**2022 CROSS-OVER VIGIL**

Introduction & Prayers

Amen! I’m sure you believe it. We’re just few minutes away from physically entering 2023… I’d like to welcome every one of you to this last gathering of the year 2022. It’s going to be the longest service you will have. A whole year’s service… Fasten your seat belts and be prepared. We shall make it as always, in Jesus’ name.

(i) The first thing I want to do tonight is to thank God. Thank God that we’re here today among the living. I just want to thank Him. There are so many people who would have wished to see this evening’s Cross-Over. We had terrible challenges when we started with our livestream. One thing was not working, there was no sound… and our brethren on livestream were holding their breath, praying along. But thank God for our technical crew, our engineers that God gave to Himself and to us; they were able to rally round and repair it…

I’d like us to stand as we thank Him today. You say, ‘What am I thanking God for?!’ Just thank Him that you are alive. If you’re still asking, just thank Him that I am alive. If you don’t know anything to thank God for, just say ’Thank You, God, that this man is still alive.’ Don’t even put my name, assuming you don’t have anything to thank God for: you’re so saturated... your parents give you food; they give you free house, free light, free water. They give you everything so when they say, ‘Thank God’ you don’t understand it. Thank God that we’re alive today. You say, ’But God, do You understand how my life is? I’m not happy with my life.’ Thank God for your life that you’re not happy with. You say, ‘God, You know I have been sick for some time.’ Thank God that His grace has been more than sufficient for you.

Our Father, we thank You and I stand as Your servant to express the thanks of this congregation to You. Father, we’re saying ’Thank you. As they sang, ‘*O si n’arum nile* *bu soo soo onu*,’ it will not be enough to thank You. So Father, accept our thanks from hearts full of gratitude. We are grateful to You for the things You’ve done with us: what You gave, what You didn’t give, Your leadership throughout this year that is drifting by. We say, ‘Thank You’ for in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(ii) Secondly, I’d like us to come to God in repentance. Take time to review your day, your month and the year and come to God in repentance. 1 John 1:7- 2:3. Verse 8 - God, we’re not deceiving ourselves; we’re here to confess that we are guilty as charged but we’re thanking You for the grace that is available in the blood of Jesus Christ. Verse 9 – notice two things: God is faithful, dependable but He’s just. He will judge the sin which He has judged in His Son, Jesus Christ. Verse 10 – who are we to make God a liar?!

I’d like us to take time, wherever you are. Go into your ‘room’, the inner recesses of your heart; search yourself before God. This is the temple of the living God. Let nobody be like Ananias and Sapphira: they were in the presence of God but they were seeing people. They didn’t realise that the God of the church was present. Let nobody be like Esau: for a mess of porridge he forfeited his birthright. As we enter in, ask God: “Point out…” We’re not suggesting any time to you… Ask God, “Show me myself” and as He shows you, we want to pray. Take time to pray. ”O, Lord, keep us near the cross. There’s nothing else, nothing in my hands I bring but simply to the cross I cling. Naked I come; clothe me. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness and help us, O God, to appreciate what Christ did on Calvary. Forgive us our sins and forgive our carelessness about sin. Help us to realise those little foxes that are ruining our vineyard, that are messing up our lives and future… We confess and ask for Your forgiveness. We come, O God, in the assurance that we have the blood of Jesus who has given us access to the very throne of God to receive mercy in times like these. Forgive us, cleanse us and Lord, renew our hearts towards You. Revive us, that we may worship You in spirit and in truth, for in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(iii) In the same vein, we’re going to thank God for our children: children in nursery, primary, secondary school and all tertiary institutions. We thank God for the way He has protected them. The first prayer is to thank God for the way He has kept them in the year, that whether the devil likes it or not, it’s going to pass. Even if you want to die here, now, you can’t die! You made a mistake by coming in, so if you want to say you died in 2022, you can go outside this gate. Maybe the angel of death can see if you’re appointed for death. But as long as you’re here, by the grace of God you’ll be alive to see 2023, in the name of Jesus Christ. And I want to assure you completely. It’s not dependent on me; it’s dependent on Him. We were here during our Harvest and we know that God is a faithful covenant keeper.

