Palace of PRIESTS ASSEMBLY (PPA) Convened a 3-day Capacity Building Workshop on Christianity and the Fight Against Corruption in Abuja.
Palace of PRIESTS ASSEMBLY (PPA) Convened a 3-day Capacity Building Workshop on Christianity and the Fight Against Corruption on Monday, May 23rd to 25th, 2022 in Abuja.

Palace of Priests Assembly (PPA) and its social arm, Priests Peace & Justice Initiative (PPJ) reconvened Christian Leaders across the Northern Zone for a three-day Capacity building/Train the Trainer session on Christianity and the Fight Against Corruption.

The Capacity building training is part of the activities in the implementation of the SHUN CORRUPTION project 2.0 by the Priests Peace and Justice Initiative (PPJ)/Palace of Priests Assembly (PPA). 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.

An earlier release by Dr. Otive Igbuzor, the General Overseer of PPA said it is worth noting that the entire training arrangement will be predicated on a Christian perspective, a Bible research-based Manual rich in scriptures, principles, and values that will be used by researchers/trainers towards meeting the objectives of the training. He stated that the project’s overarching goal is to promote zero tolerance for corruption among Pentecostals through adherence to positive group norms, peer-to-peer accountability, and institutionalization of platforms against corruption.

The three-day capacity-building program drew from the research conducted in phases one and two of the project. It focused on the social dimension of the church, social justice, and the fight against corruption. It also enhanced the capacities of the Pentecostal Leaders to actively participate in the campaign to promote accountability and integrity in Nigeria including issues on the voice and agency of citizens.

The capacity building sessions was an eye-opening event for the Christian leaders and workers and have enhanced their capacity to advocate and campaign against corruption and social ills from a Christian perspective with an emphasis on ethical values in Christianity that despise them.

This will complement, boost and sustain the anti-corruption efforts in the country, push national development, and also strengthen the social responsibility structure and content of the church for the benefit of the members and the society at large. Dr Igbuzor urged all the participants/trainees to be very dedicated to all the sessions, to earnestly develop new capacities which will lead to the effective implementation of the project and attainment of desired outcomes. The statement further enjoined all Christians to join hands together and make the project work to change the face of Pentecostal social development not only in Nigeria and Africa but across the world.
Dr. Otive Igbuzor thanked participants for honouring the invitation to the capacity building programme. He highlighted the problems of corruption in Nigeria and observed that despite the efforts by the government to address them over the years, corruption is still deep, systemic and widespread in Nigeria leading to the country’s low rating by Transparency International. He explained further that PPA through its social arm – PPJ was motivated to conceptualise the SHUN Corruption project some years ago as it occurred that Pentecostal Christian leaders were not effectively engaged in the fight against corruption in Nigeria. According to him, the project which is part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation big bet On Nigeria Anti-Corruption programme is in its second phase having completed the first phase which ran from January 2018 to April 2021. The General Overseer gave a summary of the achievements of the first phase of the project to include:
- The establishment of structures and platforms to fight corruption;
- The building of a critical mass of advocates to generate a ripple effect in the fight against corruption;
- Documentation of several scriptures against corruption; the creation of platforms against corruption across several strata of the society among others.

Pst (Dr.) Igbuzor informed participants that as part of the second phase, the project will focus on grounding corruption norms and practices as well as elevating the motivation to bring about change in individual and group behaviour through the establishment of social arms in Churches to address social issues and fight corruption. In addition, he explained that individuals who use the 3S model of: SHUN corruption, STAND UP against corruption and SPEAK OUT against corruption will be recognised and celebrated.

He informed participants that the capacity building programme was designed to enhance the capacity and capability of the Pentecostal Community in Nigeria to adopt the social arm of the Church and accountability framework within the Church as well as champion the fight against corruption outside the Church. He added that participants would be expected to step down the training in their respective Churches as the workshop was designed to adopt the train the trainer approach. While closing his address, Pst (Dr.) Igbuzor expressed gratitude to the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN) for their support and stated that through the project, sixty-six churches have so far established the social arm of the Church with structures and management teams put in place.
Goodwill Messages

Goodwill messages were delivered by the following organisations at the opening ceremony of the workshop:

- Mac Arthur Foundation represented by Mr Dayo Olaide
- PFN’s National Director of Research, Prof James Nda Jacob
- PFN State Chapters – FCT, Kano, Plateau, Bauchi, Benue, Adamawa, Kogi, Niger and Kwara

The different messages conveyed solidarity and willingness to support the project. The respective state chapter chairmen of PFN emphasized the need for in-house cleansing before taking the message outside. On his part, the representative of Mac Arthur Foundation – Dayo Olaide gave a brief history of the Foundation including how it came into Nigeria about 3 decades ago. He called on participants to reflect deeply on the project and the need to salvage Nigeria from the path of decadence and bring it back to the track of true development. The General Overseer of Palace of Priests Assembly – Pst (Dr.) Otive Igbuzor was commended for initiating the project and for his contributions towards developing the Pentecostal movement in Nigeria.
The module on Understanding GESI was facilitated by Pst. (Dr.) Ejiro Otive-Igbuzor – Assistant General Overseer, PPA. She stated that gender consideration starts from programming and observed that unfortunately out of 10 speakers for the Capacity Building programme, only 1 was a female. She drew the attention of participants to the fact that women have been left behind so much and that the Pentecostal movement was the first to open up the space for women to come into the pulpit. Notwithstanding, the gap is still wide. The presentation touched on the following:

- **Sex versus Gender**
- **GESI Knowledge and Awareness**
- **Acknowledgement of the Diversity of Creation**
- **Gender Equity versus Gender Equality**
- **The Concept of GESI**
- **GBV – Is it happening in your Church?**
- **Is the Bible against Equality?**
- **GESI in Project Design**

Other highlights of her presentation were as follows:

- The concept of GESI is broader and more inclusive
  - **Sex** is nature while **gender** is nurture; therefore, **sex** is biological while **gender** is socially created. Gender is a product of what was learnt in the society. **Gender identity** is often developed from what people see around them – there is really no biological logic to determine gender. **Gender role** is relative to communities/societies.
  - It is germane to let participants know that there are diversities and differences.
  - **Equity** is a means while **equality** is a goal – the former takes cognizance of existing gaps and uses drastic measures to address them like quota, subsidies, capacity building, etc.
  - The gender gap in the national assembly is unexplainably huge as there are 8 Senators out of 109 and 12 Reps out of 360 in NASS.

