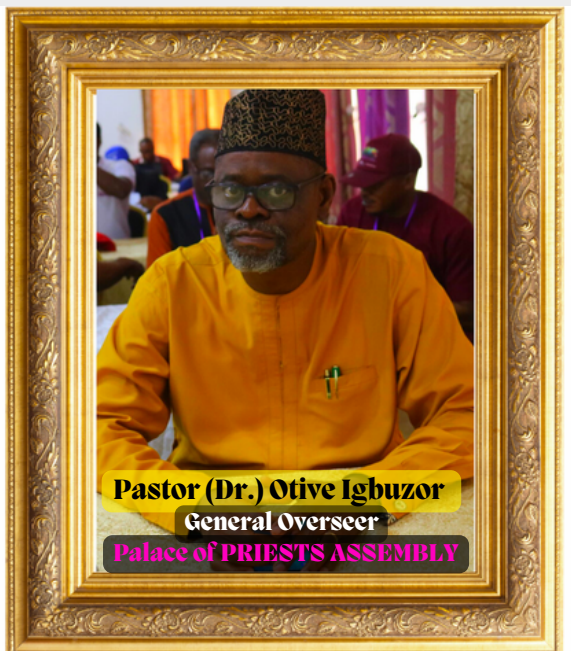


Priests Peace and Justice (PPJ) Initiative

Newsletter

July, 2022



Pastor (Dr.) Otive Igbuzor
General Overseer
Palace of PRIESTS ASSEMBLY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- PPA partners across 50 locations in 26 states mark African Anti-corruption Day
- PPA inaugurates Shun Corruption Clubs in collaboration with FYCI & SCM
- PPA holds Midyear revival 2022 and national ministers meeting
- PPA trains Pentecostal Leaders on income generation and creating accountability spaces
- Student Christian Movement (SCM) of Nigeria Partners PPA in a 1-day Virtual training on Youth Participation in the Electoral process titled 'My vote will count this time'



Pastor (Dr.) Ejiro Otive Igbuzor
during the inauguration of the
shun Corruption clubs in PPA
Abuja



Rev. Isaac Komolafe, PFN Chairman FCT enjoins Pentecostals to join the fight against corruption.



General overseer of PPA with branch pastors



Photo: At the end of the 3 day capacity building workshop on income generation for Pentecostal Leaders in Abuja



National Pastors meeting during the PPA Mid-year revival program, July 2022

The Palace of Priests Assembly holds its national Pastors meeting twice every year; during the midyear revival and during the Annual Priests Assembly in December every year. At the midyear revival held on 1st - 3rd of July 2022, the General Overseer, Pastor Otive Igbuzor Charged all branch Pastors and other ministers on the Priesthood of all Believers and the work of Ministry. In his introductory statement, he noted that the Priesthood of all believers is a doctrine that has dominated church history. In the first three centuries, church growth was accelerated by the persecution of the church. In the fourth century, Christianity became the official Roman religion. In the seventh century, Islam was founded. By the tenth century, 50 percent of former Christian areas were under Islam. By the 14th century, John Wycliffe translated the Bible into English and emphasized the sole authority of the scriptures and the priesthood of all believers. In the 16th century, the years of reformation promoted by Martin Luther King and others emphasized justification by faith and priesthood of all believers. The protestant reformation was anchored on the sole authority of the scriptures, justification by faith, and the priesthood of all believers. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the emphasis was on revival, missions, and holiness. In the 20th century, the emphasis was on Pentecostalism- Holy Ghost baptism and empowerment.

The doctrine of the priesthood of all believers is firmly established in both the old and new testaments. The people of Israel entered into a covenant relationship with God where the people were promised: "a kingdom of priests and a Holy nation" (Ex 19:5-6). The children of Israel were invited to relate to and act for God as Priests.

The prophet Isaiah also spoke about the priesthood of all believers Is 61:6

The Functions of a Priest: Lev 21 and Heb 5:1-5; 8: 3-6

- Conduct of Worship
- Making sacrifices on behalf of others
- Represent believers in matters relating to God ie mediate between God and his people
- Provide guidance for those who lack knowledge

Rise and abuse of the power of the Priest

- In early Christianity, the power of the Priest increased and there was so much distinction between the priest and the laity.




National Pastors meeting during the PPA Mid-year revival program, July 2022

In the Roman Catholic Church, there was the selling of indulgences: The Priest can grant remission of punishment due for sins for both living and dead upon the payment of money.

The privileges of the priest led to corruption.

This partly led to the protestant movement. But today, there appears not to be a sufficient emphasis on the priesthood of all believers.

Need to return to the fundamentals: Priesthood of all believers

Every believer has been given the ministry of reconciliation 2 Cor 5:18

The death and resurrection of Jesus have made us Priests Rev 1: 6

God has made us Priests to reign on earth Rev 5:10

We shall reign with Christ as priests during the millennial reign Rev 20:6

Basis of Priesthood of all believers

1. Every believer can come to the throne of grace and be guided by the Holy Spirit
 2. Every believer has direct access to God and can communicate in prayer, praises, and worship Eph 2:17-18.
 3. Every believer is set apart and called by God 1 Peter 2:9
 4. Every believer is accountable to God
 5. Every believer has been called to preach the gospel Matt 28:18-20
 6. Every Christian is capable of operating as a priest to others and to himself
- Every believer is a priest. This is a basic truth in the scriptures that has been suppressed over the years. There is the need to put more emphasis today on the priesthood of all believers.





THE MINISTERS' CONGREGATION

A Minister is a Servant

“Learn to be a servant, otherwise, you will never learn to be obedient to God. God will never entrust a ministry to anyone who has not foremost learned to be a servant among men.”-

Sunday Adelaja

Eph 6: 5-9 ; 1 Peter 5: 5-6

Your success in life is determined by the extent to which you can humble yourself to serve others.

Serving others is a high honor in the spiritual realm

Three Levels of Godly submission

1. Submission to elders 1 Peter 5: 5
2. Submission to one another 1 Peter 5:5
3. Humble yourself before God 1 Peter 5:6

Rebellion: a feeling directly opposed to submission

Three types of rebellion

1. Rebellion of the young against the old Eph 6: 3
2. Rebellion against others
3. Rebellion against God

Three ways to serve

1. Serve with a submissive spirit Eph 6:5
2. Serve with singleness of heart
3. Serve with goodwill

John 12:26; Gal 6:7

Your Motivation

It is very important that a leader is motivated in the ministry God has called him.

Different motives in the ministry

1. Desire to serve God and people Phil 2:7
2. Interested in helping others become successful and fulfilled Phil 1: 21-26
3. Manifesting God's love and mercy Acts 26: 16-18
4. Drive to fulfill God's calling and purpose Acts 26:19
5. Desire to bring people to Christ 1 Cor 9: 19-22
6. Compulsion to unite the body of Christ Eph 4:13-15
7. Seek to restore people spiritually like 4:18

Ministers Congregation

The relationship between the Minister and members of the congregation: Is the Minister seen as a friend? This is dependent on the integrity of the Minister and the ministering ability.

A good relationship between Minister and congregation must be developed. The Minister can build a good relationships through compassionate care, genuine concern, and good relationship.

The Minister's authority should be earned.





THE MINISTERS' CONGREGATION

The Minister is a servant (Matt 20:28) Phil 2:7)

The Minister should be responsive

The Minister should be sensitive to personal feelings of members and influence lives so that they may be changed towards God.

Ministers should not misuse power

Ministers should be leaders

The Minister should perform his roles: Preaching, Teaching, Administration, Counselling, visitation, weddings and funerals

The Minister should maintain confidentiality





IMPORTANCE OF TENT-MAKING MINISTRY

Tent-making Ministry is the key to church growth. Churches in the world that have experienced phenomenal growth have all employed Tent-Making Pastors/lay people.

With tent-making, more people get involved in ministry.

Two keys to successful tent-making- sacrifice and wisdom.



MAIN WORK OF A MINISTER (PVTI)

Prayer- Mark 1:35

Visitation Mark 1: 29-31

Teaching (Counselling and Preaching)- Mark 1: 38-39

Interaction' Mark 1: 16-17 . The minister makes personal contact with the people. Engages in informal discussions. Interaction makes people stay; makes people feel important. You can promote interaction by organizing camps, social events, and celebrating or mourning with each other.