Our children… They are our firstfruits of thanks as we thank God for them. Thank God for those of them who were here at the beginning and thank God that they’re here now at the closure. We’re going to pray for them, thanking God for them. Some were sick and terrified us (their) parents; some had other things. 2021 in December like this, we committed them into God’s hands for 2022. We’re here to say, ‘God, we shall not be like the nine lepers. We’re grateful. Thank You, You kept them. Some… as they go to school and come back, they hear of accidents; they see things but God has kept them. We’re so grateful to God!

Somebody said you do not know what these children are going through. You do not know what they’re contending with in tertiary institutions - even in secondary schools, primary schools. So much is going on today in our academic institutions. We want to thank God for keeping them and thank God for moving among them. Pray that God will circumcise them from evil companionship (whether that evil companionship is their ipad, their phone, their laptop), whatever it may be - or human beings. Pray that God will put a barrier between them and these ones so they can remain set apart unto God. As He has kept them this year, we are committing them to walk like Daniel, to walk like Samuel, to walk like other saints of old and remain true to God.

Prophesy to these children in the coming year. Prophesy upon their foreheads: they will not only know God but they will enjoy knowing God. Their lives will be an offering unto God, sweet-smelling savour; that as God sees them the angel of the Lord will be encamping around them in protection.

Lord, we give our voice and prophesy and say it shall be well with their going out and their coming in. Father, they shall grow to know You and love You. They shall be children born to righteousness, holiness and progress shall be their portion. The enemy shall not outwit them. The grace of God shall be their portion. Lord, we thank You, for in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

(iv) We shall be praying for our nation. Some people say we have no other nation. Even if you have another nation, there’s only one country that you were born in and that is ‘your country.’ Any other one you’re having is subsidiary. Whether you like it or not, when the chips are down, you will know that ‘khaki no be leather.’ They will let you know that you’re still somebody who came to them. We are grateful that God didn’t make a mistake in planting us here. No, He didn’t! And that’s why as it has been going on over the months... I think they say it’s fifty-something days to the election date. I believe that God knows what He will do. I know in my spirit that my Father in heaven will surprise those who are trying to surprise us. I know that. I know that those of them who are planning (today, this policy, tomorrow the other one), planning how they will maneuver things. The Bible says, ‘Who can decree a thing and it will come to pass when the Lord has not decreed it?’ There’s nobody. It is God’s counsel that shall be done in our land. I want you, wherever you are listening to me, be confident that it is God’s will that shall be done in this nation. It doesn’t matter who the ‘caterpillars and the juggernauts’ are… God is on our side.

2 Chronicles 7:14. We start from there because we acknowledge that we’re dealing with a holy God. That’s what God says He will do. And that is why He told me that next year is a Year of Remembrance and Divine Visitation. We’re going to be seeing what God will do in His favour and in the way He works. ‘If My people who are called by My name…’

Psalm 2:7-8. ‘Ask of Me, I will give you the nations as an inheritance.’ Inheritance is what accrues to you because you’re covenanted. You are born into a home. Your parents, whatever they have, when they share it, you get it. It’s your inheritance; it’s not what you struggle for. ‘Ask…’ and I will give you what is your birthright as a child of God. God will answer us.

Psalm 3:1-6. As you’re praying, we don’t want any intimidating fears. Let them continue to do what they want to do, continue manufacturing tricks. Do not be afraid of… Did you hear that? Do not be afraid. God is the lifter of our heads. (Song: Thou, O Lord, Are the Shield About Me). He’s our great Provider, our Strong Defense. Some trust in chariots and others trust in horses but our trust is in the name of the Lord our God. We shall do valiantly. We know whose we are and we know who we have believed. We’re persuaded that He’s able to keep that which has been committed into His hands, even unto that Day!

Ups and downs… Sometimes you listen to the news, political news, horrible news of deaths here and there. One thing is settled: if God does not help us, nobody else can and that’s why our prayer for this nation is a prayer of importunity. We are desperate; we are calling upon God. We are asking Him to step in. There are so many… ‘kangaroos’, so many ’clowns’ who are playing up but we’re asking God to step in and to stabilize this nation for His name’s sake and to the glory of His saints who are worshipping Him. Brethren, what is at stake is not a question of ‘will there be election… this and that.’ Some people have already concluded their crooked plans – how they will frustrate the election. You say. How do I know? ‘*Ngwanu*u’ - come and hold me to tell you how I know! I’m speaking from the pulpit. Am I not allowed t preach the Word of God again? Some people have already concluded so many things and you want me to come and tell what you know.

