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# Partners, Convert Commend BSN

Features

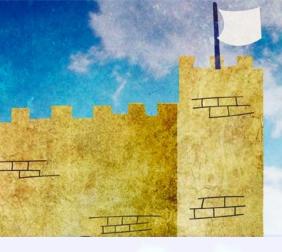
BSN, Leading Pathways to Healing Trauma in Nigeria

Taraba Governor, Kefas, Commends BSN

Carelessness, Cause of Crisis in Marriage, Says Bisi Adewale

# **CONTENTS**

1.	Editorial3
2.	BSN, Leading Pathways to Healing Trauma in Nigeria 4 – 5
3.	Taraba Governor, Kefas, Commends BSN5
4.	End to End: Partners, Convert Commend BSN6
5.	Raising a New Generation of Leaders: BSN's Bold Initiative7
6.	Olorundare, Femi Receive Braille Bible, Commend BSN8
7.	BSN Donates Bibles Worth N7.4 million8
8.	Kwara Area Wins Overall Best Award9
9.	Christian Laity, BSN, others Pray for Nigeria9
10.	Oludaisi, Ogwu, Ogolowa, Others Receive Long Service Awards10
11.	BSN Increases Area Target, Merges Ijebu Area10
12.	Sends off Regina Daniel 10
13.	The 8 Communication Traits of Couples in Healthy Marriages11
14.	Obadiaru Turns 80, Celebrates in Grand Style12
15.	BSN Honours Komolafe, Olaniyi, Agboola, others
16.	Abegunde Wins Best Area Development Officer Award12
17.	Carelessness, Cause of Crisis in Marriage, Says Bisi Adewale 13 – 14
18.	BSN Promotes, Recruits Staff
19.	Types of Breast Cancers
20.	Alone with God
21.	Photo Gallery



# From the desk of Editor-in-chief God Our Refuge

he Pentagon is regarded as one of the world's most secure buildings. As the iconic representation of the U.S. defense programme in Washington, DC, the Pentagon is one of the nation's most guarded structures. The Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) safeguards the building with robust security measures, including advanced protection against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. Strict security protocols are in place, requiring thorough screening for all entrants and prohibiting photography for confidentiality. Despite all these, something happened on September 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 was hijacked by terrorists and crashed into the building. All 64 people on board the plane, along with another 125 people in the Pentagon, lost their lives. This incident shows the limit of man's ability to truly protect himself from danger and disaster.

Part of the reasons Israel ignored the warnings of the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 22:1-14 was their belief in the defenses they had put in place against external aggression. Why would they need to seek God when they believed they could defend themselves? They defiantly trusted in their armoury in the forest of Lebanon, built by Solomon. They broke down some of the houses in Jerusalem to fortify the city walls, dug a ditch between the two walls to channel water from the old pool for use in times of war, and made darts and war instruments in abundance. Satisfied with the integrity of their defenses, they ignored Isaiah's prophecy of judgement through an invasion by a foreign nation.

People who ignore God's word because they rely on their military or economic might should think again and again, as no one is truly safe anywhere. We spend a lot on security gadgets, closed-circuit cameras, bulletproof cars, electric wire fences, armed guards, etc. Despite all these, our

societies are not safe from armed robbers, kidnappers, and terrorists. Apart from the physical threats we face daily, there are also spiritual threats, which can be even more dangerous. Nowhere can truly be said to be safe in our present world without God. Israel learned this too late, as the Chaldeans swooped upon them, overwhelmed their defenses, and took thousands into captivity in Babylon.

The books of Psalms 16 and 91 show us that the only sure defense and refuge is our God. Those who trust in Him are like the mountains, which cannot be removed but abide forever (Psalm 125:1-2). God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Let us put aside self-confidence and pride, and hand over the security of our lives to the only One who can always save us in times of need.

It is true that our world, and particularly our nation, is presently going through tough times in terms of socio-economic and security challenges but as we do our part and put our trust in God, this too shall pass away, and our nation shall be great again.

May the peace of God be with you all. Amen.



Samuel Sanusi Editor-in-chief

# BSN, Leading Pathways to Healing Trauma in Nigeria

he Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has, in the last eight years, remained deeply committed to addressing the pervasive issue of trauma within Nigeria, a nation facing numerous challenges, including conflicts, economic instability, kidnapping, insurgency, and natural disasters.

The organisation has worked tirelessly since 2016 to build capacity for trauma management in the country, and 13 states have so far benefited, with over three million people reached. It has also implemented various trauma healing programmes designed to address the spiritual, emotional, and psychological needs of traumatized individuals. These programmes integrate biblical principles with mental health practices. Some of these efforts involve conducting training sessions and workshops for religious leaders, community workers, and other stakeholders.

To consolidate these efforts and highlight the BSN's dedication to fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing in the field of trauma healing, the organisation recently hosted representatives from 15 countries across Africa and the United States at an international community of practice conference on Trauma Healing in Lagos.

The conference, themed "Trauma Healing in a World of Uncertainty: Navigating Global Crises and Building Resilience," brought together trauma healing practitioners, mental health professionals, religious leaders, and community workers to examine the far-reaching impact of trauma in the context of ongoing global crises, such as conflicts, natural disasters, economic instability, and insurgency, among others.

Welcoming delegates to the conference, the General Secretary/CEO of BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, emphasized the need to build a network of support that fosters holistic healing for trauma victims.

Pastor Sanusi acknowledged that trauma is a barrier to meaningful

Scripture engagement, as it divides and isolates individuals and communities, often leaving victims with more questions than answers.

"Trauma. whether conflict, caused bv displacement, violence, loss, systemic injustice, leaves deep scars that move through generations," he said, adding that community of practice is not just a platform to discuss challenges but

also an opportunity to explore solutions rooted in our real-life experiences and realities.

One of the speakers at the conference, Dr. Yetunde Fasakin, a Consultant Psychiatrist and Managing Director of Amazing Healthcare Clinic, spoke on *Conflict to Healing: Exploring Global Collaboration in Trauma Recovery*. She expressed dismay at the steady increase in armed confrontations, civil wars, and ethnic violence, which have



severe consequences, including high mortality rates and mass displacement, affecting all layers of society.

According to her, the aftermath of these conflicts leads to profound impacts on affected populations, including loss of life, psychological trauma, and social disintegration. These effects hinder individuals' ability to rebuild their lives, perpetuating cycles of poverty and violence. The overall impact on mental health is significant, often resulting in widespread issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression, affecting not only survivors but entire communities.

