

# SOWER



PROTECT  
YOUR  
**KIDNEYS**  
Part 3

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**Shouts of joy as Okun speakers  
welcome first Bible**



**Nothing is better than the  
Christian faith — Chief Asiodu**



**King's College wins  
Bible quiz for the blind**



## Evangelism is incomplete without the holy Bible

**P**salm 19:7 (KJV) says, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."

According to the Bible verse above, the Bible, God's written Word and letter to mankind has the power to convert the soul and give wisdom to those who lack it. This means that the Holy Bible possesses the life-transforming power to save sinners from sin, heal the sick, and deliver the oppressed and those possessed by evil spirits.

Most Churches plan and spend fortunes on evangelism, convert rallies, crusades, retreats, and feeding the congregants (especially newcomers) at such events, but fail to provide Bibles as the priceless souvenir for these precious souls.

There are many converts and old Church members without a copy of the Bible. After feeding them with spiritual and bodily meals, we let them go without a copy of the Bible. We often see Churches giving out souvenirs such as packs of food, jotters, writing pads, mugs, and drinks to newcomers, but no Bible!

As good as it is to give new converts or first-timers tracts, gospel books, and other items, the value of the Bible to them cannot be overemphasised. Hence, this gap must be bridged and the most potent way of achieving this is creating a formidable partnership between the Church and the Bible Society.

Christians believe in the Trinity, and attend Church services but without the Bible, we would not have had the knowledge of the true God or formed Church denominations and become pastors, reverends, bishops, apostles, etc. Unfortunately, most of us who ought to know better pay little or no attention to the need for Bible translation, production, and free distribution. By our actions and inactions, we despise the Book that gives us the knowledge of the other four elements of the Christian faith - the Bible. We care less about what happens to the Bible let alone the body that is responsible for its translation,

publishing, and distribution.

The western world began Bible translation works in Nigeria in 1807 and up till now, we still largely depend on them for Bible translation projects while we the owners of the languages focus on other things.

It is time we repented and picked up our first love for Christ and His Kingdom. We should not be putting the cart before the horse. I pray we will not labour in vain for the Kingdom in Jesus' name.

When we talk about the transforming and liberating power of God's Word, the evidence is all around us. For instance, participants of the recently concluded Marathon Bible Reading organised by The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) in September 2022 shared their testimonies of restoration of sight, healing, etc. Such is the wonder-working power of the Word of God. People were saved, healed, and delivered by reading the Word!

With greater collaboration between The BSN and the Churches, we will be able to attend to the myriads of requests coming to our table every day for free Bible distribution in support of global evangelisation. **Our evangelism outreaches are never complete until every convert has a copy of the Bible.**

Let us arise and pray to God to raise a standard against the devil's attacks on Bible translation projects. Ask God to raise a massive aid programme for Bible and literature translation and more faithful translators. Pray for comfort for the families of the translators and consultants who lost their lives in the course of the work and healing for translators having health challenges.

**Samuel Sanusi**  
Editor-in-Chief



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### CONTENTS

- *Shouts of Joy as Okun speakers welcome first Bible Pg 3*
- *Nothing is better than the Christian faith -Chief Asiodu Pg 4-5*
- *BSN empowers youths to tackle Nigerian challenge Pg 5*
- *Healing, miracles, testimonies abound at BSN's Marathon Bible Reading Pg 6*
- *King's College wins Bible quiz for the blind Pg 7*
- *Nigeria maintains global lead in English Bible distribution Pg 7*
- *Bible Society recruits four new staffers Pg 10*
- *BSN's quest for a Bible House gets a major leap Pg 11*
- *Protect your kidney Part-3 Pg 12*
- *Bible Society elects new NEC, Board members, Area Chairmen Pg 13*
- *Former Dep Gov. Toby, wife become Special members Pg 13*
- *Sower Magazine, annual report go online Pg 13*
- *BSN reviews membership registration, Introduces insurance cover for members Pg 13*
- *Alone with God Pg 14*
- *Fayomi family bequeaths property to BSN in Ekiti Pg 14*
- *Bible Society is a divine assignment, says Pa Fatiloro Pg 15*
- *Rev. Dada bows out of BSN at 55 Pg15*



# Shouts of joy as Okun speakers welcome first Bible



Elated clergymen in Okun land ushered in the first Okun Bible at the dedication ceremony in Aiyetoro-Gbede, Kogi State.

**D**ancing, shouts of joy, and praises to God characterised the dedication of the *Okun* Bible as speakers of the language came out in their hundreds to receive the Bible.

*Okun* Bible, the fastest global Bible translation project, was dedicated by The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) at The Apostolic Church Nigeria, Agirigbon, Ayetoro-Gbede in Kogi State on Thursday November 3, 2022. It took a record time of five years to complete the translation project.

The Chairman of the occasion and Chief Executive Officer, Padua Petroleum Nigeria Ltd, Engr. Paul Ajisafe, who was as excited as other Okun speakers said the entrance of the Bible would usher in salvation, healing, progress, unprecedented development, peace, and unity in Okun land. He encouraged his people not to keep it as souvenir but read and live by its teachings.

The Guest Speaker and Bishop, the

Ecclesiastical Province of Lokoja, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), Bishop Steve Akobe, said that the *Okun* Bible is a divine agenda for the Okun people as there will no longer be any excuse for anyone in Okun land not to be saved. He asked them to embrace the Bible, read and study it to bring about progress and development to the community.

