



THE APOSTOLIC HERALD

(Proclaiming The Message Of Christ) E/Volume 1 No. 1



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



READY TO BE DISCIPLES INDEED

INTRODUCTION

It is obvious that the impact our communities desire and are hungry for can only be effected by the true disciples of Christ Jesus - "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God"- Roman 8:19. True Christians are the solution the world is waiting for. We can no longer be mediocre or mean, denying the world of their hope.

This article seeks to throw some light of the Spirit upon the Apostolic theme for the year 2023 - Community Impact Through Strategic Discipleship.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."- John 8:31-32. A particular kind of disciples are revealed in this scripture. These are the only disciples Jesus recognizes as His disciples and therefore referred to them as "disciples indeed". The text further reveals to us some of the marks and benefits of these true disciples.

DISCIPLESHIP IS A PROCESS

The reference text for the theme makes it clear that advancement in God, the achievement of our purpose and destiny is a process and not an event. These Jews had already believed in Jesus and yet here He was telling them about other things to do. Our life in God is a process and not just an event. True disciples are products and every product in life is produced through a process.

The critical question is; are you ready to be processed? Are you ready to allow God and time to take you through more than one event? Would you be patient to go through the process? The process involves some discomfort. Are you ready for that? The process God takes us through has some necessary steps.

Let's look at some of the steps as revealed by Jesus in the text.

STEP 1: "THEN"

The use of this conjunction suggests that something comes first for another thing to follow. "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him". It all starts with faith in Jesus. It was their belief in Him that prompted the statement. Hebrews 11:6 says "But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him". It begins with faith because this is a journey for the heart and not a journey for the feet. Those who will be processed by God are those who have genuinely professed faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

STEP 2: "THE PROBABILITY JUNCTION"

This is the place of choice. Though they had already believed in Him, Jesus still used the word "if"; which suggests that things will not run automatically. For instance, maturity in Christ is not automatic; it does not come by aging. Coming to Jesus and believing in Him is not enough. There is a critical condition that one must satisfy; there is an additional choice that one must make. Never leave anything to chance. A walk with God is not an autopilot mode experience. Our conscious, deliberate consent, demonstrated in the choices or decisions we make daily are crucial building blocks for this house God is building us into.

Continue on Page 4



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THE NEHEMIAH PROJECT



The NEHEMIAH PROJECT is a vision of the management of The Apostolic Church, Ghana to build a new ultra-modern headquarters. It was necessitated by a conviction of the Holy Spirit and the state of the current General Headquarters, which is not fit for purpose. Due to its inability to house the staff working therein, the Church has, for the past 15 years, been renting another building to house some of the staff, whilst others are housed at The Apostolic Retreat, Resource and Conference Centre - Fafraha.

Currently, the project, which is an 8-storey building with 2 floors buried underground, has progressed to the 7th floor, which is estimated to be completed by February. However, there is still more work to be done, as the contractor prepares to begin work on the 8th floor. Your prayers, but more importantly **YOUR DONATION**, can help make this vision a reality. This is an opportunity from God to prophetically turn the finances of the Church, including your personal finances, around. Therefore, donate towards this course.

Donate Now!



