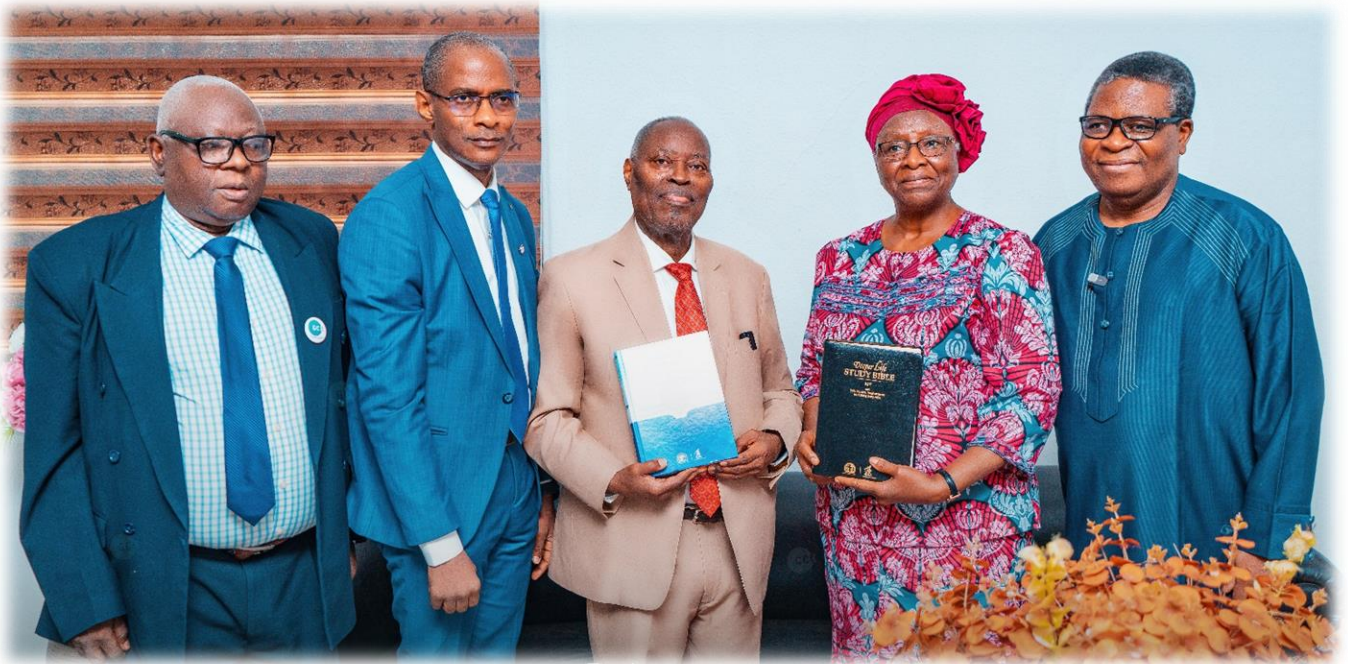


# SOWER



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## Kumuyi unveils Deeper Life Bible, **commends** **BSN**

### *Features*

BSN re-elects National Officers, elects other Board members

CR Victor Nursery/Primary School wins BSN Bible competition

*End-to-End: I was a terrible drunkard until my encounter with the Bible – Chief Kam*

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 *The way* **UP**  
*is* **down** 

**“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” - (1 Peter 5:6 KJV)**

In the Good News Bible, the above verse reads, *“Humble yourselves, then, under God’s mighty hand, so that he will lift you up in his own good time.”* Admonishing us further, verse seven says, *“Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you.”* God cares for everyone, particularly His born-again children. That is why He instructs us to be humble before exaltation or promotion/lifting.

Though it is the character of God to promote the most unlikely persons (Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-29), He usually promotes people who have already had some level of achievements. However, most times, God strips those who think they have something of all they have to humble them and then promotes them to a height or level that is far higher than where they are. Those who are not ready to go through the process of God’s pruning and training school often miss out on His great promotion and advancement in life.

Lazy people cannot do God’s work. Name those He used in the Bible: Elisha was already a successful farmer before God chose him as the greatest prophet of his time. When God wanted to use him, Elisha became homeless and an errand boy to the prophet Elijah. God took him from his high state to a very low level; responsively, Elisha submitted to the process and became greater than his leader, Elijah.

What do you say of Paul the Apostle, Peter, or John? They all had their trades before God called them unto His holy service. Study the history of the present Church leaders in our country and generation, you will discover that all of them passed through a similar process. It means that God does not use lazy people to do His work. For God to use you, you must be ready to surrender yourself to His process.

Our Lord Jesus Christ also passed through the same process. The Bible tells us that He was already the Son of God and co-equal with God before His earthly ministry. Jesus is the Word personified, and He can do all that God can do (John 1:3). When Jesus humbled Himself and became obedient even unto the death of the cross, God the Father highly exalted Him so much that at the mention of His name, all knees in heaven, on earth, and underneath the earth must bow, and all tongues must confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-10).

If you want God to promote you, you must be ready to go through the school of humility and obedience. In God’s agenda, humility comes before exaltation. Therefore, I advise you, dear reader, to first humble yourself before God by surrendering your life to Him in true repentance from your sin and accept Him as your Lord and Saviour.

Apart from humbling yourself before God, you should also trust and obey Him. If you can do this, rest assured, He will promote you unto honour in due time and lift you despite the challenges of the moment.

You are lifted in Jesus’ name.