Another speaker, Dr. Chima Okoro, a lecturer from the Department of Psychology at the University of Lagos, highlighted how climate change also contributes to the rise of psychological trauma in the country,



Dr. Okoro, who spoke on Climate Change and Trauma: Mental Health Challenges in a Rapidly Changing World, noted that studies have shown correlation between increasing temperatures rising aggression and suicide rates. According to him, extreme heat can lead to both physical and psychological exhaustion, which can be traumatic.

To build resilience, Dr.

Okoro advocated a drastic reduction in emissions causing climate change through energy efficiency, the use of clean energy, and sustainable transportation systems. He also emphasized the need to manage climate change risks through flood protection, infrastructure upgrades, and hazard mitigation planning.

A keynote speaker, Dr. Dare Ajiboye, immediate past General Secretary of BSN and a Life Coach, stated that the challenge posed by

#### **Continues on Page 5**

trauma would persist as long as the world remains characterized by volatility, uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity, and disruption.

Dr. Ajiboye traced the origin of trauma to the Bible, citing examples such as Adam and Eve suffering trauma after their fall, Samson being betrayed by his wife, Elijah being threatened by Jezebel, and Job losing everything he had within a short period. He recommended coping, curative, and preventive strategies to deal with trauma.

As a coping strategy, he suggested identifying and avoiding trauma stressors, while, as a curative strategy, he advised treating the root cause of trauma rather than just the symptoms. For preventive strategies, he encouraged individuals to take proactive measures to prevent trauma-inducing situations.

Speaking earlier, Frederick Barasa, a representative of the American Bible Society, noted that trauma healing has become a global movement, with over 117 countries actively engaged in trauma healing management. According to him, the Trauma

Healing Institute helps churches address the effects of trauma, grief, and loss by integrating biblical and mental health principles into their resources.

The two-day event also featured panel discussions and the sharing of reports and experiences from different Bible Societies across Africa.

For churches or organisations interested in trauma management training, kindly send an email to <a href="mailto:grace@biblesociety-nigeria.org">grace@biblesociety-nigeria.org</a> or call 080159094138

### Taraba Governor, Kefas, Commends BSN

he Governor of Taraba State, His Excellency, Dr. Agbu Kefas, has commended The Bible Society of Nigeria for the countless lives it has touched through Bible translation, Bible distribution, and the execution of programmes that foster spiritual growth.

Dr. Kefas, who was represented by the Commissioner for Social Justice an d Re-integration in Taraba State, Hon. Ambassador Dr. Mrs. Filister Musa, gave the commendation at the Divine Service of the 58<sup>th</sup> National Board Meeting of the Society in Maiduguri, Borno State.

According to Governor Kefas, "The Bible Society of Nigeria stands as a beacon of hope, a testament to the enduring power of Scripture to change lives, heal hearts, and build bridges across divides." He said he was inspired by the resilience of the BSN, its unwavering dedication, and its tireless efforts to advance its noble cause of making the Bible available and affordable to everyone. He declared the National Board Meeting open and wished delegates fruitful deliberations.

Speaking in the same vein on the topic: Bible Translation as a Strategic Fit for Effective Evangelism, the guest speaker at the event, the Resident Pastor of EYN LCC Polo, Maiduguri, Reverend Paul Chadumi, underscored the great importance of Bible translation.

He said, "talking to people about God in their language helps them to personally know God and makes His worship more real than trying to copy the way God is being worshipped in other people's context. It also brings real transformation since the person sees God personally and the word is speaking straight to his or her heart."



Commissioner for Social Justice and Re-integration in Taraba State, Hon Dr Mrs. Filister Musa, who represented the Governor of Taraba State. Dr Agbu Kefas. as Special Guest of Honour



disciples on the day of Pentecost because they supernaturally spoke in the languages of the people who heard them. He said the Ethiopian eunuch would not have needed an interpreter if the portion of the Scripture he was reading had been in his mother tongue. He added that investing in Bible translation as a means of fulfilling the Great Commission is an eternal investment.

According to him, people from different

parts of the world each understood the

Earlier, the President of BSN, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo, and the Chairman of the

Borno/Yobe Area, Mr. Jafiya Musa, welcomed the delegates and guests to the occasion. As usual, Bishop Banwo harped on the mission of The Society and the need to support its mandate.

The General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, also commended the Christians in the North-Eastern part of the country for their unwavering commitment, faith, and steadfastness in the face of constant threats to their lives.

# **End to End: Partners, Convert Commend BSN**

ome partners of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN), who make the Word of God available to people in different Nigerian languages using an audio Bible device, along with one of the converts from the programme, have commended the BSN for the initiative, which has brought transformation to many lives.

One of the new converts of the End-to-End project in Ilesa, Osun State, Samuel Ibukun Ayodeji, has commended The Bible Society of Nigeria for its efforts in helping people like him gain knowledge of Jesus Christ and His Word.

Mr. Ayodeji said that he had never attended a church service or read the Bible until he watched the Jesus film and started attending the audio Bible listening centre. "Watching the Jesus film changed my life. It was after I watched the film that I joined a church and started to read the Bible. I felt sad, watching the film because of the way they beat Jesus. Some of us cried while watching it," he said.

Speaking further, the new convert said he was excited when he was invited to watch the Jesus' film. "I looked forward to it because I had heard a lot about Jesus

Christ and was imagining in my mind

how he would look in the film," he said, adding that he was also excited the first time he listened to the audio Bible device. "When they were preaching to me to come closer to God, I did not take it seriously. But when I heard the proclaimer (audio Bible device), it was like they were reading the Bible directly into my head, so it touched my heart," he said. He added that the discussion part of the listening session helps him to understand the Bible better.

While giving words of encouragement to BSN, Ayodeji said, "I just want to encourage you to keep doing the work because the same way this programme has helped me and transformed my life, it is also changing the lives of other people." Ayodeji was excited when he received a copy of the Bible from BSN.

One of the partners, Rosemary Odigbo, of Jesus Children Missions Outreach, Ibadan, Oyo State, sent a letter to appreciate BSN for its support and dedication to the advancement of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The letter read in part: "We are especially thankful for the Proclaimer and Acclaimer generously presented to us. These tools are timely and have come as a clear answer to prayer. They will go a long way in strengthening our mission efforts across several communities, schools, and villages in the Southwest region.