*Furthermore, some concepts associated with GESI were explained by the facilitator as follows:*

- **GESI** – an approach that seeks to address unequal power relations experienced by people on the grounds of gender, wealth, ability, location, race, caste/ethnicity, language and agency or a combination of these dimensions.
- **Agency** – the capacity of women and girls as well as other marginalised groups to take purposeful action and pursue goals free from the threat of violence and retribution. Having agency means having the capacity to act independently and to make own choice or take decisions for yourself.
-Social Exclusion - A process that renders marginalized women, men and persons intersex, and various categories unable to participate fully in economic, social, political and cultural life.

-Social Inclusion - Seeks to address inequality and factors to make it difficult for some categories of persons to participate in the political, economic and environmental life of one’s country and the world at large.

Pst. Dr. Ejio Igbezor called on Christian leaders to recognise the different groups in the Church and find ways to transform those seen as dysfunctional within the context of Christian service rather than casting them out just as Jesus did to the women caught in adultery. She also observed that Jesus’ ministry was inclusive as He ministered to all kinds of persons, widows, orphans, the poor, children, persons with disabilities, the adulterer, etc.
Drivers of Corruption Within and Outside the Church

Dr Jame Zasha

The facilitator of the session - Dr Jame Zasha (who was also the researcher commissioned by PPJ to carry out a research on the Drivers of Corruption Within and Outside the Church) commenced his presentation by drawing attention to the need to clean one’s house before chastising others. The outline of the presentation was given as follows:

- Purpose of the Presentation
- Understanding Drivers of Corruption Within and Outside the Church,
- Efforts of Pentecostal Churches to tackle Corruption within and Outside the Church,
- Building the Capacity of Pentecostal Churches to identify and confront Drivers of Corruption within and outside the Church
- Summary

Pic 8: The session on Drivers of Corruption being facilitated by Dr. James Zasha

The major drivers of corruption were identified in the presentation as below:

- Greed and indiscipline fueled by depravity of the human heart,
- Pressure to meet societal expectations with deficit legitimate means,
- The emphasis on material possessions and prosperity and materialistic definition of success,
- Inordinate competition among leaders and laity,
- The sizes of auditoriums and make of cars are taken as signs of success for many General Overseers.

In addition, drivers of corruption outside the Church were identified as follows:

- Normalization of corruption in society -- “a new normal” is emerging when corruption is seen as normal,
- Pressure to meet societal expectations with deficit legitimate means,
- Erosion of noble social norms of integrity and probity,
- Greed and Indiscipline

Dr Zasha further examined efforts made to reduce corruption both within and outside the Church. He also recommended the following to curtail corruption in the Church:

- Put systems in place. Records to check people. Once found wanting they can be relieved of their jobs.
- Use Forms for Requesting Funds (FRFs) Requisition forms will help. After funds are spent, the person concerned should come with receipts to verify purchases. Don’t give people money that they can’t handle.
- Give responsibilities to people with relevant capacities
- Adequate remuneration for workers
How to Engage in Effective Advocacy

A module on how to engage in effective advocacy was facilitated by Pst(Dr.) Ejiro Otive-Igbuzor. She gave the objectives of the module as follows:

- To enhance participants understanding of the concept and skills required for advocacy.
- To identify the steps and strategies required for advocacy and how to craft advocacy messages.

The outline of module included the following:

- Understanding Advocacy
- The Concept of Voice
- Qualities of an Advocate
- Basic Skills for Advocacy
- Advocacy vs IEC
- Advocacy vs Public Relations
- Advocacy vs Community Mobilisation
- Advocacy for Pentecostals
- Steps in the Advocacy Process
- Examples of Advocacy in the Bible

The Assistant General Overseer of PPA described advocacy as the process of strategically managing and sharing knowledge to change and/or influence policies and practices that affect people’s lives. She also outlined the basic skills for advocacy to include: Communication, Negotiation, Lobbying, Mobilization, Research, Analytical.

She further enumerated some of the germane issues of Advocacy to PFN to include:

- PFN to adopt and popularize the dual mandate and establishment of the social arm of the Church,
- PFN to delineate and adopt the social teachings of the Church,
- Advocate for effective anti-corruption strategies/action by governments at different levels,
- Joining anti-corruption campaigns e.g on Africa Anti-Corruption Days, etc.

Some instances of advocacy in the Bible were identified to include:

i. Queen Esther’s action – Esther 1 – 10
ii. Father Abraham – Genesis 18:16-33
iii. Moses - Exodus
iv. Daughters of Zelophehad – Numbers 27
v. The persistent widow – Luke 18
The objectives of the module were presented by the facilitator of the session – Dr. Orinya Agbaji – Programme Manager, PPJ as follows:

i. To have a broad and deep understanding of corruption outside & within the context of the Pentecostal Church;
ii. To develop a shared and common understanding of how to fight corruption within & outside the Pentecostal Church;
iii. To determine how the Pentecostal Church can be organised into an effective movement in the anti-corruption fight;
iv. To examine corruption in the light of the Scriptures and engage it as a weapon in the fight against corruption;
v. To understand that the Trinity - God the father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit is the Commander-in-Chief in the fight against corruption.

The module which was highly participatory covered the following outline:
- Introduction.
- What is Corruption.
- Corruption through the Ages.
- Effect of Corruption.
- The Scriptures on Corruption.
- The Role of Pentecostal Church in fighting Corruption.
- Conclusion.

Some critical points for reflection on the presentation were given by the facilitator as below:
- What is Corruption?
- Is there Corruption in Nigeria?
- Can there be Corruption in the Pentecostal Church?
- What Constitute Corruption in Pentecostal Church?
- Can the Pentecostal Church fight Corruption?
- Should Corruption be minimised or eradicated?
- If Corruption should be eradicated in the Pentecostal Church who should take the lead?
Christianity and the Fight Against Corruption

Dr. Agbaji Orinya

Highlights of the presentation were as follows:
- The average Christian thinks differently about what corruption is. It is not only about stealing money, the person organising exam for his or her child is involved in corruption.
- There is corruption in the Pentecostal Church – lobbying for favourable posting, giving gift to be considered for a position, etc. are all incidences of corruption in the Church.
- Pic 5: Dr O. Agbaji - PM, PPJ facilitating a session at the workshop

There are Churches operating illegally without licence and proper accountability mechanism – these are all recipes for corruption.

- The Pentecostal Church can fight corruption by creating accountability spaces.
- For corruption to be eradicated, leaders should take the lead in this journey

Dr Agbaji noted that corruption is possible in what we do or fail to do, what we say or fail to say whether at home, in the Office, in public spaces or in the Church. Exploring the scriptures in James 4:17 and Ephesians 5:11, the Programme Manager explained that corruption can be said to have occurred when a Christian that holds a position of trust (or is a beneficiary of that office) knows what is good for improving transparency and accountability but does not do it. He observed further that many Pentecostal Churches do not promote any form of financial checks and balances as so much emphasis is placed on prosperity message leading to the prevalent lifestyle of flamboyance and individualism which condones corruption.