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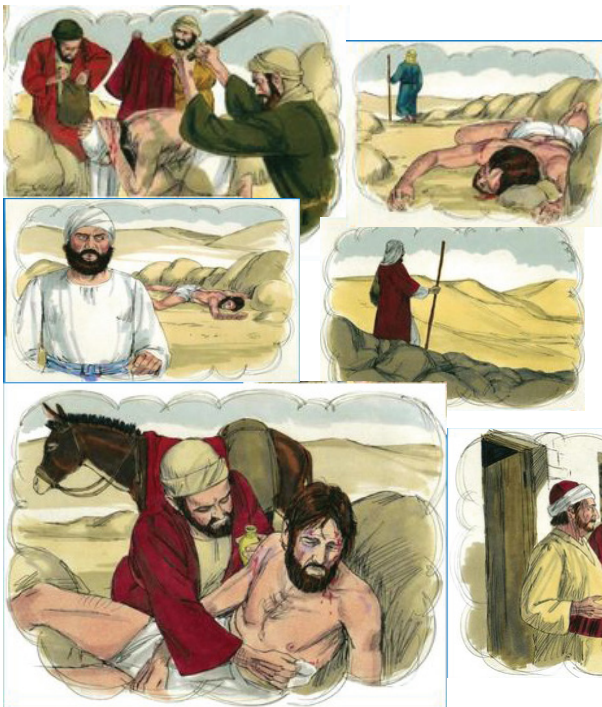
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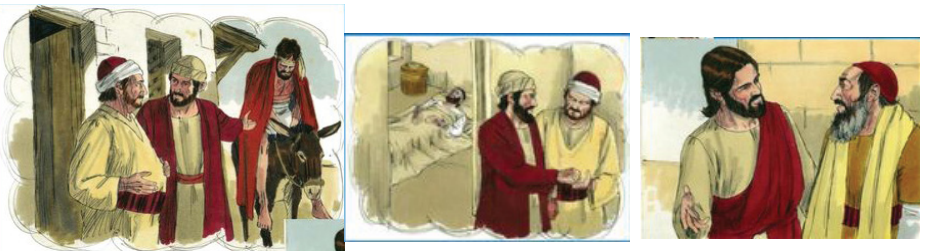


Who is a neighbour?

A neighbour is a person who lives next to you or near you. To be neighbourly means to be friendly and helpful. As Christians, we need to come to terms with the fact that we live in communities with people with different backgrounds, upbringings, cultures, and faith. However, there is the need for us to live in peace and harmony with all and sundry. Our lives in our neighbourhoods may be the only scriptures that will be read by our neighbours to take a decision on whether or not to have a saving faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As such, we must live in our neighbourhoods with Christ-conscious and -centred lives to reflect His love, mercy, and grace at all times. We cannot be Christians only on Sundays and put up totally different behaviours in our neighbourhoods the rest of the week. We need to reflect the life of Christ in every aspect of our lives, no matter where we find ourselves.



Who is my Neighbour?



It is evident from Luke 10:25–37 that your neighbour is the one who needs your help. People go through a lot of challenges—emotional, psychological, financial, marital, etc. People are bartered and shattered by the difficulties of this life. People have questions to life that they need answers to. We cannot live in our neighbourhoods engrossed only in our personal needs and expect to impact the lives of those around us. It is when we come out of our comfort zones, take our eyes off our own challenges, and help others that we can have an impact in our neighbourhoods, and it is through this that we can find fulfilment and meaning in our journey here on earth. Is there anyone in your community that you can be a neighbour to? Is there anyone in your community that you are being a neighbour to?

READY TO BE DISCIPLES INDEED

The smart lawyer

In His interactions with the crowd, Jesus encountered a certain lawyer who tempted Him with a question on what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus inquired of the lawyer's knowledge of the laws of Moses, which he replied with distinction. However, willing to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" (Luke 10:29 KJV). In the year of community impact through strategic discipleship, it is important for us to answer this question asked by the lawyer: "WHO IS MY NEIGHBOUR?"



How can I be a neighbour?

We do not need all the wealth in the world before we can help others. We do not need to wait until all is well with us before reaching out to others. There are many ways by which you can reach out and be a blessing to others that will not require money. Giving a listening ear to a depressed neighbour can be soothing. Sometimes, you do not even need to talk, only listen. It will not cost you money to pray for and comfort a neighbour who has lost a loved one. Communicate the love of God in your actions to your neighbours whenever the opportunity presents itself. I pray that people will see the life of Jesus through our lives.

STEP 3: "A VITAL REVELATION"

It is about "you". Do you hear Jesus speaking to you from the text? How you are going to fare in life will not depend on others or your circumstances, neither your background nor your adversaries. It solely depends on you. Unfortunately, this is where a lot of people miss it. They keep looking in the wrong direction.

