

Amazing Grace



BY SISTER NGOZI

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Just like Barabbas (Luke 23: 18 – 21), each of us has received undeserved favor from the Lord. Mercy and grace are two over-used and least understood words that describe what Jesus did for us on that most memorable weekend at Calvary. As we recall the first Easter, starting with the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem at the beginning of the week, the Last Supper and His inglorious execution by crucifixion before the end of the same week, we take solace in the knowledge that He resurrected to prove the enemy wrong and fulfill the purpose of God for all generations.

When our Lord's detractors cried, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!!" they never thought of the possibility of a resurrection. And they shouted, "Release to us Barabbas!" Even when they were reminded that Barabbas was a murderer and Jesus was guiltless, they still preferred

Barabbas. Is that not the case with the world today? But God has a plan that the voice of the people cannot thwart. His will had to be fulfilled. God who does not take pleasure in the death of a sinner allowed Barabbas to be set free and given another chance for repentance and ultimate salvation. The guiltless, holy Christ was laid out as a lamb and slaughtered on behalf of Barabbas who is a type of all sinners like you and I (Ecclesiastes 7:20, Romans 3:23). Yes, as in the case of Joseph, his brothers meant it for evil, but the Lord turned it for good, Genesis 50:20. See also Romans 8:28.

We preach it daily, Jesus purchased our freedom by His blood and our sins are forgiven. What is your response to this great sacrifice of our Lord? Are you fulfilling your calling? Do you remember your "first love"? (Rev. 2:4). His grace truly abounds.

This second quarter of the year, let us awaken to our vocation and serve the

NACF

North America



April 2017

IN THIS ISSUE: AN EASTER MESSAGE

Lord with the theme: *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord*; Romans 12:11.

Happy resurrection morning to you all!!!

Sister Ngozi

For 2017 Annual Dues ***Pay to NACF- North America***

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Report from the Missions Field

LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

Leadership is a key issue in our nation today, thus the reason NIFES invests quality time and resources in training manpower in campuses for selfless visionary leadership in government and the Church. In furthering this noble cause, the leadership capacities of 198 students in 10 institutions were developed for competent and active leadership. Workshops and seminars on goal-setting, servant leadership, resource and time management etc. were taken by seasoned facilitators.

RAISING COURAGEOUS LEADERS FOR GOD

In Uyo, the capital city of Akwa-Ibom state, fifty-seven (57) students gathered for the Advanced Leaders' Summit at No.4 Ewet Street, Uyo on the 17th-19th February, 2017. The goal of the summit is to strengthen the capacity of student leaders for effective mobilization of students in tertiary institutions for the NIFES vision.

The theme of the summit was *'Give us the Campus'* which was seen as a battle cry as stated by the local organizing committee (L.O.C) Chairman, Pst. Solomon Amanabo during his welcome address.

The summit included sessions like small group Bible-studies, workshops, and seminars, all geared towards equipping the student leaders to take over the campus for Jesus Christ; bringing about positive transformation in the campuses.

There was a Bible quiz competition among the zones where Aba Zone (Abia State) emerged winners with Calabar Zone (Cross River State), coming in second place.

Two members of staff received awards for diligence and self-less service,

among whom were Mr. Oguzie Emmanuel and Mr. Aniyom Dien.

Also in attendance were five (5) immediate past student leaders, eight (8) members of staff etc including the National President, Mr. David Ezekiel, and the Director of Research, Development and Publications, Mrs. Grace Iyanda who delivered the talk.

Miss Maurice Esther, a Sub-Zonal President from College of Education in Eket, Akwa-Ibom State had this to say about the training program: *"I didn't know what to expect before coming here. I was pretty scared especially because I felt inadequate to lead. But now I feel strengthened, and empowered to win my campus for Jesus."*

RURAL OUTREACH: FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

Fifty eight (58) students, an Associate and a staff stormed Utob-rimam village Ussa Local Government Area of Taraba State with the Gospel of Christ on 22nd -24th February 2016 for the total liberation of the village from the darkness of sin and Satan into the marvelous light of our glorious Lord. Beginning from the first day on arrival, God's presence was evident in the land as multitudes of souls were convicted to give their lives to Christ. Among several activities in the outreach was free medical services rendered to the people of the land, discipleship classes and counseling among the youth and children, distribution of clothing materials, soaps and several items brought in for the people. There were intense prayer sessions all through the outreach for the liberation of the land and the salvation of the people. People were set free from demon possession and filled with the Holy Ghost. Also, several sick people were healed. It was indeed a time of refreshing with the Lord in Utom-rimam village in Ussa LGA of Taraba State. A total of sixty eight (68) people gave their lives to Christ.

