life beyond living in cemetery and cutting himself with knives, was more than any amount of money that could be lost or gained.

Jesus summarized this by asking "what shall it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? What can a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matt. 8:36-37.

I pray that God would open our eyes to see the inestimable value of the human person and thus treat ourselves and others with dignity, regardless of their estates in life.

The human person has inestimable value in 3 dimensions, namely:

(1) The Intrinsic value of ability and capacity in creativity in arts, music, science

and technology.

(2) The Eternal value - as an entity that would exist for ever and ever.

(3) Spiritual value - as a creature, created in the image of God to project God's

image and partner with God in fulfilling his redemptive purpose for the fallen human race.

May God open the eyes of the tyrant, the oppressor, the abusers, the indifferent and the carefree to put value on the human person and truly be our brother's keeper, bringing joy and laughter to one another. Amen.

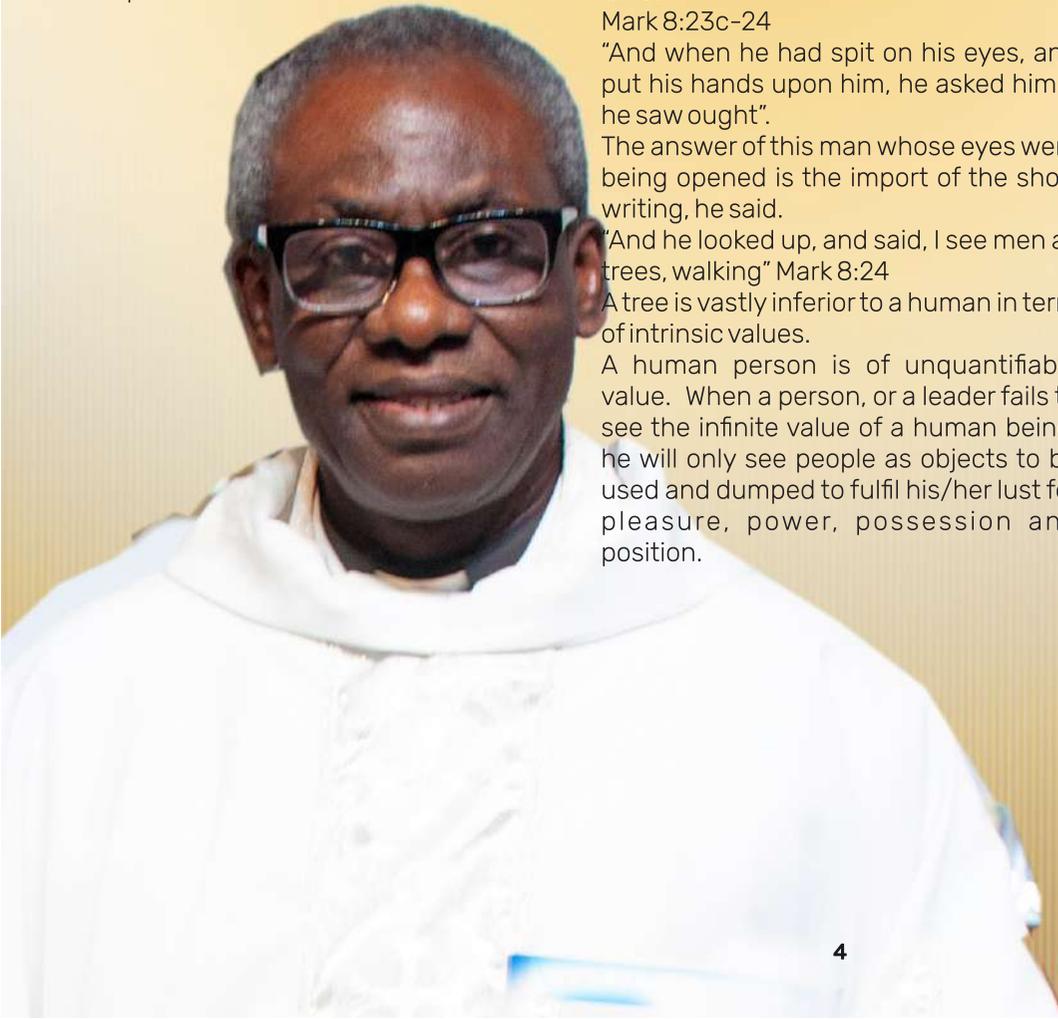
Psalms 8:3-6

"3 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet".





# 2023

# Trinity

## SUNDAY

## Sermon

SEGUN ADEYEMI,

**Retired Archbishop and Chairman  
of the Board of Trustees,  
Chapel of the Healing Cross,  
Idi-Araba.**

In Christian doctrine, the Trinity represents the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons within one Godhead. They are co-equal, co-substantial, and co-eternal, each in their capacity as God. Within their 3Cs of consultation, communication, and convocation, they work complementarily and mutually respect one another, despite their distinct identities and functions.

God the Father serves as the creator and the end-time judge. God the Son acts as the redeemer, while the Holy Spirit functions as the sanctifier and the seal of our redemption (the visa officer in heaven). It's important to note that only God the Son is visible; the others are spirits. Temperamentally, God the Father is seen as the lethal judge, often referred to as the consuming fire. Sin against the Holy Spirit is considered unforgivable. In between them stands Jesus, who bore all our sorrows and through whom sins are forgiven. Scripture even states, "For in him, the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

Throughout different dispensations, the focus shifts: the Old Testament emphasizes God the Father, the Gospels concentrate on God the Son, and the Epistles shed light on God the Holy Spirit. The 28 chapters of the



**For I have not  
spoken on my  
own authority;  
the Father who  
sent me has  
himself given me  
commandment...**



**John 12:49-50**

Acts of the Apostles are centered on the acts of the Holy Spirit, and today we find ourselves in Acts chapter 29.

In the Godhead, each of them uses the first-person pronoun and speaks through each other.

As Jesus said in John 12:49-50, "For I have not spoken on my own authority; the Father who sent me has himself given me commandment what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has bidden me." Regarding Jesus' interaction with the thief on the cross, we see Jesus' statement in Luke 23:43, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." However, he went to the dead for three days, suggesting that the Father must have spoken in this instance. At the baptism, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus, the Trinity worked together bodily.

The assignment they have for you and me is known as the Great Commission, as described in Matthew 28:19-20: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Neglecting this commission is akin to dwelling in the fool's paradise of the foolish virgin.

# Making God's Justification A Family Heritage

## ANNUAL WOPRAM SEMINAR 2023



The Annual WOPRAM Seminar 2023 took place on August 13, 2023, following the 10:00 AM worship service in the Chapel main auditorium.

The distinguished Guest Speaker for this year's seminar was Mrs. Adenike Fatile. Her presentation brought clarity, insight, and inspiration around the theme, "Nurturing God's Justification as a Family Legacy

Understanding Justification- In her address, Mrs. Fatile described the concept of justification as a divine act of grace. This divine act absolves the soul from sin and liberates it from the clutches of sin's penalty. From the days of Adam to the present, humanity has grappled with the undeniable presence of sin, as evidenced in Romans 5:23, which reminds us, "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of the Lord."

Mrs. Fatile clarified that adherence to the law, as championed by the Pharisees, cannot secure our justification or emancipate us from the law of sin and death. She underscored that, in the divine courtroom, it is the sinner who is declared righteous and set free. However, this transformation is not arbitrary. Galatians 2:16 asserts that our justification comes not through the law but through faith—complete reliance, unwavering commitment, and

steadfast trust in Jesus Christ.

Heritage: Passing Down the Faith: Heritage according to Mrs. Fatile, encompasses the transmission of family possessions, traditions, cultures, and values from one generation to the next. Drawing from various scriptures, she illustrated how God charged Abraham with the sacred duty of establishing a heritage based on a new covenant and passing down the worship of the one true God to future generations (Genesis 18:19). The crux of her message lay in the premise that an individual must experience justification before they can impart this divine legacy to their offspring. To effectively convey this spiritual inheritance, Mrs. Fatile provided a comprehensive roadmap:

**1. Lead by Example:** Parents must embody the values they aspire to instill in their children.

**2. Engrave God's Word in their Hearts:** Deuteronomy 11:18-21 encourages the regular recitation of God's Word to children.

**3. Establish a Family Altar:** Just as Isaac learned from Abraham (Genesis 22:6-8), our children should partake in consistent worship routines.

**4. Guide and Provide:** Ephesians 6:4 urges parents to nurture and support their children throughout life's journeys.

**5. Firm Resolution:** We must possess an unwavering determination to ensure that Christianity thrives and endures during our lifetime.

The Seminar Coordinator, Dr. (Mrs.) Yinka Sobamowo, emphasized the significance of establishing Christianity and the path of the Lord as enduring family traditions, with particular attention to the invaluable role of grandmothers in shaping the generations to come.

In her maiden role as Convener, Mrs. Adenike Onafeso encouraged all attendees to make a resolute commitment, mirroring Joshua's declaration in Joshua 24:15, "As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord."