The President of the BSN, Bishop Dr Timothy Banwo noted that Bible translation is a big project and one of the mandates of the BSN which offers a platform where God speaks to the people in their languages.

Many Okun people expressed joy that they are alive to witness the dedication of their Bible. Mrs. Esther Jotinrin, a teacher, said, "We are glad that we now have the Bible in our language. Before now, we were using English and Yoruba Languages, but not everyone understood them, but now that God has helped us to have ours, it is easier for us to understand." She

urged the BSN to continue to translate the Bible into other languages so that everyone will have it in their language.

A retired school administrator, Elder Richard Olugbemi said, "We are excited having the Bible in our native language. Some of our people do not understand either English or Yoruba language. With the *Okun* Bible, everybody will have a better understanding of the word of God, and this will bring salvation to our community."

Olorunmfemi Amupitan said, "I am excited beyond measure that we have the Bible in our language. We will now have a better understanding of the word of God than when we were using the Bible in a borrowed language. Before this Bible came, it was like we were in darkness, but having it in our language is like seeing and hearing God face to face."

Speaking at the occasion, the General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of the BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, said that by translating the Bible into Nigerian languages, the Society is helping to preserve the languages and culture of the people. He called on the people to partner with the organisation so that the Bible can be translated into more Nigerian languages.

“

*Okun Bible is a divine agenda for the Okun people as there will no longer be any excuse for anyone in Okun land not to be saved.*

”



# Nothing is better than the

*Chief Phillip Asiodu, a diplomat and former Economic Adviser to former President Olusegun Obasanjo speaks to FELIX OLOYEDE on why it has been challenging for Christians to attain political leadership positions in Nigeria and how to solve some of the challenges confronting the country. Excerpt:*

**How would you compare our educational system when you were growing up and today?**

The educational system we have now is a great tragedy. I attended King's College and Oxford University. Our educational system in those days was world-class. How did our education get degraded? One of the big mistakes the Gowon administration made was taking over schools from missionaries. It turned out that the government could not maintain the standard as there were issues such as irregular payment of teachers' salaries. Before the Independence of Nigeria, even founders and administrators of private schools were made to conform to certain standards. The colonial government gave them subsidies to help them whenever they engaged graduate teachers. More importantly, every secondary school had an education inspector that visited them regularly to ensure conformity to the required standards. Our government-owned schools were destroyed in 1975 when the Murtala/Obasanjo government came in and many people were dismissed, including people in the administrative service, who could tell politicians their limit. With the removal of about 10,000 civil servants without due process within two months after the 1975 coup, the people who had institutional memory and were supposed to maintain institutional discipline were no longer there. Therefore, the money voted for schools was not used for the purpose. That was when the rot began.

**How did you become born-again?**

I am not born-again. I am just a Christian. My father was a Catholic. I grew up going to Church as my parents used to take us to Church every Sunday and make us go to catechism on Sunday. I did not become a Christian dramatically. I just grew up as a Christian.

If you follow the teachings of Christ, no matter how brilliant you think you are and even with your



belief in the Darwin evolution theory, you will come to a point where there are no scientific answers. You must acknowledge God. Also, if you follow Christian prayers, you will find out that if we start approximating what those prayers are asking us to do, the world will be a happier place for many people. You will become persuaded that nothing is better than following the Christian faith.

**Before and shortly after Independence, the Church played a critical role in the development of the country's educational sector. How will you assess the role of the Church in Nigeria's educational sector today?**

When the schools were returned (to the Church), the rot vanished. A good example is St. Gregory's College, Lagos. If you go there today, you will see that the campus and the structures have been renewed. Compare it with King's College where, as old boys, we spent over N1.5 billion to restore

tracks and classes, but they keep dilapidating. When we were in King's College, we were 25 in a class. When I was about to leave, one or two lower classes had two arms totalling about 50 students.

Around 1980, one Minister of Education sent in 400 students to Class One in King's College. They had A, B, C, D, E, F, etc. Some of them had no seats. They had to stand in the classrooms. This was before they got an annex. Even with the annex, they are up to 4,000 sometimes.

What went wrong was the abandonment of discipline and planning. If you want to get anywhere, even as a corporation, you must plan.

We must pray for good leaders that will begin restoration. It will take time but I believe that once restoration begins, it will spread. You will remember that during Buhari's regime (1983-1985), Idiagbon enforced discipline and Nigerians queued up everywhere they wanted to buy goods. However, these days, Nigerians will go to London and behave well but once they returned to Nigeria, they will begin to throw passports over your head.

**Bad leadership has been the bane of our country. Why do you think Christians, who can instill discipline, are not taking up political leadership positions in Nigeria?**

How many good Christians are left in Nigeria? I mean do we still have people who have really internalised the teachings of Christ? I do not think they are many. You will see that this rot has taken over some of our Churches. They are just singing, dancing, and clapping. There is nothing solemn anymore. I belong to the Roman Catholic Church, and I am appalled by some of the things that are happening in some of the Churches. Some of them will begin to classify people because they want to organise harvest services. Is this what



# Christian faith — Chief Asiodu

Christ taught us? We are all children of God. To come back to your question, there must be some good Christians and the basic rules must make it possible for them to participate in politics. We must insist that there is a limit to the amount spent on political campaigns like established countries.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, some elders registered the *Initiative for Good Governance* to identify some young people from 25 to 55 years. They agreed to help those who needed help. The elders wanted those young people to come together and design immediate, medium, and long-term plans on how to take Nigeria to where we ought to be at the end of the last century. That is not a big problem. One of my greatest failures as Economic Adviser to President Obasanjo was that I could not persuade Obasanjo to implement Vision 2010. If Vision 2010 had been implemented, we would not be here. We were hoping to get young people, help them formulate policies that will

take us to first-world status and global significance, and help restore respect for the black race.