THEOLOGY OF WORK SEMINAR

As part of our vision "to impact the society with godly values" we are partnering with Centre for Transformational Leadership to organise a teaching on Theology of Work among our final Year students. In lieu of this, a Training of Trainers was organised for Associates and Staff in May and November 2016 in Abuja and Jos, with attendance of one hundred and twenty seven (127) and thirty five (35) people in attendance respectively. This training is aimed at teaching our students that all work is done with the aim of benefiting man and glorifying God.

NATIONAL OPEN DAY

The NIFES National Open Day event held on the 9th October 2016, at the Transcorp Hilton Abuja, with two hundred and nineteen (219) participants including guests, staff, Associates and students. The objective of the Open Day was to create awareness within the larger body of Christ about our work, invite them to own the vision with us as partners and do fundraising for a specified project.

The theme of the Open Day was *Raising Nation Builders on Campus*. We had as special guest of honor, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria who was represented by the chaplain of the Aso Rock Chapel. Also in attendance was the Executive Governor of Bayelsa State. The Guest Speaker was Dr. Paul Enenche, the Senior Pastor of Dunamis International Gospel Center. The open day was very successful and fruitful.

NIFES MISSIONS CONFERENCE

The NIFES Missions Conference - Witness 2016 held from 29th November to 4th December, 2016 after series of planning meeting with the various subcommittee heads and the hosting of National TOT for Bible Study facilitators. The registration is as follows: two thousand three

hundred and fifty seven (2357) participants (Students- 2120, Associates/Resource Persons -103, Staff- 67, CTS 14 and VTS 53).

Conversion and Re-dedication: A total of two hundred and thirty seven (237) persons gave their lives/re-dedicated it to Christ during the conference. These people were counselled by the counselling team and are being followed up.

Commitments to Missions: A total of eight hundred and sixty two (862) participants made various commitments towards missions as indicated in the program booklet. These commitments will be followed up by the secretariat.

REX ONUH

NIFES NATIONAL DIRECTOR

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TRAINING OF TRAINERS
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VALUES**

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From the Prayer Coordinator – Sister Modupe Daramola

A PRAYER FOR LIFE:

1. Heavenly father, I give you praise for your mercy and grace bestowed upon us .
2. Father we bless your name for the joy of salvation in our lives.
3. Oh Lord we magnify your name for miracles we received as a family of God.
4. Thank God for meeting every need.
5. Thank God for His divine presence and protection upon our leaders, students in various tertiary institutions in Nigeria and worldwide.

6. Dear Lord, I pray that You would breathe Your breath on me.

A PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH:

1. Lord, let the gifts of the Holy Spirit manifest strongly to build up the body of Christ.
2. Heavenly father, let the fruits of the Holy Spirit manifest to give credibility to our gospel witness. Guide us and hold us tight as we testify to Your goodness.

A PRAYER FOR OUR WORLD:

1. Lord, I pray for miracles to abound across the earth that result in turning non-believers into Christ-following believers in Jesus name.
2. O God, in regions where language barriers and cultural acceptance of other religions

2. may try to stop Your message, may Spirit-led miracles bring revival and testify that You alone are God in Jesus name.

ONE WEEK OF PRAYER

1. Let us be thankful to God for numerous answered prayers among our associates and their families
 - New babies and expectant moms
 - Graduation of members, staff and our children
 - Journey mercies and God's abundant protection
 - Healing
 - Now tax exempt
 - New jobs and promotions
2. Pray for the newly constituted local organizing committee for NACF-NA conference, Dallas '18
 - Pray for them as they begin the task
 - Pray for the planning of the conference to be directed by the Holy Spirit
3. NIFES headquarters, staff, students, and associates all over the world. Pray that many will rise to fulfill the mandate of NIFES.
4. Prayer for all missionaries among us. Those in remote mission fields working individually with different missions groups. Mention names of those you know.
5. Remember the sick, bereaved and all those undergoing trying times.
6. Pray for our different families – children, spouses, parents, relatives of our members. That God will cause them all to shine and know the Lord personally.
7. Pray for Nigerian pastors at home and abroad, that they all may live Christ-like lives and not deviate from their calling.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

- Ephesians 6:18

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