"Your support has not only equipped us but has also encouraged and empowered our team to reach more souls with clarity and passion. With these resources, our outreaches will experience a new dimension of effectiveness and impact."

A partner in Ilesa, Osun State, Mrs. Mojisola Olanipekun, a farmer, said her group members are mostly her farm workers. She said, "As soon as they report for work, they will ask me to put on the audio Bible device. They are always looking forward to listening to it."

End to End is one of the programmes of The Bible Society of Nigeria that helps people hear the Word of God through an audio device called Proclaimer in their preferred languages. The BSN is using this programme to empower the church to take evangelism

and soul-winning to a higher level of impact and effectiveness.

In 2024, we recorded 3,958 converts from those who participated in the programme. In the first quarter of this year, 1,197 people gave their lives to Christ. These converts receive free Bibles from BSN.

If you want to support or be part of this project, please send a mail to <a href="mailto:grace@biblesociety-nigeria.org">grace@biblesociety-nigeria.org</a> or call 08169094138



### Raising a New Generation of Leaders: BSN's Bold Initiative

n Nigeria, often plagued by stories of corruption and failed governance, a quiet revolution is taking root, one that seeks to redefine leadership through the lens of faith, integrity, and biblical values.

Last year, The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) hosted the African Biblical Leadership Initiative Conference in Abuja, a four-day gathering aimed at equipping leaders across Africa with the values of leadership rooted in integrity and the fear of God.



The African Biblical Leadership Initiative Conference brought together technocrats, professionals, clergy, and young leaders to address Africa's leadership crisis—not with political strategies, but with Scripture. One day was exclusively dedicated to youth engagement, reflecting BSN's belief that lasting change begins with the next generation.

#### From Conference to Concrete Action

The conference's most significant outcome is the Catalysing Leadership training programme, a six-month leadership incubator designed to mould emerging leaders into transformative figures for the continent in general, and Nigeria in particular. This training commenced on May 1, 2025, in Lagos under the auspices of BSN and the International Bible Advocacy Centre (IBAC), an arm of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Twenty-two young men and women across the country, between the ages of 20 and 40, registered for the leadership training. While 17 of them are taking part in the in-person session, five are participating virtually. It is a rigorous sixmonth mentorship designed to ground participants in biblical principles while sharpening their practical leadership skills.

#### The Programme's Structure is Intentional:

The six-month programme is structured around three strands of leadership training:

Authentic, Relational, and Catalysing Leadership. Each strand consists of three modules, which will be facilitated by tutors during three face-to-face sessions. In each session, tutors will have eight hours to engage with the emerging leaders. Every module includes four guided sessions, each with defined learning outcomes and suggested readings.

Participants have been assigned mentors to guide them throughout the six-month training. These mentors are seasoned leaders in business, ministry, academia, and civil society. An interesting part of the training is the interview sessions, during which mentors, through a question-andanswer format, share real-life examples of how they have upheld integrity and the fear of God in the positions they have held. Until the next in-person session, scheduled for July 11-12, 2025, the emerging leaders will continue to work with their mentors and complete their assignments.

One of the participants, Pastor Akinfenwa Olaoluwa Seun, said, "The training has been impactful and mind blowing. I was so glad when I learnt that I would be mentored by a senior person I have admired from a distance.

During the first three days of the physical session, I learnt that a leader must first imagine the change

they want to see and then work towards it. A leader must be authentic in all areas to lead effectively."

Another participant, Elijah Odunbaku Surprise, said: "Participating in the Catalysing Leadership training was a powerful and eye-opening experience for me. Over the three days, I was challenged to reflect deeply on what it means to lead authentically, not from position or title, but from a place of self-awareness, honesty, and alignment with my values and God's will. I gained practical tools to help me build trust, listen actively, and show up consistently as the same person in both my personal and professional spaces.

Moving forward, I intend to apply these lessons by being more intentional in how I communicate, staying true to my values, and nurturing meaningful relationships that foster shared growth. This experience has strengthened my resolve to lead with integrity and courage, no matter the setting."

#### The Road Ahead

For The Bible Society of Nigeria, the goal is clear: to create a network of leaders whose decisions and actions are anchored in faith and biblical values. According to the President and Board Chair of BSN, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo. "Africa's transformation won't come from a miracle. It will come from leaders who dare to be different."

#### Olorundare, Femi Receive Braille Bible, Commend BSN

wo people with visual disabilities, Mrs. Adenike Olorundare and Authentic Femi, have commended The Bible Society of Nigeria for giving them a complete set of the Braille Bible.



Thev expressed their gratitude while receiving the sets of the Braille Bible delivered to their respective homes by BSN officials. Both stated that they had long needed the Bible but had no means to acquire it.

Mrs. Adenike, a mother, works as a Braille Instructor and serves as a member of the Board of Lectors (a group of individuals responsible for reading the Bible during Mass and

other liturgical celebrations) in her church. She explained that, before now, she had to manually transcribe and braille any portion of the Scripture assigned to her to read during each Sunday service. This process, she said, was tedious and time-consuming, but with the Braille Bible, there will no longer be a need for that.

Furthermore, she said the Bible would not only enhance her knowledge of the word of God but also help improve her spelling, as she can now pause, go back and forth, and cross-check information while reading. This, she said, was not possible when listening to an audio Bible. "I was quite excited when I learnt I was going to receive a Braille Bible from the Bible Society of Nigeria, and here I am with the Bible. I really appreciate it. I had to take a day off from work to

receive this Bible because of its immense value to me. I am so grateful now that it is mine. May the organisation continue to grow from strength to strength, in Jesus' name," she said in appreciation.

Mrs. Olorundare added that she was determined not to be a liability, which motivated her to pursue an education. She encouraged parents with children who have visual challenges not to lock them up at home but to enroll them in special schools so they can receive proper education.

Mrs. Olorundare and Mr. Femi said they lost their sight at a tender age due to measles. Mr. Femi, a History student at Obafemi Awolowo University, admitted that he had become rusty in reading braille. According to him, the Braille Bible would not only deepen his



knowledge of the Bible but also help improve his proficiency in reading braille materials. "I can now read the Bible at any time. This was not possible when I had to rely on an audio version on my phone, because if the phone wasn't charged or available, I couldn't listen," he said. He concluded by praying for the Bible Society of Nigeria and the donors who made the gift possible.