One thing is settled; we have nothing. Psalm 20:7. Our trust is in the name of the Lord our God and in His name, we shall do valiantly. Ask God to step in; ask God to interpose. Ask God that what He showed Jehoshaphat, He will show His people. We’re not able but God is able.

The Year 2023

We are at the threshold, on the verge of crossing over. It’s a Year of Remembrance and Divine Visitation.

Let me take *Remembrance*:

Genesis 8: 1-4 and 1 Samuel 1:19. You see… when God remembers you or a nation or a church or a family, impossibilities become possible. Miracles are bound to happen. What could not be assailed will be assailed. Those waters that took them up, those waters that killed everybody, those calamities… when God remembers, He frustrates the counsels of the enemy. He gave Noah relief, gave him restoration God will remember some of us and restore us. All those things that drowned us, that displaced us, will return to normalcy again. Impossibilities become possible and miracles become commonplace.

God remembered Noah. Look at the destruction that He caused upon the earth; look at what He allowed to befall him. People were mocking him, when he was building the ark. People were making it difficult, thought this guy was just out of his senses. “Have you ever seen rain before? Then how can you say it will so rain that something as big as this house will be carried up by the rain? *Isi o dikwa gi mma?! ”Okwa akula! Akula* *ololo!”* … Does Noah really know what is happening?” They may talk but when God remembers… those abnormalities, He will stabilize them for you. And if you will look back and ask (as you will see if you follow the story) those things that drowned them, those things that drove them, made them displaced people in their own country… those things that happened, the Lord had assuaged it all. Even so it shall be, in Jesus’ name.

1 Samuel 1:19. God will remember the cries and the killings, remember the senseless murders, the frustrations that He had brought upon His people. When He remembers it, it’s bound to cause a change for the better…

And the Lord remembered Hannah. So, the Lord forgot her? No! It’s a Year of Remembrance. We shall be ‘chewing’ it throughout the year.

Genesis 30:22-24. God remembered Rachel, long time barren. God remembered her and the barren situation changed. There are some of you that God will be remembering so many things for, some of you that think the works you have done are forgotten. God will remember you for good. God will remember. God will do what He said. When it is time for Him to remember, He remembers you and I’m telling you, God has remembered this nation. He’s remembered us. He will do those things He said He will do.

*Visitation:*

Genesis 21: 1-7. What was the condition of Sarah at that time? Barrenness: no child. The Lord visited her, with all her menopausal issues of old age and everything. She was able to conceive. Praise the Lord! The Year of Visitation: some of the forgotten prayer requests, some of the things you think are all over. It’s not over until God says it’s over.

1 Samuel 2: 21. Halleluyah! Brethren, it’s a Year of Remembrance and Visitation. There are other sides of the visitation that it’s not for me to go into. I’m sure that God will continue to honour His name, in the name of Jesus Christ.

2023 Guideposts

1. Underpinning everything that will happen in 2023 (it’s a close relationship with what we told you at the beginning of this year) is the sovereignty of God, rooted in His nature to answer prayers and because He is Love. Don’t forget it. Psalm 46:1-10; Proverbs 21: 1, 30-31. Thank You, Lord, for whom You are and what You plan to do.

2. It’s a Year of Remembrance and Visitation, therefore be sure you are born again. If not, tonight is a tremendous opportunity to surrender your life to Jesus. Don’t drift into 2023 as you drifted into 2022 and by His grace, you’ve seen the end. You must be born again; there’s no substitute for it. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Don’t allow this night to pass you by if you’ve not made that critical decision.

3. Remember, the key to your blessing is your service to God - your sincere service. Serve God with a pure heart and holy motives. It’s a priviledge to serve God in any capacity.

4. Serve with gladness and remember that the gathering of God’s people is a priviledge. Don’t despise the gathering of God’s people or be a perpetual latecomer.

5. Honour God and He will honour you. Let Proverbs 30:5 be your confidence. It says, every Word of God proves true and God is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. When we say ‘honour’ God, we mean honouring Him. I’ll be speaking more at the first Sunday service on some of the issues that are critical to what the year holds.

