



WATCHMAN'S TRUMPET



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FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

Hello,

I welcome you to this new month and present to you October 2020 edition of "Watchman's Trumpet". This month, our theme is "The Church of the living God and of Christ" We have through it an opportunity to remind ourselves that the Church belong to God and like all things associated with God, we need to understand the meaning, its origin and foundation, classification, qualification for membership, mission of the church and its destination so as to know what God expects from us as we interact with the church, with one another in the church and respond appropriately for our own good.

The scripture makes distinction between the universal church and the local church. The universal church comprises of all those who are saved and sanctified by Christ, who are living holy lives in anticipation of Christ's second return in all denominations and churches from all over the world. This comprises of only true believers who are pure and chaste; the bride of Christ that will be raptured. They will join Him and go to live with Him at His second coming.

The church represents Christ in the world and our mission is supposed to be an extension of the mission of Christ in the world. The church of Christ is still in the world today to continue to witness to the world about sin, judgment and righteous. The Church is to be a rescue shop in the world. Like Noah's ark, it is God's vehicle of salvation.

The Church is the Bride of Christ; a Bride waiting for the consummation of marriage with her groom. The church awaits the rapture when we shall join the Lord to go and live with Him in His Father's Mansion where He is presently making preparation for us John 14:1-3

While waiting for His return, He gave us work to do and the means to do them. We cannot afford to fail or disappoint Him

Like an unfaithful Bride awaiting her wedding day could be rejected if she becomes defiled, Jesus will not accept into heaven all who lived for themselves here on earth and refused to part with sinful, wicked and irresponsible living. On the other hand, those who remains faithful shall reign with Him.

The fate of humanity and that of the universe, in fact, the fate of the entire creation which appears hell bound today will ultimately be decided by Christ and His church Daniel 7:27 The church is destined for greatness but we must remain true till He comes. May God give us grace to do so in Jesus' name. Welcome!

THE CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD

"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" Mathew 16:18

*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God**, the pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15*



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The Church belongs to God. Therefore we need to understand what church is all about, its foundation, classification, qualification for membership and mission.

This will help us interact better in the church and with the church in such a way that will earn us God's commendation and not condemnation

The term "church" is a Greek word which means "to be called out". The church is an assembly or a congregation of called out ones. Israelites in relation to exodus are called "the church" in the wilderness Acts 7:38. Thus, by extension and application, the New Testament church comprises of those who have answered God's call to come out of sin and out of the world to consecrate and dedicate the rest of their lives to Jesus Christ.

They are people who have been saved by Christ (Ephesians 5:25-29) purchased by Him (Acts 20:28) loved by Him (Ephesians 5:25) and subject to Him (Romans 7:4)

We shall consider the following:

1. Members in the church of Christ
2. Mission of the church
3. Implementing the mission of the Church

1. Members in the church

“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work” 2Timothy 2:19-21.

The scripture make distinction between the universal church and the local church. The universal church comprises of all those who are saved and sanctified by Christ, who are living holy lives in anticipation of Christ's second return in all denominations and churches from all over the world. This comprises of only true believers who are pure and chaste; the bride of Christ that will be raptured. They will join Him and go to live with Him at His second coming. There is no one who is still living in sin that is a member of Christ's universal church. They comprise of only those whose names are in the book of life and are walking in daily obedience and faithfulness to Jesus Christ the head of the church.

On the other hand, the local church comprises of all who belong to Christ or who claim to belong to Christ and gather regularly together in a particular geographical location for Bible study, fellowship and worship. Not all in the local church are part of Christ's universal church. The story of the local church is like the parable of tares and wheat. Some people are serious with God, some are not; some are faithful and holy while some are still living in sin.

There are many in the local church who belong to Christ in name only. It is concerning such that Jesus stated that not all who call Him Lord shall enter into the kingdom of God. Those who are not obeying Christ, even though their names are written in the register of the local church, are not in the book of life. Such people, whether church members, church workers, ministers or pastors shall be left behind when the rapture takes place. Only true believers shall be raptured.

2. Mission of the church

“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” Luke 19:10.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” Mathew 28:19-20.

“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” John 20:21.