**Sanusi Samuel**  
*Editor-in-chief*

# Kumuyi unveils Deeper Life Bible, commends BSN



From L-R: The Secretary of Deeper Christian Life Ministry (DCLM), Pastor Samuel Fuwape; General Secretary/CEO of The Bible Society of Nigeria, Pastor Samuel Sanusi; General Superintendent of Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Pastor William Kumuyi; his wife, Mummy Esther Kumuyi, and Chairman, Editorial Board of DCLM, Pastor Segun Babatope

**The General Superintendent of the Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Pastor William Kumuyi, has unveiled the *Deeper Life Study Bible (DLSB)*, a product of the partnership between the Ministry and The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN). He applauded the BSN for the timeliness and quality of the Bible.**

The General Secretary/CEO of BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, formally presented the DLSB to Pastor Kumuyi shortly after the Ministers, Church Workers, and Professional Conference held at the Dr. Obi Wali International Conference Centre, Port Harcourt, as part of the six-day Global Crusade with Kumuyi in Port Harcourt.

The elated Pastor Kumuyi disclosed that the BSN wrote to him last year asking if the Deeper Life Bible Church could have a King James Bible with notes to mark the Ministry's 50th anniversary. According to him, he answered in the affirmative, especially because of the coming 50th anniversary of the church.

He said, "We started in August 1973, and this year August, we will be 50. We have really emphasised the study of the Bible and have been doing so with our congregation all over the world every Monday since that August 1973.

"And now with the 50th anniversary coming, we have this Study Bible which is unique in its presentation. I have used many Study Bibles, but I am going to shift to this one.

"I am used to different kinds of Bible in preparing all my messages. Many people would wonder when they see the depth of the knowledge that comes into the study of

the Bible in my preparation and presentation. I use concordances, Bible dictionaries, and notes that other people have done.

"But looking at this, I just have to shift. We should find all we need here. I want to recommend it to everyone and every minister in any church and anywhere. You would find this very useful."

Pastor Kumuyi concluded by encouraging every Christian and minister in the Ministry and everywhere to get a copy of the DLSB as it is a must-have for them.

Speaking on the inspiration behind the project, Pastor Sanusi said, "As a new convert growing in the faith, I came across many kinds of Bible and used some of them.

"Looking at the way Daddy Kumuyi preaches and teaches holiness, I kept wondering how good it would be if he published a Study Bible. That had been in my mind for a long time, and when I remembered that Deeper Life Bible Church will be 50 years old in 2023, I considered the anniversary as an opportunity for the Church to publish a Bible which will not just be for members of the Deeper Life Church but for the whole world. That was why I sent the proposal to Pastor Kumuyi. It took us about six to seven months of active work and sleepless nights to get the job done."

Some of the features of the DLSB include the story of the Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Bible Doctrines, Life-transforming Holiness Messages, truths about the centrality and uniqueness of Christ, dated events of the Bible at a glance, in-depth introduction to each book of the Bible, topical headings, read-along cross references to help connect Bible verses easily, concordance among others.

# No Bible, No Christianity - Rivers Baptist President

The President of the Rivers Baptist Conference, Reverend Robert Okparanta, has reiterated the fact that there cannot be Christianity without the Holy Bible.

The revered Reverend said this when the executives of The Bible Society of Nigeria Rivers/Bayelsa Area led by the Chairman, Elder Omoni Ayo-Tamuno, paid him a courtesy visit.

Reverend Robert described the Bible as the major instrument that makes Christianity outstanding and a living movement. He expressed the need for the Church to support The Bible Society of Nigeria, adding that it is part of the responsibility of the Church.

## CR Victor Nursery/Primary School wins BSN Bible Competition



Assistant General Secretary, Finance, BSN, Mrs. Yemisi Oluwagbemi (1<sup>st</sup> right) presenting awards to the winners of the competition, Abu Doretta, Daniella Robert, and their teacher, Emediong Akpabio.

CR Victor Nursery/Primary School, Ijesha, Lagos, has emerged winner of the second edition of the annual Primary Schools Bible Competition organised by The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN).

The school, which was represented by Daniella Robert and Doretta Abu at the grand finale of the competition at Igbobi College, Lagos, scored 50 points to come out on top among eight other schools.

God's Glory Abide Nursery/Primary School, Agiliti, Mile 12, Lagos was the first runner-up, while Covenant Child Academy, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, was the second runner-up. Both schools had 40 points each, but the former won a tie-breaker contest to clinch the second position.

The General Secretary/CEO of BSN, Pastor Sanusi, represented at the event by the Assistant General Secretary, Finance, Mrs. Yemisi Oluwagbemi, said the competition aims to encourage the pupils to imbibe the culture of reading the Bible early in life.

"The purpose of this competition is to catch them young. Proverbs 22:6 says, 'Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.' This competition enables the contestants to go beyond reading the Bible in Church. They will have to read it themselves and ask their parents or teachers questions."

Daniella Robert, who spoke on behalf of CR Victor Nursery/Primary School, expressed her joy for emerging winner of the Bible competition. "I hope to win more gold in life," she said excitedly.

Other schools that participated in the competition were New Estate Baptist Nursery & Primary School, Masha, Surulere; Compass of Success Private School, Fadeyi; Bufad Nursery & Primary School, Ilaje, Bariga; De-Future Hope School, Ojo, Badagry; Methodist Nursery & Primary School, Yaba, and Tane Crescent School, Masha, Surulere.