#### BSN Donates Bibles Worth #7.4 million

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) donated assorted Bibles worth ₩7.4 million in 2024 as part of its free Bible distribution objective.

Bibles valued at ₦5.4million were donated to sighted individuals, while 29 complete sets of the Braille Bible, worth ₦2,030,000, were given to people with visual disabilities. In 2023, the organisation had also donated Scriptures worth ₦18.8 million to the less privileged.

This gesture aligns with the Society's mission to make the Holy Bible available to Nigerians in their preferred languages and formats, and to help them engage with the

Word of God through programmes that transform their lives. Beneficiaries of the free Bible distribution included prison inmates, churches, Christian fellowships and organisations, schools for the blind, and individual members of the public, among others

A complete set of the Braille Bible, which comes in 37 volumes, currently costs \mathbb{\pi}70,000. The organisation carried out the free distribution programme using funds donated by various categories of its members, corporate organisations, churches, and individual donors through the

Braille Bible project, You Can Be Their Eyes (YCBTE).

Through its free Bible distribution and other laudable programmes, the BSN continues to break every known barrier that makes the Word of God inaccessible to people. The BSN is a not-for-profit, interdenominational Christian organisation that translates the Bible into local languages, distributes and publishes it, and raises funds for Bible work. So far, the organisation has translated the full Bible into 27 Nigerian languages, with translation and revision efforts ongoing in several others.

# Kwara Area Wins Overall Best Award

he BSN Kwara Area has again emerged as the best performing Area for 2024, an award it has won repeatedly for 19 years.

This was announced at the 58th National Board Meeting of The Bible Society of Nigeria. The Kwara Area was followed by Oyo Area 1 and Ondo Area 1, respectively.

According to the General Secretary/CEO of BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, the Kwara Area outperformed others in the indices for measuring performance.



The Kwara Area also maintained its leading position in fundraising, having contributed the sum of ₩8,508,720 which is 750% of its annual target of №1,000,000. It was followed by Borno/Yobe, which, amidst the Boko Haram insurgency, contributed ₩5,290,000.00, representing 429% of its target. Oyo Area 1 came third with a contribution of ₩4,871,000.00, representing 387% of its target.

The General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, commended them and other Areas that met and surpassed their targets, particularly those from the North, where there are security challenges.

Kwara Area also took first position in Bible Week Badges and Special Membership. Oyo Area 1 took second position in Bible Week badges, followed by Ondo Area 1 and Oyo Area 2, which tied in the third position.

Borno/Yobe took the lead in both Life and Associate Memberships registration. Lagos Area 1 took second position in Life Membership, followed by Ondo Area 1. Ogbomoso emerged second in Associate membership, followed by the Adamawa/Bauchi/Gombe Area.

Oyo Area 1 led others in Bible distribution, having distributed 75,135 copies of the Bible, followed by Osun Area 1, which distributed 41,959, and Oke-Ogun, which distributed 24,829.

# Christian Laity, BSN, others Pray for Nigeria

hile most residents of Lagos State rushed to their respective places of work on Thursday, April 24, 2025, another group comprising very elderly members of the Christian Laity Association of Nigeria and other well-meaning Nigerians, made their way to La Scala Restaurant, Muson Centre, Onikan, Lagos, as early as 7 am.

They did not arrive early to receive dividends or attend a party, they were driven by love for Nigeria. They gathered to pray for the peace, progress, and

prosperity of the nation. This they have done faithfully for 45 years.

The Chairman of the Christian Laity Association of Nigeria, Chief Brown Mene, welcomed attendees to the event and affirmed the association's unwavering commitment to praying for Nigeria. Making a veiled reference to the theme: Except the Lord builds, he emphasized that no one, government or institution can build Nigeria except God himself. "That is why we



Chief Brown Men

constantly focus on him to help us build our country," he said.

The Venerable Sam Esemede, former Vicar of Our Saviour Anglican Church, Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos, gave the exhortation during the programme. He stressed that any enterprise or action taken without God is bound to fail. "Any foundation outside Christ is no foundation," he added.

The occasion was also used as a platform to pray for those piloting the affairs of the country- the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, as well as for Law

A cross section of people praying for Nigeria

Enforcement gencies, the youths, the education sector, and the Church of God.

Aside from the National Youth Service Corps members who attended, nearly every other participant was 70 years old or older.

The Christian Laity Association of Nigeria has about six different prayer groups in Lagos State that gather monthly to intercede for the nation. However, once a year, on the first Thursday after Easter they all come together in a unified prayer session for the country.

#### Oludaisi, Ogwu, Ogolowa, Others Receive Long Service Awards

he Assistant General Secretary, Publishing, Pastor Olugbenga Oludaisi; Church/Public Relations Manager, Mr. Lucky Ogwu; Personal Assistant to the General Secretary/CEO, Mrs. Sylvia Ogolowa; and two other members of staff of The Bible Society of Nigeria have received Long Service Awards.

Pastor Oludaisi and Mrs. Ogolowa have served in the organisation for 15 years each, while Mr. Ogwu has served for 10 years. Assistant Manager, Admin, Mrs. Edith Eze, has served for 25 years, while Territorial Distribution Officer, Mr. Sampson Abah, has served for 15 years.

They were all recognised at the recently concluded National Board Meeting of the Society, held in Maiduguri, Borno State.



### **BSN Increases Area Target, Merges Ijebu Area**

he Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has increased its Area annual target from ₩1,000,000 to ₩2,000,000 for substantive Areas, and from ₩500,000 to ₩1,000,000 for Associate Areas, with effect from 2025.

This was among the resolutions reached at the Board Meeting held in Maiduguri, Borno State. The General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, noted that the current situation in the country, including the depreciating value of the naira, necessitated the increase. In addition to other items that make up the annual targets for the Areas, it was also resolved that each full-fledged Area must, as a matter of necessity, distribute 10,000 copies of the Bible, while Associate Areas are expected to distribute 5,000 copies.

The Board also resolved that the Ijebu Area be merged with Egba/Yewa Awori for failing to meet its annual targets for two consecutive years.

In the same vein, Benue/Plateau, Kaduna, Remo, and Samuel Ajayi Crowther 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, the Taraba Area, which was formerly an Associate Area, has reclaimed its full-fledged status, having met its annual target for two consecutive years. The Board also approved the creation of Kwara Area II from the existing Kwara Area.