We eagerly anticipate the WOPRAM Seminar in 2024, as we continue the journey of faith and legacy-building.



**"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of the Lord."  
Romans 5:23**

# AESTHETIC (COSMETIC) SURGERY :- *make informed decisions*

Dr. George O. Onyejekwe

**A**esthetic surgery is an aspect of plastic surgery that aims to enhance the appearance of otherwise normal parts of the body. The other arm of plastic surgery, which is reconstructive surgery, deals with the restoration of form and function of injured or missing parts of the body, resulting from trauma or disease.

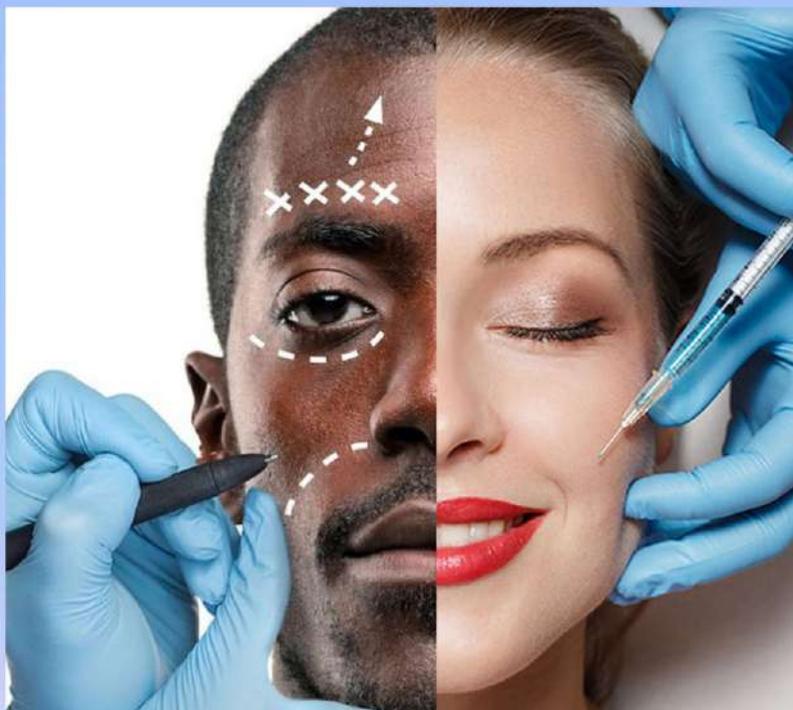
Aesthetic surgery is the more popular of the two arms due to its wide media portrayal and increasing public interest in recent times, driven by a number of factors including social media and present-day high beauty standards.

Aesthetic procedures are wide-ranging and include surgeries to enhance the appearance of the face (facelift, rhinoplasty etc.), the breasts (e.g. breast lift, breast reduction, breast augmentation with fat or implant), and the body (e.g. tummy tuck, arm lift, thigh lift etc.)

Women account for a significantly higher percentage of persons having these procedures. However, there are also procedures for men, with the common ones being for treatment of large male breasts (gynaecomastia surgery) and removal of excess fat from the tummy area, amongst others.

Generally speaking, when performed by certified Plastic and reconstructive surgeons and on the right candidates, aesthetic surgeries have been shown to be very safe with successful outcomes associated with significantly improved confidence in one's skin and increase in self-esteem.

Aesthetic surgeries just like any other surgery can sometimes unfortunately result in complications. Complications can range from minor wound healing problems, unsightly scars etc. to potentially-life threatening complications, including anaesthetic complications, and unfortunately, but rarely death. The risk of serious complications are rare when patients are certified fit prior to surgery, and when surgeries are performed in accredited centres by fully certified plastic and reconstructive surgeons with requisite experience in the particular procedures of interest.



Patients should confirm that they are seeing a fully certified plastic surgeon. Board certification in plastic surgery requires, at the minimum; completion of 6-8 years of medical school, 1 year of internship, and subsequent 6-8 years of rigorous plastic surgery residency training at an accredited institution, culminating in the award of a fellowship of a recognized surgical college; for example the West Africa College of Surgeons (FWACS), or National Postgraduate Medical College (FMCS) in Nigeria.

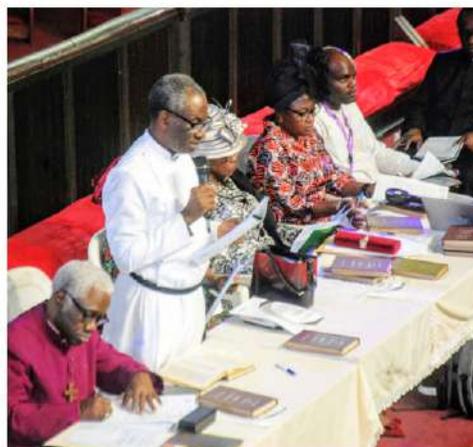
As with everything in life, anything done in excess is detrimental. As Christians, the Bible admonishes us to be modest. Hence, the obsession with plastic surgery by certain people to achieve extreme make-overs and unnatural 'barbie doll' or a 'cartoon character' appearance is dangerous. These extreme make-overs often require multiple surgeries with associated cumulative risks. Ethical and well-trained plastic surgeons know when to say no and should not

be motivated by financial gains only.

*.Dr. George O. Onyejekwe is a Christian, a Consultant Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, and a Fellow of the West African College of Surgeons. In addition to his medical degree, he holds a Master of Science degree with Distinction in Burn Care from the Queen Mary University of London. He is a member of the Hope and Anchor Fellowship, and a two-time annual Chapel Bible Quiz winner. He can be reached on; Tel; +234-8036914582 Email: georgeobi101@gmail.com*

# THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION (AMC) 2023

Sunday, 28th May, 2023



extended to him and his family by the entire congregation.

He also encouraged exploring long-term investment opportunities in small-scale manufacturing options. He expressed appreciation for the celebration of the Chapel's 60th Diamond Jubilee anniversary and thanked the organizing committee led by Mr. Ladi Sole and the outgoing Treasurer, Mrs. Adeola Obashoro, whose second term ended at the A M C 2 0 2 3 .

The Chapel secretary guided us through the minutes of the 2021 AMC for correction and adoption. Adoption included:

- Ratification of the appointment of an external audit firm.
- Adoption of the Treasurer's report presented by the Treasurer of the Council.
- Auditor's report.
- Registration of CODISA as an NGO and ratification of their Board of Trustees.



This year, the AMC 2023 coincided with Pentecost Sunday on May 28, 2023. It was a worship service integrated with the AMC meeting. It started at 8:30 am with the congregational prayer and intercessory session, which ended at 9:00 am.

The main service followed immediately. The new CRM, Ven. Samuel Olusegun Onafeso, who took over from Bishop Albert Olorunmola Olorunmade and began his tenure on January 1st, 2023, chaired the meeting for the first time.

The Board of Trustees, led by The Revd Olusegun Adeyemi, took their seats. The entire Laity joined them to constitute the quorum, forming the congregation for the annual meeting. The meeting commenced with a prayer led by the CRM and a short address.

He took the theme from



Deuteronomy 2:3: "You have compassed this mountain long enough; turn you northward." In his address, he thanked God for divine providence in his life and ministry so far. He also thanked God for the chapel's unique placement, providing an opportunity to evangelize to those in our environment. He appreciated the warm welcome and hospitality

- Election of Council Executives, excluding the post of Treasurer due in 2023.
- Constitution of the 60th-anniversary planning committee, among other decisions taken.

The secretary stressed the importance of the Chapel's yearbook as a reference document and repository of information on various Chapel activities, including worship services.

She elaborated on the activities and services in the Chapel for the year 2022 in detail, as found in the yearbook. Importantly, two Resident Ministers were redeployed in 2022: Ven Dr Josiah Eziaghighala and Revd Arc. Dr Ajibola Ajibade. They were replaced by Rev Okechukwu Okonkwo and Very Revd Ebenezer Olusegun Aiyedero.

# "Light Shines On The Justified"

-Mark 9: 2-4.

THE 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF LIGHT  
SUNDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 2023. THE ANNIVERSARY

Guest Preacher The Very Revd. Dr. Ayo Richards.

The annual Anniversary event was an opportunity for members, friends, and well-wishers to express their gratitude to God for His preservation, merciful acts, loving-kindness, and grace throughout the past year. The guest preacher delivered a spiritually uplifting message that resonated with the chosen Anniversary theme.

Following the service, a reception offered a warm and convivial atmosphere for members and

guests to mingle and enjoy one another's company. During this time, fundraising efforts were launched to establish a Reading Room equipped with reading facilities and internet access. This initiative directly contributes to the Chapel's project on youth growth and development.

The initial target is to attract more students from the College of Medicine at the University of Lagos (CMUL), located across the road, to join the Chapel's community.