# ***End-to-End: I was a terrible drunkard until my encounter with the Bible – Chief Kam***

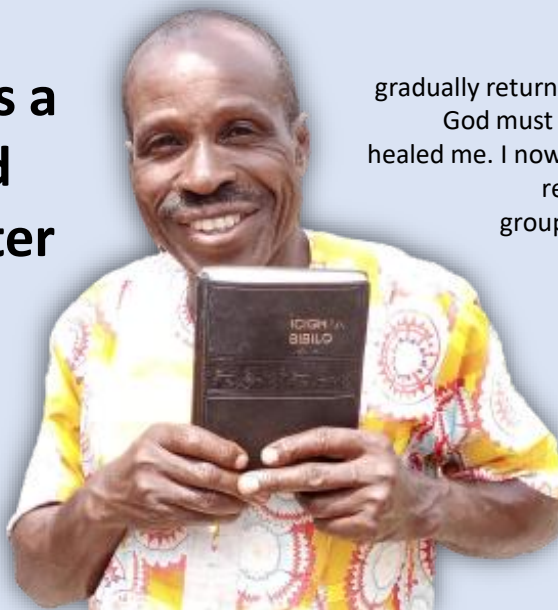
Chief Timothy Kam, the head and community leader of Kam, a village in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State, North Central Nigeria, has shared how listening to *Proclaimer*, an audio Bible device from The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN), helped him to overcome drunkenness.

Chief Kam's love for alcohol had gotten the best of him as he used to spend most of his time at the local drinking joint, neglecting his duties as a village head. His drinking habit had also strained his relationship with members of his family who were constantly worried about his health and wellbeing.

"I was deeply into alcoholism. I was addicted to it and could not stop drinking. I would move from one drinking session to another. I lost my business because I spent all my money on drinking.

"One fateful day, I saw Pastor Nyikwagh Ukum who invited me to an audio Bible listening centre. I was never interested in Christianity, but after several invitations and out of curiosity, I attended one of the listening sessions. That day, I was sober and found the session interesting with what I heard, listening to the Bible. I attended the next session also and that was how I continued to attend. I heard and saw that the Lord loves me and does not want me to perish. I also discovered that alcoholism is not a decent way of life and that I was leading a reckless life. I became ashamed of myself. Gradually, I stopped drinking," Chief Kam said.

Speaking further, the chief said while he was living as a popular drunkard in his community, he observed that his skin turned whitish. "I discovered that no medication could restore my skin and I had to live with it for as long as I was a drunkard. I don't know if it was associated with my excessive drinking, because I noticed that as soon as I stopped drinking, my skin



gradually returned to normal. I also believe God must have shown me mercy and healed me. I now attend the listening group regularly and coordinate the group anytime our leader is not available. I thank God I heeded the initial call to attend the Bible listening session. I do not know what would have become of my life if I had continued drinking," he added.

Pastor Ukum, one of BSN's partners in Benue State, said that the members of Kam community were pleasantly surprised at the transformation that took place in Chief Kam's life. They could not believe that the man they had known as a drunkard was now a responsible leader. According to him, Chief Kam had lost the respect of his subjects before his transformation.

Chief Kam's newfound faith in God has not only transformed his life but also positively impacted his community. He shared his story of transformation and encouraged others to turn to God for help.

The Chief's story is a testimony of the power of God to transform lives. He went from being a drunkard to a respected community leader who inspired many others to turn their lives around.

*End-to-End is a programme of The Bible Society of Nigeria which provides a platform for people to listen to the Proclaimer, an audio Bible device, in their preferred languages. It is open for sponsorship and if you desire to be part of it, kindly send a mail to: [info@biblesociety-nigeria.org](mailto:info@biblesociety-nigeria.org) or call: **08159094116**.*

## **BSN adopts Oral Bible translation**

In her effort to make Bible translation faster and meet the varying needs of its diverse audience, The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has adopted oral Bible translation in addition to its written translation. The decision was made at the just concluded Board Meeting of The Society.

*Continues on Page 7*

## *BSN adopts Oral Bible translation (Cont'd.)*

It was also resolved that the annual National Bible Competition and National Secondary School Bible quiz organised by The Society would henceforth be done online. This is to reduce the risk involved in travelling from different parts of the country to Lagos for the grand finale.

Meanwhile, the National Secondary Bible quiz, which used to be oral, would henceforth be a written exercise.



*Some of the pupils with their back-to-school packs*

One of the teachers in the school, Mrs. Alatise Balkis, also thanked The Society for coming to the aid of the pupils and their parents, adding that the gesture would serve as a succour to the recipients. Also reacting to the donation, Habiba Muhammed, a parent, said, "I am very happy. God bless The Bible Society of Nigeria. Thank you very much."

Miss Blessing Obi, one of the pupils who received the back-to-school packs, said, "I want to thank The Bible Society of Nigeria for giving me a school bag, notebooks, and pens. I am grateful. Thank you very much."

Earlier, the Production and Programmes Manager of the BSN, Mrs. Grace Benjamin, explained to the expectant parents and pupils that the BSN initiated the project to reach out to families in underprivileged communities across the country, especially those in Internally Displaced Camps (IDPs) and those living in slums. She informed them that the project had donated items to IDP Camps in different parts of the country, including Adamawa, Benue, Edo, Kogi States, Makoko in Lagos, and Abuja.

As the news of the donation filtered into the community, many residents of the area came out in their numbers and requested Bibles and other items that were distributed. However, the BSN team could not meet the demand of the crowd as all the materials brought to the school had been exhausted.

The Macedonian Call project is open for sponsorship. If you desire to sponsor the project, kindly mail us at [info@biblesociety-nigeria.org](mailto:info@biblesociety-nigeria.org) or call: **08159094138**.