It was further resolved at the meeting that any Area Chairman or Area Development Secretary who performs below expectation for two consecutive years will be relieved of their positions.

#### ... Sends off Regina Daniel

he Bible Society of Nigeria has sent off a member of its National Executive Committee (NEC), Mrs. Regina Daniel, after her tenure of four years.

Mrs. Daniel was a co-opted female member of the NEC of BSN. Speaking at a brief ceremony on the sidelines of the National Board Meeting, the President of BSN, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo, thanked God for the wisdom of co-opting women into the National Executive Committee of BSN, saying that it has been a blessing to the organisation. He eulogized Mrs. Daniel for her rich contributions, maturity, and general disposition while she served on the committee.

Also speaking, the General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, commended her can-do spirit, adding that she did not disappoint the Society during her years of service. Other members of the National Executive Committee prayed for her.

In her response, she thanked the BSN for the opportunity to serve, adding that it afforded her an opportunity to learn new things.





# The 8 Communication Traits of Couples in Healthy Marriages - Bisi Adewale

Ithough couples in healthy marriages may not have everything in common, one trait is consistent in all of them: effective communication.

Jonathan Robinson confirms this when he says: "The number one thing is that people want to be understood and they want to feel like their emotions are being valued,"

When communication is right, understanding will flow. When there is understanding, there will be closeness, love, and intimacy.

1. THEY PRACTISE DAILY APPRECIATION: "As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise." Proverbs 27:21 KIV

Letting your spouse know they are loved and appreciated can change the face of your marriage. When you acknowledge your spouse's efforts, it helps them feel validated and understood. The number one correlation among happy couples is the amount of appreciation they express to each other. It can be through text messages, phone calls, notes, or appreciation both in private and in public. Don't forget daily appreciation; it can transform your marriage for the better.

2. THEY DON'T CRITICISE EACH OTHER: Couples in healthy marriages know the difference between correction and criticism, and they avoid the latter. You correct when you address the issue with kindness and focus on improvement. For example: "Sweetheart, this food is delicious. Although, the stew could be a bit less salty. You know the doctor said we should reduce our salt intake. That said, I really appreciate the meal. Thank you."

You criticize when you say: "You won't kill someone in this house with salt! You are aware that the doctor said we should reduce our salt intake, yet you still made this trash. I won't let your carelessness kill me early. Come and carry your trash!"

- 3. THEY PRACTISE POSITIVITY: Research shows that happy couples who maintain a 5:1 ratio of positive to negative behaviours in their interactions are more likely to enjoy healthy, lasting relationships. Always be intentional about communicating positively regardless of the situation. It will make your marriage healthy. Avoid negative communication by all means.
- 4. THEY USE THE POWER OF TIME OUT: A marital disagreement can spark a heavy forest fire with one wrong word. To keep that from happening, we recommend putting the brakes on a dispute before it gets out of hand. Couples in healthy marriages recognize this and

learn not to talk negatively. They pause to reflect and pray instead of fighting endlessly.

- 5. THEY MAKE CONTACT: Healthy couples make contact as they talk. Do not underestimate the power of simple gestures. You can say a lot without saying a word just by holding hands or giving a hug. "All these things are really important because, in this culture, we don't have enough physical touch." one expert said.
- 6. THEY USE 'I FEEL' STATEMENTS: Instead of saying "You made me mad," healthy couples will rather say, "I feel bad when you..." When you argue with your spouse, try to shift the focus by not casting blame and saying things like, "You did this" or 'You need to fix this." Instead, use 'I feel' statements. When you use 'you' statements, your partner feels blamed and may stop listening. But when you use 'I' statements, you avoid that reaction. You can take responsibility by saying, "One way I see I contributed to this upset is..." What you're trying to do is avoid making your partner defensive.
- 7. THEY ASK QUESTIONS: Yes, you might have been married for a long time and perhaps dated longer before that. But you'd be surprised to know there's still a lot to learn about your spouse's life, feelings, struggles, vision, plans, and challenges. Curiosity will help you. Don't assume you know everything about him or her. Ask questions; it will greatly benefit your marriage.
- 8. THEY CREATE TIME TO TALK: Scheduling time to talk helps a lot. Couples in unhealthy marriages hardly talk except when they are fighting, and that's not ideal. You can't get the best out of your relationship if you only communicate to resolve conflicts. If you only talk when you are mad at each other, you won't get good results. Can you imagine a company whose management never holds a meeting unless all the machines are broken down and all the customers are lost? Always schedule time to talk and get things right in your marriage.

# THE FIRST RULE FOR A GREAT MARRIAGE IS TAKING TIME TO TALK EFFECTIVELY

Bisi Adewale is a family and relationship expert; author of Secret of Irresistible Wife and more than 130 other books on marriage and family life. You can follow him on Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter @bisiadewale, on Facebook at facebook.com/PastorBisiAdewale, or reach him at 08068312004. He blogs daily at <a href="www.bisiadewale.com">www.bisiadewale.com</a>. His books are available at <a href="www.titaar.com">www.titaar.com</a>

### **Obadiaru Turns 80, Celebrates in Grand Style**

he atmosphere was filled with joy and gratitude as Elder Dominic Obadiaru, former Chairman of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN), Lagos Area 1, celebrated his 80th birthday in grand style. The milestone event took place at Christ Apostolic Church, Festac, Lagos, drawing a warm gathering of family, friends, and well-wishers.

Widely respected for his unwavering devotion to faith and service, Elder Obadiaru's life was celebrated through heartfelt tributes and expressions of gratitude. One of the most touching moments of the event came when the octogenarian personally led the congregation in



singing ten of his favourite hymns—an emotional highlight that resonated deeply with guests.

Speakers at the event spoke glowingly of Elder Obadiaru's impactful contributions to the church and wider community. He was described as a humble leader, a steadfast Christian, and a source of inspiration across generations.

The celebration reached its peak with a joyful cakecutting ceremony, followed by a short address from the celebrant. In his words, Elder Obadiaru expressed profound gratitude to God for sustaining him through the years and appreciated everyone who came to share in his joy.

Among the distinguished guests present were the former General Secretary/CEO of The Bible Society of Nigeria,

Rev. Dr. Fred Odutola, and the incumbent General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi.

It was a day of reflection, thanksgiving, and celebration.

### BSN Honours Komolafe, Olaniyi, Agboola, others

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) headquarters has awarded some past and serving officers of the BSN Kwara Area in recognition of their contributions to the mission of the Society.