The church represents Christ in the world and our mission is supposed to be an extension of the mission of Christ in the world. The church of Christ is still in the world today to continue to witness to the world about sin, judgment and righteous; so that those who still want to be saved, will hear the gospel, repent and be added to the Lord and to the church. Acts 2:41-42. Through fellowship and worship, we are also to edify one another. Ephesians 4:15-16.



By our lives and actions, we are to be salt and light in the world and by so doing reveal to the world what it means to belong to God. Mathew 5:14-16. Through the church, the will of God is to be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Through us, His truth is to be preserved among men. 1Timothy 3:15 The church also serves as a workshop, to perfect those who repent and turn to Christ; to get them ready for the second coming of Christ. The church is God's vehicle and means of maturing spiritual babes who comes to Christ daily. Ephesians 4:12-14.

3. Implementing the mission of the Church

“Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine” 2 Timothy 2:2.

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal” 1 Corinthians 2:7.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” Ephesians 4:11,12

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” 1Timothy 4:16.

The Church is to be a rescue shop in the world. Like Noah's ark, it is God's vehicle of salvation. Through the church, men who are lost in sin and trespasses are invited into God's kingdom, converted, matured and made ready to dwell with Christ in eternity. Spiritual gifts, ministerial gifts, and the Holy Scripture are the resources that Jesus has provided for the church to fulfil her mission. The pastor with respect to the organization of the local church is at the centre of deploying these resources under the authority of Christ. Hence, his appointment must strictly follow scriptures' moral and spiritual requirements.



ABOUT WATCHMAN OUTREACH MISSION

Watchman Outreach Mission as envisioned fundamentally comprises of men and women of faith who watch over one another and together watch for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next to this primary assignment is an equally important responsibility of bringing others into the same state of watchfulness and readiness as the coming of the Lord draws near. Ours is a trans-ministerial, trans-denominational mission. Our core values include expository teaching, prayer and counselling. We train in principles and practice of Christian discipleship and equip for effective Kingdom Service.

The Lord Jesus Christ in one of His parable said “*While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept*” **Mathew 25:5**. Watchman Outreach Mission is a response of faith to this and similar warnings about events in the last days. Our response is based on the premise that prophecies, visions and revelations about the future such as the one documented in the Lord’s parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins are sign-posts by which men are warned to keep vigil to avoid disastrous end. We serve to wake up the church and men everywhere to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return.

The Mission, based in Ibadan, Nigeria, was launched in 2009 and its maiden outing took place on the 20th November of the same year. On that day, we partnered with All Nations Evangelical Ministry (ANEM), Akobo, Ibadan for Evangelistic and Medical Mission Outreach to Idi - Ose Village on Arulogun - Olorunda Road in Lagelu Local Government, Ibadan.

In the years that followed we networked with churches and other Christian groups too to implement our mandate which include conducting gospel outreaches, discipleship training for new converts, organizing and facilitating workers and ministerial training, conducting administrative reviews in churches and ministries, writing of proposals for reforms and church growth strategies that can enhance social cohesion, improve church finances and foster overall development, unity and growth of such ministries; monitoring and/or supervision of the implementation of such reforms and strategies.

Some of these Christian groups and ministries include with Christ Apostolic Church, Oke - Ife in Ajangboju, Ibadan, Nigerian Military Christian Fellowship, Adekunle Fajuyi Cantonment Chapter in Oyo - State Nigeria, Christ Gospel Mission International, Light of Jesus Evangelistic Ministry with branches in different cities in South Western Nigeria, and Ark of Salvation Church of Christ (ASCC) with headquarters at Molade, Monatan Ibadan.

Till date, although partnered ministries change from time to time depending on the leading we receive from the Lord, we remain committed to our main purpose and vision; that of service to the church and in the world to wake up men everywhere and encourage them to remain alert and watch for the Lord’s return. Through our activities, souls had been saved, believers edified and church workers’ spiritual growth and development enhanced, all to the glory of God.