6. Life is brief. Serve God on His own terms, not yours. Don’t serve God when it suits you, at your convenience; every other thing will take priority minus God. You’re making a big mistake. When the last man is called, all those other things you chose and left God for will not be there. The Person you’ll be going to see is the Person you despised, the Person you left those things He was asking you to do. Things He called ‘priority’ but to you they weren’t priority – you had other things. I want to advise you and to warn you. Remembrance and Visitation: they’re two sides of one coin. This year, as much as possible, honour God. John 15:4-7. Father, it’s about You and about the grace You have given us to enter the year. We’re trusting You; You’ll see us through, in Jesus’ name.

7. There is more to life than what you have. Do not make the mistake of Elimelech. Ruth 1:1-5. The family left. Godliness with contentment is great gain. There is more to life than what we possess or own; be content with what you have. 1 John 2:15-18; 1 Timothy 6:6-12. Don’t make the mistake of Elimelech’s family. Make sure God is leading you.

If you’re in doubt, just take a trip to any mortuary. I remember it as though it was yesterday, when we lost our dear mother (my mother) at UNTH, (Ward) 140-bedded, where she passed on. My dear sister, who is here, said she would follow us as we went to put her into the mortuary. By the time we got close to the place, she said, “No, I can’t come…!” I said, “That’s all right, my dear.” When they finally put her in, they said, “She’s in Chest Number Forty. When you come back, ask for Number Forty.” I said, ”Eeh! So that’s all about my dear mother!” We brought nothing into this world and whether we like or not, it is certain we shall take nothing out.

If you don’t learn the lesson now and you’re waiting until the final day, you’ll be a fool forever. It is now you’ll know that even the car you’re driving is not your own. Your house is not yours. The children are not yours. It’s only grace. Because they are given to you as a custodian, you will learn how to use them to the glory of God. Some of us are carried away by our brothers in Tokyo, our brothers in Ukraine. You say they’re fighting (there). Okay, your brothers in Russia. You say they’re also fighting. So, where do you want to be? Where there is no fight?! In Nigeria? Aah, there’s kidnapping, o! So you don’t even know?

The only truth that you have is serving God NOW. I wish I can cry it out: some of you waste opportunities of service to God. You’re more psychedelic than the demons that are psychedelic themselves. I pray that God will help you to realise that what is important in this life is not what you have. It is the Lord who has you.

8. God’s ways are not our ways. He wants to build you up. He is not looking for a perfect ‘you’ but a ‘you’ He can make perfect.

9. Don’t be afraid to stand alone - in your family, in your office, among your associates – as long as you are standing with God. It is the one with God that is ‘majority.’ Don’t be afraid to stand alone among your friends as long as you are standing with God.

10. We gave this also at the beginning of this year. Certain things in life may not add up but Romans 8:28-29 is always true. Eeh?! Why do the innocent suffer? Who told you they are innocent? I told our brother Innocent Ishaya (I told him longest time) and said, “You’re answering Innocent but you know you’re not innocent! I think, for the sake of Kayema, let us just allow him!” But he understood. We’re all guilty before the Lord. It is His grace that is making us… Why do bad things happen to good people? They paid the ransom yet they still killed them! My friend, stay where God is staying and say what you know. God knows all things and He understands the situation. You and I are but like clay in His hands.

11. ‘Love’ is the operative word. Don’t avenge yourselves; let God be your Avenger. We just had a Thanksgiving of Hope, Faith & Love. Allow God to be your Avenger. Don’t avenge yourself. Leave it to God.

12. In a Year of Remembrance and Visitation, may the good Lord remember you as He remembered Noah, visit you as He visited Sarah, Hannah and His children. May God remember the good works like He remembered those of Nehemiah. May God remember you for favour, for promotion, for protection and for His divine outpouring of the Holy Spirit. God remembers and God will bless you. Don’t give up in doing good; you will reap if you do not (grow) weary. Just stay on. God will never forget you.