## **BSN donates Bibles, relief materials worth ₦2.1m to pupils, parents**

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has donated Bibles, relief materials, and back-to-school packs worth ₦2,124,864 to the pupils and parents of Local Government Authority Primary School 1 & 2, at Ogbonwankwo Street in Ajegunle, Lagos State. The Society carried out the donation through its Macedonian Call project.



*A cross section of the pupils with their bags and writing materials*

While the pupils received school bags, notebooks, and biros, their parents received relief materials such as toiletries, beverages, and food items. All interested parents and pupils also got gently used clothes.

# Bible Society commends First Baptist Church for continued support

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) Rivers/Bayelsa Area has lauded the First Baptist Church, Port Harcourt for its continued support to The Society.

The Area Chairman, Elder Omoni Ayo-Tamuno, gave the commendation while presenting the Special Member Registration Certificate to the immediate past President of the Rivers Baptist Conference and Resident Minister-in-Charge of the Church, Reverend Dr. Ebifaghe Sam Woko.

Elder Ayo-Tamuno remarked, "It is on record that the Church is always the first to celebrate the Annual Bible

Week of The Society in the past 15 years. It has also been the custom of the Church to place orders for Bibles and promptly pay their dues to the Port Harcourt Auxiliary." He reiterated the call for Churches in the state to patronise the BSN Area Office for their Bibles.

Responding, Dr. E. S. Woko praised the efforts of The Society in making the Bible available and taking the front seat in the translation of the Bible into indigenous languages. He assured The Society of the Church's continued support to achieve its aims and objectives.

## Again, Kwara Area wins overall best awards

The Bible Society of Nigeria Kwara Area has again won the overall best award in fundraising and general performance.

The Area, which has maintained this winning streak in fundraising since 2005, contributed the sum of ₦6,442,230 which is 1,118.45% of its annual target of ₦500,000 for the year 2022. The chain was only broken in 2008 when Rivers/Bayelsa Area won the award. Kwara Area took it back in 2009 and has since maintained the position.



*BSN President, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo (right) presenting the overall best award to the Kwara Area Chairman, Pastor Abel Aiyedogbon (m) and Board Member 1, Elder J. O. Bamidele (left)*

In the fundraising category, Borno/Yobe Area surprisingly came second after contributing ₦3,479,235 representing 595.85% of its annual target, while Oyo Area 1 contributed ₦3,184,800 representing 536.96% of its target to clinch the third position.

In the general performance award, Oyo Area 1 was the 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up, followed by Borno/Yobe Area. The criteria for assessing the overall best Areas are performance in fundraising, Bible distribution, Calendar distribution, Special Membership, Life Membership, and Associate Membership registration, as well as proceeds from Bible Week Badges, Bible-A-Month Club registration, and other income remitted to the head office.

The General Secretary/CEO of the BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, commended the Awardees and other Areas that met and surpassed their targets. "The management profoundly commends the sacrifices and commitment of these Areas in delivering this excellent performance in their fundraising drive. Your efforts, no doubt, were of tremendous impact to the overall results of The Society," he said.

*Continues on page 9*



Kwara Area also took the first position in Bible Week Badges and Special Membership registration. Oyo Area 1 came second in Bible Week Badges, while Ogbomoso was the 1<sup>st</sup> runner-up in Special Membership registration, followed by Osun Area 1. Borno/Yobe Area took the lead in Life Membership registration, followed by Kwara Area and Osun Area 1. Osun Area 1 took the first position in Associate Membership registration, followed by Ogbomoso and Kwara Areas. Oyo Area 1 distributed 110,174 copies of the Bible to come first in Bible distribution, followed by Oke-Ogun and Osun Area 1 which distributed 62,860 and 48,236 copies respectively.



*BSN Oyo 1 Area Chairman, Reverend John Okesikpe (2nd right), with outgoing Board Member 1, Evang. Clement Aina (2nd left) and the incoming Board Member 1, Evang. Akinlade Olusanya (1st left) receiving the 2nd overall best award from BSN President, Bishop Timothy Banwo*

## Abegunde wins Best Area Secretary

The Secretary of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) Kwara Area, Pastor Samuel Abegunde, has won the overall best Area Secretary for the year 2022.

The award was announced by BSN General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi at the just concluded 56th National Board Meeting of The Society. While presenting the award to Pastor Abegunde, Pastor Sanusi commended him for his steadfastness, dedication, and commitment over the years.



*BSN Kwara Secretary, Pastor Samuel Abegunde (left) receiving his award from the General Secretary/CEO of BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi*

Kwara Area has remained the leading Area out of the 36 Areas of The Society for over 17 years, except in 2008 when Rivers/Bayelsa took the first position.

## Oluwagbemi, Nwokobia, Adeyeye, others receive Long Service Awards

The Assistant General Secretary, Finance, Mrs. Yemisi Oluwagbemi; Assistant Manager, IT, Mrs. Blessing Nwokobia; Driver, Mr. Emmanuel Adeyeye, and four other members of staff of The Bible Society of Nigeria have received the Long Service Awards.

Mrs. Oluwagbemi has served in the organisation for 25 years, while Mrs. Nwokobia and Mr. Adeyeye have each served for 20 years. Others who have served for 10 years each are Manager, Publishing, Mr. Segun Obadare; Warehouse Officer, Jos, Mr. Sule Jonah; Bookshop Officer, Mrs. Tope Paul, and Abuja Bible Guest House Service Agent, Miss Rosemary Chinyere.