The award recipients include Pastor Samuel Komolafe, who served as Kwara Area Chairman from 2003-2010 and later as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of BSN from 2011-2019; Reverend Jacob Olaniyi, Area Chairman from 2011-2018; and Superior Apostle S. O. Agboola, who was Chairman from 2019-2022.

Also honoured were the incumbent Chairman, Pastor A. Aiyedogbon, and the Area Development Officer, Pastor Samuel Abegunde. The awards were presented by the General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, during a retreat held for Auxiliary officers of the Area at the United Mission Church of Africa Theological Chapel on April 10, 2025.



L-R: Kwara Area Development Officer, Pastor Samuel Abegunde; incumbent Chairman of the Area, Pastor A. Aiyedeogbon; a former Chairman, Superior Apostle S O Agboola; GS/CEO of BSN, Pastor Samuel Sanusi; a former Chairmen Ist Vice President of BSN, Pastor Samuel Komolafe, and another former Chairman, Rev Jacob Olaniyi with their awards

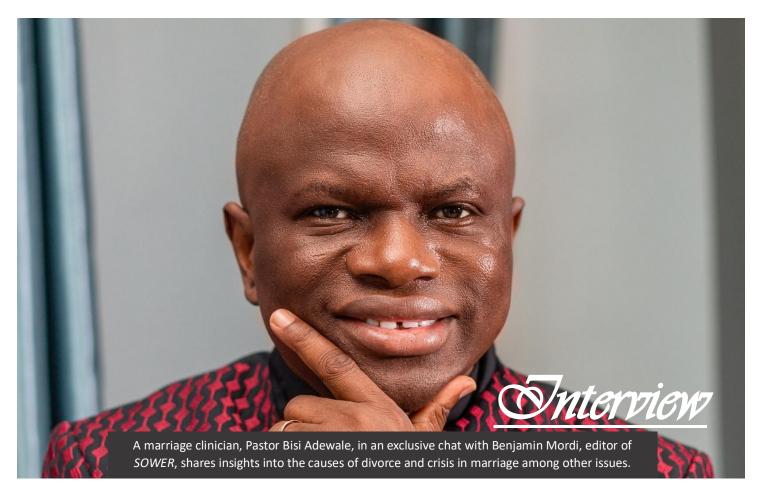
According to Pastor Abegunde, the recognition highlights the awardees' "uncommon dedication and fruitful engagement in BSN Kwara Area," one of the leading Areas among the 34 Areas of the BSN.

### **Abegunde Wins Best Area Development Officer Award**

he Area Development Secretary of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN), Kwara Area, Pastor Samuel Abegunde, has won the Overall Best Area Development Officer award for the year 2024.

The award was announced by the BSN General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, at the just concluded 58th 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.

Kwara Area has remained the leading Area out of the 34 Areas of the Society for over 17 years, except in 2008 when Rivers/Bayelsa took the first position. Pastor Abegunde has won the award for three consecutive years since it was instituted four years ago.



### Carelessness, Cause of Crisis in Marriage, Says Bisi Adewale

an we meet you, sir?

My name is Bisi Adewale. I am a marriage clinician and author of over 120 books on marriage, parenting, and family life. I am also a member of the Association of Christian Marriage Counsellors of the United States of America. I answered the call to marriage ministry on September 9, 1999. I received the call in my final year at university and went into full-time ministry after completing my Youth Service year.

# You've clearly carved a niche in this unique ministry. What led you into it?

I did not carve any niche for myself, God did. He called me into this ministry. Though I studied Accounting, God told me when I was writing my final exams that I was not going to balance any accounts. Instead, He has called me to revive, restore, remold, and rejuvenate broken homes, to bring His sons and daughters together in holy matrimony, and to stir up end-time revival through the home unit. That calling birthed Family Booster Ministry, and our training arm, Family Booster Academy, where we've trained and certified over 10,000 marriage counselors globally. Two years ago, we trained over 3,000 marriage counselors for Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministries worldwide.

# From your experience in counselling, what would you say is the most common cause of divorce or threat to family/marriage?

Many people would say violence, infidelity, or poverty, but as a marriage clinician, I can tell you the most common cause of crisis in marriage is carelessness. Before the wedding, couples invest time and effort into the relationship, talking for hours, doing things together. But after wedding, that effort often stops. The man is busy pursuing his work, the wife is busy looking after the baby. Carelessness has

crept in. This is called drifting in marriage. And the longer it lasts, the more terrible it gets. Sometimes we bring culture into marriage. Before some people got married, they held hands while taking a walk, but after marriage they stopped. Some women even say, "Don't hold my hand in public." That is carelessness. People are dating and holding hands, but married people find it difficult to do. In fact, some prefer to hang out with their friends than their spouses. This what the Bible called a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of hands, then poverty in your marriage will strike. You are sleeping in your relationship. Your wife is in the traffic for hours and you will not call to find out where your wife is. But when you were dating you will always call to ask her location. Some do not remember their wives' birthday or wedding anniversary. This is carelessness. How many times have you taken your wife out. I have never met a woman who does not desire it. If you are reading this and you are not taking your wife out, you are committing a crime against humanity.

There is something we call rule 2-2-2. It is a rule that sustains marriage. The first number 2 stands for taking your wife out every two weeks to a place where you can be alone. If you have money buy drinks or whatever. Then every 2 months, take your wife out where two of you will sleep outside your house. And once in 2 years, take your wife out for one week. It could be anywhere where your wife will relax. Here, she is not expected to cook or be taking care of the baby. It is just two of you alone. Satan is not the cause of the crises in marriage; he is just taking advantage of our carelessness. In Song of Solomon chapter 7:7, it says, "Come my beloved let us lodge in the village...." As far back as Bible times, this rule has been there. It can be a hotel. It is not a retreat for prayer, but a retreat for romance. Every day in a week my wife and I take a day off to be together for 24 hours.

#### **Continues on Page 14**

The family is the first agent of socialization. With rising social vices,

do you think the family is still playing its role effectively in terms of inculcating the right values in children?

