

EDITORIAL

“See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding”

With these words, our Lord Jesus Christ described the passion of the Father to get his invitees understand that the climax of all things was at hand (Mat 22:4b). The party to which they had been previously invited was finally about to begin. Every preparation has been made. Everything was in order. Nothing remained- only that the invitees arise and begin to pour in.

Yet the response was awful. Instead of the invitees to rejoice and spring forth to participate, according to Jesus, ‘they made light of it (the invitation) and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.’

Today, even at this close of time the story is being repeated. God earnestly urges us Christians (specially chosen by His grace) to look around and see that “the appointed time is fulfilled” (Mark 1:15). And indeed, we all do look around and agree to the imminence of the shutdown of all things. Strangely however, we feel we can attend to the Lord’s call and invitation to forsake all and follow Him (Luke 5:11, Mk 10:) at a later or more convenient time. For now we feel we have our farm and our business to attend to. This is apathy (aka indifference) in action.

In this another ‘history-flavoured’ edition of Church Arise! (remember such is every 3rd and 6th edition), it is our hope that Christians everywhere will arise to be the mighty army Christ has designed and called us to be in these end times. Whatever else could be as important as heeding the Lord’s call and invitation!

Some suggestions to help you break apathy:

- Join a prayer group and take it seriously
- Join an evangelistic group such as the FGBMFI and be active
- Have a regular time of fasting and praying to keep your focus upon Christ Jesus.
- Think about issues affecting God’s Kingdom today, and share your thoughts with others. You too can be a William Wilberforce!

Happy reading.

News

Political Transition in Nigeria: Christians give full support

While Abacha literally begged for the prayer of Christians, (and was he rebuffed!), Christians across denominational lines have been lifting up General Abubakar up in prayers, and garnering support for his transition to civil rule programme.

*****Fire in Jesse, is Nigeria oil a blessing or a curse?

Catholic Church donates .25million naira, even while Government says “no compensations”.

*****Peace Efforts in the Middle East – the final cycle?

CALM to broaden ministry base

At Church Arise! LivingWater Ministries (CALM), we have far much more urgent information to share with the Body of Christ than we are able to accommodate on the pages of our bi-monthly newsletter – hence the observation by many of our readers that our newsletter is many times a bit “stuffy”.

We are planning and praying to be able to broaden our ministry base in at least two ways in the near future. First is by organizing public lectures and film shows designed to awaken the Church to the realities of the times we are in. Please watch out for further announcements on this. The second, and indeed our primary ministry calling (as we stated in Vol 1 No 1), is through the establishment of a Library and Reading Room in Ile-Ife.

Apart from your prayers, which we earnestly covet, you can further support this Library project in at least 3 other ways. Outright **donation** of books and other resources; **loaning** of those materials into our stock for a period of time (especially if you are traveling abroad, etc); or by **registering** yourself and your materials into our inter-Library network. We promise, by God’s grace, to make those resources go a real long way blessing the Body of Christ.

Please contact us today if you are led to want to support these projects. God bless.

Tokyo Stock Exchange

Justin Fashanu, Nigerian-born British footballer committed suicide after being declared wanted by Police in Maryland (USA) for homosexual assault on a 17 year old boy. “I want to die rather than put my friends and family through any more unhappiness” wrote the football “hero”. He would have faced a possible 20 years in jail in Maryland where homosexual acts are illegal. The things Satan does to those in his clutches!

Christian Daily Newspaper coming: The former publisher of the caustic political newspaper, Razor, Moshood Fayemiwo has declared his intention to float a daily Christian newspaper to be called “Christian Vision” which will circulate in all states of the Federation. This certainly is a project worth praying for.

A Macedonian Cry from Warri

Many of us would have read about the renewed wave of inter-tribal violence in the riverine areas of Delta and Edo states. But only those who are on location could really imagine the magnitude of this disaster. A Christian brother wrote from Warri that the violence “has been so terrible that life is taken and destroyed easily like that of a goat” he concluded that serious spiritual warfare which local Christians alone could not maintain, is urgently required. His appeal: **“We want to use this medium (Church Arise!) to invite [Christians everywhere] to come to our aid. There are evil forces fighting against the move of Christians”.**

Church Arise! joins in this appeal and urges every reader to please spend at least 5 minutes each day for one week in praying for the peace of Warri and its environs; and that the Lord strengthens His Church in that region.