SEVEN REASONS WHY MINISTER'S WORK CAN BE BURDENSOME

People are by nature ungrateful and forgetful 2 Tim 3: 1-2

People will betray you e.g. Judas

People are wicked 2 Tim 4: 14

People can abandon you suddenly 2 Tim 4:10

People are equalizers, disrespectful, and impudent Num 12: 1-2- Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses.

People are disobedient and rebellious

People do not understand and do not respond Matt 13:19

EVERY CHRISTIAN CAN DO THE WORK OF MINISTRY

All you need is desire 1 Tim 3: 1

Doing ministry work should be a natural stage of development Heb 5: 12 (After some time, you should be a teacher)

There is a great need for Ministers Matt 9: 36

God's people are scattered Ex 34:5

To fulfill the great commission Matt 28:19-20

To obtain a good degree 1 Tim 3:13

So that you can combine material and spiritual progress 1 Tim 6:6

People are hungry for the truth Ex 34:2

People need to be visited

CONDITIONS FOR BECOMING A MINISTER

Desire 1 Tim 3:1

Divine Call Heb 5: 4

A willing commitment 1 Cor 9: 16-17

Godly character- not flamboyance; not oratory; not power dressing

Qualifications- spiritual, moral, domestic, doctrinal and social.





PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY HOLDS MIDYEAR REVIVAL 2022



WELCOME ADDRESS BY PASTOR (DR) OTIVE IGBUZOR, GENERAL OVERSEER, PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY (PPA) AT THE 2022 REVIVAL SERVICE HEDL FROM 1ST -3RD JULY, 2022.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 Mid-Year Revival Service of PPA. The mid-year revival of PPA is conceived to be held every year for the members to reflect and ensure that church service does not become routine. This is particularly important as the society is experiencing spiritual decline and we need to constantly go back to God for restoration (Ps 85:4,8) and continue to maintain focus on our calling.

The theme for this year is Focus, Consistency and Commitment. If you want to succeed in life and live in abundance, you must be focused and avoid distractions. There are a lot of distractions and opposition to the truth and godliness in the world today. To fulfil destiny and achieve what God has entrusted into your care, you need focus. To focus properly, you need to avoid the carnal and mundane and be strategic (futuristic with focus on eternity; holistic; and spiritual). (Heb 12:2)

Every human being has strengths and weaknesses. The way to go is to focus on your strengths and eliminate everything that is holding you back whether spiritual or material.

There is power in focus. According to some scholars, the number one reason that stops people from getting what they want is lack of focus e.g. writing a book; building a successful career, running a successful business; serving the Lord. Many of the requirements of success in life such as consistency



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WELCOME ADDRESS BY PASTOR (DR) OTIVE IGBUZOR, GENERAL OVERSEER, PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY (PPA) AT THE 2022 REVIVAL SERVICE HELD FROM 1ST -3RD JULY, 2022.

and persistency can only come through focus.

Consistency is adhering to the same principles/beliefs or pattern or practice without changing.

Christians are required to show consistency. God blesses those who are consistently righteous (Prov 3:33)

God requires us to be totally committed to him(Deut 6:5). If we are committed to Him, we will serve Him, obey Him, live according to His word and give up our own agendas. He has promised to reward all those that are committed to Him.

In my experience, those who are committed to God displays commitment in other areas of life.

In these three days, it is my hope that we will rededicate ourselves to focus, consistency and commitment. We have prayerfully and carefully chosen a speaker (Rev. Harold Ikewueze) whose life typifies these qualities, and we trust God for change and turnaround in these three days.

Once more, you are all welcome in Jesus' name.



General overseer of PPA with branch pastors



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Photo Story: Midyear Revival - Day One



PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY, DURUMI 2, AFTER ELRUFAI PARK, GARKI, AREA 1, ABUJA- NIGERIA
WE ARE PRIESTS... WE MAKE DISCIPLES/BETTER PEOPLE... BETTER SOCIETY

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Photo Story: *Midyear Revival* -Day One



Palace of Priests Assembly, Durumi 2, After Elrufai Park, Garki, Area 1, Abuja- Nigeria

We are priests... We make Disciples/better people... Better society

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PPA 2022 MID-YEAR REVIVAL

THEME:

FOCUS CONSISTENCY AND COMMITMENT

JAMES 4:8



(July 1, Friday)



Reverend Harold Ikewueze

General Introductory Remark:

Many Christians are not close to God as they are supposed to. You are like who or what you are close to. Intimacy leads to becoming identical. God is a lover who chases hard on you. The saints of old were more like Jesus because they were closer to Him. GET CLOSE!

Becoming like Jesus should be your number one desire. Make up your mind to be a disciple of Jesus not just among the multitude of church goers (Matt. 5:1-2; 8:1). I will be asking you to get closer to God. Be a disciple. Be an insider

MESSAGE 1



CLOSENESS TO GOD AS THE BASIS FOR FOCUS, CONSISTENCY, AND COMMITMENT

GETTING CLOSE takes the following:

- (a) BE CONVERTED AND STAY CONVERTED (Acts 3:19; Matt. 18:3). Return to God. Your conversion is basic. You are born again - born of God.
- (b) LOVE JESUS. Be a lover. Love comes with a pull to be with him (Ps.42:1). Have you lost your panting for God? Your closeness will take care of your focus - consistency and commitment.
- (c) BE OPEN TO HIM (Ps.51:6). You do not play a hide and seek game with a lover. Giving God your heart is being open to Him (Ps.23:26). Let God be your heart.
- (d) GROW UP TO BECOME A SON (Rom.8:14-19) Your disposition as a son will draw you closer.





FOCUS CONSISTENCY AND COMMITMENT

(e) DAILY DYNAMIC ENCOUNTER AND EXPERIENCE. TRY A WELL-PLANNED QUIET TIME (Ps. 63:1; Songs 1:8)

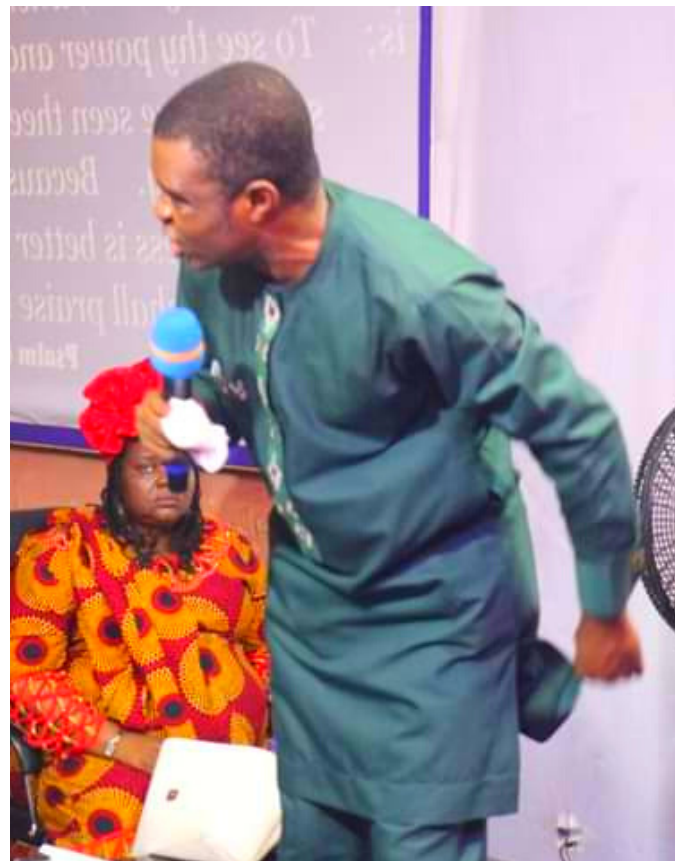
How is your quiet time? How do you handle network disconnection? How can you still be shining as a light if you are disconnected?

(f) BE DELIBERATE IN DRAWING NEAR TO GOD (James 4:8; Gen 17:1) Imagine Abraham in Gen 15. Much murmurings and complaints are a product of your distance. "Follow me", He told His disciples. Do not be a distant follower of Jesus.

(g) YOU HAVE BOLDNESS THROUGH THE BLOOD TO ENTER THE HOLIEST OF HOLIES. (Heb. 10:19-23; 4:16). What are you waiting for to enter? The blood has taken away the veil.