To fight corruption, the facilitator urged Pentecostal Churches to consider the following:
- Shun Corruption
- Formulate a National Pentecostal Anti-Corruption Strategy
- Organise a National Anti-Corruption Prayer Day.
- Hold itself to high anti-corruption standards
- Speak against corruption wherever it occurs.
- Join public awareness campaign and education efforts.
- Engage at policy level in the fight against corruption.
- Provide strong community spirit.
- Assert itself as a community of moral discourse.
- Carry out the fight not to antagonize but to make disciples.
- Celebrate our role models of anti-corruption in the Church.
- Where necessary we should name and shame corruption in the Church.
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Palace of PRIESTS ASSEMBLY (PPA) Convened a 3-day Capacity Building Workshop on Christianity and the Fight Against Corruption on Monday, May 23rd to 25th, 2022 in Abuja.
Christianity and the Struggle for Social Justice

The module on Christianity and the Struggle for Social Justice was facilitated by Dr Sam Amadi. He presented the objectives of the module as follows:

To introduce participants to the concept of the struggle for social justice,
To explore God's care for social justice and the Christian heritage of fight for justice,
To examine the role of the church in the struggle for social justice.

The outline of the module was as follows:
- Introduction
- Why Should a Christian Care about Justice? Does God really Care about Justice?
- God and Justice
- The Christian Heritage of Fighting for Justice
- The Closing of the Christian Mind
- In Nigeria today the Christian voice is not loud and clear
- What can be done

Dr Amadi explained that votes can actually be counted but they won't count; but prayers will always count especially after you have done what you were led to do. He stressed that the concern for Christians should be to support a candidate that will pursue biblical governance through social justice and righteousness. Therefore, if a Christian has not demonstrated the capacity and capability to uphold social justice then he or she is not fit to be trusted with political power. He gave Jeremiah 9: 23-24 as scripture to reflect on. The facilitator defined social justice as a fair and just relationship between the individual and society measured by the distribution of wealth, opportunities for personal activity and social privileges. The following were identified as common elements in conceptualizing social justice:

i. The duty of the state to distribute certain vital means,
ii. The protection of human dignity,
iii. The affirmative actions to promote equal opportunities for everybody – this is means giving to people to bring them to some acceptable level of humanity.

Dr Amadi noted that the United Nations see Social Justice as substitute to human rights but from the biblical point, it is beyond human rights. It is an attempt to respect the work of God and ensure that nobody lives beyond certain acceptable conditions. Other highlights of the session were as follows:
- There is the need to put things in the right perspective. Social justice is about seeing what is unfair and doing something about it. It is an indicator of fairness;
- Politics is a kingdom business and God is a politician. Politics is about being in charge of resources and how the resources are managed;
- God requires us to be politicians because he has asked us to take dominion of the things he created.
CAUSES OF CORRUPTION
Pastor Dr. Otive Igbuzor

There are different perspectives on what causes corruption in society. Some scholars have argued that poverty is at the root cause of corruption and that without poverty, there would be no corruption. [i] Most people would agree that poverty definitely contributes to corruption. In many poor countries, the wages of public and private sector workers is not sufficient for them to survive. Many people, therefore, engage in petty corruption to make ends meet. But poverty can definitely not be the only explanation. If poverty is the only cause, it will be difficult to explain why rich people and rich countries engage in corruptible transactions. It has been documented that:

Recent World Bank estimates of the wealth that corrupt African leaders have stashed away in European banks stands at several billion US dollars. None of these leaders can be described as victims of poverty. Yet, by plundering national treasuries, these African leaders have unquestionably deepened the poverty of their people.[ii]

There is also the suggestion that corruption is part of the culture of many developing countries. This line of argument is mostly pushed by Eurocentric scholars. They argue that:

What is regarded as corruption in Africa is a myth because it is expected that a beneficiary should show appreciation for a favor granted him/her. If a government official offers one a job or contract, the beneficiary would be obliged to show appreciation either in kind or cash to the government official just as he would do to a village chief if granted a land to cultivate crops or build a house. Corruption is a myth because ‘one’s culture’s bribery is another’s mutual goodwill.’ [iii]

But this position that corruption is part of African culture has been criticized by many African scholars, activists and politicians. It is clear to any African that the traditional African society frowns at corruption or stealing of anything that does not legally belong to you and there are strong community sanctions for such behaviour. As Maduagwu has argued,

It is mere trivialization of the serious issue of corruption in the modern society for any one to suggest that corruption or embezzlement of public funds or extortion of money (bribes) from people looking for jobs or contracts or other benefits from government, could be equated to the customary requirement of bringing presents to the chief for permission to cultivate a land and such things.

[v]President Olusegun Obasanjo also attacked the notion that corruption is part of African culture when he stated that:

I shudder at how an integral part of our culture could be taken as the basis for rationalizing otherwise despicable behaviour. In the African concept of appreciation and hospitality, the gift is usually a token. It is not demanded. The value is usually in the spirit rather than in the material worth. It is usually done in the open, and never in secret. Where it is excessive, it becomes an embarrassment and it is returned. If anything, corruption has perverted and destroyed this aspect of our culture.

Furthermore, every society has ways of showing appreciation which is quite different from corruption as we have defined above. In Europe and America, the giving of tips to bar attendants is an accepted way of showing appreciation akin to appreciation shown to a chief who gives permission for land to be cultivated.
Related to the myth of culture is the argument that in Africa, there is allegiance to the extended family and community. As a result, when one climbs up the social and political ladder, he/she is expected to be under pressure to give gifts, money, job and contracts to people of his/her community. Therefore, when people bow to these pressures, they slip into corruption. It must however be noted that in any society, there are different kinds of pressures. Succumbing to negative pressures in any society cannot be accepted as the norm.

Another argument that has been advanced by Marxist scholars is that corruption is the method that the capitalist class that emerged from colonialism uses to accumulate wealth. They argue that inflation of contracts, over-invoicing, collection of kickbacks and buying off of public enterprises at give away prices are primitive means of accumulation of capital that the emergent bourgeoisie in post colonial countries utilize.

Finally, some scholars have attributed corruption in the African continent to the legacy of colonialism. They argue that the colonial state lacked transparency and accountability to the African people. If there was any iota of accountability, it was to the metropolis in London, Paris, Lisbon or elsewhere but definitely not to African people and institutions. This is why after the independence, the post colonial state and government are alien to the African. We have argued elsewhere that the colonized people saw government as oppressive and alien; and this is why in most African languages, government work is described as white person’s job.[vi] In our view, corruption is a problem with multi-factorial cause. It is caused by a complex of factors and relations ranging from poverty to greed and primitive accumulation conditioned by colonial heritage.
• The Church has a dual mandate: Spiritual dimension and social dimension.
• The mandate is aptly captured in the mission of Jesus Christ in Luke 4:18
• The practical ministry of Jesus involved spiritual and social dimensions.
• Jesus addressed social issues of justice, law, outcasts and poverty.