Moreover, to commemorate the

Anniversary, the Fellowship Group organized a Bible Quiz Competition with prizes for Sunday School children and sponsored their annual Sunday School Mission.

Additionally, a business seminar and exhibition were organized to support young people interested in entrepreneurship. The event also included a visit to the Cheshire Home in Mushin, where volunteers interacted with residents with disabilities and presented token gifts.



## BEACH PICNIC





# CODISA OUTREACH

Almost four decades of providing hope and support to people with disabilities

For nearly four decades, the Committee on Disabilities (CODISA) has been a beacon of hope and support, illuminating the path for people with disabilities in Lagos State. But today, with the chapel's resounding approval, CODISA is poised to spread its wings and take flight as a fully-fledged NGO, ready to soar to new heights of service and impact.

CODISA's legacy is etched in the hearts and smiles of countless individuals we serve. As is the usual practice, we held the tripartite anniversary celebration- the annual workshop, Ability Day event, and the anniversary.

### CODISA WORKSHOP

The 10th Annual CODISA workshop took place on Saturday, September 30th with the central theme "Understanding Dyslexia and ADHD: Symptoms, Diagnosis and Management".

The event featured experts in this field such as Dr Adrienne Tikolo, MD Dyslexia Nigeria as the keynote speaker, Mr. Francis Akinwunmi, Licensed Clinical Psychologist & Assistant Director of Psychological Services, Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital Yaba & Oshodi, Lagos,

Mrs. Oyinkan Afolabi, a renowned Educator, Trainer and inclusion Advocate, Pastor Ladi Soyombo, Founder of the Youth Empowerment Platform, Cross Point Innovate, Olusile Omotola, Program Officer at One World Africa a person with dyslexia who shared her personal experiences growing up.

Physical attendance was substantial with over 120 participants from Lagos State Schools, Private Educational Institutions, Churches, and Care Centres while over 100 participants across the world joined online.

### CODISA ABILITY DAY

The Ability Day took place on the 14th of October 2023 at the Fountain School, Surulere.

The day featured various activities and a variety of games such as table tennis, musical chairs, talent hunt competitions as well as Bible quiz moderated by the Chairperson of the day, Mrs. Amaka Ilogu. Indeed, it was ability in disability on display. The highlight of the events was the football match for the blind between Vocational Training Centre for the Blind Oshodi and Bethesda Home for the Blind. We are eagerly looking forward to next year's event and the opportunity to continue promoting

inclusive fun activities for these remarkable people.

### CODISA THANKSGIVING SERVICE/RECEPTION

The preacher at the Anniversary Thanksgiving Service is the Immediate Past CRM, and now the Bishop of Okun Diocese, Kogi State Rt. Rev. Albert Olorunmade while Mr Olu Kayode Ariyo, GMD Accelerex Group was the Chairman of the Anniversary Reception.

### MARKET FOR THE NEEDY

The Market for The Needy is one of several initiatives of CODISA, and it is a place where people in need can purchase items (Used and sometimes new) such as clothing, shoes, bags, household items, etc at significantly reduced prices. The market is held 4 times a year and is strategically targeted to be held during festive periods.

The monies realized from the market are in turn used to support individuals with disabilities and surplus items not sold during the market are given and distributed to prisons and village outreach programs within and outside Lagos. The market would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Chapel members who generously provided these items.

# Elders' Leisure Club

Old age doesn't have to mark the end of fun! While our abilities shift with time, our need for enjoyment and connection doesn't fade. Even if bouncing a football or dancing all night feels out of reach, that doesn't mean we have to sacrifice recreation altogether.

The Chapel's Elder's Leisure Club offers a fantastic way to stay active, social, and engaged – even more so than its current twice-monthly schedule. Members can attest to the numerous benefits:

- **Enhanced well-being:** Physical activity keeps our bodies moving and spirits lifted.
- **Greater independence:** Staying active reinforces our ability to care for ourselves.
- **Improved quality of life:** These gatherings foster a sense of purpose and belonging, boosting overall well-being
- **Sharpened minds:** Engaging activities keep our cognitive functions stimulated.
- **Thriving social life:** Connecting with others combats loneliness and fosters joy.

To expand these opportunities, we need your help! Volunteers and additional funding (averaging N80,000 per meeting) are crucial to fuel the Club's activities. These gatherings create lasting memories of laughter, friendship, and renewed vigor.

So, if you're 60 or older, I urge you to join us! Let's embrace the joys of leisure and defy the expectations of what aging can entail. Together, we can fill our golden years with vibrant engagement and shared experiences.



CROSS SECTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE ELDERS' FORUM



# "justified By Faith, Perfected By Hope"

Romans  
5:1-11



## 35th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF HOPE AND ANCHOR

SUNDAY May 14, 2023.

The anniversary celebration, a joyful homecoming, brought founding members together for a weekend of festivities. Starting on Saturday, May 6th, 2023, pre-anniversary activities kicked off with "Entertainment Day," offering movies and fun activities for all ages. Throughout the weekend, we also held enriching events like the Corporate Bible Study, the Growth in Spirituality Service (GISP), and the Come Let Us Pray Together (CLUPT) gathering.

The highlight of the celebration was the Thanksgiving service, where Ven. Femi Fashina delivered a powerful sermon titled "Justified by Faith, Perfected by Hope; Rom. 5:1-11." He urged the church to embrace the reality of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our sins and live with joyful confidence in our justification. The service was followed by a reception graciously chaired by Mrs. Funke Johnson.

During the reception, the group successfully raised funds to purchase and install a 10KVA UPS for the main Chapel, fulfilling the project goal for the year. It was also a time to honor founding members and other milestone celebrants for their unwavering dedication and steadfastness to the fellowship group.



# THE CHAPEL AT 60

The Chapel's 60th Anniversary unfolded across a joyous week from January 7th to 15th, 2023, culminating in a heartwarming Thanksgiving service. The festivities kicked off with a vibrant Sports/Family Fun Day at the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH) Staff School field. The event drew an impressive crowd of children, adults, and clergy who reveled in a day filled with games, dancing, exciting children's rides, and even a captivating novelty football match. Next, the focus shifted to service and outreach. On January 13th, to commemorate the Chapel's 60th milestone, our new CRM, Ven. Olusegun Onafeso, spearheaded the renovation of the salon and toilets at the Girls Correctional Center in Idi-Araba. This impactful project extended a helping hand to those in need.

Continuing the theme of service, the Chapel collaborated with the Evangelism Committee and the Total Wholeness Clinic on January 14th to host a Medical Outreach within the Chapel premises. Livewell Initiative, an organization led by Mrs. Debisi Bright, generously provided medical staff, drugs, and other resources. The outreach offered free medical services to members of the Idi-Araba community in celebration of the Chapel's anniversary. It proved to be a resounding success, with a total of 99 individuals receiving medical counsel and care from the dedicated Evangelism team.

The Thanksgiving Service, held at 10:00 am on January 15th, 2023, resonated with a spirit of gratitude and reflection. Gracing the occasion as guest preacher was the esteemed Rt. Rev. Akinpelu Johnson, whose personal ties to the Chapel added a poignant touch to the ceremony.

Sixteen awards were bestowed upon deserving members, both living and departed, in recognition of their exceptional



contributions. These included four past Chief Resident Ministers and twelve past Sunday School Supervisors, whose dedication has shaped the Chapel's legacy.

Rev. Johnson's sermon masterfully navigated the Chapel's history, taking the congregation on a nostalgic journey down memory lane. His evocative words resonated deeply, reminding us of God's enduring presence and the unwavering faith that has sustained the Chapel through the years.

With hearts brimming with thankfulness, we declare that our praises to God the Father will never cease. We are forever grateful for His blessings and will continue to celebrate His glory and grace. A special note of appreciation goes to the organizing committee, ably led by Mr. Ladi Sole, whose tireless efforts contributed to the resounding success of this momentous occasion.

# A STEP OF FAITH

## ANGLICAN CONFIRMATION 2023

**D**ressed in a radiant sea of white, the Confirmands marched into the Chapel, as they prepared for the service that would usher them into full membership within the Church community. This year, the ceremony received an insightful touch from the confirming Bishop, Rt. Rev. B.C. Akinpelu Johnson.

His Lordship began by engaging the Confirmands in a thought-provoking dialogue, testing their understanding of the momentous step they were about to take. Questions like "Have you been baptized?" and "What do you understand by confirmation?" echoed through the auditorium, serving as a gentle reminder for everyone present of the significance of this ritual.

The Bishop explained that infant baptism enlists us as soldiers of Christ, a commitment pledged by our parents and Godparents. He emphasized that through confirmation, the individuals now actively embrace these vows and promises, confirming their faith and rejecting the path of doubt. This marks a crucial milestone in their spiritual journey, officially welcoming them as full members of the Church.

Further elucidating the symbolic hand-laying ceremony, the Bishop described it as an act that empowers the Holy Spirit already present within each Confirmand. This strengthens their resolve and equips them for the lifelong adventure of faith.