(h) SURRENDER AND SUBMIT YOURSELF TO HIM (James 4:7; Rom 12:1)

(i) LEARN TO SIT AT THE MASTER'S FEET LIKE MARY (Lk 10:38-42)





MESSAGE 2



**ACHIEVING YOUR
LIFE DREAMS THROUGH FOCUS**

ACTS 20:24; LUKE 9:51; ISAIAH 50:7; PHIL. 3:12-14



Introductory Remarks:

A study through history and even in contemporary times shows clearly that all men and women who lived to realize their life dreams were all persons of focus in purpose.

Focus is the power source of consistency and commitment.

DEFINING FOCUS

- (a) Concentration
- (b) Fasten
- (c) Steadfastly minded.

Losing concentration can make a football team lose a match.

In his book 'Finishing Strong', Steve Farrar gave 3 illustrations of individuals who all started well but ended differently because of having focus and not having it

Billy Graham

Chuck Templeton

Bron Clifford

(Of the three, only Billy Graham continued and ended well)

POINT 1: THE CHARACTER OF FOCUS

Focus has a character that is:

- (a) **FIRM.** Having a fixed mind and not unstable (Lk 9:51; isa 50:7)
- (b) **OPTIMISM.** A positive attitude and outlook (2 Tim 1:12; Micah 7:7)
- (c) **COURAGE:** Courage will rise
- (d) **UNDETERRED, UNDAUNTED AND UNYIELDING TO DISTRACTION AND DISCOURAGEMENT** (Acts 20:24)
- (e) **STEADFAST MINDSET** (Lk 9:51; 1 Cor 15:54)

POINT 2: THE CONDUCT OF FOCUS

Focus has the conduct of:





MESSAGE 2



ACHIEVING YOUR LIFE DREAMS THROUGH FOCUS

ACTS 20:24; LUKE 9:51; ISAIAH 50:7; PHIL. 3:12-14

- (a) EVER FORWARD MOVEMENT (Exo 14:14)
- (b) RUNNING WITH A MINDSET AND ATTITUDE TO OBTAIN (1 Cor 9:24)
- (c) CONSTANT, COMMITTED, CONSISTENT AND CONCENTRATED PURSUIT TO POSSESS (Phil 3:14; 2 Kings 29:1-11)
- (d) MAKING THE BEST USE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY AS THEY COME (2 Kings 2:11)
- (e) BEING SOLDIERLY ABOUT OBTAINING YOUR SET GOALS. ENDURE HARDNESS (2 Tim 2:3) TAKE A DEFINITE STAND ON YOUR DREAMS

POINT 3: THE CONQUEST THROUGH FOCUS

Focus conquers because

- (a) FOCUS IS ALWAYS AHEAD – THE HEAD AND NOT THE TAIL (1 Cor 15:10)
- (b) OBTAINS THE PRIZE (1 Cor 9:24; Phil 3:14)
- (c) CELEBRATED AND COMMENDED. The faithful servant who got a well done was a focused servant (Matt. 25:20-23)
- (d) THE UNBEATEN CHAMPION: The unbeaten champion Joseph was not beaten by immorality (Gen. 39:7-20) Jesus was not beaten. Paul was not beaten.
- (e) YOU BECOME THE SPECIAL ONE. Elisha became 'The Prophet' not just a son of the Prophet (2Kings 2:1-13)





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Photo Story: Mid-year Revival -Day Three



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WE ARE PRIESTS... WE MAKE DISCIPLES/BETTER PEOPLE... BETTER SOCIETY

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**MESSAGE 3****KEEPING THE FAITH BY THE FORCE OF FOCUS****2 Tim 4:7**

The Christian's Trinity of Finishing Strong are:

- (a) Fighting a good fight
- (b) Finishing your course
- (c) Keeping the faith

The force of focus propels you to get through all. Focus has an impelling and impressive force.

Focus is a mindset

A mindset not to be beating the air in a fight

A mindset that has an eye on the PRIZE not on present pains and perils.

It takes a lot to keep the faith-more than exercising the faith to get this or that.

Steve Farrar writes in Finishing Strong:

*It is the rare man that finishes strong

*It is the exceptional man that finishes strong

*It is the teachable man that finishes strong

It takes courage to be a rare man. Daniel was a rare man. Jesus was also a rare man.

THAT MAN THAT WILL KEEP THE FAITH IS

(a) **A MAN OF RARE CHARACTER:** Character is key – Christlike character. The faith keeping road is not a popular one. Most people love the color of faith not the character. Character made Paul not to be moved by anything (Acts 20:24). Character failure is a leading one

(b) **THERE IS A TRUST AND OBEY IN FAITH KEEPING** Obedience is the practical demonstration of trust. You need courage to go through the wilderness and arrive in Canaan.

(c) It is what keeps you in the frame of mind to understand times and seasons along the path of faith (Psalm 46:10) Understanding gets difficult when you allow anxieties and worries into your life. You need stillness to know that God is God

(d) **YOU NEED COURAGE TO KEEP FAITH SO AS TO BE LIKE JESUS IN LOVING RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATING INIQUITY** (Heb 1:9) Taking a righteous stand takes courage.

(e) **YOU NEED THIS COURAGE TO FIX ALL YOUR ATTENTION ON JESUS.** Courage made Moses refuse all the pleasure all the pleasures and prosperity of Egypt (Heb 11:24). There is an eternal reward for all you have refused to

(f) **YOU NEED GODLINESS TO LIVE IN GODLINESS AND CONTENTMENT** (1 Tim 6:6). The great gain in godliness and contentment is the faith it will help you keep.

(g) **COURAGE ON THIS EARTH TO LIVE IN THE LIGHT OF ETERNITY.** Have an eternity mindset with earthly relevance (2 Chron. 26:9-15) The Nebuchadnezzar in Uzziah finished him. Lay hold on to eternal life (1 Tim 6:12) Keep the faith like Paul so that like him, the crown of righteousness will be laid for you and me (2 Tim 4:8)



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PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY TRAINS PENTECOSTAL MINISTERS ON BUILDING ACCOUNTABILITY SPACES AND INCOME GENERATION



The Palace of Priests Assembly (PPA) and its social arm, Priests Peace & Justice Initiative (PPJ) on Monday, July 4th, to Wednesday, July 6th, 2022 hosted Pentecostal ministers for a three-day capacity-building workshop on creating accountability spaces and income generation. The training is part of the activities lined up for the implementation of the shun corruption project supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The SHUNCORRUPTION project is geared toward mobilizing Christians, especially Pentecostals, to join in the fight against corruption across the country. The objective of the training is to promote behavior change among Pentecostal Churches regarding accountability within and outside the church.

Statistics show that Pentecostals represent about 22% of the Nigerian population and over 60% of members are living below the poverty line. During the implementation of the first phase of the project, it became clear that for Pentecostal leaders to shun, speak and stand up against corruption, there is the need for many of them to generate income legitimately and build accountability spaces.

A press statement released by the program manager, Dr. Agbaji Orinya stated that the three days of capacity building is expected to deepen the knowledge of participants on Biblical principles of wealth creation.



**PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY TRAINS PENTECOSTAL MINISTERS ON BUILDING ACCOUNTABILITY SPACES AND INCOME GENERATION**

The Bible is very clear that faith without works is dead (James 2:26) & Pentecostals need to take action to combat corruption from Pentecostal Perspective. The actions needed include the discipleship of new believers and training for mature believers and Ministers such that Pentecostals are prepared and trained to reject corruption and live holy lives, put in place a mechanism to ensure accountability in church systems, and ensure the integrity of the process and train their members on income generation avenues and entrepreneurship so that they are not wholly dependent on tithes and offerings.

Dr. Agbaji further stated that Pentecostals should use the scriptures to fight against corruption while being energized by the Holy Spirit to discern corruptible transactions. Pentecostal Church leaders should disciple believers to reject corruption; put in place mechanisms for accountability; train members to generate income; preach against corruption and create a social arm for the church to fight corruption.

If you consider that an average of 180 persons are thrown into extreme poverty of living less than \$1.9usd every hour (<https://worldpoverty.io/headline>), then you will appreciate that the situation is only getting worse as over 83m Nigerians are already extremely poor.

Is there something the Church can do about it? Yes. The church can create, support and empower Income Generating Activities for members, ministers and the church as an organisation. This is how schools and hospitals and printing presses endeared the gospel to our fathers.

We must learn how to make this work for our ministries as we sit through a 3day training programme designed for Church Leaders and Decision makers and heads of empowerment units in Abuja between July 4th and 6th 2022 to show different models that can be considered and a blueprint for executing them.