**What are some of the lessons you learnt as one of the major players in governance in Nigeria?**

I joined a disciplined civil service. They were looking for high flyers. You

received in government was in 2002 from the Federal Service Commission, where they said no state should have not less than “2 point something percent” and not more than “3 point something percent” as if genius is distributed that way. We must insist on merit and proper preparation for public servants.

**We have different versions of the Bible, which do you prefer?**

English is the only language with which I read and write. I used to read and write in Efik. However, when I went to King's College, they said we should not speak 'vernacular'. That knocked it out. Therefore, I became acquainted with the Bible in English and the first one I saw was the King James Version. The Catholic Church did not make the Bible readily available when I was growing up. I am used to reading the King James Version.

**What is your favourite Bible verse?**

There is no one in particular, but Psalm 23 readily comes to mind.



cannot achieve anything without discipline and hard work; you must look for people of merit who can deliver. One of the most illiterate circulars I ever

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has been empowering Nigerian youths to proffer solutions to the country's socio-economic challenges through its annual National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Annual Essay Competition/Symposium.

The President of the Society, Bishop Timothy Banwo, said this at the grand finale of the 11th edition of the competition themed “Re-engineering the Nigerian System for Sustainable Development”, organised by the Society held on August 18, 2022.

Bishop Banwo noted that the BSN has been advocating good governance, social justice, peaceful coexistence, and sustainable development through a strategic partnership with the NYSC.

“In fact, engagements such as this are a eloquent attestation to the fact that we still believe in Nigeria. Nigeria can become a great nation again, and that is

## BSN empowers youths to tackle national challenges ... as Kogi wins NYSC essay competition



L-R: Pastor Samuel Sanusi, General Secretary, BSN; Mrs. Adesola Orupede, representative of Lagos State Commissioner for Education; winner of the BSN's NYSC Essay/Symposium, Miss Myriah Kogi; Bishop Timothy Banwo, President, the BSN and Dr. Boniface Chizea, Managing Consultant, BIC Consultancy Service and chairman of the event

why we are here today,” Bishop Banwo asserted.

173 Corps members sent in entries for this year's edition of the competition out of which six finalists were selected for the grand finale in Lagos.

Miss Kogi Myriah, a Kaduna-born Microbiology graduate serving in

Bauchi State, defeated the other five finalists to emerge as the winner of the competition.

Pastor Samuel Sanusi, General Secretary/Chief Executive Officer of the BSN, explained that the Society decided to organise the competition for Corps members to enable them

to contribute to national discourse and proffer solutions to contemporary societal challenges.

Mrs. Yetunde Baderinwa, Lagos State Coordinator, NYSC, urged the youths to collaborate in tackling the challenges bedeviling the country instead of seeking greener pastures abroad.



# Healing, miracles, testimonies abound at BSN's Marathon Bible Reading



Presbyter/Minister-in-charge, Williams Methodist Church, Ebute-Metta, Lagos, Very Rev. Adebayo Adewuyi reading the Bible during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Marathon Bible Reading

Some of the participants of the 20th edition of The Bible Society of Nigeria's (BSN) annual Marathon Bible Reading, which was held from 5th to 9th September 2022 have continued to share their testimonies of diverse miracles.

Mrs. Adeyemo Omowumi, who read the Bible at the Griffin Memorial Reading Centre, Oyo State, said that her sight was restored while taking part in the programme. "When I attended the 2021 edition of the Marathon Bible Reading, I could not read the Bible due to sight problems. The Centre Coordinator prayed for me that day and I can now read without glasses. I am here at the 2022 Marathon Bible Reading, and I can read without glasses again. Hallelujah!"

Another participant, Elder Awolaye Oladuntoye, who read at First ECWA Church, Omu Aran in Kwara State, also reported that she was healed of leg pain: "I thank God for healing me during the Marathon Bible Reading. I had this severe pain in my leg which made me uncomfortable. However, my encounter with the word of God brought about sudden healing in my

leg and I no longer feel the pain."

6,134 participants across 162 centres in Lagos and 18 other states across the country trooped out with excitement to read the Bible in their preferred languages. Four centres were able to read the entire Bible within the week. While C&S Movement, Ayo Ni O, Sanya, Lagos read the Bible in two days, Christ Anglican Church, Agege, The Apostolic Church Nigeria,

Abesan, Lagos, and Central Baptist Church, Ring Road, Benin City completed theirs during the five days. Interestingly, only 25 people read the entire Bible in Central Baptist Church, Benin. Reading the entire Bible within five days has become a common feature of the programme.

Reports from the participating states indicate that participants were very enthusiastic about the exercise as they turned out en masse daily to read.

Speaking to SOWER at First Baptist Church, Festac, a lawyer, Princess Gloria Okonyia, said that reading the Bible takes her into God's presence, assuring her of God's love for her.

10-year-old David Kareen, a JSS 3 student of Ijebu Ode Boy's Grammar School, who took advantage of the holiday to read at

C&S Church, Alabe, Isolo, Lagos, said that he took part in the exercise in 2021. He read Genesis 26-35 on the first day of the exercise and came back the second day with her younger sister. He read Leviticus 5-10 on the second day, while her sister read Leviticus 11-13.