Everything will depend on you. The outcome of your life will not depend on what the devil or your enemies do against you, it will depend on what you choose to do. The responsibility ultimately lies in the bosom of the individual.

The blame game is over. Others can choose to do what they like against you but the final product or outcome depends on what you choose to do. We must arise to the truth that it's all about us. May God grant us the courage to boldly face life with productive and progressive decisions.

STEP 4: "THE CRITICAL WORD"

"Continue" is one of the key words to understand in Jesus' quote in this text. The critical thing is not to start but to continue. Most people start good things but they do not get good results because they fail to continue. Diligence in the midst of difficulties and discouragement is the only road to success. You have to continue before you qualify to be a true disciple.

READY TO BE DISCIPLES INDEED

To continue means to persist in an activity or process. Carry on with, keep up, keep at, pursue, stay with are all different ways of expressing the idea of “continue”. It also means to resume after an interruption or to maintain a condition, course or action without interruption. It suggests that you can’t give up, or be distracted.

In Matthew 11:28-30, we find some continuing actions that Jesus expects us to take in Him: come, receive, take, follow, and keep following. So, coming alone is not enough; we must commit to continue.

STEP 5: “CONTINUE IN WHAT”?

God expects us to continue in His word. The unfortunate example of the Galatian Christians easily comes to mind. Paul questions them: “You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you?... Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? - Galatians 3:1-3.

Naaman nearly missed it. He wanted to continue in being honoured by people; he wanted to continue in methods and signs, but the important thing is to continue in God’s word. His word is a lamp and a light. It is food for the soul. It is the sword of the spirit for our battles.

Hallelujah! This will make you His disciple indeed; if you continue in His word. And this is what qualifies you for the precious things of the kingdom. The main product of the church is disciples. We are born again as children of God and we must be taught to become disciples of Jesus Christ.

I think it is time to call ourselves by our biblical name “disciples” and not our nickname “Christians”. The people of Antioch referred to the disciples as Christians because they saw the life of Christ in them. Disciples of Christ should be what we call ourselves but the world can call as Christians.


STEP 6: “YOU WILL KNOW”

This simply means you will receive more; you will receive knowledge. You will receive divine illumination and understanding. What will sound like parables to many will be plain instructions to you. His word will come alive to you in a new way; it will become meaningful to you and energizing.

There is a way that certain mysteries are revealed to men who stay with the Lord and continue in His word. Those who obey the little they know qualify for more whilst the disobedient lose even the little they have.

Continuation From Page.....05

GHANA’S DOMESTIC DEBT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (THE FAMOUS HAIRCUT WITHOUT SCISSORS ?)



It has been about two months since the government of Ghana through the ministry of finance announced a new debt restructuring program famously called the “Domestic Debt Exchange Program (DDEP)”. The announcement of the program has called for several heated agitations from amongst important institutions and groups in the country—pension groups, banks, individual bondholders, political parties, and civil society organizations. In the last two months, the word “haircut” has also become arguably the most used word by several groups of people in the country—from politicians to economists, investment bankers, the clergy, journalists, and ordinary Ghanaians. What is this DDEP? Why is it so important? Why is there so much agitation around it? What should you do?

The DDEP also famously known by most Ghanaians as haircut is simply a debt swap arrangement by government to exchange current bonds held by local bondholders with four (4) new bonds set to mature by 2027, 2029, 2032, and 2037. Essentially, what government is proposing to do is to change the terms—tenors, interests, and principal payments already agreed with individuals, groups, and institutions who have bought government bonds and papers (in other words has lent money to the government) to some new payment arrangements, which will ultimately include a reduction and deferment of interest payments and staggering of principal payments.