If you look at the crime rate globally you will know it is the result of failure in the family. One of the problems is that those expected to train the children are not trained. That is why we are focusing on training church marriage counsellors, pastors and their wives, and marriage committee members, who will in turn train their church members. An average pastor has not preached on parenting in

years. Who is training the parents? It is not the responsibility of the church to train our children; it is the parents' responsibility. The church is to perfect the saints. The Bible says in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house..." Personally, I am not a fan of boarding schools. I prefer to raise my children at home until they are around the age of 16. There are a lot of parental failures. I encourage all pastors reading this to create a Sunday in a month for a family Sunday. If you need materials for this, follow me on Instagram @bisiadewale. Send me a message and I will send it to you

What is your reaction to the recent proposal by the federal government to drop the current 6-3-3-4 education system for a 12-4 model?

The problem is not the system; it's the people running it. This model

will not work. What we need is the personnel that will make it work. This one is just to find food for the boys.

#### How would you describe the Bible?

It is the book of life, an encyclopedia of wisdom. It is invaluable. The closer you are to the Bible, the farther away you are from sin. You can be prayerful and still live in sin, but you cannot be *Bible-full* and live in sin.

#### Your favourite Bible version?

I prefer the King James Version, though I consult other versions as well.

#### What is your favourite verse?

That would be Isaiah 54:14, "In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee." When it comes to marriage, my favourite verse is Ruth 3:1, "Then Naomi her mother-inlaw said unto her, My daughter, shall I not seek rest for thee, that it may be well with thee?" Your life is supposed to be better when you get married. The main reason for marriage is to have rest and you must be intentional in everything you do to enjoy your marriage and have rest in it. Being intentional is the opposite of carelessness I talked about earlier.

### **BSN Promotes, Recruits Staff**

he Bible Society of Nigeria has announced the promotion of two staff members - Mr. Temitope Omogbemi and Mr. Augustus Oyedeji. Mr. Omogbemi has been promoted to the position of Deputy Manager, Research, Literacy & Programmes. He joined BSN in 2017 and holds an MSc in Sociology from the University of Lagos. Mr. Oyedeji, who joined the BSN in 2017 as an Audit Assistant, was promoted to Audit Officer and holds a BSc in Accounting from the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN).

In another development, the organisation has recruited an additional seven staff members. They are Mr. Michael Adeosun, employed as Human Resource Manager with MSc Sociology from University of Lagos and professional certification in Human Resource Management; Mr. Olawale Raji as Business

Development Manager, Bible Guest House, Ibadan with PGD Education obtained from City College of Education; Mr. Olawale Olanrewaju as IT Support Assistant with National Diploma in Computer Engineering from Lagos State Polytechnic; and Mr. Reuben Akoh as Guest Service Agent, Abuja Bible Guest House with HND Accounting from Dorben Polytechnic, Bwari.

Others who joined the BSN as staff members are Miss Olayinka Ayeni, Guest Room Attendant, Ibadan Bible Guest with National Diploma Science Laboratory from Osun State Polytechnic; Mrs. Adediran Rebecca as Chambermaid in Ibadan Bible Guest House with WASC, and Mr. Chukwuemeka Ibe employed as Audit Assistant with Associate Accounting Technician from Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria.



Mr. Temitope Omogbemi



Mr. Augustus Oyedeji



Mr. Michael Adeosun



Mr. Olawale Raji



Mr. Chukwuemeka Ibe



Mr. Reuben Akoh



Mrs. Adediran Rebecca



Miss Olayinka Ayeni



he two most common types of breast cancer are named after the parts of the breast in which they start – ductal carcinoma and lobular carcinoma.

Cancer that starts in the cells lining the ducts of the breast, beneath the nipple and areola, is called **DUCTAL CARCINOMA**. If the cancer is well contained and not invasive, it is called **DCIS (Ductal Carcinoma In-Situ)**. This type of breast cancer is more successfully treated than the invasive type. About **85%** to **90%** of all breast cancers are ductal carcinomas.

A second type of breast cancer is called **LOBULAR CARCINOMA.** This begins in the lobes that produce milk in the breast. The lobes are located deeper inside the breast, under the ducts. Again, if the cancer is still localized within the lobe and has not spread, it is described as **LCIS (Lobular Carcinoma In-Situ)**. About **8**% of breast cancers are lobular carcinomas.

There is also a group of breast cancers that usually invade nearby tissues. These are called **Invasive** (or **Infiltrating**) **Breast Cancers**. They tend to spread beyond the original tumor site to other parts of the breast and body. While all cancers can potentially spread, invasive carcinomas often spread rapidly. There are several types and subtypes of invasive breast cancer.

A rare form of breast cancer is named for its appearance; it is called **Inflammatory Breast Cancer**. This is the least common but most aggressive form of breast cancer. It typically forms sheets or nests rather than lumps. It can start in the soft tissues of the breast just under the skin or may appear in the skin itself.

The least common type is a cancer of the nipple, named after Sir James Paget, who first identified the relationship between changes in the nipple and the underlying breast cancer. It is called Paget's disease. Paget's disease of the nipple and areola often looks like a skin rash or rough skin. It resembles eczema and can cause intense itching.

I must point out that, at the end of the day, breast cancer is breast cancer; no type should be handled carelessly. On the other hand, I must also say that CANCER is just a word, not a sentence, and certainly not a death sentence. Always remember that a cancer diagnosis is not the end of life. Many people have defeated or conquered breast cancer before, and any newly diagnosed patient can do the same. Never give in to fear. Fear is the greatest enemy of a cancer patient. It is even more dangerous than cancer itself. The Bible says, "Fear has torments" (1 John 4:18).

#### **BREAST CANCER DIAGNOSIS**

Quite often, breast cancer is detected only after a woman begins to notice symptoms such as a lump, breast pain, abnormal discharge, or an inverted nipple. However, sometimes, a woman may have no symptoms at all. The presence of symptoms does not automatically mean breast cancer. Before a diagnosis is made, several tests must be carried out. These include the following:

- Medical history & physical breast examination;
- Imaging tests such as mammograms (or thermograms in alternative medicine), breast ultrasound, and MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)
- Nipple discharge examination; or
- Surgical procedures (biopsy):
  - FNAC (Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology) a long needle
    is inserted into the breast lump to take a small sample
    out for histological examination (I strongly advise
    against FNAC);
  - **LUMPECTOMY** Surgical removal of the lump.

If cancer is diagnosed, a mastectomy (surgical removal of the entire breast) may be advised by the doctor.

#### **HISTOLOGY**

After surgery, the removed tissue is sent to the laboratory for histological analysis to determine whether the lump or tumour is benign (non-cancerous) or malignant (cancerous). The histology report will then determine the next line of action.