Also, Miss Olukola Jesuloyemi, who said she was at home because of the strike embarked upon by the Academic Staff Union of Universities, took part in the reading for the first time at The Apostolic Church Nigeria, Ilasamaja, Lagos. After reading, she said, "I felt blessed reading the Scripture. It makes my faith steadfast, gives me joy, and opens my understanding. I would like to take part again next year."

At the Christ Apostolic Church, Ile Anu, Oshodi, Lagos, Pastor Festus Daramola read the entire book of Genesis, while Mrs. Victoria Adebayo read the book of Leviticus. The Marathon Bible Reading is designed to encourage people to read the Word of God for their blessing and growth. Every year, the participants read the Bible uninterrupted between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm daily during the week the programme holds in their local languages in different centres.



Princess Mrs. Gloria Okonyia



Mrs. Adeyemo Omowumi



# King's College wins Bible quiz for the blind

**T**he King's College, Obalende, Lagos has won the 4th edition of the *You Can Be Their Eyes* Bible quiz, a competition organised by The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) for schools for the blind in Lagos state.

The school scored 70 points to emerge winners of the competition. The first runners-up, the Nigeria Farmcraft Centre for the Blind, scored 65 points while Bethesda School for the Blind garnered 60 points to become the second runners-up. Other schools that participated in the Bible quiz were Federal Government College, Ijanikin which scored 55 points; Lagos Junior Model College, Agbowa Ikosi 50 points; Lagos Junior Model College, Agbowa Ikosi 45 points, and Vocational School for the Blind, Oshodi 40 points. Motivating the participants at the event, the Chairperson, Mrs. Kalango Koko, Founder of Rainbow Foundation, referred to some visually impaired people who have made and still making global impact in their different endeavours. According to her, one of those trailblazers is Cobham Asuque, an accomplished musician, music



Pastor Samuel Sanusi, GS, the BSN; Mrs. Kalango Koko, Founder of Rainbow Foundation, who chaired the *You Can Be Their Eye* Quiz; students of King's College, winners of the quiz, Azeez Gbolahan and Salami Ibrahim and Mr Amos Ejuka, who represented Mr Varkey Verghese, MD, Jawa Int'l at the event

producer, and songwriter. Mrs. Koko encouraged the students not to allow their physical challenges to prevent them from achieving their dreams in life. The Chairperson also commended the BSN for making the Bible available to people in their preferred languages and formats, including the visually impaired, adding that God's word gives ultimate vision to everyone. Also speaking at the event, the General

Secretary/CEO of The Bible Society of Nigeria, Pastor Samuel Sanusi said that God has everyone in His salvation plan; he said this is the reason why the organisation is breaking any known barriers in making the word of God available to everyone. Pastor Sanusi called on the government and corporate bodies to sponsor the *You Can Be Their Eyes* Bible quiz to make it more competitive and rewarding.

# Nigeria maintains global lead in English Bible distribution

**T**he Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has again emerged as the global leader in English Bible distribution.

This is according to the global Bible distribution statistics published by the United Bible Societies (UBS). The BSN achieved this feat having distributed 1,145,232 printed copies of the English Bible in 2021, which represent an increase of 28% from the distribution figure of 897,116 copies with which she led the world in 2020. The Bible Society of America came second with a distribution figure of 1,118,174 while The Bible Society of Kenya took third

position having distributed 455,817 copies. The two other African countries among the top 10 leading countries in English Bible distribution are Ghana

which distributed 279,336 copies to occupy the fifth position and South Africa in the eighth position with 102,947 copies.



The Curate, St. John's Anglican Church, Port Harcourt, (left) Rev'd Emmanuel Victor, presenting the Special Membership certificate to Venerable Jenibo Pono and his wife, Rose



# SOWER

Photo Gallery

## The dedication of Okun Bible



Group picture with HRM Oba Solomon Owoniyi, the Obaro of Kabba (m) during a courtesy visit to his palace



Group photo with HRM Oba Olusegun Ayeni, the Oliki of Ijumu (6th right) during a courtesy visit to his palace



From 3rd left: /CEO of the BSN Pastor Samuel Sanusi; the Bishop of Kabba Ecclesiastical Province of Lokoja Church of Nigeria Ang. Comm, the Rt Rev Dr Steve Akobe and the President, the BSN, Bishop Dr Timothy Banwo



Venerable Paul Ajayi, CAN Chairman, Kabba/Bunu LGA, Kogi State (1st right); Bishop Steve Akobe (middle), Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo (2nd left) and others dedicating the Okun Bible



High Chief Alla Bello, Ag. Oba In Council, Ayetoro-Gbade and some of his chiefs during a courtesy visit by the BSN team led by the President, Dr Timothy Banwo



Group picture of Ayetoro-Gbade traditional leaders during a courtesy visit by the BSN team led by the President, Dr Timothy Banwo



# SOWER

Photo Gallery



Pastor Olugbenga Oludaisi, AGSP, the BSN; Mrs Yemisi Oluwagbemi, AGSF; Prof. Anya O. Anya; GS/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi; Mr Yemi Olayiwola, AGSDP and Mr Lucky Ogwu, Church & Public Relations, Manager, during a courtesy visit to Prof. Anya.