DDEP explained with an example

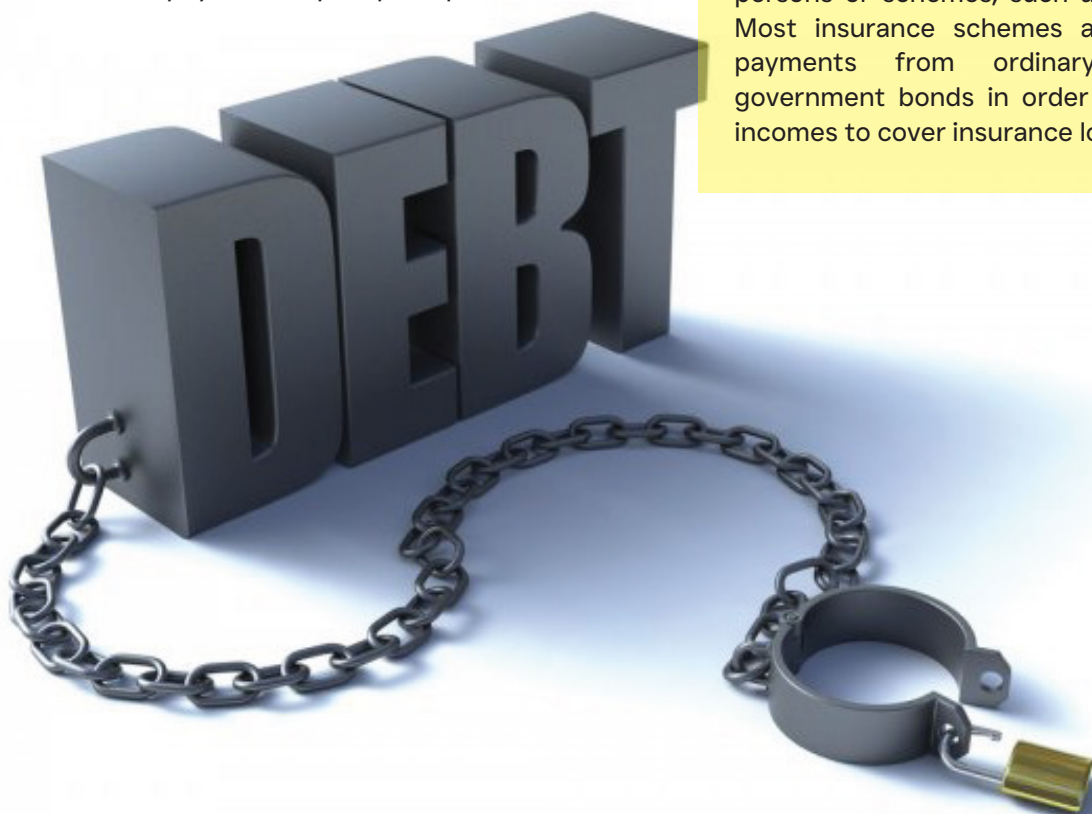
More specifically, if you are an individual or institution who holds a bond of GHS 100,000 and it is to mature this year 2023, you would expect a full payment of your bond. However, under these new proposed terms by the government, you are not going to get your principal paid as your bond has now been given a new maturity date, which would be 2027. Even on this date, your principal will not be fully paid. Under the new proposed terms for such a bond like this, which is originally set to mature in 2023, you will receive only 15% of your principal. Then another 15% on your principal will be paid in 2028, then effectively 14% will be paid each year for the next five years after 2029. During these periods (from 2023 to 2033 when your final payment is due), you would expect that you would be paid about 21% per annum on your principal as interest to you, but no. Under these new proposed terms, you will be paid only 5% for 2023 and effectively 9% per annum for each of the rest of the years till the final payment of your principal.

Who will the DDEP affect and when will it take place?

As at the time of this writeup, the new date announced for the DDEP to take place was 31st January 2023. It is important to note that this is the 4th date given since the programme's announcement. This is because since its announcement, the DDEP has not been well received by several groups of Ghanaian bondholders.

Initially, the government stated that the programme would affect security dealers and funds, private banks and investment companies, insurance schemes, pension funds, and non-resident investors. After pressure and threats of strikes by labour unions, the government excluded pension funds, which if had been included could have affected ordinary persons, such as teachers, nurses and midwives, and trade union workers.