They were all recognised at the just concluded National Board Meeting of The Society held in Ilorin, Kwara State.



*BSN President, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo (right) together with the Hon. Treasurer of BSN, Mr. Bolaji Adisa, presents Long Service Award of 25 years to AGS, Finance, Mrs. Yemisi Oluwagbemi*

# BSN re-elects National Officers, elects other Board members

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has re-elected three of its national officers and elected a new one. The election took place at The Society's 56th National Board Meeting which was held in Ilorin, Kwara State.

The re-elected national officers are the President, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo, the 1st Vice President, Mrs. Anna Asachaya, and the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Bolaji Adisa, while the newly elected officer is the 2nd Vice President Elder Ibiang Arikpo.

Other National Executive Committee Members elected are Reverend Dr. Oluwaseyi Ojo, Pastor Augustine Bajeh, Bishop Sandy Elijah, Venerable Ebenezer Babalola, Pastor Dr. Felix Olatunji, Reverend Ayinla Benjamin, Dr. Peter Kortse, and Mr. Joseph Bitrus.



*National Officers of BSN (Front row): President, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo (2nd left), Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Bolaji Adisa (1st left), General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi (m), 1st Vice President, Mrs. Anna Asachaya and 2nd Vice President, Elder Ibiang Arikpo with other NEC Members behind.*



*The representative of the Deputy Governor of Kwara State, Chairman, Christians Pilgrims Welfare Board, Prof. Evang. Timothy Opoola (2nd right), the Chief Judge of Kwara State, Hon. Justice Abiodun Adebara (2nd left), BSN President, Bishop Timothy Banwo (m), Bishop of Kwara Diocese Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), Rt. Reverend Sunday Adewole and others at the Divine Service.*

## BSN increases Area targets, merges Niger, Plateau Areas

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has increased its Area annual target from ₦500,000 to ₦1m for substantive Areas and from ₦250,000 to ₦500,000 for Associate Areas with effect from 2024.

This was among the resolutions reached at the Board Meeting that was held in Ilorin, Kwara State. The General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, noted that the current situation of things in the country, including the depreciating value of the naira, necessitated the decision for the increase. In addition to other items that make up the annual targets for the Areas, it was resolved that each Area must, as a matter of necessity, register a minimum of 1000 members yearly.

The Board also resolved that Niger Area be merged with Abuja/Nasarawa Area, while Plateau be merged with Benue Area. This followed the inability of the two Associate Areas to meet their annual targets for two consecutive years.

In the same vein, Ijebu and Taraba Areas, which were full-fledged Areas, have been reclassified as Associate Areas following their failure to meet their annual targets for two consecutive years.

Meanwhile, Bishop Ajayi Crowther Area, which was formerly an Associate Area, has returned to full-fledged membership having met its annual target for two consecutive years.

# Be mindful of what you do – Bishop Adewole charges Christians

The Bishop of Kwara Diocese, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), the Rt. Reverend Sunday Adewole has charged Christians to be mindful of the way they live their lives because there is a reward for every action.

Bishop Adewole gave the charge while speaking at the Divine Service/Formal Opening of the 56th National Board Meeting of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) at the St. Barnabas Anglican Cathedral, Ilorin, Kwara State.

Speaking on the topic, “There is a reward for your work,” the cleric said that the reward could come either as a blessing or a punishment; he encouraged everyone to rely on the Bible, the manual for living to guide and guard their actions.

He said that whoever does not follow the Bible should



*Bishop of Kwara Diocese Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), the Rt. Reverend Sunday Adewole*

not blame God for whatever eternal consequences their actions might attract. “Your negligence, indifference, and whatever you do will be judged by God,” he said, warning that any activity in the Church that does not lead to repentance and righteousness is a wasted effort.

Speaking further, Bishop Adewole commended the BSN for making the Bible available, adding that it is helping Christians fulfil the command of Jesus Christ to make disciples of all nations. He urged every Christian to support the work of the BSN.

The Deputy Governor of Kwara State, Mr. Kayode Alabi, represented by Evang./Prof. Timothy Opoola, Chairman, Christians Pilgrims Welfare Board, Kwara State, declared the Annual General Meeting open on behalf of the State Governor. He wished the BSN well in its deliberations and prayed that God would

surmount every obstacle in the way of The Society.

Earlier, the President of the BSN, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo welcomed the delegates and guests to the occasion. As usual, he harped on the mission of The Society and the need to support its mandate.

On the sidelines of the Divine Service, Bishop Sunday Adewole and his wife, who joined The Bible Society of Nigeria as Special Members, were decorated with the Special Membership brooch, and their membership certificate was presented to them.

The programme was also attended by the Chief Judge of Kwara State, Hon. Justice Abiodun Adebara, the Olusin of Isanlu-Isin, His Royal Majesty, Oba Dr. Solomon Oloyede.

## BSN rejigs, reassigns, promotes, recruits staff

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has reassigned two of its staff members, promoted four others, and recruited 15 new employees to allow for better positioning in the dynamic environment it operates.

The reassigned staff members are Mr. Anthony Olarewaju and Mr. Patrick Ohakawa. Mr. Olarewaju, who previously served as Head of Operations, Bible

Guest House Research & Development Centre, Ibadan, holds an MBA from Adekunle Ajasin University. Mr. Ohakawa, an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM), holds a BSc in Economics from Lagos State University and was formerly the Manager, Operations. The former is now the Distribution Manager while the latter is Manager, Administration.