13. Once more, Psalm 91 and Psalm 23 with Philippians 4:6-8 will be Scriptures that you should bear wherever you go. Philippians 4:6. ”Be anxious for nothing…” Did He say ’Nothing’ as nothing? Haba! Does God know that your rent and school fees will soon come around? You should be anxious now! If man doesn’t worry, what else is he living for? Some people say that ‘worry’ is the interest you pay on existing trouble. It doesn’t change it. It’s already there. So you come and add worry to it – and most of us have gained nothing from worrying. Most of you are carrying burdens that God has not given you. Listen to this passage! May it not be your portion in the coming year, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Brethren, more things are resolved in prayer than in worrying. We just finished a Retreat: Praying & Getting Results. There is no need to be worrying about that situation. We’re all prone to fret. ‘What about tomorrow?’ Tomorrow is not in your hands. ‘What about this property?’ That property is part of God’s land. If you want to think and give your heart a ‘thinking place,’ read Philippians 4:8. I do not know what else to tell you than to remind you to hold on.

14. 2 Timothy 4:5; Proverbs 11:30. When the children were being prayed for, they prayed that they shall be evangelists wherever they find themselves. Make sure that this year, you don’t close your mouth when you should speak. You become a canary, talking when you shouldn’t talk and talking nonsense. Wherever you find yourself, may the Lord use your mouth, your presence, to communicate the glory of Christ. In the salon, where you make your dress, whether it is shoes, wherever you are. Anything you’re doing, where you ordered a cake, in the market or whatever it is you’re involved in, let God be Number One. Use your mouth, use your life to testify of Jesus Christ. Missed opportunities this last year, God may have forgiven but I tell you, in the coming year God is going to make you (render) account.

Do the work of an evangelist. He didn’t say you are an evangelist. You don’t have to be an ordained evangelist to do the work of an evangelist wherever you are. Don’t close your mouth but when you come to the house or when you go anywhere, you become talkative. When you see people you can witness to… you can’t even share Christ with your relatives because you may miss some of the things they give you. You can’t share Christ with your neighbours because they’ll not dash you certain things. You can’t share Christ with your colleagues because they’ve never known that you’re a Christian. All they know you for (is) you want to prove that even though you go to church, they can’t outsmart you. The way they look, you can look like that. My friend, you can’t have the two worlds at the same time; you can’t serve God and mammon. If you’re a child of God, live like one!

God is reminding us that we shall share Christ wherever we find ourselves this year. You’re not an evangelist because they made you one; you’re an evangelist because the Holy Spirit is resident in you and wants to express Himself to the next person. You can do it and I can do it.

I thank God for some of you who, when you enter a bus or keke napep or wherever it is, try to share Christ. And (for) some of you who enter the plane: the plane may look sophisticated and you say, ‘Ah! Can I share Christ here?’ If it’s sophisticated and you’re inside it, you’re part of the sophistry. If they think, ‘Where did they bring this man from?’, your ticket is evidence that you paid for it. Tell the person sitting by your side, ”*Nna, ifea odikwa ka flight?!* We’re not afraid but thank God for Jesus Christ. Have you met Him?” Or, “Oh, there’s somebody I met many years ago. He changed my life. Do you want to know Him?” You may meet some people that will tell you bluntly they don’t want to. You may meet some people who’ll say “Yes, I want to.” You’ll say, “Okay, that person is Jesus. What do you think of Him?”

Share Christ in the bakery, in the shop, with the person driving you, wherever you find yourself. This year that we’re entering is a year for Radical Evangelism.

15. Develop an attitude of gratitude and thanksgiving to God. He said, ’develop it.’ You may say, ‘I already have it.’ Increase it! Don’t be a grumbler, a complainer- the first thing that comes out of your mouth is a sigh and you sigh as though they made your mouth to only be having sighs! Learn to say, ”Lord, I thank You. I don’t understand this but You asked me to say ’Thank You’ in every situation…” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. This is the will of God for you. Practice it and see what God will do.

I thank God for you all. I wish you a very blessed year as we’re going to enter it.

16. Avoid compromise. Matthew 24:9-13. You cannot serve God and mammon. When you are ambivalent to yourself, you become a double-minded person, unstable in all your ways. The consequences are very terrible. This year is a year that demons shall be doing a lot of things. Demons that have been released from the bottomless pit: the end-time demons. They’re out on the rampage. That’s why I’m telling you what I’m telling you, under God.

‘Many false prophets will rise up…’ Many – and they’re already present. For some of you, that’s where you tune in, that’s where you anchor. Any hype, motivational thing, that’s what moves you. You don’t care whether it is the Word of God or not as long as it makes you get ‘high.’ James 1:6-8. When you become ambivalent, double-minded and unstable in all your ways, we want to see the consequences because of what is going to happen in the coming year. It’s already happening.