Now, the government has included individual bondholders, and this has worsened the agitations. As of now, we do not know what the government's final decision will be. What we do know is that the government is still engaging the individual bondholders to get them to understand its position. Even if government excludes these individual bondholders, it will not mean ordinary Ghanaians will not be affected by the programme. This is because most ordinary Ghanaians who are not rich enough to buy government bonds directly from the primary market buy through corporate persons or schemes, such as investment banks. Most insurance schemes also invest premium payments from ordinary Ghanaians into government bonds in order to earn interest on incomes to cover insurance losses.





Why is the Government so bent on implementing the DDEP? Are there no alternatives?

Ghana is faced with multiple financial and economic challenges and has requested a US\$3 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help restore macroeconomic stability. This will include bringing public debt down to more manageable levels from the currently estimated 105% of GDP to 55% in present value terms by 2028. IMF assistance, which is yet to be approved by the fund's executive board, is conditioned on Ghana restructuring its public debt – domestic and external—hence the DDEP. The programme seeks to exchange about GHS137.3 billion (US\$11.45 billion or about 15% of 2021 GDP) of existing domestic notes and bonds held by various local investors for a package of 12 (initially four) new bonds with different payout dates. At this stage, it has become very crucial for the government to do this in order to get a deal with the IMF to push the country's debt to sustainable levels. If the government does not succeed with getting the DDEP through, it will not be able to achieve debt sustainability, consequently delaying or putting the IMF programme at risk.

The government can also choose to drastically cutdown on expenditure, especially those related to expenditure and flagship programmes. The question is whether the government is willing to embrace the political costs associated with this.



What Should you do?

Ghana's financial market is currently filled with a lot of uncertainties. Frankly speaking, it will be exceedingly difficult to tell a course of action now. It is possible we can get a glimpse of clarity perhaps after we get the IMF deal through, which is expected to happen by March 2023 if we are able to successfully restructure our debt and bring it to sustainable levels. Until then, if you already have any form of investments with corporate investment schemes and other financial institutions, the only course of action I will recommend is that do not panic—you need to have patience; there is virtue in that (Proverbs 14:29). If you are also now planning to invest in government paper, including treasury bills, which are excluded from the DDEP, wait—do not be in a haste. Patience is again a virtue. While you are waiting, pay attention to the news and seek financial advice where necessary. However, if you cannot wait, your best bet is to invest into a productive activity, such as starting a new business or expanding your existing business. If you are not an entrepreneur, you can invest in highly potential businesses that you personally believe in.

BIBLE STUDY

THEME:
**COMMUNITY IMPACT
THROUGH STRATEGIC
DISCIPLESHIP**

STUDY 1

TOPIC:
**THE DISCIPLE AND HIS/
HER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Introduction

We often refer to ourselves as followers/disciples of Jesus Christ, but only a few of us do what a disciple of Christ is supposed to do and perhaps understand who a disciple is. This study aims to enlighten us on who a disciple is and his/her responsibilities.

Discussion

1. Who is a disciple? (John 8:31–32)
2. How can one be a true disciple? (John 15:1–8; Psalm 1:1–3)
3. What are the key responsibilities of a disciple of Jesus Christ? (Matthew 28:19–20; John 15:1–8).
4. What power has the disciple to perform this responsibility? (Acts 1:8, Mark 16:20).
5. What are the benefits of being an effective disciple?
(Psalm 1:3; Joshua 1:8; John 8:31–32; 14:21; Psalm 37:4; Isaiah 58:14)

Conclusion

If we call ourselves followers of Jesus Christ, then we must tell those in our homes, communities, and nation about Jesus Christ.

Practical Application

Decide that you will let your life speak to people about Jesus in your home, workplace, and community.

Decide to join church activities aimed at impacting the community this year.

Join a group in the Church to use the gifts and talents God has given you.

Teacher's Guide/Answers on Page 13

Watch out for study 2 in next issue

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED



You must first believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. (1 John 5: 1)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well.