WATCHMAN PRAYER HOUR



Prayer Points - For October 2020

1. For unity of vision, purpose and direction among all true believers irrespective of denominational differences
2. For increasing strength and victory of the Church of Christ over sin, worldliness lusts; and every the gate of Hell
3. For increasing conversion of sinners held captive by the devil and his agents
4. For God’s involvement and deliverance in the battle of any of our stakeholders against the forces of Hell right now
5. For increasing appetite for the word of God and teachings of Christ and obedience to it
6. For sustained vision and faithfulness of all true ministers of the Church and the Gospel
7. For in-filling with power from on high and anointing sufficient for our tasks and journey; and for divine presence throughout our days on earth
8. For the privilege of reigning with Christ at the end of our earthly lives

“..... men ought always to pray, and not to faint;’ Luke 18:1

May the Lord hear and answer all our prayers - AMEN!

Watchman Prayer Hour holds every Saturday from 10.30am - 12.00MD. We invite you to join us at our office in 78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building, Opposite U.I. Second Gate, Ibadan . Oyo - State. You can also follow us live on any of our Social media platforms during the prayer session and send inquiries or prayer requests to any of our digital addresses.

CLARION CALL



CHRIST'S BRIDE AND HER BEAUTY

"For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ" 2 Corinthians 11:2.

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?" 1 Corinthians 6:15a

"For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church" Ephesians 5:30. 32

In the Old Testament and up till the time leading to the first coming of Christ, Jews detests Gentiles. The idea that both Jews and Gentiles will form one united body and church in Christ was totally unknown and repulsive to the Jews. It is a Mystery. Even though Old Testament prophets prophesied the conversion of Gentiles en mass, the Jews did not fully understand the manner in which this will be accomplished. They do not even believe in Christ.

Apart from the disciples, many of the Jews did not become converted until after the day of Pentecost. However, the church today comprising of both Jews and gentile, both belonging to one body in Christ.

*"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).
"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). The implication of these two references is that all humanity,*

Jews and Gentiles, stands condemned and awaiting execution before Christ came. Our sins like heavy burden of debt or load hangs upon us, too heavy to pay. It would have been enough if all that Christ did was to pay off the debt of our sins and rid us of its burden. But, much more than that, His sacrifice makes our adoption into God's family as sons and daughters possible. As if that is not enough, the Bible describes the believer today as a -Bride-in-waiting. Christ will soon return to take us home to heaven to live with Him.

1. Jewish custom's illustration of Groom-Bride relationship

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh" Mathew 25:1-13.

Jewish wedding begins with the arrangement where groom's father pays the bride's "Bride price" Jesus by His crucifixion paid the church's bride price. The next step is the period of betrothal. This lasts for at least a year to ascertain that the bride is pure and retained her virginity. Sometimes period of betrothal may be longer.

During this time, the bride is prepared to be a wife. They are as it were joined together in the spirit but not in body. Paul described the church's period of betrothal as a period of purification and sanctification. On wedding day, the groom goes to the bride's home and fetches her to his home in a bridal procession. Jesus will come and fetch His bride at rapture.

In Jewish custom, the wedding ceremony takes place in the home of the groom. Jesus is coming again to take us to live with Him in His Father's mansion. We shall partake in the marriage supper of the lamb Revelation 19:7-9. Jesus is referred to as the "Last Adam" The first Adam has a wife created from a bone removed from his side. In the same way the blood shed from Christ's pierced side betrothed us to Christ. Like the first Adam, "we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones" Ephesians 5:30-32. When we are happy, He is happy, when we are hurt, He is hurt Acts 9:4-5.

When we sin, he grieves and feels pain. Note that a diseased part of the human body that cannot be cured may have to be cut off. In the same way sin cut off and estranges believers who fail to repent from Christ.



2. Obligation and responsibility of the church to her Groom

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" Romans 12:1, 2.

"Abstain from all appearance of evil" 1 Thessalonians 5:22

Since we know that members of our body belong to Christ and every member of the church is closely and mystically joined to Christ, it should imbibe in us the need for individual members of the church as well as the church as a whole to promote holiness; and to live and walk in holiness. We must keep away from every appearance of evil and shun sinful practices by which we can be polluted and our garment defiled.