History of the Church
• One of the more remarkable aspects of Christianity today is how few professed believers have ever studied the history of their religion—Bruce L. Shelley
• Christianity is over 2,000 years and has a rich history. Unfortunately, most Christians including Christian leaders are ignorant of the 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.
• First three centuries: The Church was completely separated from government. But the church spoke against corrupt leadership.
• Rise of Roman Catholicism and the Church became incorporated into government. The Church became a department of State. The Roman Emperor presided over the Church Synod of Bishops. The church became ineffective to correct the excesses of government.
• Later, the Church became separated from the State.
• 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 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.
SIGNPOSTS IN CHURCH HISTORY

• Before the fourth century closed, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman State.
• The church of the 12th century was itself a kind of empire, a spiritual and earthly kingdom stretching from Ireland to Palestine, from earth to heaven.
• Power corrupted the church. In the 14th and 15th centuries, many Christians turned to the bible for fresh vision and renewal.
• In the first 300 years of Christianity, persecution and martyrdom became increasingly a sign of the strength of Christianity as a movement.
• Polycarp (69-155), a disciple of John the Apostle was killed because he refused to renounce his faith. He said “For eighty six years, I have served Him, and He never did me any wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?”
• The rise of the Roman Catholic Church: “There is a big difference between 250 and 1076. In the former, the bishop of Rome was imprisoned by the emperor and died there; in the latter the Bishop of Rome, now a Pope kept the emperor waiting penitent outside a castle for three days while he deliberated on proper judgement.”
• Power, moral decay and disunity led to decline of the church. There were four crusades or “holy war” from 1054 (1st crusade); 1144 (2nd crusade) 1188-1192(3rd crusade) and 1204(4th Crusade).
• All of these led to the reform and revival of the 15th century led by Martin Luther (1483-1546): justification by faith and priesthood of all believers.
Rise of Pentecostalism and neglect of the social Dimension
• The protestant reformation was anchored on three key issues: The sole authority of the scriptures, Justification by faith and Priesthood of all believers.
Rise of Pentecostalism and neglect of the social dimension
• 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.
• With the rise of Pentecostalism, there was emphasis on material prosperity, loyalty to the nation state and individualism and social dimension of the church decreased immensely.
• This has led to the public perception today that is a challenge to all true Pentecostals. This public perception has led to the non-recognition of Pentecostal Charismatic social contribution of goods and services valued at more than 2.3 billion US dollars and with more than 250 million people in over 100 countries since 1980.
• The perception is that Pentecostals are only interested in prosperity and not concerned about social issues in society.
• The Pentecostal Movement is characterised by emphasis on baptism of the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of the gifts of the spirit. Christian Historians have characterised the Pentecostal movement into three waves:
  First wave beginning in 1901 with a rediscovery of and a new experience of the supernatural with a powerful and energising ministry of the Holy spirit.
  Second wave starting in the mainline churches in 1960 with Christians affiliated to non-Pentecostal denominations (Anglicans, Protestants, Catholic, Orthodox) experiencing baptism in the Holy Spirit.
Third wave beginning in 1980 with evangelicals and other Christians receiving baptism of the Holy Spirit. Scholars have pointed out that between Pentecost in Acts Chapter 2 in AD 100 and 1901 when the first wave started is 1,800 years. Some have argued that the 1,800-year period can be regarded as spiritually dead. But others point out that there was a range of spirit activity during this period ranging from hundreds of cases of prophesy to discernment of spirits and divine healing.

The Pentecostal movement has grown from a handful of believers in the early twentieth century to a global movement now numbering over 600 million people, and those who embrace the Holy Spirit and His gifts are now the fastest growing religious group in the world.

It is continuing to grow especially in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Today, the countries with the highest number of Pentecostals in decreasing order are China, Brazil, the USA, Nigeria, India, Philippines, South Africa D. R. Congo, Mexico, and Columbia. (Nigeria occupies 4th position)

**CHRONOLOGY OF THE THREE ICONIC REFORMATIONS IN CHRISTIANITY- Fred Adetiba**

**THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST**: Brought a new order to replace the Pharisees and the scribes to replace Judaism. Act 17:28

**LUTHERAN REFORMATION 1600s to 1900s**
- 1600s: Water Baptism
- 1700s: Holiness (John Wesley)
- 1800s: Divine Faith Healing (God's Generals)
- 1900s: Holy Ghost Baptism
- 1940s: Laying on of Hands (Oral Roberts)
- 1950s: Charismatic Renewal
- 1960s: Demonology/Deliverance
- Early 1970s: Discipleship and Family Life
- Late 1970s: Faith Message, Prosperity Gospel (Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Idahosa)
- Early 1980s: Global Prayer Movement
- Mid-1980s: Dominion Prophetic Ministry
- Early 1990s: Prophetic Ministry
- Late 1990s: Apostolic Reformation

3. **21st CENTURY REFORMATION**: A new era of return to the dual mandate of the Church.
MORE CHURCHES SET UP THEIR SOCIAL ARMS IN GOMBE STATE

In the implementation of the second phase of the shun Corruption project, our objectives are clearly stated to include promoting the establishment of the social arm of the church as an instrument for fighting corruption and adopting accountability framework for Pentecostal churches and to enhance the capacity and capability of the Pentecostal Community in Nigeria to adopt social arm of the church and accountability framework within the church and champion the fight against corruption outside the Church (in communities, towns unions, workplaces, academic institutions, marketplaces, etc). As we continue our advocacy in Gombe state in collaboration with the Gombe State Chapter of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, a total of 36 Churches have established their social arms in the state, including the church where the Gombe State PFN Chairman is the General Overseer. The Churches have set up structures including board members with clear thematic areas of operation. Many of them have also developed background materials such as brochures to guide their operations. We envisage that more churches will establish their social arms as we continue advocating.
Photo Story: Sensitization Workshop on the Shun Corruption Project 2.0 in Gombe
Photo Story:

Sensitization Workshop on the
Shun Corruption Project 2.0
in Gombe

Sensitization Workshop on the
SHUN CORRUPTION PROJECT 2.0
Inauguration of the Gombe State Shun Corruption Core Group

DATE: 4th - 5th May 2022  TIME: 9:00am
VENUE: Eccelesiastical Gospel Centre (EGC)
Along Maid Hospital Street, Tunfure, Gombe State.
Challenge of the Neglect of the Social Dimension of the Church for Society and How a Local Church can Establish a Social Arm.