Ask him to come in to your heart and your life.

you must say a prayer like the and mean it from the bottom of your heart:

“Lord Jesus, I come to you as a sinner, lost and condemned to Hell. I repent of my sins and ask for forgiveness. I believe with all my heart that you died on the cross and rose again for my sins. I open my heart to you and receive you as my Lord and personal Saviour. Please take control of my life and make me what you want me to be. From today, I am Yours and you are mine. Thank You, Father for this wonderful gift of salvation, Amen.”

STRATEGIC RETREAT FOR AREA SUPERINTENDENTS, AREA LADIES AND SECRETARIES, AND AREA ADMINISTRATORS HELD



The Church, from Tuesday 17th to Friday 21st January, 2023 hosted 73 Area Superintendents, 119 Area Ladies and Secretaries, and 63 Area Administrators for a retreat. The retreat, which is the first to have hosted all these categories of participants, featured morning devotions, a review of the past year's focus, and a foresight into this year's focus.

The retreat treated sensitive topics regarding the doctrines of the Church, corporate image of the Church, ministry of Ascension Ministers and their wives in the Church, and current administrative and ministerial policies in force. Special sessions were also held for each category of participants. The various speakers included Apostle Dr. Aaron Ami-Narh (President), Apostle Frederick Yaw Agyemang (Vice President), Apostle Dr. Daniel Kissi Bardoom (General Secretary), Apostle Ben-Paul Gbedze (Rtd), Apostle Jonas Philip Offei (Rtd), Apostle Alex Boateng (Director, Internal Missions and Evangelism), Apostle Raymond Tei Oakley, Apostle Andrews Nortey (Tema Community 5 District), and First Lady Deaconess Josephine Ami-Narh.

The activity for the final day was climaxed with an open forum—aimed at reviving the participants and setting the tone for a productive year—led by the Leadership of the Church. This forum addressed pertinent and critical issues raised by the participants



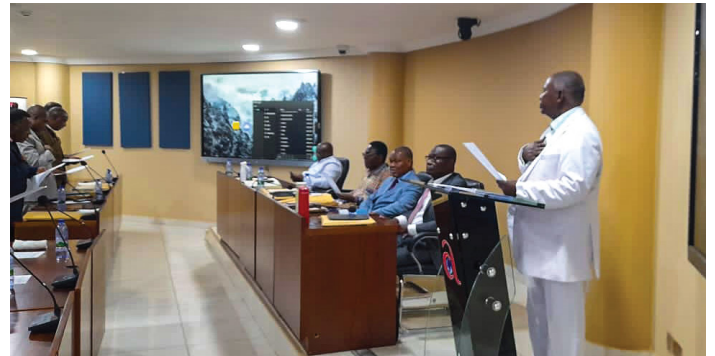
TOWARDS A GODLY AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS

All sixteen (16) candidates aspiring to be elected into the various offices of the Church (that is; President, Vice President, General Secretary, The Executive and Ministerial Affairs Committee) have been taken through a detailed orientation of the electoral process to ensure a godly, transparent, free and fair elections. The orientation took place on 24th February, 2023 at the Apostolic Resource, Conference and Retreat Centre, Fafraha, Accra.

Also present at the orientation were members of The Executive, Chairman of the Ethics and Restoration Committee, Lawyers, a Judge, ICT Committee, Systems Audit Team among others.

The electoral process which features an e-voting system was well explained to the candidates. The orientation highlighted how the election software operates.

We believe that the orientation coupled with the prayers of all saints will inure into electing officers in the will of God to spearhead the affairs of The Apostolic Church-Ghana for the next four years.



Chairman of Ethics and Restoration Committee (Apostle T.E.K. Apenuvor) Leading Candidates to Take an Oath to Abide by the Rules of the Elections



A Cross-Section of Candidates Taking an Oath to Abide by the Rules of the Elections



Chairman of the Election Committee (Apostle P.K. Hayford) Orienting Candidates on the Elections

ASCENSION MINISTERS WIVES' FELLOWSHIP (AMWF) RAISES FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

Saturday, 18th February, 2023 witnessed a rendezvous of the AMWF's Fundraising Soirée.