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On the other hand, former Production and Programmes Officer, Mrs. Sylvia Ogolowa was promoted as Personal Assistant to the General Secretary/CEO; Mr. Adekunle Kolade, former Manager, Management Accounts, was promoted as Management Accounts Manager; Mrs. Blessing Nwokobia, former Assistant Manager, Information Technology is now Manager, Information Technology, and former Assistant Translation Consultant-In-Training, Mrs. Immaculata Osim is now Assistant Manager Translation Consultant-In-Training.

Others who were promoted are Miss Gloria Ifeanyi Mordi, former Guest Service Officer, was promoted as Head of Operations, Bible Guest House Research & Development Centre; former Management Accounts Assistant, Mr. Samuel Fademi is now Management Accounts Officer, and Mr. Joshua Ezeh, a former Office Assistant, was promoted as Accounts Assistant.

The 15 new employees are Joseph Iheke, Territorial Distribution Supervisor, Aba; Badung Nyango, Territorial Distribution Officer, Jos; Augustine Idoko,

Territorial Distribution Officer, Abuja; Sanusi Yunusa, Binna Bible Project Linguist, Yola; Olusesan Oladuke, Social Media Specialist, Lagos; Wale Adesiyen, Head of Operations, Bible Guest House Research & Development Centre, Ibadan; and Mr. Joshua Akinkuotu, Warehouse Officer.

Others are Chukwuemeka Dike, Publishing Assistant; Kissinger Edward, Bookshop Assistant, Ibadan; Femi Oladunjoye, Driver; Samuel Ameh, Driver; James Eze, Distribution Assistant; Iseoluwa Adepoju, Office Assistant; Abraham Abanum, Laundry Attendant, Bible Guest House Research & Development Centre, Lagos; and Jacob Oko, Housekeeper, BGHRDC, Abuja.



*Mrs. Sylvia Ogolowa*

*Miss Gloria Mordi*



*Mr. Adekunle Kolade*

*Mrs. Blessing Nwokobia*

*Mr. Ayo Olarewaju*

*Mr. Patrick Ohakawa*

*Mr. Samuel Fademi*



*Mr. James Eze*

*Mr. Joshua Akinkuotu*

*Mr. Badung Nyango*

*Mr. Chukwuemeka Dike*

*Mr. Joshua Ezeh*



*Mr. Olusesan Oladuke*

*Mr. Augustine Idoko*

*Mr. Wale Adesiyen*

*Mr. Iseoluwa Adepoju*

*Mr. Kissinger Edward*



## INTERVIEW

# Look up to God, be hopeful

**Reverend Esther Ajayi**



*Reverend Mother Esther Ajayi is the founder of the Love of Christ Church (Cherubim and Seraphim). She speaks to Benjamin Mordi on the need to trust God and be hopeful even in difficult situations. Excerpt:*

**In the interest of our readers, can we meet you, ma?**

My name is Reverend Mother Esther Ajayi of the Love of Christ Church, Cherubim and Seraphim where the glory of God shines. I was born on April 2, 1963. The Lord has been kind to me in my life. In 2004, I left Nigeria for England where the Lord founded The Love of Christ Generation Church in 2007. I went to primary and secondary schools in Nigeria. I attended Faith Seminary in Sango Ota where I did my Bachelor of Arts in Theology and All Nations Bible Seminary in England where I had my General Certificate and Diploma. In 2017, we came back to Nigeria where the Lord built this Church and there is no stopping me. If the Creator of the world is with you on a mission, the mission becomes easy.

**You are the founder of the Esther Ajayi Foundation. Can you tell us more about the foundation and some of the things it has done?**

The foundation started in the United Kingdom. At some point, when we were in England, my husband was sick and was admitted to North Middlesex Hospital. He was involved in secular work and was the breadwinner of the family, but when he became sick and was taken back to Nigeria, the salary stopped coming and this affected our finance. The Lord showed me mercy and when wealth came, I thought there could be a family somewhere going through financial challenges because the breadwinner is sick just like when my husband was sick. So, I thought of

setting up a foundation to help such families. We started helping women in the UK whose husbands were having problems or were sick and could not provide for the family. We started helping the destitute and people in detention camps; we also paid hospital bills for people. In Nigeria, we assisted people to build churches; we also printed and distributed thousands of copies of the Bible for free. As the Lord leads us, we are working to ensure The Bible Society of Nigeria has a good edifice. The Bible is the heartbeat of Christianity. The building should be the best in the world. God has done it before, He changeth not. Since we are not deviating from what He commanded us to do, the windows of heaven will continue to open to us.

**On May 29, 2023, a new government was sworn in. Please, what advice do you have for the new political leaders?**

The advice I will give is that we should keep loving one another. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." If God loves us and gave us His son, then we should also love each other. I listened to Asiwaju Bola Tinubu and heard him say he would be fair to all. That gladdened my heart a lot. Be fair to all; that is what we need. Let there be love. If there is love, we will scale through everything.

*Continues on Page 14*



## INTERVIEW CONT'D

### **Times are hard in Nigeria. As a woman of strong faith, how would you encourage Christians who are passing through difficult times to keep hope alive?**

According to Ecclesiastes 3:1, there is time for everything. It means there is an expiry date for every problem. These problems will soon expire. If the president has said he would be fair to all, that means he would be fair to both the rich and the poor. Therefore, let us be hopeful. Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end." Let us hold on and trust God. If you are a Bible-reading and believing Christian, you will not be afraid of anything. We should not be afraid because our Redeemer is alive. He will never leave us or forsake us. We should hold on to Jesus Christ as the problem will soon be over.