L-R: PA to the General Secretary of the BSN, Mr Segun Balogun; Mrs Yemisi Oluwagbemi, AGSF; Mrs Adedolapo Fayomi and Mr Martins Obazee, during the 80th birthday celebration of Mrs Fayomi in Lagos



Group photo of the participants of the National Bible Competition organised by the BSN in Lagos



Participants and facilitators at the advance trauma healing training held recently in Lagos



L-R: Mr Lucky Ogwu, CPR, The BSN; Pastor Samuel Sanusi, GS, the society, Presbyterian/Minister-in-charge, Williams Methodist Church, Ebute-Metta, Lagos; Mr Yemi Olayiwola, AGSDP and Mrs Grace Benjamin, Production & Programme, Manager during the opening ceremony of the 2022 Marathon Bible Reading in Lagos



Bishop of Christ Army Church of Nigeria, the Rt Reverend Tonye Omuara, presenting the Special Membership certificate to Rt Reverend Sir Tamuonbeima Braide and his wife, Deaconness Dame Ngozi in Port Harcourt, Rivers State



**Campaign  
For  
Braille  
Bible**

**BSN**  
THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF NIGERIA  
FOUNDED 6TH FEBRUARY, 1966

**Do you know that the blind can also read?  
Do you know that the codes that the blind read is called Braille?**

**Do you know that The Bible Society of Nigeria:**

- Have Bibles in Braille format?
- Distributes Braille Bibles free of charge to the Blind who are Braille literate across Nigeria?
- Creates awareness in the Churches and communities on the need to educate blind children?
- Encourages Bible engagement in blind and inclusive schools to help them interact with God's Word?
- Expects you to make friends among the blind and help them integrate into the larger society?

**Well, if you don't know, we are informing you today. We do not dump Bibles on them; we help them interact with the Word and harness their potential.**

- 1** Befriend the blind today
- 2** Talk with them about the Braille Bibles
- 3** Advocate for them to be educated in your community/Church today

To get a set of Braille Bible, send a written request with the name, phone number and contact address of the beneficiary to [grace@biblesociety-nigeria.org](mailto:grace@biblesociety-nigeria.org) or call **08169094138** and [lanre@biblesociety-nigeria.org](mailto:lanre@biblesociety-nigeria.org) or call **07048531618**

*Let's stand for the blind! Let's be their eyes!!*

[www.biblesociety-nigeria.org](http://www.biblesociety-nigeria.org)

## Bible Society recruits four new staffers



Mr Oscar Nwachukwu



Mr David Oyebade



Mr Adedamola Onafuwa



Mr Doe Dadi

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has added four new employees to its workforce.

The new members of staff are Mr. David Oluwadamilare Oyebade, who joined as Programmes Officer and Mr. Adedamola Oluwayomi Onafuwa, Fundraising Officer. Mr. Oscar Nwachukwu and Mr Doe Sondo Dadi joined the Bible Guest House, Abuja as Guest Service Agent and Laundry Attendant respectively. Mr. Oyebade has B.A. Anthropology

from the University of Ibadan and worked as a Correction/Programme Officer at Health Systems Diagnostics before joining the BSN. Mr. Onafuwa holds a BSc. from Trent University, Canada, and an MSc. in Media Advertising from the University of Lagos. He was a Media Analyst at Accelerad Consultancy.

Mr. Nwachukwu who holds BSc. in Computer Science from the National Open University was a Guest Service Agent at Palm Royal Hotel, Gwawalada, Abuja before joining the BSN.



# BSN's quest for a Bible House gets a major leap

The quest of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) to build a Bible House received a major boost with the acquisition of a property measuring 2,610.402 square metres in land space at 202/204 Ikorodu Road, Palmgrove, Lagos.

Challenged by the lack of a conducive operational office, in 2019, the BSN embarked on a campaign to build a Bible House estimated to cost ₦2.2b out of which the organisation has realised ₦170m from some kind Nigerians. God has graciously provided the BSN with a property worth ₦500m, for which the organisation has deposited ₦300m, comprising of the ₦170m donated by Nigerians and a soft loan of ₦130m. The owners of the property in their magnanimity have allowed the BSN to complete the outstanding payment of ₦200m in two equal instalments by April 2023 and handed over all the documents of the property to the organisation.

The General Secretary/CEO of The Bible Society of Nigeria, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, on behalf of the Board and Management expressed his profound gratitude to all Nigerians who have donated towards the Bible House project and the owners of the property for such a lavish concern for the project, in not just allowing part payment for the property, but also handing over all the duly signed documents related to the property and granting the organisation a partial occupancy of the property.

Pastor Sanusi also reinforced the need for Churches and all Christians to, in the spirit of true ecumenism, rally round the BSN to build a befitting Bible House for God, which



*The recently acquired property by the BSN located at 202/204, Ikorodu Road, Palmgrove, Lagos.*

will enable the not-for-profit Christian organisation to continue to fulfil her mandates of making the Bible available and affordable to Nigerians, as well as engaging people with the Word of God through programmes to transform their lives. The proposed Bible House is expected to have a corporate office space, Bible Museum, Bible library, Warehouse, Bible shop, and a Translation Centre, amongst others.

According to the CEO, building a befitting Bible House should not be as difficult as it seems if each Christian in Nigeria assists the BSN by donating a minimum of ₦1,000 for the project. He made a clarion call to Christians to be part of this laudable project dedicated to God's heartbeat for mankind by sending their donations to the Society's GTBank account number, 0003723644, or online via [www.biblesociety-nigeria.org](http://www.biblesociety-nigeria.org).