He then enumerated the profound gifts bestowed by Confirmation, emphasizing how it:

- Unites us more firmly with Christ.
- Enhances the gifts of the Holy Spirit within us.
- Deepens our connection to the Church community.
- Empowers us with the Holy Spirit's strength.
- Roots us firmly in the divine lineage, allowing us to cry "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)
- Emboldens us to spread and defend our faith through word and action, becoming true Soldiers of Christ
- Enables us to embrace the Cross without shame, recognizing its sacred significance.

The highpoint of the ceremony for the Confirmands arrived during Holy Communion, where they received their first communion – the bread and wine representing the body and blood of Christ. This symbolic act marked their official entry into the full sacramental life of the Church.



# “Being Justified Freely By His Grace” Romans 3 :24

ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF  
GRACE & OBEDIENCE

SUNDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 2023



The Fellowship of Grace and Obedience anniversary theme was : "Being Justified Freely by His Grace." Echoing Romans 3:24, and inviting congregants to contemplate the extraordinary gift of God's unmerited favor. Rev. Arc. Dr. Ajibade Adeyemo, our very own former Resident Minister and former Chaplain unpacked the paradox of receiving an unearned gift and challenged us to translate the abundance of grace into acts of love and service.

The air vibrated with the anniversary hymn "Grace Greater Than Our Sin," reminding us that God's boundless grace transcends the limitations of our human failings. This powerful message resonated further in the group's mission for the year -an outreach to the Bales of Mercy Orphanage Home in Bariga.



"Being Justified Freely by His Grace" served as more than a celebration; it was a call to action, a reminder of the transformative power of grace and the responsibility it instills.

## The Just Shall Live By Faith

ROMANS 1 VS 17.

### ANNIVERSARY OF FELLOWSHIP OF FAITH & THE GOOD SHEPHERD

This year's celebration held a deep significance, marking not only the 32nd anniversary of the Fellowship Group but also serving as a vital fundraising initiative for the Chapel's ongoing projects. The theme, "The Just Shall Live by Faith," drew inspiration from Romans 1:17, echoing a message of unwavering commitment and trust in God's guidance.

The celebration extended a warm invitation to former members offering an opportunity to reconnect and reignite their engagement with the Chapel. Beyond existing members, the anniversary aimed to welcome new faces into the Chapel's welcoming fold, expanding the community and sharing its blessings with wider circles.

Venerable Arc. Tunde Osho honored the occasion as the Anniversary Guest Preacher. His insightful sermon and presence undoubtedly enriched the celebration.



# Justification Brings Joy In Suffering

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF JOY

SUNDAY 16TH JULY 2023  
ANNIVERSARY PREACHER - REV. VEN. TONY AJERO



## The Cross- Our Complete Justification

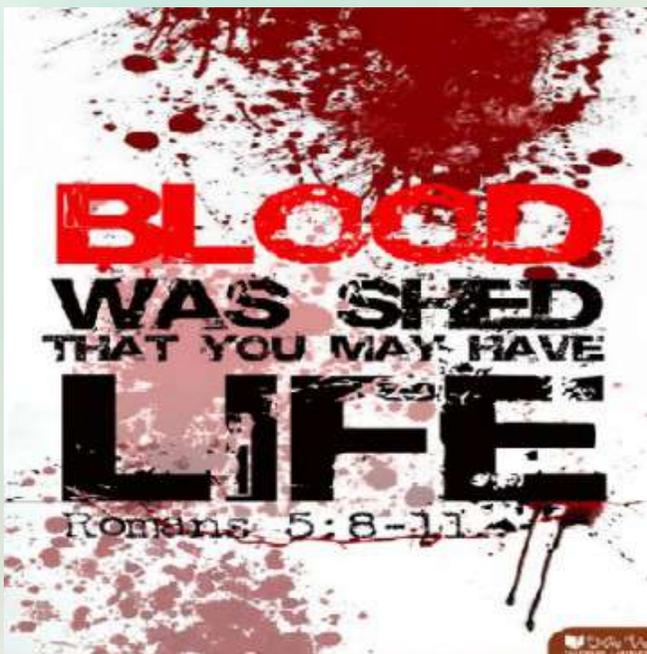
FELLOWSHIP OF  
CROSS ANNIVERSARY  
Sunday, September 17th

Theme- "The Cross- Our Complete Justification," based on Romans 8:28.

Guest Preacher- **Pastor Afolabi Samuel Coker** of the King's Chamber Ilupeju

The Anniversary was a time of rejoicing and thanksgiving and was targeted at raising funds for our Food Kitchen initiative. Funds were raised to establish a Food Bank in the Chapel so that rather than giving out raw food items quarterly, food items are readily available for those in need.





Justified by grace,  
through faith alone  
mercy came down  
from heaven's throne.

No longer a stranger,  
separated no more  
once Jesus opened  
to all salvation's door.

Instead of dread,  
now there is peace  
transforming love  
never to cease.

Sin and temptation,  
judgment and wrath  
now hope and joy  
on the faithful path.

Justified by grace,  
through faith alone  
Jesus the only reason . . .  
ours sins are atoned!

### Romans 5:9

" Much more then,  
being now justified by his blood,  
we shall be saved  
from wrath through him."

*King James Version  
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Deborah Ann Belka*

### PEOPLE OF THE BIBLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Across**

3. Went to Heaven in chariots of fire.
5. Abraham's wife.
6. Jesus' closest friends: Peter, James, and \_\_\_\_\_
7. Was blinded by a light for three days.
9. Tricked his father with goat hair.
10. The promised son of Abraham.
11. Killed a giant with a stone.

**Down**

1. Walked on water with Jesus.
2. Married Boaz.
4. His brothers put him in a well.
6. King Saul's son.
8. Third person in the Trinity.

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### FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH: JUSTIFICATION

Discover the hidden words.

F	E	A	N	L	C	S	L	V	Z	D	S	J	Z	V
O	C	B	Y	N	U	H	L	K	T	U	Z	R	I	
R	T	E	Z	U	F	P	C	O	N	S	F	M	H	W
G	F	L	I	H	P	F	F	E	T	L	B	I	J	P
I	Z	I	R	K	K	S	M	I	G	O	D	Z	R	G
V	S	E	I	E	U	D	F	S	P	A	R	B	N	L
E	K	V	L	S	N	I	S	H	I	O	D	L	A	D
N	Z	E	E	A	C	J	E	R	I	N	T	O	L	F
E	F	J	M	A	K	M	O	V	O	H	A	O	J	N
S	V	M	T	U	A	I	A	D	L	C	X	D	B	F
S	O	I	I	S	M	S	N	F	A	I	T	H	R	W
C	O	U	P	K	R	R	E	G	G	U	I	L	T	V
N	F	E	T	K	K	E	E	E	D	L	E	A	J	T
U	X	P	R	R	P	W	Z	J	X	O	B	I	R	Z
B	E	E	S	K	S	V	L	J	K	N	M	A	W	J

**Word Bank**

FAITH	GOD	JESUS
SIN	KINGDOM	SAVIOR
BELIEVE	BLOOD	FORGIVENESS
GUILTY	JUSTIFICATION	COMMANDMENTS

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# MOTHERS' DAY

19th March  
2023

The chapel glowed with vibrant hues of blue and white, mirroring the festive spirit of Mothering Sunday. Women of all ages and backgrounds were adorned in their finest attire as they filled the pews to celebrate their special day.



From leading the service to delivering the sermon, women took center stage, conducting proceedings with graceful precision during both during the 8 am and 10 am services.

Mrs. Ebum Ayodele assumed the reins as Leader of the Service, while Mrs. Onafeso graced the gathering with her address. Taking "Rahab: A Case Study of Justification" as her theme, she delved into the biblical figure's captivating story and explored the core pillars of justification through the lens of faith and works.

the gathering with her address. Taking "Rahab: A Case Study of Justification" as her theme, she delved into the biblical figure's captivating story and explored the core pillars of justification through the lens of faith and works.

Rahab, the renowned prostitute who risked her life to protect Israelite spies from the clutches of Jericho's king, presented a complex case. Can we truly say she was justified by her actions alone? Is justification solely earned through deeds? The answer, Mrs. Onafeso elucidated, is a nuanced "yes and no." While Rahab's bravery and bold confession of faith in the one true God were undeniable, her justification went beyond a single act. Her concern for family, willingness to obey instructions, and ultimate decision to embrace a new faith were all backed by faith and action.

She chose to leave behind her pagan past and embrace the God of Israel. As the Apostle Paul declares in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" Rahab's faith and works combined, transforming death into life and ultimately leading to her justification.