This programme is put together by the Priests Peace and Justice Initiative as part of its mandate to stamp out corruption from the Nigerian society.



Financing the Ministry

“Many Ministers have sold their birthrights and that of their ministries in their quest for finances.”-

“It is not money that makes a ministry; rather, it ‘s ministry that makes money.”- Oyedepo

Dan 11: 32...The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Key Questions

- 1.Are you sent? Luke 9: 3; Luke 22: 35
- 2.What is your message Luke 9: 2; Luke 8: 1-3; 1 Timothy 5:17
- 3.Are you impactful? Rom 15: 27; 1 Cor 9: 11

MANAGING CHURCH FINANCE

Financial management is the management of the finances of an organization to achieve organizational objectives. Financial management entails planning for the future of the organization to ensure a positive cash flow. It includes the administration and maintenance of financial assets and risk management. The goal of financial management is to ensure the sustainability of the organization well into the future. The objective is to ensure the provision of capital for the effective working of the organization by ensuring the availability of cash; checking for cash surpluses or deficits and monitoring receipts and expenditure.

KEY ELEMENTS OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- 1.Financial planning: to ensure that enough funding is available at the right time to meet the needs of the organisation. (Luke 14:28-30)
- 2.Financial Control: to ensure that organisational objectives are being met by addressing questions such as:
 - Are the assets and funds being used efficiently?
 - Are the assets of the organisation secure?
 - Is the management of the fund in line with financial regulations?
3. Financial Decision Making: Key aspects of financial decision making relate to allocation of the resources.

THINGS TO NOTE

- The need for financial discipline
- The need to go beyond accounting and focus on financial management. Finance focus on value and cash flows. Accounting focuses on record keeping.
- The need to prioritize projects by ranking
- The need to develop a financial forecast: In order to do a good forecast, there is the need to obtain relevant data, determine the assumptions, identify financial patterns and consider alternatives.

MAJOR ISSUES IN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- How to avoid corruption
- How to avoid wasteful and reckless spending
- How to ensure adherence to procedure and due process





MANAGING FINANCIAL RISKS

- Risk is a threat that an event or action will adversely affect an organization's ability to achieve its objectives.
- Risks can be categorized into five groups:
 1. Strategic risks: Doing the wrong things.
 2. Operating risks: Doing the right things the wrong way
 3. Financial risks: losing financial resources or incurring unacceptable liabilities.
 1. Information risks: inaccurate or non-relevant information; unreliable systems; and inaccurate or misleading reports.
 2. Physical risks: loss of computer data; fire etc
 3. Financial managers must plan to mitigate financial risks.

Commandments of Effective Financial Management

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Regulatory Requirements | 2. Written Policies and Procedures |
| 1. Documentation of Expenses | 4. Managing Cash |
| 5. Efficient Accounting System | 6. Budget Controls |
| 7. Time & Activity Documentation | 8. Matching Requirements and In-kind Contributions |
| 9. Reporting | 10. Internal Controls |

MANAGING CHURCH FINANCE

The major source of finance in the church is tithes and offerings. Managing the church finance must therefore ensure that there is no loss of tithes and offerings.

Improve revenue of the church by:

- Dedicate enough time during service to receive tithes and offerings
- From time to time, teach the church about giving
- Promote transparency and accountability by ensuring that:
 - Two or three persons count tithes and offering
 - No one is left alone with the money until it is counted and recorded
 - You must have a form to record the collections for the day and it must be signed by two people.
 - Bank the money immediately if there is an opportunity. These days, bank staff are made to collect the money from the church.
 - Bank all money and maintain petty cash for an immediate small expenditure
 - Show the congregation evidence of judicious use of money

HOW TO RAISE FUNDS IN THE CHURCH

- Understand that fundraising is intended to be a boost to the general tithes and offering Mal 3:10
- Special fund-raising events must not be too frequent

TIPS ON MANAGING CHURCH'S MONEY

- Managing the church's money involves a lot of wisdom. It is important to follow principles and procedures
- Avoid debt Prov 22:7
- Employ wisely and carefully. Manage your salary bill
- Start a building project as early as possible
- Do not start a grandiose project which is far bigger than the size of your ministry Heb 13:5
- Meet the needs of the church as you meet the needs of the Pastor Prov 27:23
- Separate the Pastor's money from the church's money





Photo Story: **INCOME GENERATION**



Selection, Planning and Management of Business for Ministers and Ministries

Rev Alex Baba, the lead facilitator of the programme explained that the training is a product of a research commissioned by PPJ as part of its Shun Corruption project having noticed that income generation is an issue which should be addressed among Pentecostal Christians in the fight against corruption. The session had the following sub-sessions:

Introduction

- Foundation I - The Constraints
- Foundation II – Mindset Shift
- Foundation III – Business as a Ministry Tool
- Structure I - Business Models for Ministry
- Structure II – Selection of Business Activities

Introduction

The facilitator explained that contrary to the views of many Christians, talking about money is actually doing the will of God but the challenge is that people are often manipulated to do the contrary. He gave the objectives of the income generation training programme as follows:

- i. To establish a scriptural context for managing business,
- ii. To show case studies of how churches are using businesses to create more wealth for the benefit of the members and the ministry,
- iii. To examine several business models that can be adopted,
- iv. To demonstrate how to select businesses that are suitable for ministries and how to plan to successfully launch the business,
- v. To show how businesses can be effectively managed,
- vi. To help identify how and where to source financial and technical help for the ministry,
- vii. To understand how to operate a microcredit scheme for church members.

Participants were asked to carry out a quick exercise to determine the monthly expenses of their church:

Exercise 1

- a. What are your typical monthly expenses as a ministry or an individual?
- b. What is the volume of your average monthly tithe/offering?
- c. Subtract (a) from (b), what is the balance?

The results from different participants indicate that most of them are struggling to make ends meet as their income is barely enough to support their recurrent expenditure not to talk of capital expenditure. When the incomes for those who used their churches as hypothetical examples were subjected to further analysis by dividing it by the number of viable adults in the church, it was observed that the contribution by each member on a monthly basis was very low.

Based on the foregoing, Rev Baba concluded that:

Many pastors often put pressure on their followers/members because, they think that, it is only through tithes and offerings the church can raise money whereas the truth is -that; on average, only 10% of the members of a church can support the church in real sense.

-Many pastors organize programmes because they see it as a means of raising funds.

The facilitator observed that many people believe that tithes and offerings are the major sources of funding for ministry activities, but they are really not correct as many Christian ministries have strategic business units that are generating income for the church. He explained that many General Overseers/Pastors of leading Pentecostal churches in Nigeria are using their skills to create activities that will help generate income like - Pst. Sam Adeyemi teaches business/leadership skills; Pst Enoch Adeboye who prays for people for breakthroughs; Bishop David Oyedepo runs chains of schools including universities and so on.

A second exercise was conducted to help participants determine the financial strength of their church/ministry.



Photo Story: **INCOME GENERATION**





Photo Story: **INCOME GENERATION**



Foundation I - The Constraints

Rev Alex Baba shared a case study of Pastor Dan who had a church of 50 members. He organized a monthly business empowerment service and invited experienced businessmen and professionals to impart skills, knowledge, and inspiration to the people. Besides, church members were also imparted spiritually through his messages on the pulpit. Consequently, businesses of members started blossoming and financial commitments to the church grew and became spontaneous as members responded willingly to the financial needs of the church. The facilitator highlighted the following as some of the challenges people have which are constraints to financial growth and increase:

§ Many believers think everything done outside the church and in the marketplace is antichrist.

§ Believers who take their work seriously are often faced with a guilty complex that time spent at work instead of in the church is wasted and amounts to worldliness.

The facilitator who is also a business coach emphasized that the mix up came from spiritual and secular dichotomy and the thinking that anything that is not in the church is most probably evil. Other highlights of the presentation were as follows:

-The concept of being a full-time minister should not be encouraged as every pastor can always do something alone side ministry work whether to write book or something else to generate income.

-It is more difficult to manage money than to make money.

-Church leaders should think of solving the financial distress of the church by addressing the fundamental challenge of members. Unfortunately, this is not the case in many Pentecostal churches in Nigeria.

-In real life, seed sowing (planting) has a season, so, it should not be used anyhow by pastor/church leaders.

-In Colossians 3:22-24, the bible gave an injunction which is the foundation for income generation.