A Bible House project became necessary when the former corporate headquarters of the BSN in Apapa, Lagos, could no longer accommodate the increasing

number of staff and operations of the organisation. It also became inaccessible to the members of the public who the organisation serves. The former office was a gift by The Canadian Bible Society in 1919 on behalf of The British and Foreign Bible Society. The building was renovated after 83 years with the addition of another floor.

The need for a Bible House and the relevance of Bible translation cannot be over-emphasised. 3,964 languages spoken by 255 million people globally do not have any Scriptures, whether a full Bible, New Testament, or Portions. Out of over 500 languages in Nigeria, only 26 have a full Bible, while translation/review is ongoing in 10 languages at the minimum cost of ₦120m if completed in eight years. The Bible Society of Nigeria is committed to breaking any known barriers that make the word of God inaccessible to people through Bible translation, publishing, distribution, and engagement with God's Word through programmes to transform lives. This commitment is, however, being hampered by the lack of suitable office accommodation.





## PROTECT YOUR KIDNEYS – Part 3

**A**part from a few individuals, all of us are born with two kidneys that constitute part of the URINARY SYSTEM and ELIMINATIVE ORGANS of the body. In Part 1, of this article, we looked at some of the common diseases that afflict the kidney. In Part 2, we addressed the causes and symptoms of kidney diseases. In this Part 3, we will explore some actions that we need to take to PROTECT our kidneys from damage.

### NATURAL PROTECTION & REMEDIES:

#### PROTECTION: Deal with diabetes and hypertension.

These two medical conditions have damaged the kidneys of

more people than anything else. Hence, if you have been diagnosed with either or both of these conditions, please don't joke with it. Address it appropriately.

#### Avoid kidney-damaging toxins from your foods and cosmetics.

Avoid foods that are laden with artificial flavours, artificial colours, chemical preservatives, and so on. Be careful with the kind of cosmetics you apply to your skin and hair. Use natural products. My simple rule of thumb is "If I can't pronounce the names of the ingredients, then I won't buy it or use it. QED."

#### Avoid indiscriminate use of analgesics (such as paracetamol).

Many people have damaged their kidneys with over-the-counter medications.

#### Know the Side-Effects of Your Medication.

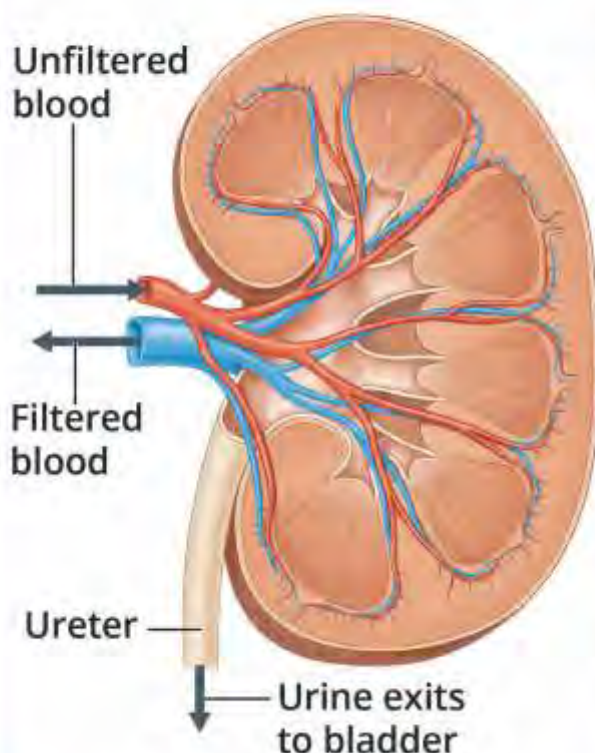
If you are on any prescription medication that was prescribed by your doctor, please take time to study the label and understand the possible side effects or adverse effects that the drug might induce. Some prescription drugs can damage the kidneys and the liver.

**Drink plenty water daily.** As simple as this is, not many people observe it. Also, the water you drink must be pure, alkaline, rich in minerals and trace minerals, and preferably structured if possible.

**If you are prone to kidney stones, avoid oxalate-rich foods (such as spinach beets, etc.)** *Calcium oxalate stones* are the most common type of kidney stones. As such, many patients with kidney stones can benefit from a diet that reduces calcium kidney stones. However, if you don't test high for oxalate, this will not necessarily benefit you. You really don't need to cut out healthy oxalate-rich foods from your diet if you are not prone to developing kidney stones. In fact, oxalate is practically unavoidable, because most plant foods have some. However, those who have had kidney stones before should avoid the following: *French fries, spinach, beets, nuts and nut butters, bran flakes, Rhubarb, and potato chips*

**Increase the amount of calcium in your diet.** Low amounts of calcium in the diet increases your chances of forming calcium oxalate kidney stones. Some people avoid calcium because of the name "calcium oxalate stones." What they don't realise is that calcium binds oxalate in the intestines. A calcium-rich diet helps to reduce the amount of oxalate being absorbed by our body. Hence, kidney stones are less likely to form. Eat calcium-rich foods every day or take a Calcium Citrate supplement. Meanwhile, eating high-calcium foods and high-oxalate foods is helpful.

### Kidney





# Bible Society elects new NEC, Board members, Area Chairmen

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has commenced elections to produce new National Executive Committee

members, Board members, and Area Chairmen across the country.

Board membership and Area Chairmanship elections, which started on October 4, 2022, will end on November 26, 2022, in the 36 Areas of the Society while NEC membership elections will take place in 2023 during the Board meeting.