Juju Priest turns to Jesus...burns down shrine.

A popular juju priest at Ekrota, a village about 20 km East of Warri has given his life and his family to Jesus. To confirm this, the former juju priest burnt down his shrine and other paraphernalia of his devilish trade. The Mission Group of the International School of Ministry, A Bible School based in Warri supervised the event, and our man in Delta state was an eye-witness. Yet the call from Warri is that Christians all over should join in the spiritual warfare that is still raging. (see previous news item).

Prayer and Modern Medicine

According to a 1995 study reported in the *Church Around the World*, patients who said they gained comfort from religion and faith were found to be more than three times as likely to survive [heart surgery] as those who had no personal faith. The study further indicated that merely going to Church didn’t make a difference, and in the words of one of the doctors who conducted the study, “the patient has to get something out of Church”

Now, an independent recent study has even further confirmed this finding and showed that the results has nothing to

do with cheap 'psychology' or 'positive thinking'. In the project, called Mantra, Dr Mitchell Krucoff and Nurse-practitioner Suzanne Crater of the Duke Medical Centre set out to determine, among other things, whether prayer might influence the medical outcomes of patients in Krucoff's cath lab at Durham VA hospital. The outcomes of those prayed over were 50% to 100% better. Krucoff described the results as "intriguing". Full details are published in the Time, Oct 12, 1998.

News Update: The Iron Gate Yields – Fayemiwo, Turner out of the Gulag.

This is one truly cheerful news for every child of God, particularly in Nigeria. In our last edition we mentioned our concern at the continued incarceration in particular of two Nigerian youth cream, who are characterized by their outstanding Christina Witness – Moshood Fayemiwo and Turner Ogboru.

Even while we were writing that piece, God was already breaking the chains, and Moshood was released Wed Sept 2. He had spent a total of 18 months chained to an iron bar in solitary underground cell (see the Guardian, Sept 12). The joy became complete just as we began preparing for the current edition with the release of Turner on Monday Oct 19. That was 8 years and 3 months exactly since he was first arrested, and five years after he was granted a valid amnesty by the Federal government – but Gen. Abacha's chief spiritual/security adviser, Mr Gwarzo had insisted Turner remained a security risk. Not even a re-validation of this amnesty by the Courts could make Gwarzo change his mind.

True to type, both of these children of God insisted they have no grudges or hatred for anybody, not even their former captors. In detention, many who came in contact with these two-some were vividly touched about the reality of God, and came out born-again. See page 3 for some quotes from these children of God. What a challenge to every Christian in this age! Praise the Lord.

***Mergers refused- see cnn.

In the last edition we mentioned the implications of the mega-mergers of major corporations and businesses as setting the ground for the Anti-Christ. The pace of these mergers are so dizzying that now, even State governments are beginning to frown at them. The proposed merger of ... was stopped because it would...monopoly.

QUOTES

"I thank God because he took me to that place (military detention) to use me. While I was there, the kingdom of darkness was not only shaken, but it was also rooted out. People were sending prayer requests and they were accordingly granted by God. Many, even soldiers, gave their lives to Jesus"

Moshood Fayemiwo, speaking on his 18 months incarceration in an underground cell.

"...Put my life together, go out on the assignment God has given me – to go into all the world to preach His word"

Turner Ogboru (responding to the question of what he intends to do following his release after 8 years in detention – Tell, Nov 2, 1998).

Food for Thought: If you were in the place of these two gentlemen in the gulag, what do you think your response would have been? Ok, save your imagination. In your current situation, aren't you still waiting for 'more opportuned circumstances' to throw yourself abandonly into the Lord's service? What exactly are you doing for Jesus, today?