Foundation II - Mindset Shift

Pic 4: Lead facilitator - Rev Alex Baba facilitating a session at the training workshop

Speaking on the need for mindset shift, Pastor Alex Baba noted that many pastors have over spiritualized the pursuit of money and failed to realise the need to develop the right mindset as regarded income generation and money making. He stressed that it is often difficult to get things done if the right mental attitude is not cultivated therefore you may not be able to act or react beyond the scope of your world view. The facilitator explained that $BE \times DO = HAVE$. In other words, what you can get from a process is a function of who you are (your mindset, believe and value system, identity, etc.) and what you can do. He specifically describes the BE as that which consists of a man's attitude, skill, ideology, faith and relationship. Consequently, Rev Baba summarises that a pastor that believes or thinks that getting rich is evil may never be wealthy. He also noted the following:

-To achieve the consciousness of income generation, it is appropriate for Christians to have a positive mindset. Christians can only succeed when they understand how to decode the mystery behind wealth creation.

-The church should be seen as a filling station not a garage in line with Ephesians 4:11-12.

Foundation III - Business as a Ministry Tool for the Church

Facilitating the sub-session on Business as a tool of ministry, Rev Baba explained that in times of revival, God pours out entrepreneurial capability on men just as He does spiritually. He gave the examples of Joseph in the Bible who was a renowned administrator in the land of Egypt during the era of the great famine, consequently, God uses our involvement in the marketplace to fulfil our ministry assignment or calling.

Therefore, God give us the wherewithal to be able to advance the work of the ministry. He explained that the World Bank and other global economic bodies describe poverty as lack of money and material things. Rather than buying into this description and conceptualisation of poverty, the facilitator admonished participants to see poverty beyond lack to include the spiritual dimension which can be defined as a complex association of severe deprivation resulting from broken relationship with God, self, others and creation. He opined that the solution to poverty is the ministry of reconciliation because poverty is a product of sin. He further drew participants attention to the fact that God is simply using the business platform to transfer wealth from the world to the church to support kingdom expansion.



Photo Story: **INCOME GENERATION**



: Financial Literacy

The session on Financial Literacy which was facilitated by Mrs. Tosin Idu-Okojokwu a representative of Rich-Oak Life Initiative touched on two sub-sessions - Concept of Needs and Wants and Managing your Money and Budgeting. She describes financial literacy as being knowledgeable about money management and investment decisions and explained that the bedrock of financial literacy is the ability to separate needs from wants.

a. The Concept of Needs and Wants: The facilitator drew up an analogy between WANTS and NEEDS as follows:

NEEDS have the following attributes:

- They are must haves,
- They are things you can't do without,
- They are the essentials of life,
- They include; food, clothes, shelter, and education.

On the other hand, WANTS were characterized as follows:

- They are desires which are unlimited,
- They are nice to have,
- They are things we can do without.

The facilitator stressed that it was necessary to distinguish between needs and wants because most times, we often think our wants and needs are the same. She also highlighted the following regarding needs and wants:

- They can be material and immaterial,
- They change as we grow
- We must be aware of our future needs and plan towards them

A few practical steps to take in sieving needs from wants were given by the facilitator as below:

- i. Write down all your needs and wants,
- ii. Think about the consequences of satisfying/not satisfying each of them,
- iii. Set up financial goals for yourself and your family,
- iv. Set up financial goals for your family.

Pic 9: Mrs Tosin Idu-Okojokwu explaining some facts on money management at the workshop

The facilitator asked participants whether needs and wants of family members count as the same and they responded thus:

- It doesn't count the same. Parents should be prioritized over children
- It doesn't count the same. Children should be prioritized over parents
- They don't count the same but they are both important, therefore the need for balance

b. Managing your Money and Budgeting: Mrs. Tosin Idu-Okojokwu explained that in money management and budgeting, record keeping is critical and proceeded to outline the following as facts to note:

- a. Proper money management starts from record taking,
- b. Anyone who writes down all he earns and spends shares the pains and gains,
 - a. There is pain and gain in record keeping.

She defined budgeting as planning for the coordination of resources as regards spending and expenditure over a particular period of time. She added that while record keeping is backward looking, budgeting is forward looking. The need for goals to be SMART so that they can be achieved was emphasised. Furthermore, the following key points were outlined for a realistic money management and financial planning/budgeting:

- a) If you don't keep record, your budget will be unrealistic,
- b) Financial planning should be periodic,
- c) Purposeful regular savings should be in your budget,
- d) Long term budget should include plans for your old age,



Photo Story: **INCOME GENERATION**





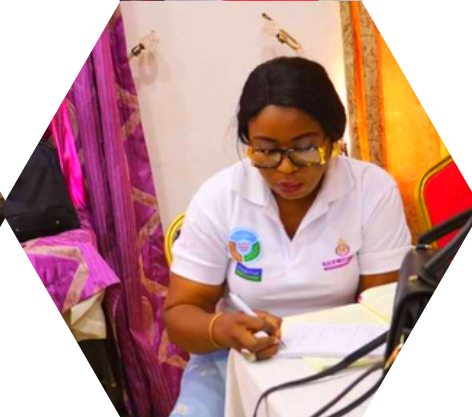
Photo Story:





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Photo Story:



PPA Urges Pentecostals to fight against corruption and fight for Social Justice on African Anti-corruption day as PPA partners across 50 locations in 26 states mark African Anti-corruption Day

The Palace of Priests Assembly and its social arm, the Priests Peace & Justice Initiative (PPJ) joins the rest of the African community to mark the African Anti-corruption day 2022 and calls on Pentecostals to set up social arms and join in the fight against corruption and fight for social Justice

The theme of this year's African Anti-corruption day 2022 is "Strategies and Mechanisms for the Fight Against Corruption"

Corruption is both a sin and an injustice. As a sin, it violates the divine covenant on leadership. The Bible teaches that leadership or governance is a two-sided covenant: a covenant between God and the people and a covenant between the leader and God. At the heart of this covenant is a commitment to pursue justice with the people and righteousness with God. Justice and righteousness are the heart of the leadership obligation. When a leader deals corruptly, whether by pillaging the society or abrogating the rights of the people he has violated the covenant with God and the people. Corruption is also an injustice against the people. From a biblical perspective, the purpose of government is to promote the good. The ultimate good of human society is to ensure the people live in peace and prosperity so they will serve God acceptably. So, corrupt leaders that deprive the people of the resources which God has bestowed on them are a violation of the rights of the people. In secular scholarship, there is a growing understanding that corruption is a violation of human rights. It has moved from a leadership misdemeanor to a fundamental human rights violation. By covenant, the people are entitled to good governance. The leader who God appoints must, as King David put it in 2 Samuel 23, rule justly and in the fear of God. The result of good governance is prosperity (grass will sprout). Bad governance, which is mostly represented by grand corruption, is a denial of justice to the people. It is not just a sin against God. It is also a deprivation of social and economic justice for the people.

In a press statement issued in Abuja by the General Overseer of the Palace of Priests Assembly, Pastor Otive Igbuzor, he stated that Christians have a responsibility to stand against corruption because corruption is a sinful social order that militates against the purpose and plan of God for the governance of human society. He urged the Pentecostal Christians, and the entire community of protestant Christianity to examine the biblical warrant for asking Christians to commit to the fight against corruption and stand out clearly in the anti-corruption campaign and advocacy because God is a sovereign God who has identified himself with justice and compassion and has called His people and whoever will work together with Him to fight for justice.

Pastor Igbuzor further stated that the life of Jesus was a life of confrontation with structure and ideas that held people captive and bolstered unjust social order. "Jesus called the wicked political leaders and the suppliant religious establishment that aided and abetted the oppression of the poor and needy". This oppression is both spiritual as well as physical and social. At the heart of oppression is sin and its radical cure is repentance and reconciliation with God. The results of sin are social and spiritual alienation that manifests as violence, oppression, and abuse of human dignity that we see in many guises and forms. We must recover the tradition of caring for the economic and social conditions of human existence because that is in keeping with our mission as witnesses of the life and truth of God that is in Christ Jesus. We can no longer continue to violate our call as a church. We have to become the change agent that we are called to be. We have to defend the oppressed and abused and fight for justice for all. It must start by recognizing that the basis of justice is acceptance of the fact that God requires justice as an affirmation that man and woman are created in his image. We cannot divorce the need for justice from the character of God and his plan and purpose for his creation. Corrupt governance deprives the people, particularly the poor, of the resources to provide essential services needed for social and economic wellbeing. So, it is a deprivation of the right to property. Pastor Igbuzor urged all Nigerians, especially Pentecostals to support this year's theme " Strategies and Mechanisms for the Fight Against Corruption" and return to the dual mandate of the church, to support, establish and institutionalize social arms for the Church as an instrument to fight corruption and social injustice.