### **Leadership succession poses a lot of challenges to Churches, especially those with national spread. How can we avoid pitfalls in this area?**

It is prayer. What will make anyone fight over position is greed. 1 Timothy 6:6 says that godliness with contentment is a great gain, but our people are deviating from the Bible. The Bible advises us not to go to a court where an unbeliever will judge our case. We should pray to God to give us the power to be contented.

### **In your opinion, do you think the Church is doing enough evangelism? If not, what do you think can be done to change the narrative?**

The Church is not doing enough. The Bible commands

us to "go ye into the world and make disciples of all nations". Evangelism is one of the key things in Christianity. I would have loved to do crusades weekly in key locations across the world. Winning souls for

Jesus should be important to us because that is our mandate, not stacking money. God should touch the hearts of those who are wealthy to support evangelism. John 15:16 is our letter of appointment; He chose us to go and bear fruit.



### **How would you describe the Bible?**

The Bible is the heartbeat of Christianity. Without the Bible, there will not be Christianity because it is our guide and doctrine. All we do is from the Bible; it contains the mind of God. It helps us to know the dos and don'ts of Christian living. It is the sword of the Spirit. My confidence is from the Bible. I love the Bible.

### **Which is your preferred version?**

The King James Version

### **What is your favourite verse?**

The one I love most is the Book of Numbers 23:19: "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? Or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" My God is a covenant-keeping God. He can't lie.

### **How would you describe the work of The Bible Society of Nigeria, and what advice do you have for us?**

When there is no Bible, there is no Christianity. Their work is huge.

# Alone with God

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

AUGUST 2023	SEPTEMBER 2023	OCTOBER 2023
1. Matthew 19:29	1. Psalm 103:12-14	1. Psalm 23:2
2. Matthew 21:22	2. Psalm 103:17	2. Psalm 23:3
3. Matthew 28:20	3. Psalm 103:2-3	3. Psalm 23:4
4. Matthew 5:10	4. Psalm 103:6	4. Psalm 23:5
5. Matthew 5:4	5. Psalm 103:9	5. Psalm 23:6
6. Matthew 5:7	6. Psalm 111:5	6. Psalm 25:9
7. Matthew 5:9	7. Psalm 112:5	7. Psalm 27:10
8. Matthew 6:4	8. Psalm 115:12	8. Psalm 27:5
9. Matthew 7:7	9. Psalm 115:13	9. Psalm 28:7
10. Matthew 7:8	10. Psalm 116:15	10. Psalm 29:11
11. Matthew 7:9-11	11. Psalm 116:6	11. Psalm 3:3
12. Micah 4:2	12. Psalm 119:165	12. Psalm 30:5
13. Micah 7:18-19	13. Psalm 119:50	13. Psalm 31:19
14. Micah 7:7	14. Psalm 12:7	14. Psalm 31:23
15. Nahum 1:7	15. Psalm 121:2-3	15. Psalm 32:10
16. Nehemiah 8:10	16. Psalm 126:5-6	16. Psalm 32:5
17. Numbers 14:9	17. Psalm 130:3-4	17. Psalm 32:8
18. Numbers 6:24-26	18. Psalm 130:7	18. Psalm 33:18
19. Philippians 3:21	19. Psalm 130:7	19. Psalm 34:17
20. Philippians 1:6	20. Psalm 138:8	20. Psalm 34:19
21. Philippians 4:19	21. Psalm 142:3	21. Psalm 34:22
22. Philippians 4:6-7	22. Psalm 145:14	22. Psalm 37:10-11
23. Philippians 4:9	23. Psalm 145:18	23. Psalm 37:28
24. Proverbs 15:29	24. Psalm 145:19	24. Psalm 37:34
25. Proverbs 16:3	25. Psalm 147:6	25. Psalm 37:40
26. Proverbs 16:9	26. Psalm 16:11	26. Psalm 4:3
27. Proverbs 19:17	27. Psalm 17:15	27. Psalm 4:8
28. Proverbs 2:6	28. Psalm 18:27-28	28. Psalm 41:1
29. Proverbs 3:5-6	29. Psalm 18:30	29. Psalm 41:3
30. Psalm 10:14	30. Psalm 23:1	30. Psalm 46:1
31. Psalm 100:5		31. Psalm 46:7





# BREAST HEALTH & CERVICAL CANCER

By Tony Akinyemi

## PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING BREAST DISEASES

When people think of breast disease, they often visualise only breast cancer, but a wide variety of other disorders can appear in the breasts. It is not uncommon to find benign breast lumps (i.e., noncancerous). Mammary dysplasia is an umbrella term for breast diseases that involve benign changes to the breasts. Breast diseases can manifest in the form of breast lumps, breast pain, breast calcification, breast rash, breast enlargement, breast hardness, nipple discharge, etc. Though breast disease is more common among women, it is not limited to them.

Most women experience breast changes at some time during their lives. A woman's age, dietary and lifestyle choices, hormone profile, genetic makeup, and the pharmaceutical drugs that she takes may cause breast lumps, bumps, cysts, and discharges or fluids that are not breast milk.

### Breast Discharges

Some common breast changes include:

- **Fibrocystic breast changes:** Lumpiness, thickening, and swelling, often just before a woman's period;
- **Cysts:** (i.e. fluid-filled lumps);
- **Fibroadenomas:** Solid, round, rubbery lumps that move easily when pushed, occurring most in younger women;
- **Intraductal papillomas:** Growths similar to warts near the nipple;
- **Blocked milk ducts;** and
- **Lactation:** (milk production) when a woman is not breastfeeding.