The spectacular event took place at the 4,000-seater capacity main auditorium of the ultra-modern Apostolic Resource, Conference and Retreat Centre at Fafraha in the Adentan Municipality in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana.

The event attracted over 300 invitees who have the heart of giving to support the things of God.



First Lady Giving Her Welcome Address

The purpose of the Fundraising Soirée was to raise an amount of GH¢500,000.00 to complete the multi-purpose Children's Church and provide a skills training facility for the youth of Abutia Kloe in the Volta Region of Ghana.

The highest donor gave an amount GH¢100,000 followed by GH¢50,000; GH¢32,000 among others. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless these generous donors and touch the hearts of several others to give bountifully in support of this Noble Project.



Chairperson for the Event, Mrs. Siaw-Agyapong (Jospong Group Of Companies) Giving Her Address



Group Photograph of Traditional Authorities and Leadership of AMWF

From 2nd Left: Queenmother of Abutia-Kloe, First Lady Mummy Jo, President Apostle Dr. Aaron, Torgbui Chaley (Chief of Abutia-Kpota) and Wife, Leading Lady

AMWF EVENT IN PICTURES



First Lady Introducing a Guest to Dignitaries on the High Table



Teacher's Guide To Bible Study

On Page 9

1. Generally, defined as someone who follows a teacher, leader, or a philosopher.

They believe in and learn to replicate what the teacher does.

A disciple therefore reproduces what the teacher or master does.

A disciple of Jesus Christ is therefore someone who believes in the teachings/way of life of Jesus and practices them.

Case study: An apprentice and the master.

2. By continually abiding in Jesus Christ. That is, to obey his commandments (John 15:4, 8).

By bearing fruit (John 15:8).

By not fellowshiping with unbelievers (Psalm 1:1).

By delighting in the word of God (Psalm 1:2).

3. Teach his home, community, and country about Jesus Christ, so that they can also become disciples.

Bear abiding fruits (John 15:16).

4. The Holy Spirit is the believer's source of power (Acts 1:8).

Jesus is ever present with the disciple (Mark 16:20).

5. The true disciple blossoms/prospers (Psalm 1:3; Joshua 1:8)

God manifests himself to the true disciple/knows God intimately, leading to freedom (John 8:31-32; 14:21)

God grants the heart desires of true disciples (Psalm 37:4; Isaiah 58:14)



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PRAYER BULLETIN

Preamble:

The month of March 2023, is an important month on the calendar of The Apostolic Church-Ghana because key events will take place amongst which are;

1. Council of Apostles and Prophets (transfers and posting of pastors, elections, other key ministerial decisions, etc)
2. General Council Meeting (elections, approval of budget, formulate key policies, launch of Agroforestry Strategic Plan, etc)
3. Maiden Education Week Celebration
4. Funeral of late President, Apostle John Annan Adotey

It is important for all saints to spend more time in praying for these events since their outcomes have a great effect on the church now and in the future

"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

1. Thank the Lord for the peace and unity that has transpired amongst the present leadership and for the several mighty works that God has done through them (e.g. construction of the new General Headquarters - Nehemiah Project, establishment of a Seminary - ACTS, peaceful resolution of conflicts in most branches of the Church outside Ghana, review of the Church's Constitution, introduction of the Youth Policy, etc.)

2. Pray that the Lord will reveal His heart to all General Council Members so that in the election of the key officers to lead the Church for the next 4 years, leaders after God's own heart will be elected.

3. Pray against the spirit of arrogance and self-centered aspirations. Any candidate who has not been destined by God to lead the Church now should lose the elections in the name of Jesus, irrespective of whatever efforts he puts in.

4. Father, remove the spirit of greed that is eating at the heart of our Church today. May our Church be known for being Your hand in our Communities.

5. Pray that all officers of the Church will put in maximum effort to ensure the Church at various Administrative levels take discipleship seriously and make impact in the communities.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR PRAYING