PPA Partners in 50 locations mark the African Anti-corruption day 2022

Beneficiaries of the Shun Corruption project being implemented by the Palace of Priests Assembly with support from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation have joined PPA in marking the 2022 African Anticorruption day. The Partners have dedicated Sunday July the 10th 2022 as Anti-Corruption Sunday where many of them preached anti-corruption sermons in their various congregations to further emphasize the need for collective action against corruption in Nigeria. The Program manager of PPJ said he had received reports from about 50 locations including Churches, schools and faith-based groups formed as a result of our intervention. These reports included pictures, recorded videos of sermons preached in different congregations, drama skits by students of some primary and secondary schools, videos of anti-corruption messages recorded by some of the ministers adding their voices to the fight against corruption and a TV show hosted by one of PPA's beneficiary on the Cross River broadcasting service in Calabar. Media report on national television received had the PFN Chairman of the FCT Abuja, Rev. Isaac Komolafe charging all the Pentecostal community within his jurisdiction to join PPA in the work they are doing to reduce corruption in the church and in the country at large. The PFN Chairman was quoted as promoting the PPA 3S model; Shun Corruption, Speak Against Corruption and Stand Against Corruption. Five (5) national television stations, 3 radio stations and newspapers reported the activities marking the African Anti-Corruption day by PPA beneficiaries. The activities were also widely publicized on social media.





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Photo Story: African Anti-Corruption Day



PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY, DURUMI 2, AFTER ELRUFAI PARK, GARKI, AREA 1, ABUJA- NIGERIA
WE ARE PRIESTS... WE MAKE DISCIPLES/BETTER PEOPLE... BETTER SOCIETY

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Photo Story: African Anti-Corruption Day



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Photo Story: African Anti-Corruption Day



PPA INAUGURATES SHUN CORRUPTION CLUB



The Shun Corruption Clubs are established by Priests Peace and Justice Initiative (PPJ), the social arm of the Palace of Priests Assembly (PPA), in collaboration with Frontline Youth Creativity Initiative (FYCI). •Frontline Youth Creativity Initiative (FYCI) is a youth-led, youth-focused NGO working to empower young girls and boys to speak out against ills in society. •FYCI has three main organs: the Youth and Creativity Nucleus, the Girls Empowerment Nucleus, and the Boys and Masculinity Nucleus. FYCI is collaborating with PPJ under the Shun Corruption Project to strengthen the Youth Vanguard Against Corruption.

Use of creative forms such as music, poetry, arts and crafts, drama skits, etc. to promote anti-corruption messages and influence behaviours.

Activities include Shun Corruption Clubs, events and competitions, mentorship programmes, and social media engagement.

Target audiences are young boys and girls aged 10 to 25 (school-going youth) and older youth (26-30).

These clubs are being set up under the Mobilising Christians Against Corruption Project, also known as the Shun Corruption Project, with support from MacArthur Foundation. The overall goal of the clubs is to empower young people to shun, speak out, and stand up against corruption.

The Shun Corruption Clubs will have a national branch located in PPA, Abuja, and state branches in other locations. There will be a National Steering Committee to supervise the clubs at the national and state levels.

Membership of the Committee



The National Steering Committee will be composed of the following: (i) ex-officio members, and (ii) elected members.

The following will be ex-officio members:

- Youth/Children Leaders from PPA, Abuja
- Youth/Children Leaders from all PPA State Branches
- Youth Leader from the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN)

Elected members will be six to eight in number, with no more than two persons from one geopolitical zone. They will be elected by the persons in attendance at the national youth summit. However, a person may be elected in their absence, subject to their acceptance of the election outcome at a later date. To be eligible for election, a person must either indicate interest in setting up a Shun Corruption Club in their branch or be capable of supporting the clubs in a significant way.

Upon inauguration, the Committee will organise itself in terms of structure and leadership.

Responsibilities of the Committee

Members of the National Steering Committee will be responsible for:

- Developing a reporting template for the Shun Corruption Clubs
- Reviewing and regularly updating the training materials for the Shun Corruption Clubs
- Ensuring standardization of the Shun Corruption Clubs at the national and state levels
- Ensuring compliance with club guidelines, including the goal, objectives, and values of the clubs
- Identifying events, activities, and ideas that will increase the impact/effectiveness of the clubs
- Ensuring regular (daily) engagements on the Youth Vanguard Against Corruption (YVAC) WhatsApp group and preparing/sharing weekly reports of the engagements with the PPA/PPJ secretariat.

Tenure

The tenure of ex-officio members will last for as long as they are Youth/Children Leaders. The tenure of elected members will be one year. They will be elected yearly at the national youth summit.

The goal of the club is to empower young people to shun, speak out, and stand up against corruption.

Specific objectives:

- To support youth to adopt an anti-corruption code of ethics and internalize the club values
- To encourage youth to take personal responsibility to fight corruption within their personal spaces
- To promote anti-corruption discourse among youth within schools, churches, and in the home
- To empower youth to promote anti-corruption messaging through the creative arts

VALUES OF THE CLUB

- Anti-Corruption: All club members must internalize the value of anti-corruption and commit to fighting corruption within their personal spaces.
- Integrity: All club members must adopt the Code of Ethics for Christian Youth Against Corruption, which includes commitments relating to integrity.
- Honesty: All club members must be honest at all times, regardless of the consequences.
- Transparency: All club members must be transparent in their dealings, especially when it relates to finances.





•**Accountability:** All club members must be answerable for their actions, including their commitment to fight against corruption.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

- Interactive training sessions
- Election of club leaders
- Development of Anti-Corruption Anthem
- Storytelling of personal experiences with corruption
- Establishment of corruption reporting mechanisms in club locations
- Writing of poems, short stories, essays, songs, etc. about anti-corruption
- Wider anti-corruption events, e.g. talk show, panel discussion, etc.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SHUN CORRUPTION CLUBS

- Increased youth knowledge and understanding of anti-corruption issues.
- Increased discussions among youth on anti-corruption issues in schools and Churches, at home, and on social media.
- Increased sense of personal responsibility among youth to fight corruption within their spaces.
- Young people actively using the creative arts to encourage others to join the fight against corruption.

Code of Ethics for Christian Youth Against Corruption

Affirming that I am born again by the washing of the word and water (Ephesian 5:26), believing that the Church is the Lord's (Matthew 16:18), confirming I am called to serve Him and humanity (Romans 1:9), depending on the Holy Spirit for my strength (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22), encouraged to work with the Lord faithfully, transparently and with a deep sense of accountability (Matthew 25:14-30), I sign on to be a Youth against Corruption and hereby resolve to abide with the under listed principles:

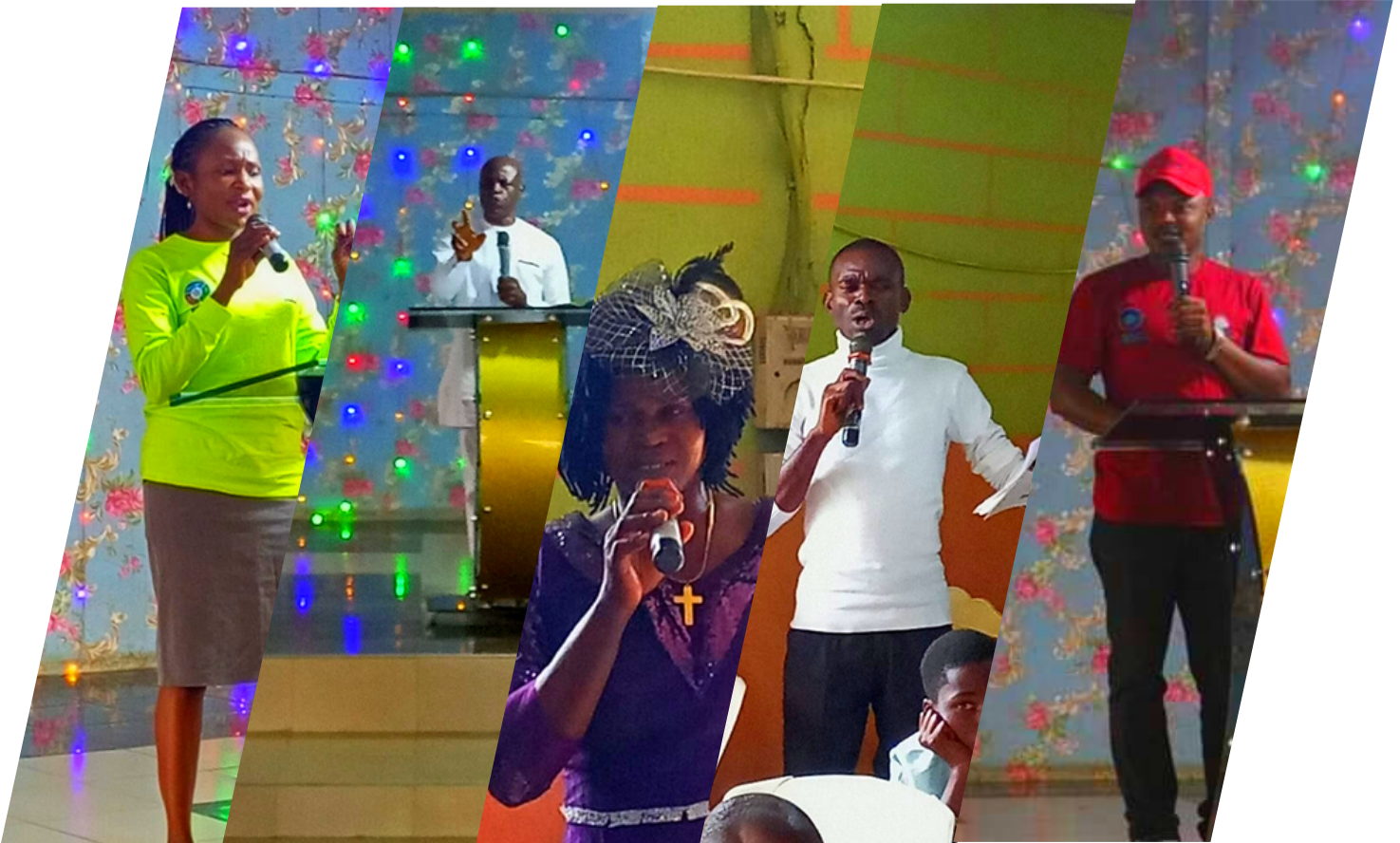
1. That I understand and believe in the anchor of the Shun Corruption Project in James 4:17 (Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin – KJV) as a guiding statement.
2. That I will shun, speak out, and stand up against corruption no matter the consequences.
3. That I will be honest and transparent in all my dealings.
4. That I will act with integrity at all times.
5. That I will not cheat during exams.
6. That I will not lie to my parents or teachers.
7. That I will live by example for my peers in shunning corruption within my personal space.
8. That I will promote anti-corruption messaging in any way I can.
9. That I will report cases of corruption to the appropriate authorities.
10. That I will not take or give bribe.

Signed by: _____ This _____ day of _____
20__





PPA COLLABORATES WITH THE IDU-KARIMU PFN LEADERS TO TRAIN 140 MINISTERS ON CHRISTIANITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION



The 3-day capacity building on Christianity and the fight against corruption held in Abuja for the Northern zone on 23rd to 25th of May is already yielding results. The leadership of the PFN in IDU and Karimu zone of the FCT Abuja has stepped down the training in their zone with support from PPA. The training was a one-day training that was held on July 30th 2022 at the Christs Ascension Church Karimu with about 140 ministers in participation. Modules covered include Christianity and leadership, Christianity and accountability, Christianity and the fight against corruption, drivers of corruption within and outside the church and the social dimension of the church. The training session was facilitated by the PFN Chairman of Karimu who was a participant at the 3-day capacity building workshop held in Abuja. Other facilitators include the Program manager of PPJ, Dr Agbaji Orinya, The program officer, Ms Ojonugwa Negedu and the project officer, Dr Amina J. Mbuka. At the end of the training, participants expressed satisfaction and requested that the training should be repeated in the zone so that more ministers will benefit from the training. The partyicipants further requested that the next training to be scheduled in September should be held for 3 days so that all the modules covered during the capacity building workshop will be taught.



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Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria
(IDU-KARIMO ZONE) ABUJA

in collaboration with
Priests Peace & Justice Initiative

PRESENTS

1-DAY STEPDOWN

Training on Christianity and the Fight
AGAINST CORRUPTION

Date: 30th July 2022 | Time: 9:00am Prompt
Venue: Christ Ascension Church opposite Furniture Market, Idu - Karimo

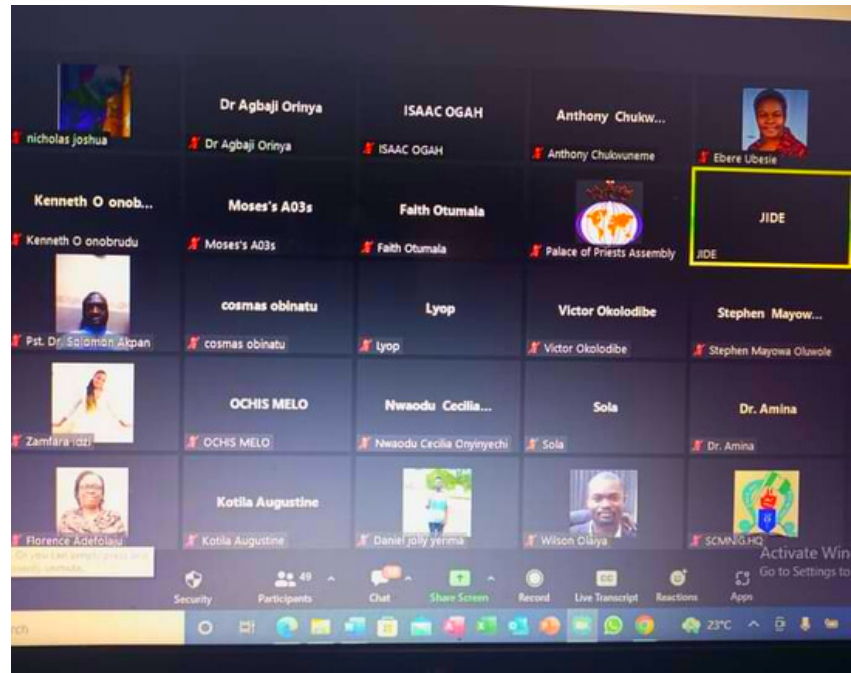
MacArthur Foundation



PALACE OF PRIESTS ASSEMBLY, DURUMI 2, AFTER ELRUFAI PARK, GARKI, AREA 1, ABUJA- NIGERIA

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THE STUDENT CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT(SCM) OF NIGERIA IN COLLABORATION WITH PRIESTS PEACE & JUSTICE INITIATIVE TRAINS YOUNG PEOPLE ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

About 65 youths across the country made up of members of the youth vanguard against corruption, leaders of the student Christian movement (SCM) of Nigeria and members of the Frontline Youth Creativity Initiative participated in a virtual training on youth participation in the electoral process titled "My vote will count this time". The training was facilitated by Mr Jide Ojo, a renowned media personality. Jide Ojo is a development consultant (Executive Director, OJA Development Consult), author and public affairs analyst. Jide has been a development worker since 1998 and has worked for both local and international non-governmental organisations such as International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), United Nations Development Programme (Democratic Governance for Development project), Forward in Action for Education, Poverty and Malnutrition (FAcE-PaM) and Electoral Reform Network. The training was organized to further deepen the understanding of participants on the electoral process, the electoral act and also provide young people with relevant information that will stimulate their participation in the forthcoming general elections. Participants are also expected to stepdown this training in their various constituencies and spheres of influence in order to support government efforts and the efforts of other organizations working to reduce voter apathy in the 2023 general elections. The training also had the national president of the Student Christian Movement of Nigeria, Mrs. Ebere Ubesie in attendance.





Sermon of the Month

God Hates Corruption

Exodus 20:15 ; 1 Peter 1:4

Pastor (Dr.) Otive Igbuzor



INTRODUCTION

Corruption is a huge problem all over the world. It has been argued that one of the major obstacles to the development of poor countries is corruption.

Corruption is one of the major problems of Nigeria today. Recently, a public officer, the Accountant General of the Federation, Mr. Ahmed Idris was alleged to have stolen N80 billion and another N90 billion. He has been suspended and facing prosecution.