### Breast Diseases

Breast diseases include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Breast cancer:** This is a malignant form of breast disease. It is perhaps the most dreaded of all breast diseases.
- **Breast cyst:** A type of breast disease in which a small, fluid-filled sac develops in the breast.

**Breast hyperplasia:** A condition in which breast cells begin to multiply more rapidly than normal. Hyperplasia is not necessarily malignant. A histological examination of the cells can determine whether it is

malignant (cancerous) or benign (non-cancerous).

- **Congenital breast abnormalities:** Some people are born with some form of breast abnormalities. These are referred to as congenital breast abnormalities. For example, some people have inverted or misshaped nipples; others may have extra nipples or breasts. Congenital breast abnormalities are not necessarily treated as diseases but can cause symptoms that may mimic or obscure the signs of breast disease.
- **Fat necrosis:** A condition that is most common in women with large breasts in which breast tissue becomes damaged and starts to die.
- **Fibroadenomas:** Benign tumors that appear as lumps in the breast.
- **Fibrocystic breast disease (FBD):** Women with fibrocystic breast disease experience changes in their breasts that tend to follow the menstrual cycle, including the development of lumps, soreness, and tenderness.
- **Galactorrhea:** Here, people who are not pregnant or breastfeeding start to produce milk, and more general nipple discharge which can occur alone or in association with another condition.
- **Intraductal papilloma:** Small benign nodules that develop in the ducts of the breasts.
- **Mammary duct ectasia:** Usually develops in menopausal women. It is a type of breast disease in which the ducts of the breast are blocked.
- **Mastitis:** An infection in the breast
- **Paget's disease of the breast:** Another malignant condition in which malignant cells begin to grow in the nipple. This condition can appear as a precursor to breast cancer or as a standalone condition.
- **Sclerosing adenosis:** A condition in which benign growths appear in the lobules of the breast.

*...to be continued in the next edition!*



# PUZZLE

## Places in the Bible

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

Achaia

Caesarea

Derbe

Greek

Joppa

Mnason

Ptolemais

Syria

Trophimus

Antioch

Corinth

Ephesus

Iconium

Lystra

Patara

Rome

Temple

Tyre

Athens

Cyprus

Gentiles

Jerusalem

Malta

Philippi

Samaria

Troas

# Awards & Recognition



*2nd Vice President of BSN, Mrs. Anna Asachaya presenting Long Service Award of 20 years to Mr. Emmanuel Adeyeye*



*The General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi presenting Long Service Award of 20 years to Mrs. Blessing Nwokobia*



*Mr. Segun Obadare (right) receiving his Long Service Award of 10 years from the General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi*



*L-R: 1st Vice President of BSN, Mrs. Anna Asachaya, Board Member 1 from Borno/Yobe Area, Mr. Joseph Bitrus and the Area Chairman, Mr. Jafiya Musa receiving the 3rd overall best award from the BSN President, Bishop Timothy Banwo*



*Rev Dr. Oluwaseyi Ojo, Board Member 1 from Ogbomosho (right) presenting 2nd position award in Scripture Distribution to Oke Ogun Area Chairman, Reverend Dr. Okunlola Olalere and Board Member 1, Reverend Olopade Sunday*



*Rev Dr. Oluwaseyi Ojo, Board Member 1 from Ogbomosho (right) presenting 3rd position award in Scripture Distribution to Osun Area 1 Chairman, Rev Dr. Samuel Farayola (m). With them is Board member 1, Rev. Benjamin Anyila*

# Photo Gallery



*Pastor Dr Hezekiah Ilufoye, Coordinator Baltimore District Council of Christ Apostolic Church, USA*



*AGS, Publishing, BSN, Pastor Olugbenga Oludaisi, presenting a copy of the Bible to the General Overseer of The Living Word Revival Assembly, Rev. Emeka Ngubo, during a courtesy visit to the latter's office in Lagos. With them is the Church/PR Manager, BSN, Mr. Lucky Ogwu.*



*Church/PR Manager, BSN, Mr. Lucky Ogwu (left) presenting a copy of the Bible to the Senior Pastor of God's Chamber Ministries, Pastor Taiwo Lemoshe during a courtesy visit to the latter's office in Lagos. With them is Fundraising Officer, BSN, Mr Adedamola Onafuwa.*



*President of BSN, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo (1st left) presenting the Special Membership Certificate to the Bishop of Kwara Diocese Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), Rt. Reverend Sunday Adewole and his wife. With them are the Hon. Treasurer of BSN, Mr. Bolaji Adisa (2nd left) and 1st Vice President of BSN, Mrs. Anna Asachaya.*



*The BSN Area Chairman, Elder Omoni Ayo-Tamuno, presenting BSN literatures to the Rivers Baptist Conference President, Reverend Robert Okparanta Ph.D during a courtesy visit*



*The Acting Amanyanabo of Kalabari, Alabo Dr Charles Numbere presenting BSN Special Membership Certificate to Reverend Dr Ebifaghe Sam Woko, the Pastor of First Baptist Church, Port Harcourt*



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18, Wharf Road, P. O. Box 68, Apapa, Lagos.  
www.biblesociety-nigeria.org  
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### All Correspondence to:

THE EDITOR, The Bible Society of Nigeria  
Adebowale House, 150 Ikorodu Road,  
Onipanu, Lagos, Nigeria  
Telephone +234 8108055025, +234 8159094116  
Email: info@biblesociety-nigeria.org  
Website: www.biblesociety-nigeria.org