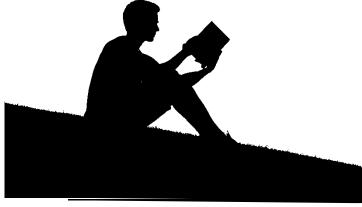
Personally, I always caution women against Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology (FNAC); the reason being that once a tumour has been 'punctured' and the capsule broken, it spreads much faster than if it remained contained in its sac. I prefer a lumpectomy (total removal of the entire breast lump) rather than just extracting a small sample. I suspect that many doctors recommend FNAC because it is a simpler, quicker procedure. Given the fact that, in this country, histology reports are often delayed, this can be dangerous. Usually, by the time the histology report is out, several weeks would have elapsed, and the cancer would have started spreading because it has been punctured. In certain instances, histology reports can take anywhere from 6 weeks to 3 months to be ready. Tragically, I have known of patients who passed away before the histology results were out.



# **ALONE WITH GOD**

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

APRIL 2025	MAY 2025	JUNE 2025
1. Luke 6:33	1. Psalm 105:4	1. Psalm 23:1
2. 1 Peter 5:8	2. 1 John 5:11	2. Romans 8:31
3. Job 38:4	3. Romans 6:23	3. Psalm 46:1
4. 1 Peter 5:6	4. Ecclesiastes7:14	4. Psalm 23:6
5. James 5:13	5. Philippians 4:20	5. Ecclesiastes 3:1
6. Hebrews 4:13	6. Zechariah 4:6	6. Ecclesiastes 3:1
7. Hebrews 2:1	7. Proverbs 10:28	7. Proverbs 29:1
8. 1 Samuel 2:9	8. Matthew 16:25	8. Ecclesiastes 71
9. 1 Chronicles 4:9	9. Psalm 13:6	9. Ecclesiastes 4:9
10. Jeremiah 33:3	10. 2 Corinthians 6:14	10. Philippians 4:19
11. 2 Corinthians 5:17	11. John 14:2	11. James 1:5
12. Jeremiah 29:11	12. Proverbs 4:27	12. Psalm 107:9
13. Hebrews 4:12	13. 1 John 1:7	13. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
14. Proverbs 30:5	14. Isaiah 46:4	14. Romans 3:23
15. Matthew 6:27	15. Psalm 119:36	15. Deuteronomy 6:5
16. 2 Corinthians 10:3	16. Philippians 4:19	16. Matthew 22:39
17. Psalm 32:1	17. James 1:5	17. Ephesians 5:11-12
18. John 14:23	18. Psalm 107:9	18. Psalm 23:1-2
19. Isaiah 1:18	19. 1 Thessalonians 5:18	19. Matthew 13:22
20. Psalm 112:1	20. Romans 3:23	20. Jonah 2:9
21. 1 John 4:4	21. Deuteronomy 6:5	21. Proverbs 29:11
22. Romans 6:15	22. James 5:13	22. Genesis 2:3
23. Proverbs 11:2	23. Hebrews 4:13	23. Psalm 42:8
24. 1 John 4:1	24. Hebrews 2:1	24. Matthew 7:7
25. Luke 12:2	25. 1 Samuel 2:9	25. Philippians 4:13
26. Romans 8:15	26. Revelations 21:6	26. 1 Corinthians 15:57
27. 1 Corinthians 13:1	27. 1 Peter 16	27. Matthew 22:37
28. Ephesians 6:11	28. Psalm 140:1	28. Acts 9:31
29. Genesis 18:14	29. Psalm 18:44-45	29. Psalm 103:1
30. Ezekiel 33:8	30. Colossians 3:23	30. Romans 12:21
	31. Luke 12:34	



# Photo Gallery





GS/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi (m) flanked on his immediate left by the President, Bishop Dr Timothy Banwo, and other NEC members join him to cut his birthday and 25th marriage anniversary cakes on the side lines of the National Board meeting in Maiduguri



National Officers of BSN: L-R 2nd Vice President, Elder Ibiang Arikpo; GS-CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi; President, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo 1st Vice President, Mrs. Anna Asachaya, and Honorary Treasurer, Mr. Bolaji Adisa



Evang Akinlade Olusanya (right), a Board Member representing Oyo Area 1, receiving the 2nd overal best award won by Oyo Area 1 from the President, Bishop Dr Timothy Banwo



Pastor Felix Olatunji, NEC member from Ondo Area 1 (right), receiving 3rd overall best award won by Ondo Area 1 from the President, Bishop Dr Timothy Banwo



Chairman Borno/Yobe Area Chairman, Mr. Jafiya Musa, receiving 2nd position award in Fundraising from Mrs. Regina Daniel, a former NEC member



**Continues on Page 18** 

# Photo Gallery





Chairman BSN Oke-Ogun Area, Rev. Olopade Olayemi (right) receiving 3rd position award in Scripture Distribution from the President, Bishop Dr. Timothy Banwo



Kwara Area Chairman, Pastor A O Aiyedogbon (2nd right) presenting Special Membership Certificate to the Chief Judge of Kwara State, Hon Justice Abiodun Adebara and his wife. With them are Rev Dr Samson Adewumi (1st left), Elder Olusegun Bamidele (2nd left) and Area Development Secretary, Pastor Samuel Abegunde



NEC member from Osun Area 1, Rev. Benjamin Anyila (right) and Osun Area 1 Chairman, Rev. Dr. Samuel Farayola receiving the 2nd position award in Scripture Distribution from the President, Bishop Dr Timothy



Adamawa/Bauchi/Gombe Area Chairman, ASP David Tumba, receiving the 3rd position award in Associate Membership from Taraba Area Chairperson, Hon. Dr. Mrs. Filister Musa. With them are 1st Vice President, Mrs. Anna Asachaya (2nd left) and a former NEC member, Mrs. Regina Daniel



President and Board Chair of BSN, Bishop Dr Timothy Banwo presenting 15 years long service award to the PA to General Secretary/CEO, Mrs. Sylvia Ogolowa, while the General Secretary, Pastor Samuel Sanusi, (1st right) and



Mr. Samson Abah (right) receiving 15 years long service award from the



Church/PR Manager, Mr Lucky Ogwu (right) receiving 10 years Long Service award from the President, Bishop Dr Timothy Banwo



Mrs. Edith Eze relishes her 25 years long service award after receiving it from the General Secretary/CEO, Pastor Samuel Sanusi



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