In 2008, the former Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mallam Nuhu Ribadu stated that Nigeria's previous leaders stole 64 trillion naira (About 507 billion US dollars) from public coffers. When benchmarked against the 2008 budget, this translates to 26 years budget.

In 2021, YIAGA disclosed that Nigeria has lost \$582 billion to corruption since independence in 1960.

Recently, in 2021, HEDA, an NGO estimated that Nigeria loses about \$50 billion annually to illicit financial flows. Nigeria's budget for 2022 is only N16.39 trillion or \$ 39.8 billion. This means that the annual budget is not up to what is estimated to be lost through illicit financial flows.



God Hates Corruption (Exodus 20:15 ; 1 Peter 1:4)

As we celebrate African anti-corruption day, it is important to return to the bible to guide us as Christians. It is clear to us that God hates corruptions and Christians must shun, speak against and stand up against corruption.

Corruption is Not New

It is important to note that corruption is not new. Corruption is as old as society itself and cuts across nations, cultures, races and classes of people.

There is grand corruption by big people in government and there is petty corruption by ordinary citizens-gatemen, fuel attendants, hotel workers etc. Corruption has eaten deep into the fabric of the entire society. Corruption is deep, systemic and widespread in Nigeria.

But What is corruption?

Corruption even though a global problem, lacks a universally accepted definition.

The Oxford Dictionary- an act of dishonesty especially using bribery or an immoral or wicked act.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary - dishonest or illegal behaviour especially of people in authority

Nye J. S.- a deviation from the formal duties of a public role because of private gain

Samuel P. Huntington -as behaviour of public officials which deviates from accepted norms in order to serve private end.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank define corruption as "the abuse of public office".

From the above definitions, three things come out clearly:

Corruption is a dishonest act, wicked and bad. As a result, it will be expected that good people will not be involved in it.

Corruption is seen as immoral and antithetical to the positive virtues of society. This implies that there should be social disapproval of anyone who engages in corrupt practices.

Corruption involves an abuse or misuse of position and authority. Any of such abuse is expected to be met with sanction.

What is Corruption for a Christian?

The ethical standard of Christianity is higher than societal standards. So, the meaning of corruption for society stands for a Christian. But in addition, the bible is the final authority for the Christian and biblical ethical standards are higher than the world's standards.





God Hates Corruption (Exodus 20:15 ; 1 Peter 1:4)

A Christian is a person who has received Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and saviour. A Christian has converted from his old ways to the new way and the lifestyle should be patterned after Christ. The Bible is clear about expectation of the Christian:

James 4: 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. (KJV)

James 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them. (NIV)

For a Christian, corruption is:

Engagement in dishonesty or bribery

Using public office for private gain

Knowing the good thing to do and refusing to do it.

Corruption is harmful to Society

It retards economic growth and hinders investment

It lures people into rent seeking instead of productive work

Money meant for providing services such as health and education are stolen leading to poor health services, low quality education and ASUU strike.

Money meant for building of infrastructure are stolen leading to poor road, lack of electricity and no fuel.

God Hates Corruption

The bible, the word of God shows clearly that God hates corruption and do not want His children to engage in it.

In the Old Testament, the word bribery is regularly used to refer to corruption:

Ex 23: 8- "Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the innocent. (NIV)

Deut 16: 19 -Do not pervert justice or show partiality. Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the innocent. (NIV)

Judges in the Old Testament were cautioned not to accept bribe to pervert justice.

Prov 17: 23 The wicked accept bribes in secret to pervert the course of justice. (NIV)

The Bible is a manual of anti-corruption. In our research, we found 115 scripture verses against corruption. Some of them are categorical:

Ex 20: 15 Thou shalt not steal. (KJV)

God's Expectation of Christians with regard to Corruption

God expects Christians to shun, speak against and stand up against corruption.

Shun Corruption

Ex 20: 15 Thou shall not steal (KJV)

1 Peter 1: 4- Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (KJV)





Sermon of the Month II

Action to Stop Corruption

2 Kings 23 : 1-7



Introduction

We are living in a very corrupt world. Corruption is not new. It is as old as society. Corrupt people have always existed with people of integrity. But there has always been social disapproval of corruption and honour to people of integrity. But over the years, there has been moral degeneration in society and the danger today is that corruption is having an upper hand. It is becoming entrenched, and people of integrity are becoming endangered species.

But God hates corruption. The bible, the word of God shows clearly that God hates corruption and do not want His children to engage in it.

In the Old Testament, the word bribery is regularly used to refer to corruption:

Ex 23: 8- "Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the innocent. (NIV)

God expects Christians to shun, speak against and stand up against corruption.

ACTION TO FIGJT CORRUPTION

The Bible is very clear that faith without works is dead (James 2:26).

1. Discipleship: The discipleship process for new believers and training for mature believers and Ministers should be such that they are prepared and trained to reject corruption and live holy lives.
2. Accountability Mechanism: Christians need to put in place mechanism to ensure accountability in church systems and ensure integrity of the process.
3. Form a Shun Corruption Club: in a school or in your workplace.
4. Sermon on Corruption: The word purifies. Christian Leaders need to preach and teach on corruption using the scriptures as guide.





Action to Corruption (2 Kings 23 : 1-7)

Pastor (Dr.) Otive Igbuzor

1.Example of Josiah (2 Kings 22 and 23)

Josiah was eight years old when he began to reign. At age 16, he began to seek the Lord. At age 20, he began to cleanse Jerusalem. At age 26, he ordered temple repairs.

Josiah's reign was characterized by peace, prosperity and reform.

2 Kings 22: 1-2 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. 2 He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. (NIV)

2 Kings 23: 1-7 - Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. 2 He went up to the temple of the Lord with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the Lord. 3 The king stood by the pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the Lord—to follow the Lord and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in this book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant. 4 The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the Lord all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. 5 He did away with the idolatrous priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem—those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts. 6 He took the Asherah pole from the temple of the Lord to the Kidron Valley outside Jerusalem and burned it there. He ground it to powder and scattered the dust over the graves of the common people. 7 He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes that were in the temple of the Lord, the quarters where women did weaving for Asherah. (NIV)





with
Dr. Otive Igbuzor
Reloaded

Book Reading <<
BREAKFAST

7:30
AM

2ND
AUG.
2022

@ Palace of Priests
Assembly Auditorium,
Ebenezer place Abuja

Book reading breakfast with Dr.Otive Igbuzor resumes on 2nd August 2022. Recall that the breakfast meeting was interrupted due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020/2021. A statement by the organizers of the program stated that the book reading will now hold every first Tuesday of the month from 7:30 am -8:30 am. The statement further enjoined all well-meaning Nigerians who are resident in Abuja to join the program physically while a virtual link will be provided for the online audience. The book reading sessions will hold at the Palace of Priests Assembly auditorium, Ebenezer Place after el-rufai park area one Abuja.



VOICE OF THE PRIEST AGAINST CORRUPTION (VOTPAC)

On Love FM

102.5

Join Me
OCHE OCHEME
as i host



Topic: The Place of the Mind in the Fight Against Corruption

VOICE OF THE PRIEST AGAINST CORRUPTION (VOTPAC)

Every Wednesday
10:15 AM

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Abuja, Nigeria

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#SHUNCORRUPTION

JOIN ME OCHE OCHEME & MY GUEST

Pastor Tunde Stephen




Every Wednesday
10:05AM

13th July 2022

Voice of the Priest Against
CORRUPTION (VOTPAC)
on Crowther Radio, Love F.M 104.5 Abuja, Nigeria

JOIN ME OCHE OCHEME & MY GUEST

Pastor Dr. BON ACHUMBA



Every Wednesday
10:05AM

20th July 2022

Voice of the Priest Against
CORRUPTION (VOTPAC)
on Crowther Radio, Love F.M 104.5 Abuja, Nigeria

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#shuncorruption



PPA/PPJ UPCOMING EVENT



Student Christian Movement
(SCM) of Nigeria

in collaboration with

Priests Peace & Justice Initiative

PRESENTS

International

YOUTH
DAY 2022

March Against Corruption

9
AM

12TH
AUG.
2022

Meeting Point @:
Federal Government Girls
College, Calabar



MacArthur
Foundation



**Ebenezer Place, Durumi 2,
after Gwagwalada Park,
Area One,
Federal Capital Territory (FCT),
Abuja,
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