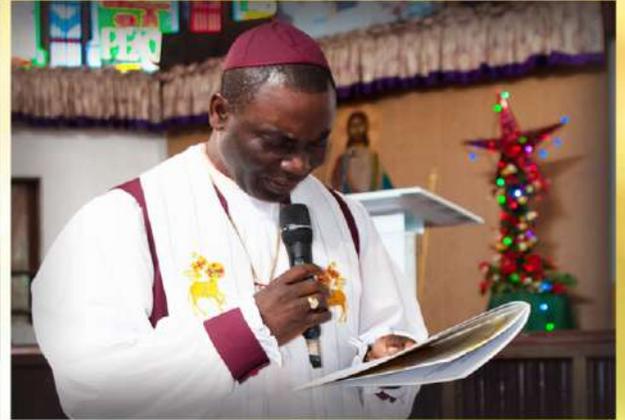
Concluding her address, Mrs. Onafeso emphasized Rahab's multifaceted character: a woman of faith, courage, and wisdom. Not only is she revered as a heroine today, but she was also welcomed into the Hebrew family despite her gentile heritage.

The sermon culminated in a powerful prayer for those still burdened by sin, seeking their own transformation from unrighteousness to a state of grace in Christ Jesus. As the final words resonated, one by one, women danced towards the altar, voices raised in thanksgiving, joined by family, friends, and well-wishers, they celebrated the resounding success of another Mothering Sunday.

# Change of Baton in Leadership

## HANDOVER CEREMONY

“, Rt. Rev. Albert Olorunmola Olorunmade, before the congregation of the Chapel of the Healing Cross Idi Araba here present, hereby formally hand over the instrument of the Chief Resident Minister of the Chapel to you Ven. Samuel O. Onafeso...”



And in those solemn words, one era was concluded and a new dawn in the Leadership of the Chapel was born.

January 1, 2023 was celebration galore as it hosted both the New Year Thanksgiving Service for the gift and preservation of life, as well as the Handover Ceremony to a new Chief Resident Minister.

The celebrations were unique considering the elevation of the

erstwhile CRM to a new episcopal position as the Bishop of Okun Diocese, Kogi State. As a result, a new CRM had to step in.

On hand for the ceremony was the Chapel Legal Adviser, Barr. Azubuike Okaro, who conducted the formal handover in accordance with sections 10.3, 10.4 and 10.5 of the 2005 Constitution of the Chapel. After the formal declarations, the handover instrument was endorsed by the

outgoing and incoming CRMs, with the Deputy Chairman of the Chapel Council, Dr. Mrs Olayinka Sobamowo countersigning as witness, while the entire congregation joined in praise and thanksgiving to God for the privilege to be part of the momentous occasion.

Thereafter, Bishop Olorunmade prayed for the new CRM, beseeching God to guide him to success in the new responsibility.



# SEND FORTH CEREMONY

## APPRECIATING OUR PRIESTS AND BIDDING THEM FAREWELL

On the 8th of July 2023, The Chapel held a Send Forth Reception for two of her Resident Ministers, who were transferred within the year. **The Ven. Josiah Onyechefulechukwu Eziaghighala** and **The Rev. Adeyemo Ajibade** who had served meritoriously at the chapel. These ministers inspired the weak and encouraged the broken hearted. Their combined effort enhanced peace, love, and progress as well as the spiritual growth of the Chapel.

In her vote of thanks at the occasion, the Chairman of the Programs Organizing Committee, **Dr. Mrs Yinka Sobamowo** thanked the church for their support to the Ministers physically, financially, and spiritually during the period. She also thanked the Chapel Council, and other guests who attended the event. On behalf of the congregation, she expressed appreciation to God for sparing our lives to witness the celebration and farewell ceremonies for our beloved ministers. As she explained "Though painful to our hearts, our consolation is in the fact that the transfer of the ministers are for the good of the ministry, and the propagation of the gospel of Christ".



## CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S HARVEST

# SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY

It was a great joy witnessing yet another Sunday School Harvest in good health and all our children were excited. This year's event came up on the 24th of September and the theme was "Children, God desires that we should be just" (Micah 6:8). Our guest preacher, Revd. (Prof) Femi Odebisi from St. Mark's Anglican Church Lawanson, Lagos gave an awesome teaching on the theme. He carried the children along so well that he even gave gifts to those that responded to his questions. Our parents were also not left out as they were also well addressed. We strongly believed that the message landed on fertile hearts and souls were harvested to the kingdom of God.

There were presentations from the choir, junior ages, teenagers and our inclusive children also gave a chorography. After the altar call thanksgiving, all the Sunday School children departed to the Sunday School Hall for the reception where we had plenty of drinks and food to share.

We thank God for the success of the anniversary and we pray that the Lord will keep us all till next year and beyond in Jesus name.

The 56th Sunday School Anniversary came up on the 25th of June, 2023 with the theme "The just shall live by faith – Romans 1:17". It was a combined family worship with all our children in their elegant outfits.

Our guest preacher, Revd. Olufemi Alexander from the Methodist Church Nigeria, Ago Ijaiye, Ebute Metta, explained to the children how they can be justified by faith.

The children participated in the prayer sessions, Bible reading, choir and drama presentations. We all danced to the altar for thanksgiving and later to the Sunday School Hall for the reception. We are grateful to God for the beautiful



## JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

Justification can be received only through faith because it is by faith that we receive righteousness according to "Philippians 3:9".

In Genesis 15:6, Abraham believed in the Lord and he counted it to him as righteousness. Also, the devil sought to condemn Job before God and in the end Job was justified by God as he lived a righteous life; according to - Job 32:2, Job 42:1-6.

The act of divine grace is brought by faith in the merits of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ - Romans 5:1. Faith alone unites us with Christ and he alone is the basis for our justification before God. Being justified by Christ is the realest love of all.

We are justified by faith and not by works. -Galatians 2:16 - 21 "Many Christians believe that the works they do for God make them justified and guaranteed for eternal life. I tell you that no matter what you do for God, if you do not believe in the crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and do not accept him as your Lord and Saviour, you won't be JUSTIFIED".

An unjustified person is separated from God and therefore spiritually dead, while the justified is made alive

through the saving works of God. The fact that we have been justified through faith in Christ Jesus doesn't give us the freewill to commit sin, in particular, GRAVE SIN. We should try our best to still live the life Christ has shown us and be holy even if we already know we have been justified ( Philippians 4:8, Romans 12:2, Romans 8:29-30 ).

May God give us the grace to be conformed to the image of christ .Amen!

Faith Brown

## SHORT QUOTES

-  Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservation.
-  Faith is the invitation to water the seed of courage found deep within your heart.
-  Faith does not eliminate questions, but knows where to take them.
-  Faith is believing BEFORE what will make sense AFTER.
-  Trust wholly in Christ; rely altogether on his sufferings; beware of seeking to be justified on any other way than by his righteousness.

# A Primer on Artificial Intelligence

Oluwasanya Awe [oluwasanya.awe@gmail.com](mailto:oluwasanya.awe@gmail.com)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) powers the modern world. Search engines use natural language processing to understand search queries and return relevant results. Farmers identify diseased crops using computer vision. Security systems use image recognition to identify intruders in an area. Consumer software like ChatGPT and Midjourney have brought AI much closer to the general public. Now, anyone can generate high quality art with a few clicks. Furthermore, significant breakthroughs in AI research over the last decade have accelerated

machines' ability to perform many complex tasks like text generation (ChatGPT, Bard), image generation (Midjourney, Ideogram), voice generation (ElevenLabs), self driving (Tesla, Waymo), game playing (AlphaZero, Stockfish), and content recommendation (TikTok, Google, Instagram). As these technologies improve, AI-based systems will handle human tasks more efficiently and change the way we work. We should cautiously embrace AI and prepare ourselves for the changes that it will bring.

Machine Learning (ML) is the most popular branch of AI today. Models like ChatGPT are built using ML, where engineers train a model to solve a specific problem by providing it with many examples (usually pairs of inputs and outputs). During training, the model learns patterns between these inputs and outputs so that it can eventually predict a sensible output for any input. When training ChatGPT, an example could be:

Input: Our help is in the name of the LORD, Output: who made heaven and earth.

ChatGPT would then be trained on billions of sentences over several days. If the model is trained on a large enough dataset, it will get very good at completing a broad range of input sentences even for examples it hasn't encountered before. This is the pre-training step. To further improve ChatGPT's responses, human reviewers rate the model's responses and the model is trained on the human feedback to give more relevant responses. This is the fine tuning step. Although there are additional features such as grounding—improving the model's factual correctness—ChatGPT is trained by pre-training on massive amounts of text and fine tuning using human feedback.

Such powerful models have exposed the world to the opportunities that exist in human-machine collaborations. AI models will serve as personal assistants that learn individual preferences and perform tasks like scheduling a doctor's appointment, preparing a

presentation, and analysing a financial report. Artists will use text generation models to brainstorm and co-write songs. Educators will use speech translation and video generation models to translate their content to hundreds of languages. Students will use AI models as study partners that can explain concepts at their learning level. In healthcare, AI models will assist doctors in note taking and diagnosis. In agriculture, models will not just identify diseased crops but also predict expected crop yield much earlier. The models to support this human-machine relationship exist and will become ubiquitous as the cost of deploying these models becomes more affordable. While AI offers many introduces significant ethical problems. The most pertinent problems are around deep fakes, bias, and job displacements. As image generation models improve at creating realistic images, it will be harder to distinguish the real from fake. Expect an increase in altered but convincing images and videos shared on social media. As Christians, we must be discerning. Proverbs 4:15 states, "The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps" (ESV). Do not readily believe anything you see online and diligently seek out the truth especially before sharing content. Another challenge with AI is bias.