Two NEC members are expected to be elected from each of the six geopolitical zones of the country while the officers expected to be elected in each Area are Chairman, 1st and 2nd Vice Chairmen, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, two Auditors, two National Board Members, Youth Officer, and two Ex-Officio members.



Pastor Samuel Sanusi, GS/CEO, the BSN

## SOWER Magazine, annual report go online

The Board of the BSN has directed that the organisation should no longer print its annual reports and Sower Magazine due to the increasing cost of production.

The General Secretary, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, informed the Board that annual report for the 2021 Board meeting cost over ₦1,000 per copy, while a copy of the SOWER Magazine cost over ₦170, adding that it is not prudent to continue spending such amount of money for only production.

He reminded the Board that most publicly quoted companies have stopped printing annual report because of the high cost of production. He said that only soft copies of the two publications would be produced and sent to members via email. Both the annual report and SOWER Magazine will always be available on the Society's website for download.

You may send your email address to [info@biblesociety-nigeria.org](mailto:info@biblesociety-nigeria.org) for inclusion in our mailing list.

## Former Dep Gov. Toby, wife become Special members



Former Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Sir Gabriel Toby (m) and his wife, Dame Dr. Christy, receiving Special Membership certificate from Saint Cyprian Anglican Church, Port Harcourt, Warden Dauphine Tamunoemie

Former Deputy Governor of Rivers State, Sir Gabriel Toby, and his wife, Dame Dr. Christy Toby, who were Life Members of the BSN, have upgraded to the Special Membership category. While receiving the membership certificate, Mr. Toby said that his new membership status would spur him to serve more, encourage other Life Members to upgrade their membership and bring new people to join the BSN.

Speaking while presenting the certificate to the couple at the Saint Cyprian Anglican Church, Port Harcourt, the Chairman, the BSN Rivers/Bayelsa Area, Elder Omoni Ayo-Tamuno, called on Christians in Rivers and Bayelsa States to help the Society to achieve its aims and objectives.

## BSN reviews membership registration fees, introduces insurance cover for members

registration fees and annual dues of Special and Life Memberships of the Society. The Board also approved an accident insurance cover for Special Members and Bible-A-Month Club (BAMC) members who pay their annual dues upfront.

With effect from January 2023, the registration fee for Special Membership would be ₦10,000 for single and ₦15,000 for a couple, while annual due will be ₦12,000 for both. Already, Special Membership certificates are now being sent online

through members' registered emails.

Similarly, Life Membership registration fee has been increased from ₦1,500 to ₦2,500 for singles and from ₦2,500 to ₦5,000 for couples, while its annual due will be a minimum of ₦2,500. Associate membership registration fee has also been increased from ₦500 to ₦1,000.

The Board also resolved that the organisation would continue to produce calendars as souvenirs for Special and BAMC members but would stop sending diaries to members.



Bishop Timothy Banwo, President, the BSN

The Board of the Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has approved the upward review of both the



# Alone With God

Below are the Bible portions which we believe will be useful for your meditation.

## NOVEMBER 2022

1. James 4:13-15
2. Ecclesiastes 11:2
3. Ecclesiastes 12:13
4. Proverbs 13:11
5. Proverbs 28:20
6. Proverbs 16:8
7. Leviticus 19:13
8. Psalm 112:5
9. Proverbs 22:16
10. Luke 16:10
11. Matthew 6:24
12. Romans 16:18
13. Ephesians 6:7
14. Colossians 3:23
15. Romans 12:11
16. 1 Corinthians 12:15
17. Exodus 23:25
18. Romans 1:9
19. Job 36:11
20. Psalm 2:11
21. Malachi 3:18
22. Acts 20:19
23. Deuteronomy 28:47
24. Malachi 3:14
25. 1 Samuel 12:20
26. John 12:26
27. Deuteronomy 4:28
28. 1 John 2:15
29. Luke 4:8
30. Romans 7:25

## DECEMBER 2022

1. Luke 16:13
2. Ephesians 3:7
3. Galatians 1:10
4. Romans 12:7
5. Colosians 3:24
6. Matthew 22:37
7. Romans 1:25
8. Ephesians 4:12
9. Acts 6:2
10. Job 21:15
11. 1 Samuel 12:24
12. Joshua 24:20
13. John 16:2
14. Revelation 7:15
15. Psalm 119:91
16. Colosians 1:25
17. Hebrews 4:15
18. Luke 22:42
19. Matthew 16:24
20. 1 Peter 2:21-22
21. Matthew 16:24-25
22. Luke 2:52
23. 1 John 4:2-3
24. Isaiah 9:6
25. Matthew 1:21
26. Matthew 2:1-2
27. John 1:29
28. John 1:9-10
29. Hebrews 2:14-17
30. 1 Peter 2:21-24
31. Isaiah 43:1-4

## JANUARY 2022

1. Exodus 33:14
2. 1 Corinthians 10:4-5
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17
4. 2 Timothy 1:7
5. Acts 1:11
6. Acts 10:43
7. Acts 16:31
8. Colossians 3:24
9. Colossians 3:4
10. Daniel 9:9
11. Deuteronomy 10:21
12. Deuteronomy 20:4
13. Deuteronomy 31:6
14. Deuteronomy 31:8
15. Deuteronomy 33:27
16. Deuteronomy 4:29
17. Deuteronomy 8:18
18. Deuteronomy 8:5
19. Ephesians 1:18
20. Ephesians 1:7
21. Ephesians 2:14
22. Ephesians 2:4-5
23. Ephesians 3:12
24. Ephesians 3:19
25. Ephesians 5:8
26. Ephesians 1:4
27. Ephesians 5:25
28. Exodus 14:13
29. Exodus 15:13
30. Exodus 19:5-6
31. 2 Corinthians 1:7

## Prayer for Areas

1. Pray for divine protection over every member of the Society as we end the year.
2. Pray that God will remember everyone associated with the BSN for good.
3. Pray that God make 2023 a year full of abundant blessings for the Society and her members.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform our new and prospective members that the processing of certificates for all categories of membership will no take more than one month.