The Bible has several instructions for any member of Christ's church who hope to go with Him as a chaste bride when He appears at rapture. They include exposure of ourselves to continuous cleansing, purging and sanctifying influence of the word of God. Ephesians 5:26, Psalm 119:9, 11, acquire the garment of holiness and put it on at all times since we do not know when the Lord will appear. Revelation 19:7, 8, we must keep our garment from being soiled or taken away Revelation 16:15, we must daily increase in the grace of God and keep our lamps burning. Luke 12:35-37. We must remain sober, vigilant and watchful at all times 1 Peter 5:8

3. Inward disposition and outward expression of Christ's love by His Bride

"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good" **Romans 12:9.**

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" **John 13:34, 35.**

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" **Mathew 5:44,45.**

"Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law,

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" **Romans 13:8, 10.**

Beauty is what makes a person attractive. Love makes us as the Bride of Christ to appeal to God and man. Love is the summary of all laws and prophecies Rom 13: 8-10. It is the beginning and end of all commandment and ordinances. It is the embodiment of holiness and doctrines that the scriptures taught Mark 12:29-31.



Relationships are strengthened, people are knitted together and others are drawn to Christ by the people who love one another John 13: 34-35. There is no sin where there is perfect love. No lying, no harshness, or judgmental criticism; no hypocrisy, no murmuring. Offences or misunderstandings are quickly settled, forgiveness offered full and free. Living together is easy, peace abounds heaven is near and prayers are answered.

Love is a gift by God realized in Christ. Christ in love came down to die for us His enemies; for us bad people Romans 5:6-8. He gave us the greatest example of how to love. True Christian love is practical and sacrificial John 14:35 *"all men are to know:"*

Two things are important in the expression of love: One, inward disposition and secondly outward expression. Men's life runs true to their hearts. Most times, the choices we make are expressions of the state of our hearts. A heart filled with love easily finds expression in lives that shows practical care, sacrificial commitment and compassion. To express love aright, fully and deeply, we must identify with the one we love in our hearts. Outwardly, Christian love is expressed by living like a Good Samaritan in the world, in the church and everywhere.

Christian love finds practical expression in care for people, visiting prisons and hospitals, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, intercessions for the conversion of sinners, serving in the church, washing the feet of disciples, giving money to assist those in financial difficulties, assisting their families, forgiving those who offend them, forbearing their excesses. Luke 10:25-27, Acts 2: 42-47; laying down our lives, that is, risking our position, power, possession, prestige to help others. This is the height of beauty and glory for the church of Christ.

The opposite of love is selfishness. The world is selfish and even in the church today men and women are becoming increasingly selfish and this is why we are losing our congregation to town meetings, worldly clubs and associations. We must learn to live for others not ourselves. We should be lovely and loveable. We are commanded to love God with all our hearts, soul, and might. We are to love the brethren as we love Christ. We are to love our enemies too.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? Do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Mathew 5:44-48

UNITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST AND CALL TO SERVE IN THE CHURCH



“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ”
Ephesians 4:1-7.

The Church is the body of Christ and comprises of all those who have forsaken the world, the works of the flesh and the devil. Even though members of the local church come from different background, there are things that we share in common and should be the basis of our unity.

Most times, division comes when we shift our focus away from God and from the things that binds us and began pursuing personal and selfish agenda. It is the responsibility of every minister, workers and members in the church to keep her strong and united.

Ministers, workers and members in the church have different gifts whose use should make them complement each other rather than being the basis for competition



1. Differences in needs and gifts of church members

“So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good”
Romans 12:5-9.

Just like the human body parts, clear differences exist in the gifts and need of the members of the body of Christ. God and Christ deliberately ordained these differences so that we can see the need to depend upon each other since no single individual member or minister have all the gifts. Through inter-dependence, we can meet everybody’s needs and solve all problems in the church.

We must recognise these differences, receive and accept them, and seek how we can use them to build a strong united, progressive church. It is the duty of the pastor and all who lead the church in ministration to promote; teach and emphasize the importance of unity in the church.

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need”
Acts 2:41-44.

2. Understanding divine call to serve in Christ’s church

“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”
Mathew 4:19

God’s call is in stages. The first call that will likely come to a man destined to become a servant of God is call to repentance. Next, those who answered God’s call to salvation are called to sanctification and holiness; to separate themselves from all that is sinful, polluted, corrupt and defiling. Dirty, corrupt, polluted life is inconsistent with Christian profession and definitely not befitting for a minister of the Gospel.