Since ML models behave based on the input they are trained on, they will reflect biases present in the data. For example, a model trained on examples that implicitly suggests all doctors are male will usually refer to doctors as male in its responses. In 2015, a company came under fire when its AI model wrongly labelled African-Americans as gorillas. This was likely because the datasets used in training did not have a good enough size of dark-skinned people to perform well in recognizing them. Nowadays, there are "ML fairness" that seek to limit such biases in ML models. Finally, as AI gets better at human tasks, some jobs will become obsolete. This is a difficult but inevitable change. Yet, AI will also introduce new opportunities. One way to prepare is to investigate ways AI is being used in industry and upskill oneself to be competent in using AI to be more productive. There is a temptation to fear but we should remind ourselves that it is Christ who holds all things together (Colossians 1:17), not technology. To extend Proverbs 16:33, every decision of every AI model is under God's authority. In conclusion, understanding how AI works allows us to make measured decisions about AI. As Christians, we should not be carried away by the hype; neither should we be cynical towards its potential. It is one more gift of technology that God has given us as we fulfil His original commission to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it" (Genesis 1:28 ESV). AI may change our world but it does not change God's purpose for us. Whatever we do, with or without AI, let us do all to the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

# MY EXPERIENCE AT THE 2023 SUNDAY SCHOOL CAMP

My name is Ifeoluwa Ogunnusi and I want to share my experience at the 2023 Sunday School Camp with you! This year's camp was held at the Canon James Pearce Anglican College in Iwaya, and it was a fantastic 8-day adventure from the evening of August 13th to the morning of August 20th, 2023. The theme was "JUSTIFIED."

## CAMP KICKOFF

On the very first day, they grouped us, and I found myself in the "REDEEMERS" group. We were handed a cool camp bag that had a camp brochure, some writing materials, and an awesome T-shirt with "JUSTIFIED" written on it.

## HYGIENE AND THE ARMS OF JUSTIFICATION

On the 3rd day, our Sunday School Supervisor (SSS), Auntie Felicia, gave us some tips on good personal hygiene. Then, on the 4th day, our CRM, Ven. Onafeso came over to chat with us about the "3 arms of Justification."

## ARTS AND CRAFTS AND MORE VOLLEYBALL

On the 6th day, we had a blast with arts and crafts. We crafted bags, photo frames, and even purses using paper and glue. Later, I went back to my beloved volleyball in the evening and played until I was exhausted.

## HOMeward BOUND

Finally, on the 8th day, it was time to head back home. We were given food packs for breakfast so we could get to the Chapel early. Some children ate their breakfast while on the bus.

I made some amazing new friends at camp, discovered my love for volleyball, enjoyed the movies and Bible studies, and had fun all through. A big shoutout to the SSS, our camp coordinator, and everyone who put this camp together. It was unforgettable, and I'll cherish these memories for a long, long time. Camp was a blast!

## SPORTS TIME & MOVIE NIGHT

We had a blast in the evenings with sports time. I tried my hand at basketball, although my dribbling skills needed some work, but I was quite good at shooting the ball. I eventually joined the volleyball team and I rocked at that! After our sports adventures, we had a movie night with popcorn. I was so tired that I couldn't keep my eyes open for both films. But the first one was about a teenage boy who brought his mom and dad back together through prayers and some wise advice. It was heartwarming.

## TALENT HUNT, FASHION PARADE, AND PRAISE NITE

Day 7 was packed with fun activities. We started with a talent hunt and a fashion parade. Rev Oganwo joined us, and we had a blast. The theme for the fashion parade was "OLD SCHOOL," and it was epic. Some people dressed up as the village headmaster, others as village chiefs, and some went for the fashion of thirty years ago. Later that night, we had a Praise Nite where we all dressed in white T-shirts, sang praises to God and danced our hearts out, just like David did. We praised God until we could dance no more!

## BIBLE STUDIES GALORE

From Monday to Friday, we had different and super interesting Bible studies. We discussed topics like "Justified," "Discharged and Acquitted," "The Real," and "Sanctified." Through it all, I learned that we should give our lives to Christ to be saved from our sins. After that, it's all about doing God's will so we be with Him in heaven someday.

## NATURE DAY

The 5th day was absolutely amazing because we got to visit the Lekki Conservation Center! I was over the moon seeing the stunning peacocks and other creatures, including monkeys.

## MY CAMP EXPERIENCE:

Where do I even begin to describe my camp experience? One of the highlights of camp was the incredible people I met. I made new friends and realized that despite our different characters and backgrounds, we were all in this together.

Now, here's a memory that stands out the most: the Impartation Service. It was an extraordinary experience where we felt the mighty presence of God in a mind-blowing way. Chains were broken, and many were delivered. The praise and worship session during this service was a blast. We were charged with spiritual energy and experienced God on a whole new level.

Let me tell you about the film show - oh my God, it was mind-blowing! The movie we watched, "NO BIG DEAL," made us realize our power and authority as believers. It reminded us of Luke 10:19, which says, "Behold I give unto you the power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." We also reflected on 2 Timothy 1:17, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

The movie made us realize that if we could build ourselves in the secret place, that is, by praying and fasting and also meditating on the word of God according to Joshua 1:8, it will be much more easy to be great and powerful vessels of God.

The spiritual aspect of camp was truly remarkable. It was a source of inspiration, knowledge, and a place where love abounded.

Believe me, there are many more stories to tell .but for now, let's wrap it up here.



# FATHERS' DAY 2023

## - A SPECIAL MILESTONE

GUEST PREACHER  
Ven. Ebenezer T.T. Green



Sunday, June 18, 2023, will linger in the memory of the entire congregation, as a special milestone in the annals of the Chapel of the Healing Cross.

It was the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Fellowship of Love, however, this year, it was integrated with an exceptional edition of Father's Day, to celebrate, recognize and honour all Father's in the Chapel and by extension all fathers in the world.

Historically, Father's Day is a special day, set aside to honour one's father, or significant father figure and most importantly, the importance of father's in the society. In church history, Father's Day was appointed as a day to commemorate the forefathers of our Lord Jesus – starting with the progenitor Adam, and the Patriarch Abraham as a result of God's pronouncement, "In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" – Gen 12:3, 22:18. In some traditions, Father's Day is earmarked to honour St. Joseph the father of our Lord.

The Guest Preacher was none other than our own Venerable Ebenezer T.T. Green, former Resident Minister of the Chapel, now Vicar, Church of Transfiguration, Itire, Lagos, and his ministration was anchored on the theme "Justification that Flows from God's Love".

Before launching into his homily, he took time out to give 3 special HAPPY FATHER'S DAY shoutouts to all the fathers in the house. Then he enjoined the congregation to

"  
**In thy seed  
shall all  
the nations  
of the earth  
be blessed**  
"

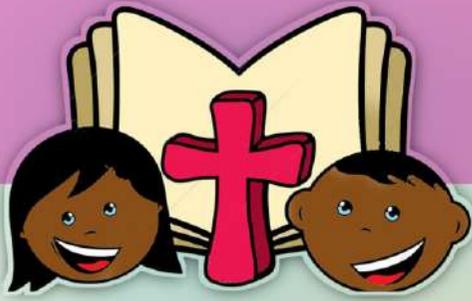
**Gen 12:3, 22:18**

turn around and wish every father, present in the Chapel, a Happy Father's Day! And to crown it all he dedicated this special prayer for all Fathers – "Our Fathers, the Lord will keep you in honour and glory. The Lord will make you worthy fathers for your family, perfect covering for your wives, for your homes and all that God has given you. And God will not cause you to be ashamed. God will provide all you need to be a true father, like unto our father, who is in heaven". And in one accord, the entire congregation chorused a resounding - AMEN!!

The preacher espoused the significance of Father's Day as an extension of the unmatched love of our Heavenly Father. Who though we had severed through disobedience, the loving relationship He had established with mankind in the beginning, had again reached out to justify us through the abundant love that flows eternally through Him. "But God shows His Love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us". Rom. 5:8.

And then to turn up the celebration, the Sunday School Children came into the main chapel auditorium to render a special presentation in honour of fathers after which they went from pew to pew, greeting, blessing and distributing gifts to the fathers, many of whom were overcome with joyful emotions.

At the zenith of the activities, the entire congregation joined the fathers for a special thanksgiving altar call and prayers, during which the CRM gave a special mandate to the fathers to constitute A MEN'S FORUM for networking and sharing business ideas, organizing seminars & workshops on family life and initiating a special mentorship programme entitled "FROM MENT TO BOYS".



# SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

## A JOURNEY OF MY LIFE

### IN THE CHAPEL OF T HE HEALING CROSS

**IFEZUE PRAISE AMARACHI**  
**AGE :17 (SEVENTEEN)**

As I reflect on my life's journey within the warm embrace of Chapel of the Healing Cross, one aspect that remains etched in my heart is the Children's Prayer. This extraordinary church has been a constant presence in my life since infancy, providing a repository of cherished memories. While both good and challenging moments have graced my path, the abundance of blessings far outweighs any difficulties.

As I stand on the threshold of my teenage years, I can't help but marvel at the enduring value of the memory verses and songs I imbibed during my formative years in this loving community. These spiritual treasures continue to guide and sustain me, a testament to the lasting impact of my time at CHC. Chapel of the Healing Cross has always been a beacon of warmth and acceptance. Every encounter, every service, and every opportunity is a gentle nudge toward a closer relationship with Christ. My spiritual, mental, and even physical growth owe much to the nurturing environment fostered by this church. The numerous camps and missions we embark on have contributed significantly to the tapestry of my life, adding exciting layers to my spiritual journey.

In the boundless expanse of Chapel of the Healing Cross, I find my purpose, a refuge, and an inspiration. This is not just a church; it's a home where hearts are healed, faith is strengthened, and hope is renewed. As we journey forward, hand in hand, I am filled with anticipation, for I know that the best is yet to come in this extraordinary place of worship and fellowship.

## FOUR REASONS WHY EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD PRAY IN TONGUES

**SOMTO CHINEMELU**  
**AGE: 18**

The Apostle Paul wrote and spoke at length on the subject of speaking in tongues. He apparently practiced what he preached, because he said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all"(1 Cor. 14:18).

I, too, thank God I speak in tongues regularly, and I wish every believer might know this blessing and source of power in his daily life.

The purpose of this article is to set forth major reasons why every Christians should speak in tongues, and to help Christians see the blessings that can be theirs through appropriating the power of the Holy Spirit daily.

### **REASON 1-TONGUES THE INITIAL SIGN.**

The word of God teaches that when we are filled with the holy spirit we speak with other tongues as the spirit of God gives utterance. Tongues is an initial evidence or sign of the baptism of the holy spirit. Therefore, the first reason people should speak with other tongues is because this is supernatural evidence of the spirit's indwelling.

### **REASON 2-TONGUES FOR SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION**

In Corinthians 14:4 says he that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself...

In writing to the church at Corinth, Paul encouraged believers to continue their practice of speaking with other tongues in worship and in their prayer lives for spiritual EDIFICATION.

We must not forget that speaking with other tongues is not only the initial evidence of the holy spirit infilling, it also is a continual experience for the rest of one's life. For what purpose? To assist us in worship of God. Speaking in tongues is a flowing stream that should never dry up; it will enrich your life spiritually.

### **REASON 3 -PRAYING IN TONGUES KEEPS US FREE FROM WORLDLY CONTAMINATION.**

The third reason every Christians should speak in tongues is because it is one way of keeping us free from contamination from ungodly, profane, and Bulger talk around us

### **REASON 4- PRAYING IN TONGUES ENABLES US TO PRAY FOR THE UNKNOWN.**

The fourth reason every believer should speak in tongues is because it provides a way to pray about, things no one thinks to pray about, or is even aware of. We already know that the holy spirit helps us to pray because "...we know not what we should pray for as we ought..."(Rom. 8:26). In addition the holy spirit who knows everything, can pray through us for things about which our natural mind knows nothing.

Praying in the spirit provides a way for things to be prayed for that we wouldn't know anything about in the natural. The holy spirit, however, knows everything.

# YOUTH SERVICE ACTIVITIES

## BIBLE AND WORD CONFERENCE - 22ND AND 23RD OF APRIL 2023.

The purpose of the Conference was to understand and appreciate the process of growth God takes us through in terms of stature, fruitfulness, and maturity. Two Speakers, Reverend Kemdi Akobundu and Mrs. Simisola Ojediran successfully led the conference. On Day 1 Reverend Kemdi Akobundu taught that our lives must become a new wineskin that can contain what God wants to release in us. Are you a vessel that God can use? If yes, yield to him.



inspired by the Holy Spirit to touch lives by providing key insights on the theme; they are Mrs. Adenike Ibiroga, Very Revd. ThankGod Oganwo, & Ms. Nwanne Nwonwu. They covered topics like starting a business, the challenges to expect, and the best ways to go about making your passion into a business.

gritty of starting and running a business in Nigeria. He identified some business challenges which include; access to funding, poor handling of unprecedented losses, finding a conducive location for the business, and how to synergize with businesses that support yours.

Remedies to surmount these problems were proposed by him e.g., setting up online business to avoid paying rent.

He advised the youths as follows: invest in branding, register a unique business name, in certain circumstances be ready to intentionally take a loss and deliver



Mrs. Simisola Ojediran on Day 2 spoke on the everyday impact of the Spirit-Soul-Body interaction through real-life examples. God's purpose cannot be destroyed but it can be delayed depending on whether we listen to God's voice. By activating the Holy Spirit within us daily through praying and listening

It was a very practical and expository session with the speakers being frank about their journeys so far and their experiences on the ease of doing business in Nigeria. The highly responsive feedback and questions from budding entrepreneurs highlighted the success and

on quality, and manage your lifestyle so you don't eat the money which should be plowed back into the business. He concluded by reminding us that motivation should be internal and that our excellence will elevate us. Barr. Femi Onakoya, spoke on the legal and regulatory aspects of starting a business. He defined types of business formations such as companies, partnerships etc. and their distinctions. He went into the need



to God's voice for direction and guidance, we experience the refining.

importance of such an event and the topical nature of the theme covered.

to comply with sector specific regulations and to know which sector the business you want to start will fall into to avoid being on the wrong side of the law. He touched on the Nigerian Start Up Act 2022 which is beneficial for persons interested in setting up technology related businesses.

## MEN AND WOMEN'S ROUND TABLE - 19TH OF AUGUST, 2023

THEME: **KICKOFF - GETTING STARTED IN CAREER, BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.** This year's edition had 3 unique speakers that were selected and

## BUSINESS EMPLOYABILITY SEMINAR- 10TH OF SEPTEMBER, 2023

This seminar was organised by the Fellowship of Light with the following speakers: Mr. Laja, Mr. Osarenren & Barr. Femi Onakoya. Mr. Osarenren delved into the nitty

# Justification by faith flows from God's love

Romans 5:8

**43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF LOVE  
SUNDAY, 18TH JUNE 2023**

The 43rd anniversary thanksgiving service of the Fellowship of Love of the Chapel of the Healing Cross was held on Sunday, 18th June 2023 at 10.00am.

**The theme of the anniversary was : Justification by faith flows from God's love -- Romans 5:8**

The guest preacher was **Ven. Ebenezer T. T Green.**

The anniversary Chairperson was Lady Joyce Ayoola Jafajo.

Funds was raised at the reception to provide and install CCTV equipments for the Chapel as the anniversary project for the year 2023.



## A WHOLESOME EXPERIENCE LEARNING ABOUT GOD

**Chinaza UgoNwachukwu**  
**2023 Sunday School**  
**Camp Experience**

**W**aking up on Sunday, I was excited because this particular Sunday was the day we went for church camp, a Sunday to Sunday church retreat in which people from 8 years old and above got to have a wholesome experience learning about God while doing fun activities in the process.

I had been preparing for church camp for over 3 days before Sunday and because of this my

luggage box ended up being taller than my couch at home. When we got to church, we took our luggage (our meaning I, my younger sister and my little cousin) to the traditional luggage dumping area which was under the stairs at the Sam. Ade Olaitan hall, then we went for our usual church classes. When I got to my class, I noticed that there was an unusually large amount of people in class already and I was early by about two minutes. I deduced that this was because of camp and by the time service was over, there were about 80 people crammed into our small class. At this point I thought that if so many people came to church because of church camp, the church should hold more camps so that attendance in church would increase. After service all the people who were going for camp were told to go to the Sunday school hall to have lunch, then

REV. Thankgod Oganwo prayed for us and after we boarded the buses to go to the camp site which was at the Canon James Pearse Anglican college Iwaya.

When we got to our camp site, we were divided into may I say competition groups. There were six groups in total which were; Saviours as group 1, Icons as group 2, Messiahs as group 3, Redeemers as group 4, Mavericks as group 5 and legends as group 6. We were given a bag equipped with a camp manual, a pen, a small notebook and a file after that we had our dinner and a group was assigned to wash plates as other chores would be rotated as well, then we went to our hostels and in my opinion I really wanted them to switch the hostels because the boys hostel to me was finer than the girls hostel, anyway, we had our baths and went to sleep to be ready for the next day.