Cultism will be on the increase, a lot of perversions. It is now commonplace in most countries outside us: men marry men, women marry women… the standard of morality that God placed on us is now being thrown out and challenged by people who should know. In some places, it’s an offense to even speak the truth. They consider it ‘offensive speaking’ or ‘hate speech.’ What they consider to be admirable and adorable are those things that contaminate. Pornography (children, parents) will be on the increase. There’s everything that the enemy is doing to destroy this generation and our children but he will not succeed.

The worst thing the enemy can do, when you become double-minded and allow compromise to become your ‘bane’ is what we read in Matthew 12:43-45. Notice what He said: ‘unclean spirit.’ Don’t say you were not warned. Compromise is going to be a deadly trap and what the enemy wants is for you to open the gate (not even a door, not a doorway). You’ll open the gate and he’ll drive in with his Saladin, with everything else he has, with his other demons. He is out for ravaging. Close every door! If you’re a Christian, live like one. The coming year does not allow for ‘cha cha cha.’ It is not a question of ‘take this or the other one.’ If you’re a child of God, live like one. Witness Christ wherever you find yourself. Don’t allow the desires of the world to carry you.

17. Your ‘Running Mantra’ is Matthew 6:33 (verses 30-33 encompass this). Whatever somebody is telling you, ask: Where is God’s interest? Wherever you’re being invited to, ask: What is God’s interest? Be careful, be careful. You don’t understand the citizenship of heaven. It’s not what you make it. It’s not a social club. It is the blood of Jesus that binds His people.

My friend, all has been said. A lot more could be said but suffice it for this night. Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and its righteousness and every other thing shall be added.

Prayers

* We’re going to pray and I ask you to present yourself, as I present myself, before the Lord. Let, as we say it in Igbo: ‘*Ifenile taa gi n’abali bu anwunta’* – all that bit us in the night is mosquito, or anything; but let it be mosquito. Let everything that passed this year, let it pass. God has chosen to overlook the times of ignorance but this time, it’s a different kettle of fish. It’s a different setting.
* Where your children dictate what you do – the children you should lead. The Bible says that when the nation transgresses, the young ones shall lead them. You, as a parent, have lost your moral ground. You can’t even stand before your children anymore because they know you’re a compromiser. They know that this thing you’re doing in church is not what you are in the house. Seek first the Kingdom of God…
* Ask yourself, whatever that proposition is, what is God’s interest? Where does God stand in this? And remember we told you earlier, where you stand with God is ‘majority.’ It’s not time to ‘kid around.’ It’s a time to check into God and remain there. All this running forward and backward: you want to please Caesar, you want to please people, you want to please Christ. You’re mistaken. Not in the coming year. You’ve made a very big mistake.
* Money is not everything. A man’s life does not consist in what he has. You’re deceiving yourself and the devil has deceived some of us within that pursuit. When you get ‘there’ you’ll start serving God. You’re mistaken; you’ve made a very big mistake of your life, the biggest mistake any fool can make. This is the day of salvation. ‘Today’ is the day you give God your best, not ‘tomorrow.’
* 2023, we’re here! We know God is going to bless His people but I can assure you, it’s a Year of Remembrance. It’s not business as usual, whether on the political scene, the economic scene or any other scene. It’s not the same thing; it’s not going to be business as usual. That’s why He will surprise those who are trying to surprise us, because they don’t understand the handwriting of God. They’ll think it’s just going to be as always… Nigerians have gotten smart through hardship and suffering.

Post-Offering Prayer (01/01/23):

Our Father, we thank You for this New Year that You have ushered us into and Your banner over us is love (Song of Solomon 2:4). Thank You, Lord that our eyes have seen what we saw by faith when we said in our Seed Faith: we’re entering the New Year. We’re not entering in; we’re in the New Year! Father, we thank You.

Thank you, O God, and pray that Your favour will continue to be upon Your people (Psalm 89: 17. Psalm 90: 17; Proverbs 3:4). For those who are standing on account of what they have given, bless them. May it be a good token for them this year to remember that Your Word is clear: it’s more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

Thank you for Your church, Amazing Love Assembly, and as You have vowed to keep us on the narrow way (Matthew 7:14), You will continue to guide us (Isaiah 30:21; Isaiah 48:17), for in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.