And thou shalt bring the Levites before the LORD: and the children of Israel shall put their hands upon the Levites: And Aaron shall offer the Levites before the LORD for an offering of the children of Israel, that they may execute the service of the LORD. And thou shalt set the Levites before Aaron, and before his sons, and offer them for an offering unto the LORD. Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and the Levites shall be mine”.
Numbers 8:10-11, 13-14

“For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God...”
Acts 13:36

Divine call is a call to service, to render service to God. Service to God is a service to people in God’s name. Divine service is service to real time persons or people. Lack of understanding of this may affect our attitude to the work, quality of service and our ultimate reward.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST BUILT UPON THE ROCK

“And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” Mathew 16:18

Jesus promised to build only one Church. The Church of Christ for geographical, administrative, social, situational or dispensational reasons may have members in different places at different times but the Church of Christ is one; we are all members on one body in Christ.

The Church of Christ in a strict sense comprises of all those who have been called out of the world and sin to become devoted followers of Christ and citizens in God’s kingdom.]

The Lord stated clearly in our text that the church is involved in a warfare whose outcome is already known because of her occupation and fight from vantage point; from higher ground. The Lord Himself is our Rock. He is the foundation upon which our lives are built and He assures us of certain, constant, continuous, permanent and lasting victory over the gates of hell. I pray that the victory which the Lord promised will be ours in Jesus name.

1. Many Denominations but one Church

“..... ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life;”

The church of Christ comprises only of all over the world who have repented, who have forsaken all their sins, who regularly listens to Christ’s voice and pattern their lives after His own as their model. It is not everyone in the physical church of any denomination that belongs to Christ. Failure or deliberate refusal to listen to Christ, obey His word and to follow Him are evidences that you do not belong to Christ. Actually, some belong to the devil. They are his seed that he sowed into the church and runs his errands in the church John 8:44.

The spiritual life and journey of those who belong to Christ are constantly characterized by diligent study of Christ and His teachings or doctrines and steady transformation of life. They are citizens of heaven and live like one here on earth.

His ultimate and supreme power and that of God His Father guarantees their safety and security throughout their earthly journey and eventual transition. Disorder, disease, devil and death cannot sever their link with Christ. They will conquer all Romans 8:35-39.

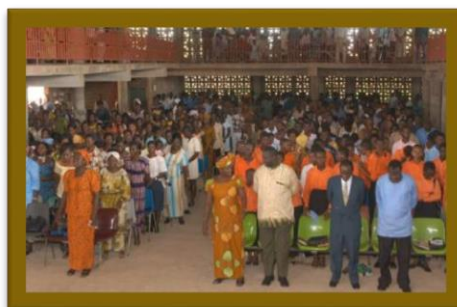
2. The Church’s Warfare against the gates of Hell

In Bible days, “gate” is the place of authority and seat of government. In Bible cities, rulers or elders-in-council sit at the gate to decide matters, make laws and administer judgment. Most battles to overthrow a city often begin (and end at the Gate). Once the ruling authority is conquered, it becomes easy to bring the citizens of such city into captivity.

Christ’s promise in our text revealed that His Church is a militant one on attack formation continuously storming the Gates of hell, that is, the seat of power of rulers of darkness, delivering their captives and bringing them into subjection to Christ. Forces of darkness have many gates designed to prevent anyone from believing in Christ and following Him. But the Church has all it takes to subdue and overcome them all; she will ultimately do.

The foundation of the Church rests on higher ground and vantage point. The Battle itself is God’s strategy for His church to continuously increase in strength and number.

The fate of humanity and that of the universe, in fact, the fate of the entire creation which appears hell bound today will ultimately be decided by Christ and His church Daniel 7:27



It is written in the Bible, preached by Christ and that settles it Mathew 25:32.

3. Guaranteed Victory by Architect and Builder of our lives

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith Hebrews 12:2. He has all it takes to give us peace, prosperity and progress; in fact, He has all it takes to give us a well-ordered life and glorious exit despite present world’s chaos, disorder and commotion. This was what He promised and it is what He will do. Evangelism, discipleship process and continuous sound doctrinal teaching, including constant, sustained prayer warfare under the leadership and supervision of the Lord’s apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in every generation including individual believer’s manifestation of the fruits and the gifts of the Spirit are the means and resources by which Christ continuously increase His church’s spiritual and numerical strength. By these, individual Christians too glow and grow.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit, the name of Jesus, record and testimonies of previous victories, the blood of Jesus; the power of the spoken word of God and the entire armor of God are all resources by which the church continuously plunders hell to gain strength. They are mighty resources that work through God to pull down strong holds, cast down imaginations and hold captive every thought to obey Christ. They have never failed and will never fail.