# WHAT GARMENT ARE YOU WEARING? CHAPEL MID YEAR CRUSADE



The Chapel Mid-Year Crusade is one of the major annual events in the Chapel. Chapel members, family and friends are able to renew and strengthen their relationship with God.

The program held in the Chapel auditorium from Wednesday, 28th to 30th June 2023 from 5.30pm daily. The mid-year crusade began with an awareness walk around Idi Araba and Surulere environs. A few stops were made at the hospital and prayers were made for patients. A Prayer Chain was also held online prior to the commencement of the Crusade by members of the Prayer team.



4/7

The guest minister was The Revd. Adekunle Mustapha, the Minister of Evangelism, Lagos Central Methodist Church Nigeria. This year's theme was tagged "Garment of Righteousness" from the books of Isaiah 61:10 and Zephaniah 1:8. There were powerful worship sessions by the worship team and inspiring teachings and prayersessions by the guest minister and chapel resident ministers. The Crusade was rounded off on the third day with a power packed night vigil where many lives were touched and blessed. We give God all the glory and honour for His faithfulness.

The fact that you have given your life to Christ doesn't mean you will not go through situations.



1/7



7/7

# The Chapel Prison Ministry



**T**he Chapel Prison Ministry is a form of outreach that aims to transform the lives of prisoners (Ikoyi Correctional Centre) by introducing them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the Alpha Course.

It is a compassionate and inspiring outreach program aimed at bringing the love, grace and hope of Jesus Christ to people who are incarcerated. Through this ministry, we seek to extend a helping hand to the broken men and women behind bars, offering them spiritual guidance, mentorship, and practical support as they navigate life in prison.

We believe that everyone deserves a second chance, and our goal is to help the Teammates use their time in prison to grow in their faith and emerge as transformed individuals.

Through our commitment to this mission, we hope to positively impact the lives of prisoners, their families and our communities both inside and outside the prison walls. We also aim to rehabilitate discharged Teammates that we can ensure their integration back into society and not back to prison.

This year, the Course started on Monday, May 15 with 100 Teammates and ended on July 10. The Holy Spirit Day Away was held

on June 19. In attendance to give The Talks were Pastor Peace and Pastor Raymond. They inspired the Teammates by sharing their life experiences and how God delivered them.

The Graduation of 97 Teammates was held on July 17. It was a beautiful celebration as the Teammates gave soul lifting worship songs and shared inspiring testimonies of the transformation of their lives during the Course. The National Director,

Mrs Nike Bassey-Eyo was at hand to give out the certificates to the Teammates. For the Exhortation, the Chairman, Evangelism & Missions Committee, Very Rev'd ThankGod Oganwo delivered an inspiring Word.

**...a compassionate and  
inspiring outreach...  
bringing the love,  
grace and hope of  
Jesus Christ to people  
who are incarcerated**



# Justification gives one peace with God - Romans 4:25.

**43RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF PEACE**

**15th October, 2023**

The 43rd Anniversary of the Fellowship of Peace was held on 15th October, 2023. The Anniversary Theme was "Justification gives one peace with God" - Romans 4:25.

It was a welcome back of sorts for the Anniversary Guest Preacher, Rev. Kemdi Akobundu, who in his characteristic no-holds barred and compelling manner, gave new insights into the subject of Justification based on the word of God

Justification he explained, "is the act of God, declaring a sinner righteous by grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the act by which God declares those who put their faith in

Christ Jesus to be righteous. It is not based on our own personal efforts, but on the redemptive work of Christ on the cross.

Going further, the preacher implored the congregation to consider Justification from a Legal perspective which signifies acquittal. In his summation, Justification is a foundationally Christian message 2 Cor. 5:21, which occurs when a person decides to accept the finished work at the cross of Calvary.

Justification came at cost and its goal is to re-establish the ability to have a relationship with our God again.

Peace on the other hand is demonstrated by the fact that God

took the initiative in pursuing or re-establishing his relationship with us, by sending His only son to die for our sins.

The words Justification and Peace summarize the relationship between God and the redeemed, the preacher said in conclusion.

The Anniversary of The Fellowship of Peace aimed to raise funds for the equipping of the new Teenagers Class, recently allocated by the Chapel.

Friends, family and well-wishers joined members of the Fellowship group in a thanksgiving altar call for God's grace and sustenance.

## Exciting My Sunday School Camp Experience

**Tochukwu UgoNwachukwu**

Waking up on Sunday morning, 13th of August, knowing that day was Camp departure day, excited that we were not going to return home after Church and knowing that I was going for my second camp. I was so excited! We, as in my elder sister, my cousin and myself had packed our boxes ready and prepared for the big day ahead of us, so I and the rest of my family got ready for the 10:00am service in Church. Once we had breakfast we were set to leave for Church.

Once we arrived in church, we finished service and the people that were going for camp, were told to not go anywhere then they announced that people that had to go and get their boxes were free to go. So I went with my cousin to look for my big sister in the teenagers class. My mum had invited my friend from school to come to camp with us, so they stayed in the churches chalets and that's where they slept. We all went there to go and inform them that it was time to take our bags and boxes out to the church buses so that they could be taken to the camp grounds, when we were done with that we went back to the general hall where we usually had our children's service and we then listened for our names so that we could collect our lunch, we even had time for a

short nap before it was time for us to board the bus. Before we left Rev. Thankgod Oganwo prayed for a safe journey and for all the activities that would be done there. We set out for the campground and the name of the venue was Canon James Pearse Anglican College (CJPAC). It had a dormitory for both boys and girls. To me the place was beautiful, I didn't care about other people's opinions about the place. We sat on the grass and waited for others to arrive because we were part of the first batch of people to be brought to the grounds, we were then separated into different age groups. After all this we were taken to our dorms, girls to the girl's dormitory and boys to the boys' dorms, and at that point the only person I cared about was my little cousin because he was all alone. When we had dropped our bags, we were told to go to the general hall where we were divided into 6 competition groups, each having two leaders. The 6 groups were as follows; Group 1: Saviours (my group), group 2: Icons, group 3: Messiahs, group 4: Redeemers, group 5: Mavericks and group 6: Legends. We were then given our different slogans, then we ate our dinner in the dining hall, we went back to our dormitories, had our showers, and went to bed, it had been a long day.

During camp we had about three or four insights a counselling clinic and so on. On Monday we had a movie night, on Wednesday we had our usual open heavens and deliverance service, on Thursday was our camp outing, on Friday we had a talent hunt and on Saturday we had our all-night party

# MILESTONE

## CELEBRATIONS



**MS. GLORY BEN MORIS**  
50



**MR. OLUMIYIWA OLULAJA**  
50



**MRS. TOMI OJO**  
50



**MRS. BUSOLA ABIMBOLA**  
50



**CHIEF MRS. FOLARIN M. WRIGHT**  
50



**MRS. ABIOLAOLUMIDE**  
60



**MRS. ADENIKE IBIROGBA**  
60



**LADY JOYCE AYoola JAFoJO**  
60



**MR. ADE LAJA**  
60



**MR. STELLA B. OLAITAN**  
60



**MRS. ADEBIMPE DELANO**  
60



**MRS. YETUNDE AWOBAYIKUN**  
60

# MILESTONE

## CELEBRATIONS



**MRS. AJOKE ODUSANYA**  
70



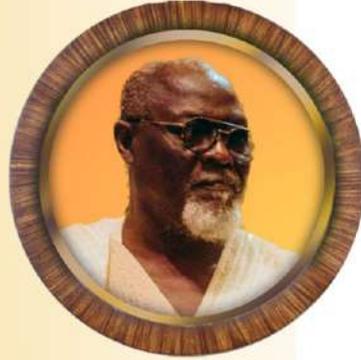
**MRS. ROSE OPAKO**  
70



**MRS. OLUYEMISI ADESUYAN**  
70



**MR. OLA ABIODUNODUWOLE**  
70



**MR. FOLARIN OGUNBIYI**  
70



**PROF. OLUWOLE ATOYEBI**  
70



**MRS. FOLASADE Y. AKINDELE**  
80



**MRS. GLADYS O. IDOWU**  
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**MRS. IYABO O. JEGEDE**  
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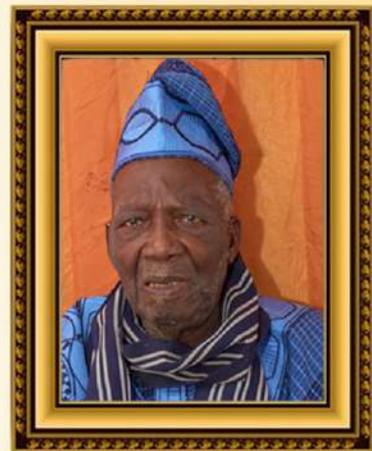
**MRS. EDNA NWOB I**  
80



**MRS. OLUFUNKE OGUNDIPE**  
90



**SIR UKEAJE ELUAGU**  
90



**PA PRINCE JOSEPH A. A. ADEBAYO**  
95