- Historically, Churches have been the epitome of morality and good conduct.
- The protestant ethics contributed to the development of Europe and America.
- The social cognitive theory of behaviour reminds us that behaviour is shaped by personal factors (instincts, drives, traits, and other motivational forces) and environmental factors (situational influences).
- There is therefore the need to build the personal factors and motivate people to act on the environment to change behaviour so as to maintain public support for anti-corruption.
- Members of the congregation in the church have a lot of trust in their leaders. The trust is based on embedded Christian values and the solid reputation of the church for meeting the spiritual and physical needs of its members.
- The behaviour of many people even those who profess religion are guided by secular mindset which is based on the notion that the source of knowledge is not divine as against religious mindset anchored on revelation from God.
- But it is clear that secular mindset has limited scope of its world view to the physical aspect of life only and does not play a crucial role in shaping moral character as religion.
- The end result is that many people appear not to know what is morally right or wrong. Some testimonies in Church are embarrassing.
- People commit atrocities and post them on the social media.

Lesson from the First Church - Catholic Church

Social teachings of the catholic church

1. Life of Dignity and Human person
2. Call to Family, Community and Participation
3. Preferential option for the poor (In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition instructs us to put the needs of poor and vulnerable people first).
4. The Dignity of work and the rights of workers (Economy must serve people)
5. Solidarity

- Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC)
- Several Foundations

Lessons from other Churches

- Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria (CRUDAN)- formed by Protestant Churches
- The Ecumenical Commission of Justice and Peace (ECJP)- formed by Methodist Church

How a local Church can Establish and operationalise the social arm

- Identify believers in your church who have experience on social issues advocacy.
- Form a team to establish the social arm: get a name and a management team.
- The church registration can serve for the social arm or you may decide to register it separately.
- Prepare the background material and start operations.

Programmatic Focus of the social arm of the church: The example of PPJ

- Democracy: Elections, transparency, and accountability and stewardship
- Peace Building: Human security and Conflict Transformation
- Social Justice: Poverty, Inequality and Justice
- Emergency and Humanitarian services
**Challenge of the Neglect of the Social Dimension of the Church for Society and How a Local Church can Establish a Social Arm.**

- **Education and Health**
  - Some Examples from Pentecostal Churches-
    - **Realm of Glory and other Pentecostal Churches: Catalysts for Global Peace and Justice (CPJ)**
    - **Palace of Priests Assembly- Priests Peace and Justice Initiative (PPJ)**
    - **Charismatic Renewal Ministry (CRM)-Rescue Foundation**
    - **Resurrection Life Power and Prayer Evangelical Assembly, Kaduna- Touch a Life**
    - **Global Glow of Glory Gospel Ministry- Glow of Mercy**
    - **Glorious Bethel Outreach Worldwide Ministry, Kaduna- Goshen Initiative**

**Process of formation**
- **Formation (Board of Directors and Advisors; Registration)- Traditional, Membership or Entrepreneurial.**
- **Strategic Plan/Direction- Vision, Mission, Goal and Programmatic focus. (Production of Brochure)**

**The role of PFN in operationalising the social arm of the church**
- Accept, popularise and give priority to the dual mandate
- Institutionalise social arm of the Church as a core practice in Pentecostal Churches
- Encourage, support and motivate members to establish the social arm of the church
- Good examples: PFN, Gwarimpa and 35 Churches in Kaduna at Evangelical Bible Ministry (Feb, 2022);
  PFN South West –a lot of people have indicated interest. 66 Churches have established social arm through our work.

**The role of PPJ in operationalising the social arm of the Church**
- Advocate for institutionalisation of the social arm of the church for Pentecostal churches.
- Give technical support to churches who want to establish the social arm of their churches.
- Build capacity of Pentecostal Churches to operate the social arm of the church especially in terms of formation and management

The Church has a dual mandate. In the past, the social dimension of the church has been neglected. There is a new realisation to refocus on the dual mandate. PPJ is committed to actualisation of this revelation.
Each time I think about the Scriptural perspectives of corruption, one passage that comes very strong in my heart is Jeremiah 35. This passage speaks of the Rechabites and their encounter with Prophet Jeremiah.

The Rechabites were a clan that adhered to the laws laid down by their father, Jonadab. They were noted for their fidelity to the old established customs of their family in the days of Jeremiah. This feature of their character is referred to by God for the purpose of giving point to his message to the King of Judah.

Their revolution against corruption and rigidity to righteousness outclassed other clans in Israel. They were so known to be fervent followers of Yahweh, the God of Israel. They are also best known for their connection with the slaughter of the worshippers of Baal during the revolt led by Jehu. According to later Jewish tradition, for their standard of life, the Levites; Priestly class, were delighted and allowed to intermarry with them.

This chapter records the meeting of Jeremiah with the Rechabites, a nomadic clan, in which the prophet "contrast[s] their faithfulness to the commands of a dead ancestor with the faithlessness of the people of Judah to the commands of a living God". Jeremiah though a renown prophet at the time, could not succeed in convincing this clan to behave in contrast to the law their father gave them, even when Jeremiah claimed that it was God that asked him to command them to.

Believers today must arise STAND, SPEAK and SHUN corruption with same tenacity with which the Rechabites rejected Jeremiah's injunction against their father's will.

Jer. 35:18-19,

“And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you: Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever."

God honors such acts and sets people like that in leadership; He said Rechab shall not want a man to stand before Him for ever!

I'd like to hear that from the Lord and I'm sure you will want same! My humble prayer is that the Lord will grant us that ruggedness, firmness and rigidness of heart to STAND, SPEAK and SHUN corruption in this present perverse and crooked Nation of ours, In Jesus Christ’s Almighty Name (Acts 2:40).

Dr Ralph Olufemi Olowo
Presiding Bishop
STEA Inc, Kano.
The Behavioural Insights Team is known as the Nudge Unit. They exist to improve people’s lives and communities and work in partnership with national, regional, and local governments, businesses, foundations, and charities, to tackle major policy problems. Often through testing and implementing simple yet powerful changes.