Aids Scourge not yet over: Just as new breakthroughs in Aids research is bringing some measure of relief and hope to many, a

recent announcement by French scientists is puncturing such hopes. The scientists reported they have identified a new strain of AIDS virus from a Camerounian woman that does not belong to the two main types of HIV-1, and warned that the virus may escape detection by existing Hiv tests. There are similar reports of yet other new strains as for instance that allegedly imported into Britain from Thailand. Though there are several innocent people suffering from Aids, yet the vast majority contracted the disease through sex and loose, unBiblical lifestyle. As far as Aids is concerned, the final word may yet be that there is no such thing as 'safe sex', only 'responsible sex', that is one done in context of Christian marriage.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Human Organ theft racket rocks the US.

We recently received a mail from a reader of Church Arise! from a United Nations organization in Nigeria. It is yet another indication of the signs of the times we are in. It tells of a rapidly increasing racket in human organ theft – with the organ stolen from life, unsuspecting people! If you are a business traveler, then you need to take this seriously. And we understand that "this ring is well organized, well funded, has very skilled personnel, and is currently in most major cities and recently very active in New Orleans". Let's cite a typical true life scenario:

"The crime begins when a business traveler goes to a lounge for a drink at the end of the work day. A person in the bar walks up, they sit alone and offers to buy them a drink. The last thing the traveler remembers until they wake up in a hotel room bathtub, their body submerged to their neck in ice, is sipping that drink. There is a note taped to the wall instructing them not to move and to call 911. A note is on a small table next to the bathtub for them to call. The 911 operators have become quite familiar with this crime. So he instructs the business traveler to very slowly and carefully reach behind them and feel if there is a tube protruding from their lower back. The business traveler finds the tube and answers, "Yes". The 911 operator tells them to remain still, having already sent paramedics to help. The operator knows that both of the business traveler's kidneys have been harvested.". Each human kidney is worth \$10,000 on the black market in the US.

Readers may check the story out from the original source: Michele Shafer – DML/Lab Administration Medical Manager Research & Development 15151 NW 99th Street Alachua, Florida. Phone: (904)32615, Fax: (904) 462-2148.

Nigerian readers may recollect a time when the male genitals were reportedly being stolen off men, by people employing "black arts". The story of a man who gouged out the eyes of a lady in Oshodi, Lagos for a token fee, also made headline news not too long ago. Now the story is, even in those civilized cities of the world, there are 'civilized' ways of perpetrating the same evil! Christians, watch and pray.

Learn from History: World's economic doomsday is at hand

The ancient view of history has been what is referred to as the arbitrary or "cyclic view". Solomon summarised this as "what has always been will always be...nothing new under the sun". However, Judaism and Christianity has introduced what is now referred to as the "linear view", which holds that time is moving towards a divine goal. We know we are in the end-times period because the happenings all around us fulfil exactly what has been prophesied about the characteristics of the end times. However beyond that, no one can say when exactly the end will come (ref). In our last edition, we mentioned the economic chaos in Asia, as well as other social catastrophes all around the globe. Today, it

might seem that a measure of relief is on the way, and it will be again business as usual. As Christians however, we know that all this indicates is that the appointed time has not yet fully come. A linear view of history assures us, that upon the cycles that we see, a divine purpose is at work. A good example is an aircraft that is going round in cycles around an airport. The pilot is only waiting for signals from the control tower to land. Landing is the purpose in sight, in this case.

We feel we should not just leave the story as that. This history edition we bring vivid accounts of what happens, when we have crash in monetary systems; since the big crash is certainly bound to come – and if God allows the Global 2000 group to have its way, that crash is designed for the year 2000, barely a year away.

First, we quote from Willard Cantelon's *The Day the Dollar Dies*:

"I'll never forget that June Sunday in Germany in 1948. The Reich Mark had been inflated but was still in circulation and people were struggling to get back into a normal pattern of life. But in Bonn, as they studied the economy and its inflated values, they decided a stroke of the pen and a cancellation of the old system would be the best approach to starting all over again.

There was no warning to the populace in Germany. The newspaper of Sunday morning in June 1948 was the first announcement to the people. "Reich Mark Cancelled". I knew so many friends in Germany, names I could call one after the other, from Berlin to Stuttgart.