The church is destined for greatness. It is the expression of the kingdom of God on earth and will be the consummation of it. We need to keep alive the vision of the possibility and reality of fulfilment of Christ’s promise contained in our text amid life’s odds so we will not faint or falter. Notwithstanding occurrences in the world or in individual Christian’s life today, the victory of the church is sure and our future secured. Jesus our Lord lives and reigns forever; so shall all who truly belong to Him.

BEYOND THE NEXT MOUNTAIN

The story of Rochunga Pudaite

When the Gospel first came to the Hmar tribe in 1910, one of the first converts was a young man by the name of Chawnga. As more and more of the tribal people became Christians, he saw the need for the Scriptures in their native language. Chawnga prayed that someday he would have a son who would learn to read and write so that he could translate the Bible into the Hmar language.

Chawnga had four sons. One was named Rochunga. As Ro grew older, he knew that God wanted him to go to school. At ten years old, despite teasing from his friends, Ro became the first boy from his village to go to school. It was a long, dangerous trip. Ninety-six mile through a jungle of tigers, elephants, bears, and man-eating python snakes. Six days later, Ro arrived safely in the village of Churachandpur and started school. He later went continued his schooling in England, and then did his graduate work at Wheaton College in Chicago, Illinois.

During his time in school, Ro worked hard on translating the Bible into his native language. Finally the job was done. He wrapped up the precious manuscript, mailed it to the printer, and at long last, the Bible arrived in Northeast India. There was much joy and excitement as Chawnga and others dedicated the book that had changed their people from Headhunters to Hearhunters!

During his years in college, Ro had met and was communicating with a young lady back in Northeast India. Her name was Lalrimawii, which means the name of the Lord is a beautiful sound. When his work in translating the Bible was finished, Ro went back to India and asked Mawii to be his wife. After all the work in translating the Bible, Ro and his new wife, Mawii, thought that the work God had for them was finished. Little did they know that it had just begun. Even though the Hmar people now had the Bible in their own language,

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

ROCHUNGA PUDAITE AND MAWII HIS WIFE



many of them could not read. Ro and Mawii started many village schools, high school, a college, and even a seminary for their people. Today the original school and now the largest of all the schools, located in Churachandpur, has over 1,800 students. Perhaps most amazingly of all, the Hmar people now have one of the highest literacy rates of any people group in all of India!

God also led Ro and Mawii to start churches throughout Northeast India. Over three hundred churches are now a part of the Evangelical Free Church of India, the denomination that they founded.

After seeing the tremendous impact the Word of God had on their tribe, Ro and Mawii founded **Bibles for the World** in 1971. Through Bibles for the World, millions of Bibles have been mailed to over one hundred countries. Bibles for the World is also involved in many other projects around the world.

Today, Dr. Ro and Mawii live in Colorado Springs, Colorado and their story has been chronicled in a major motion picture called *Beyond the Next Mountain*.

SCRIPTURE FOR MEDITATION

"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" Mathew 16:18

SONG OF THE MONTH

The Church's one Foundation

1. The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord; she is his new creation by water and the Word: from heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride; with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2. Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth; one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.
3. Though with a scornful wonder men see her sore oppressed, by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed, yet saints their watch are keeping, their cry goes up, "How long?" And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
4. The church shall never perish! Her dear Lord to defend, to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end; though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale, against both foe and traitor she ever shall prevail.
5. 'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore; till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
6. Yet she on earth hath union with the God the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Author: S.J Stone (1866)

CONTACT DETAILS

Watchman Outreach Mission
78/80 Nepa (IBEDC) Building,
Opposite U.I Second Gate
Ibadan, Oyo – State, Nigeria

BANK DETAILS FOR DONATION

Bank: FBN PLC
Acct Name: Watchman Outreach Mission
Account No. C/A 2016363366
GSM No. +234-9026840215,
8033846714
8056671595