PPJ engagement with the team began in September 2021. The engagements revolve around the following outcomes:

- Design and implement a behavioral informed anti-corruption intervention
- Build our capacity to conduct and use in-depth behavioral and human-centered research to support our project
- Build our capacity to obtain results from a rigorous evaluation of the intervention in making program decisions

The expected outcome from the activities with the BI team is to promote behavior change among Pentecostal churches regarding accountability, rejecting, and preventing corruption. The collaboration with them is in three phases:

- Gathering Information
  - designing the behavioral informed anti-corruption intervention
- Research: PPJ Program team is working with the Behavioral Insight team in designing the behavioral informed anti-corruption intervention.
- Solution Design: Working on designing the behavioral informed anti-corruption intervention;
- PPJ team is working with the BI team to harvest a pull of the data and organize our database. We’re picturing something that includes all of the contact information for everyone who is in any of our listservs and/or WhatsApp groups. We’re planning to use this data to extract information such as the number of churches in the network and the number of active phone numbers.
- The PPJ team is attending weekly solution design training with the BI team.
Photo Story:
Behavioral Insight Team Visit to PPA
During a brain-storming session on solution design for the Shun Corruption project with some PPA beneficiaries in attendance
During the first phase of the project, three national Christian Platforms against corruption were established namely Christian Women Against Corruption, Ministers Against Corruption, and Youth Vanguard Against Corruption. In addition, several platforms were set up in some states. This phase of the project will deepen the work of the platforms and establish new platforms in states where they do not exist. The platforms will continue to engage in conversations on corruption, social justice, accountability, the political leadership of the nation, open governance, and elections with the scripture as the basis for discussion. PPJ held a 1-day sensitization meeting with leaders of some Pentecostal churches in Enugu state in order to further strengthen the Shun Corruption Campaign in the state and enhance their level of participation in the project. Key leaders of the Enugu state Shun Corruption platform were in attendance.
What is Corruption?
Extracts from interviews on the Drivers of Corruption Within and outside the Church

- Corruption is the lack of accountability, transparency and good governance in society and at church levels.
- Any act of omission or commission that goes against any laid down rules, laws and expectations.
- Corruption happens when shared values are abused, disused and desecrated between people. Specific individuals moving away from shared values. James 4:17. Knowing what to do and not doing same, Deviation from shared norms and values."
- Every form of perversion of laid down procedures e.g ignoring forming of queues, giving preference because of status, usurping authority, perverting laid down procedures are all forms of corruption.
- Misuse of entrusted power for personal gain. Corruption happens when people tweak the system to gain advantage where otherwise not guarded.
- “Knowing the right thing to do and not doing it” (James 4.12) is corruption.”
- Corruption is a breakdown your relationship with God which leads to a breakdown in relationship with self-leading to greed. It also leads to a breakdown in relationship with others.
- It is the breaking or bending of rules or creating different rules and following them. In some organizations like the Pentecostal church, there are no rules. The word of the ruler is law.
- Every society has rules and laws and any act that is contrary to societal laws is corruption.
- Within the church, corruption is diversion of church resources for personal gain. Outside the church diversion of organizational/ government resources for personal gain.
- Corruption is made manifest in the politicization of postings and in the ordination of priests. Senior Pastors often ordain those closer to them than others
- Use of church funds- " Creative Accounting" embellished accounting by-passing standards. Annual financials are always published in the narrative i.e. do not tell the whole story except with the use of forensic accounting.
- Arbitrariness occasioned by a vacuum of systems for financial accountability breeds impunity.
- Any act of commission or omission that negates the principles of the word of God. Any act contrary to the Bible.
- Misappropriation of funds especially in the Pentecostal churches. Pentecostal churches do not have robust accountability systems. People perverses decisions in exchange for favors. Corrupt people therefore given positions in the church because they have money.
Free Radio Airtime increasing PPA’S Visibility in Nigeria

The program manager of PPJ, Dr. Agbaji Orinya has said that PPA’s Visibility has increased dramatically in the second phase of the implementation of the Shun Corruption Project as a result of increased participation of the media in our work. The unique approach PPA uses in the implementation of the Shun Corruption project has impressed 4 commercial radio stations who have offered some free airtime to PPA to reach a wider audience. Airtime that would ordinarily break the organization’s budget has now been accessed for free. The PPJ made this appearance on Voice of Nigeria (VON) to discuss youth engagement in the fight against Corruption.
The Students Christian Movement of Nigeria (SCM) in collaboration with Priests Peace & Justice initiative organized a 1-day PVC registration and pre-election sensitization training of trainers on the electoral process and advocacy. The training was facilitated by Mr. Ezenwa Nwagwу,
What is corruption? To be corrupt means: (a) To change from good to bad in morals, manners and actions.

I have heard some people say: that man used to be a good man, that woman used to be a good woman, that boy used to be a good boy or that girl used to be a good girl, but he / she has changed, that means corruption has crept in. As a Christian, you must be sensitive enough to know if that genuine man or woman of God you have been following is still genuine or has changed, because change is constant. Judge him or her with the word of God to ascertain if he or she is still on track, but it all depends on what you understand as judgement. I have the right to judge you with the Word of God to ascertain your genuineness and so also you have the right to judge me with the same word of God. Prophets and prophesies are to be judged by the word of God. 1 Corinthians 14:29
When my teachings are becoming unsound and my principles and actions becoming questionable, you have the right to judge me with the Word of God.

1 John 4: 1, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world”. The first Epistle of John was written in Ephesus between 95 and 110 AD, that is about 1,911 years ago and there were false prophets at that time. Should we expect less today?

It is to judge ourselves with the word of God, 1 Cor. 5:12-13.

Jesus was judged by the people and His disciples in Matt. 16:13-17.
The Bereans in Acts of the Apostles 17:11 judged Paul and his teachings with the word of God. Don’t be deceived by false prophets, they are everywhere. Have you heard some men of God say that what matters to God does not matter any-more?…..That is corruption of the word of God.

(b) corruption is: To alter from the original or correct form or version.
Let’s begin with the Bible, today we have different versions of the Bible both in print and electronic form. We will use the NIV Bible as a case study. Firstly, who were the printers and publishers of the New International Version (NIV).

In 1988 Zondervan and the NIV was purchased by Harper and Row publishers, (Now Harper Collins publishers) Harper Collins publishes pro-homosexual books such as “Making Out”. “Making out” is the complete illustrated guide to lesbian sexuality and relationships, Harper Collins publishes “The Satanic Bible”, “The Joy of Gay Sex”, “The Book of Lesbian Sex and Sexuality” and many other pro-sexual books.
The NIV perverts Jesus Christ into Lucifer! (please get an NIV Bible as you go through this article)

Isaiah 14:14 reveals Satan's grandest desire, "I will be like the most High." And with a little subtle perversion, the printers, translators and publishers of NIV in Isaiah 14:12 granted Satan his wish!

ISAIAH 14:12: The KJB reads, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O LUCIFER, son of the morning! . . ." The NIV version reads, "How you have fallen from heaven, O MORNING STAR, son of the dawn. . ." The NIV changed "Lucifer" to "MORNING STAR".