What a tragic moment when coming down that Sunday morning to pick up the daily paper, the German voice was heard to cry, "My God in heaven, our money is worthless."

Stars and stripes, the official organ of the U.S. Army published the statistics; statistics of suicide, showing the Rhine River filled with the bodies of the dead, hair turned white over night, and heartache and sorrow too deep for man to describe. Money, that man lives for, saves, guards, dies, works for, suddenly with a stroke of the pen, it was cancelled"

A similar story repeated itself in the U.S.A. Oct 19-20 1987 in what is known as the Black Monday. We quote from Barry Smith (Final Notice) the impacts:

"Psychologists world-wide had their busiest runs in the history of their professions, as multitudes with dollar signs rapidly fading from bloodshot eyeballs, crashed on to couches, voices trembling with emotions, pleading piteously for help".

Currently, workers in the Nigerian Central Bank are on industrial action, and everybody is beginning to feel the impact of having money in the bank which is not available for collection. Of course those involved in failed banks have learnt a harsher lesson. What we are saying is that of crashes, the big one is certainly coming. And there is no way to save your money or your peace of mind than follow the simple and clear advice of our Lord Jesus Christ:

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.... for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". (ref)

We pray somebody will give serious consideration to this. Amen.

STOP PRESS: DAVID WILKERSON PROPHECIES DOWNTURN IN AMERICA ECONOMY IS IMMINENT!

If you have not heard about the man called Wilkerson, you need a lot of catching up to do about men God has without any questions raised up as His spokesman in this generation. He is the

'skinny preacher' that fished out Nicky Cruz, among others, from the streets of New York; and he continues to be mightily used of God more and more as a prophet.

In the black Monday event we referred to in the previous article on page ..., Wilkerson was one man God used to forewarn of the event. In fact, God told Dave on Sunday to go down to Wall Street on Monday and WATCH. That was the day the market crashed 500 points.

As we were coming out with this edition of Church Arise!, we received the prophecy that follows, sent from the US by one of our friends. Since it fits in well with our current topics, we decided to create some space and reproduce a portion of it for our readers. Interested readers could contact us, in writing, to obtain the whole document. Please read with discernment and accept if your spirit agrees with it. We quote David Wilkerson, verbatim:

"It is just about to happen very soon; and I am speaking prophetically. If I've ever heard anything from God in my life I heard it! About the nations! Poland, owes \$30 billion international loans to international banks. They owe \$30 billion and they haven't paid the interest in two years! Saudi Arabia is behind on their payments on \$8 billion... the richest country in the world as far as Arab states and it is not paying its bills! Very soon, a European or North African or Eastern nation is going to default on its international loan, and when that happens, within two weeks Mexico is going to default. Mexico owes \$100 billion...80% of it to American Banks...and here is what is going to happen. About two weeks after the first country goes bankrupt we are going to survive that because most of that money is owed to European banks: German, Swiss and French banks. The second country is going to go down, probably Argentina or Brazil, and we will kind of live that out and people will settle down and say, Well, maybe it's not going to hurt.' But two weeks after the first country goes down, Mexico is going to default on \$100 billion. And when the banks open the next day at 9.00 in the morning, \$15 billion an hour is going to be withdrawn from our American banks. They are going to be running our banks, the Arabs and all the Latin American countries. They are going to be running our banks... and before the day is over the United States is going to have to declare a bank holiday. And we are going into six months of the worst hell America has ever seen! There is going to be chaos! Not even the National Guard is going to be able to quiet it down. We are going to have to call out the whole United States Army."

In the prophecy, Wilkerson further said though order would be restored to the country eventually, there is going to be fear like they've never known it before and things will never be the same again. In fact the US will probably become another Russia, economically.

Bible-believing Americans are taking the message very seriously. In fact the friend who sent in the prophecy to us confessed that the news has hit him "like a pill of smelling ammonia salts held to [his] nose"! Apart from the purely economic worries, there was also the fear that America's border might have been infiltrated with nuclear bombs and biological warfare materials. Clearly, the end is insight for 'God's Own Country' just as many men of God have prophesied in the past decades.