For enquiries, please call:  
08159094126

## Fayomi family bequeaths property to BSN in Ekiti

The Fayomi family in Ekiti has donated a storey building to The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) in Ido-Ekiti, Ekiti State to appreciate God for staying by them since the demise of their patriarch, Late Major Oluwafemi Fayomi on December 17, 1980.

The matriarch of the family, Mrs. Adedolapo Fayomi, revealed that God promised to be with her and help her raise the children amid her confusion following the sudden death of her husband. She confirmed that God has fulfilled all His promises.

Mrs. Fayomi noted that the need to make the Bible accessible to her people was another reason that motivated her to donate the building to the Society. Former member of BSN's National Executive Committee Member, Venerable Dr. Bode Otenaika, who chaired the handing-over ceremony,

lauded Mrs. Fayomi for obeying God's instruction and serving Him faithfully. Dr. Otenaika said she has created a good name for herself and left a good legacy for generations yet unborn as her family will always be remembered for donating the building to the BSN. "If we do not have the Bible, our

Christianity would be in vain and the Bible would not be accessible if the Society is not supported with finance," he added.

The President, the BSN, Bishop Timothy Banwo prophesied that God will give the Fayomi family the six generational blessings He promised Moses in Exodus 23 for donating the building to the BSN.



Former member of BSN's National Executive Committee, Venerable Dr. Bode Otenaika dedicating the newly donated building in Ido-Ekiti.

Pastor Samuel Sanusi, the Society's General Secretary/CEO, argued that if God could use the Fayomi family to donate the building to the BSN, He would use the Ekiti people to advance His work in the state.



## Bible Society is a divine assignment, says Pa Fatiloro



Chief Samuel Olabode Fatiloro

**C**hief Samuel Olabode Fatiloro, 92, has described the work of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) as a divine assignment.

Chief Fatiloro made this remark during a chat with the Secretary, the BSN Oyo Area 2, Mr. Adediran Olaide. The retired headmaster has been actively involved in the BSN work for over four decades. He said that his passion for the work of the BSN was borne out of a

personal revelation he had. "I am convinced that making the word of God available is a great way of showing the love of God. I was motivated by John 3:16 and I saw the BSN as the best platform for evangelism. Also, the BSN is a divine assignment given to me by Jesus Himself," he said. Pa Fatiloro is so passionate about the work that his fundraising effort constitutes over 80 percent of funds being raised by the entire the BSN Oyo Area 2.

His first contact with the BSN was when he was nominated to represent his church, Immanuel Baptist Church in the then-Oyo Auxiliary. Thereafter, he served as Chairman of the Oyo Auxiliary. Despite being a nonagenarian, his passion has made him remain as active as ever. He said, "As long as I live by the grace of God, I will live all my life for the success of the BSN Oyo Area 2." He wants everyone, including the youths to be involved in the work so that the Bible can be available to everyone.

Revealing the secret of his longevity, he said, "First, it is the special grace of God. Also, I don't drink alcohol; I don't eat just anything, and I don't keep bad company. I follow the instructions of the Bible closely. I am always at peace because I don't keep grudges, backbite, or do evil to anyone. I have nothing to fear or worry about. These are the reasons why I believe God has blessed and granted me longevity and sound health."

Pa Fatiloro expressed his joy with the creation of the BSN Oyo Area 2 on October 29, 2020, describing it as unforgettable. He advised the Executive officers of the new Area to work towards creating new auxiliaries in neighbouring towns and villages such as Jobele, Akinmoorin, Ilu-Aje, Soku, Fashola, etc. His favourite Bible version is "Bibeli Mimo Alakole," while his favourite Bible verse is Matthew 7:12, As you would like that man to do unto you, do ye also to him likewise (paraphrased).

**R**everend Wale Dada, the Manager, Distribution of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN), has retired from the service of the organisation.

Speaking at the Send-off organised in his honour, the General Secretary/CEO of The BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, praised God for His faithfulness in the life of the retiring officer throughout his 17 years of service in the organisation. The chief scribe of The BSN also commended Reverend Dada for his passion for the job and urged him to utilise all the experiences he garnered in The BSN in his future endeavours.

Pastor Paul Abiala, a former staff of the Society and close ally of Reverend Dada while giving exhortation, said Reverend Dada's service ended because everything that has a beginning also has an end. He, however, glorified God

## Rev. Dada bows out of BSN at 55



Pastor Samuel Sanusi, General Secretary, The BSN (1st L); Rev. Wale Dada (3rd L) and members of his family and other members of the senior management of the Society during Rev. Dada's send-off ceremony held in Lagos recently.

that the retiring officer's end of service in The BSN was glorious. Other attendees, who spoke at the event, also extolled the virtues of Reverend Wale Dada, describing him as friendly, kind, humble,

dedicated, and humorous.

Responding to the exhortation and encomia poured on him, Reverend Dada thanked the Management of the organisation's for the opportunity given to him to serve.





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Lucky - 08159094126  
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