The Lord Jesus Christ is the MORNING STAR.

Revelation 22:16 says, "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and MORNING STAR". Read also Revelation 2:26-28.

The printers and publishers of NIV CLEARY AND BLATANTLY make LUCIFER -- The Lord Jesus Christ! IT IS BLASPHEMY! IT IS PERVERSION! IT IS CORRUPTION And many Christians claim the NIV is a "better translation"!

The NIV perverts The Lord's Prayer into The Devil's Prayer!

Luke 11:2-4: The NIV reads,".... Father, hallowed be your name, 3. Give us each day our daily bread. 4. Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation."

LUKE 11:2-4: The KJB reads, "...Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. 3.Give us day by day our daily bread. 4. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

The NIV removes everything that refers to a Holy God in heaven -"WHICH ART IN HEAVEN. . . Thy will be done, AS IN HEAVEN, so in earth. . . but DELIVER US FROM EVIL." Everything that distinguishes God from the Devil is REMOVED! "OUR FATHER" of the NIV is "NOT IN HEAVEN" and "DOES NOT DELIVER FROM EVIL". "NEITHER HAS HE ANY EXPECTED KINGDOM".

(1 John 5:7-8 incomplete). Compare with KJV.

NIV Bible. 1 John 5:7-8
[7]For there are three that testify:
[8]the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.

KJV Bible. 1 John 5:7-8
[7]For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
[8]And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

If you have NIV in your home, except for judgement, it should not be in your home just as Jehovah's Witness Bible should not be in your home.
2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

(c) corruption is To become tainted (moral contamination) or rotten.
(d) corruption is To become morally debased.
(e) corruption is To become morally degenerated and perverted.

Corruption has been defined in many different ways by different people, I don’t know your own definition of corruption, but I want to define corruption as “Anything you Think, Say or Do which does not please or glory God. Many people understand corruption in many different ways, some have narrowed corruption to just giving and receiving of bribes, but corruption is higher, greater and wider than that.

Corruption existed before the creation of man.

Read what the Bible says in Isaiah 14:12-14; “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

For you have said in your heart:

Before we continue, read what Jesus says in Matthew 15:18-19 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Luke 12:16-20 - The rich fool thought within himself, in his heart, God read it. Celestial beings read each other’s thoughts, they also read our thoughts here on earth, that’s why our thoughts and deeds are written down.

Let us continue, Lucifer said in his heart, ’I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.’

God heard and judged him.

Ezekiel 28:12b-15 “You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity (corruption) was found in you”.

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www.priestsassembly.org
It is natural for a mango tree to produce mango fruits, but what happens if a natural mango tree produces apple fruits? If it’s not natural for a natural mango tree to produce apple fruits, is it then natural for a man, woman, boy or girl who is made in the image, Holiness, Righteousness and Purity of God to produce evil fruits?

* How will you feel when you see or hear that a natural mango tree produced apple fruits?  
* How will you feel when you see or hear that an unmarried Christian girl is pregnant while in her parents’ home?  
* How will you feel when you hear that a pastor committed adultery with his church member?  
* How will you feel when you hear that a Christian father or mother hired someone to write WAEC for their son or daughter?  
* How will you feel when you hear that a Christian sister offered her body sexually to her boss in the office in order to get promotion or to a lecturer in order to be awarded higher grades?  
* Can you eat an apple fruit that you know for sure was produced by a Natural mango tree?  
* Have you ever done something that you know for sure that God abhors? - that is what David calls presumptuous, deliberate or willful sin in Psalm 19:13. and he pleaded for help from God to stop such sins.  
* What does an adulterated or corrupted fuel do to the engine of a car?  
* Can you pour an adulterated or corrupted fuel into your tank knowing what it will do to your engine?  
* What does sin or corruption do to a Christian?

Adam and Eve were corrupted by listening and obeying the voice of Lucifer who initiated corruption thereby disobeying the instructions of God. That corruption has spread to all mankind. With what is presently happening to us as individuals, families, groups, nations and the church, you’ll agree with me that corruption has eaten deep and spread into the fabrics of our society like cancer. For many centuries, many individuals, groups and nations have tried to eliminate corruption, but have not been able, but rather corruption had eliminated so many individuals, groups and nations.

The present administration came up with the mantra of fighting corruption, has the administration been able to bring corruption to its knees? You know the answer. The truth is that no one on the face of this earth can fight and defeat corruption. The more you fight corruption, the more corruption fights back. What then do we do, do we continue fighting corruption or do we just leave things the way they are. The world has a slogan: “If you can’t beat them, you join them”. Our slogan is that “if you can’t beat them you speak against them, stand against them and run away from them”. But you must be careful when exposing corruption.

PRACTICAL STEPS TO SHUNNING CORRUPTION

1. As an individual Christian, I must be able to identify and run away from anything that has to do with dishonesty. {Do people outside the church see me as a honest person?}  
2. As an individual Christian, I must shun immoral conducts or practices that are offensive to my family, to any group I belong to, to the church and the society at large. {What are these immoral conducts and practices?} Identify and shun them.
3. As an individual Christian, I must avoid being wicked. [What are some of the things that constitutes wicked attitudes?] Identify and avoid them.

4. As an individual Christian, I must shun impunity; What is impunity? (Exemption or freedom from punishment, harm or loss) I must not feel too high or big to accept correction or even punishment when I'm wrong.

5. As an individual Christian, I must shun all improper and unlawful means of achievements. [What are some improper and unlawful means of achievements I need to avoid?] Identify and avoid them.

6. As an individual Christian, I must shun every low moral standards and behaviours.

Joseph ran away from corruption in the book of Genesis 39:7- {You and I can also run from temptation to corrupt our relationship with the Lord and men}.

Daniel and his brothers refused to be corrupted with the king’s rich meals in Daniel 1:8. I can refuse to be corrupted by the mundane things of this world.

The three Hebrew young men preferred to die than exchange the worship of the God of their fathers with an idol in Daniel 4:16-18. [Do you always go with the Lord whenever you travel outside your station where people don’t know you?]

We must remain resolute in shunning any evil vice that had stolen or tends to steal our honour as Christians in the society.

David in Psalm 51:5 says, Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Paul says in Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Conclusion: We must identify corruption entry points and block them. Matthew 5:29-30
29 "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.
30 "And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

1. The eyes – What are you seeing with your eyes that is affecting your relationship with God? David saw and committed sin. 2 Samuel 11:1-3.

2. The Ears - What are you hearing and what do you like to hear? 2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;
3. The feet – Where and where do you allow your legs to take you to? Psalm 1, Proverbs 1:11-16.
4. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
6. The tongue – what do you say with your tongue? 1 Timothy 3:8. Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money. James 1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one’s religion is useless. James 3:5-6, Even so the tongue is a little member and boasts great things. See how great a forest a little fire kindles!
7. And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. 1 Peter 3:10. For "He who would love life and see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips from speaking deceit. May God grant us the grace to overcome. Amen.

Prayer/Song
Lord help me please you in all I do and say,
In my own strength alone I cannot face the day,
On every path I take, temptations wait,
But with your guidance sinful ways I can forsake.
Chorus
Lord help me do your will, your word obey,
Make my small faith increase as I watch you walk your way,
I want my life to count for eternity too,
I want my life, my goals, my ways to all please you.
Introduction

This month is our month of encounter for Kingdom Financial Prosperity. Since the beginning of the month, we have pointed out that God wants to bless His children and prosper them financially. God is the source of Kingdom Financial Prosperity. Although the devil can make one rich, it is always through bad means such as rituals and corruption; and it always end in sorrow and destruction both now in this world and hereafter.

God has a clear purpose for blessing His children to promote the Kingdom business, be a blessing to others, take care of your family and prevent you from stealing.

But the challenge is that many genuine Christians live in poverty because of:

Ignorance (of What Jesus has done, who you are and how to make, manage and multiply money),
Not following God’s pattern and principles and
Lack of encounter that can bring about a turnaround.

This evening, we will focus on ignorance as an inhibitor to Kingdom Financial Prosperity. Many genuine believers live in poverty throughout all their lives because of ignorance.

IGNORANCE: Ignorance is lack of knowledge and information. There are many people who have given their lives to Jesus but ignorant of the implication.

Jesus became poor so that you can be rich 2 Cor 8:9 -For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (KJV)

What Jesus has done is to make us rich in every way- spiritually and financially.

Many believers do not know that they are already blessed Eph 1:3- Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (KJV)

Spiritual blessings include money.

In the old testament, there were rich goldly people and in the new testament, there were rich followers of Jesus Christ eg. Joseph of Arimathea (Matt 27: 56-61); The Centurion (Matt 8: 5-13); Philemon; Lydia (Acts 16: 13-15)
Believers need to know that God is their father and the owner of the heavens and the earth and the source of prosperity

Ps 23:1-The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. (KJV)

Many people are ignorant of how to make, manage and multiply money.

Many people have the erroneous impression that the only way to make money is to steal Prov 28: 2- For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged. (KJV)

This belief is re-enforced in societies like Nigeria where corruption is systemic, endemic and deep. But it is erroneous.

To make money, you must do business through production of goods and services or through investment. Three main ways of making money are:

i. Business: 98 percent of Millionaires, Billionaires and Trillionaires in the world own businesses.

ii. Paper Money: Shares, stocks, bonds, mutual funds etc.

iii. Land and Real Estate: To manage and multiply money, you must cultivate the habit of saving and investment and avoid waste. John 6:12 : " When they were filled, he said unto his disciples. ' Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.'" (KJV)

Are you a genuine believer? Are you struggling with money? Do you know that Jesus became poor so that you can be rich? Do you know that God your father is the owner of the heavens and the earth? Do you know how to make, manage and multiply money?

Challenge

Conclusion

If you are a believer, Jesus died for you to make you rich. You should know that you are blessed already. Ignorance is one of the inhibitors to Kingdom Financial Prosperity. As a child of God, you need to know how to make, manage and multiply money by following God's patterns and principles. Jesus has made you rich. Enjoy Kingdom financial prosperity.
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But the challenge is that many genuine Christians live in poverty because of:

a. Ignorance (of What Jesus has done, who you are and how to make, manage and multiply money),

b. Not following God’s pattern and principles and

c. Lack of encounter that can bring about a turnaround.

Many genuine believers live in poverty throughout all their lives because of ignorance.

A. IGNORANCE: Ignorance is lack of knowledge and information. There are many people who have given their lives to Jesus but ignorant of the implication. Ignorance is an inhibitor to Kingdom Financial Prosperity.

• Jesus became poor so that you can be rich 2 Cor 8:9 -For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (KJV)

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Believers need to know that God is their father and the owner of the heavens and the earth and the source of prosperity

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To manage and multiply money, you must cultivate the habit of saving and investment and avoid waste. John 6: 12-When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. (KJV)
B. NOT FOLLOWING GOD’S PATTERN AND PRINCIPLES OF WEALTH CREATION: God has a pattern for Kingdom Financial Prosperity. The bible did not say that God makes you rich. It says He will give you the power to produce wealth. (Deut 8:18).

- This means that he will give you something to do, anoint your ability and bless the result.
- God has prepared all his children for prosperity. He has given us talents and gifts. If we do not develop it and use it, we will not prosper.
- God will prosper the works of our hands. If we are lazy, we will not prosper (Prov. 13:4- A sluggard's appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied (NIV)
- Business is the only system that creates wealth Luke 19:13 -Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ (ESV)
- All businesses require work Prov. 14: 23- All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty. (NIV)

C. LACK OF ENCOUNTER THAT CAN BRING ABOUT A TURNAROUND: The beginning point of Kingdom Financial Prosperity is encounter with Jesus which will prevent the plan of the devil John 10:10- The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. (KJV)

- Encounter with Jesus will prevent the devil from stealing, killing and destroying the works of our hands
- Encounter with Jesus brings the Holy Spirit and anointing into your life which gives you divine advantage.
- Encounter with Jesus will bring profit into your life and anointing into your ability.

Challenge
Are you a genuine believer? Are you struggling with money? Have you encountered Jesus? Do you know that Jesus became poor so that you can be rich? Do you know that God your father is the owner of the heavens and the earth? Do you know how to make, manage and multiply money? Are you following God’s pattern and principles of Wealth Creation?

Conclusion
If you are a believer, Jesus died for you to make you rich. You should know that you are blessed already. Ignorance is one of the inhibitors to Kingdom Financial Prosperity. As a child of God, you need to know how to make, manage and multiply money by following God’s patterns and principles. Jesus has made you rich. Enjoy Kingdom financial prosperity.

Prayer
- Father, show me my blueprint to Kingdom Financial Prosperity.
- Almighty God, empower me to follow your pattern of wealth creation.
- Bless the works of my hand and my business.
Happy Birthday Mummy.

4th June 2022
You are a Rare Gem

From all of us @

Palace of PRIESTS ASSEMBLY

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UPCOMING PPJ ACTIVITIES

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PRESENTS
CAPACITY BUILDING ON CHRISTIANITY AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

15th - 17th June, 2022 / 9:30am - 5:30pm daily
Vineyard Christian Ministry,
Osolo way, Lagos State

27th – 29th June, 2022 / 9:30am - 5:30pm
Port-Harcourt, Rivers State

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