Obviously, this is not just an "American problem". Several countries will go under and even in the debtor-nations, obviously a new economic order will have to be accepted. As one American Christian commentator puts it: As I was reading this prophecy, I thought ... maybe this is how the European one currency will be developed (with nations going bankrupt).

Church Arise! shares this feeling, especially noting that Satanic forces have on their own chosen the year 2000 to have their Global 2000 plan foisted upon an apathetic world. If God allows this plan to go on (meditate on Rev 17:17, 16:13-14 for more perspective on this), then we are beginning to enter exciting times indeed. Shame on the Christian who sleeps in harvest time (Prov 10:5)!

EXHORTATION

There can be little doubt that the prevalent mood of today is *apathy*. 'Why bother? Who cares? Don't get involved!' These are the slogans of the modern world. Kitty Genovese, aged twenty-eight, was trailed by a man in Kew Gardens, New York, in March 1964. He attacked and killed her. At least forty people heard her scream and shout for help, and many of them must have seen her die. Yet no one came to her rescue or even called for the police. 'I didn't want to get involved' explained one of the eyewitnesses.

Today, many still are afraid to get involved. They are too indifferent to obey the clear commandments of Him whom they call Lord!

I once heard Brother Andrew speak of a time when he was sitting with another Christian in a bus in Vietnam. They saw a man carrying a basket walking in front of the bus. It was during the time of intensive fighting and constant Vietcong guerrilla attacks.

'Watch out!' said the Christian. 'In that basket there might well be a bomb!'

'Why are you so afraid?' asked Brother Andrew.

'That man may be a Vietcong who will throw himself and the basket at the bus,' came the reply. 'He doesn't mind if he dies. I do!'

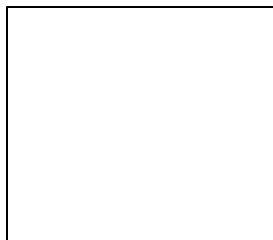
Brother Andrew commented on this incident, 'That sums up the ineffectiveness of so much of the Church today!' How many Christians are willing to lay down their lives for Jesus Christ?

With the greatest urgency we need to recapture the spirit of Paul who wrote, 'I look upon everything as loss compared with the overwhelming gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord', or of David Livingstone who said, 'I place no value on anything, except in its relation to the Kingdom of God'.

David Watson. Selected from portions of his book, *I Believe in Evangelism*. (Hodder and Stoughton), 1976.

Stay Away, Jesus!

The entrance is sealed at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem! In Jesus' day, this was the most important gate in Jerusalem because it led to the holy place of the Temple. Christians proclaimed that Jesus would come a second time and enter Jerusalem through that gate. So, Moslem leader Saladin had it sealed in 1187. As you can see, it is still sealed to this day.



Sex Selection: before now, we had test-tube babies, surrogacy, egg and sperm donation, and lately, cloning. Today, the latest waves is being made in the area of sex-selection. It has been reported that a fertility centre can now offer couples an 85% chance of having a girl (MEDICINE, Sept 21). When man begins to tinker with a given natural ratio, we should all hold our breathe

and see where it all leads to. Is the value/potentials of a baby really dependent on its sex? Even for a Christian?

Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold
Mathew 24:12

Beloved, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" Jude 4

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" Rev 3:19

While it has been interesting following the debate between Christians who see nothing wrong in ladies putting on trousers, on the one hand and the antagonists of such a practice, we find nothing funny at all in the current increasing trend among so-called born-againists who go about virtually half naked, (or thigh-length minis, or normal skirts slit up to abnormal heights!). This sort of dressing is obviously designed to arouse base passion in the opposite sex. Pure and simple. Pray what is the primary value of clothing if not to cover one's nakedness? We urge every lady who is involved in this practice to check themselves for their deep motives. Readers' opinions on this issue are especially invited.

Historical Personality Feature: William Wilberforce

William Wilberforce (1759-1833) is best known for his campaign against the slave trade. Starting up as a playboy, nominal Christian, he borrowed the book, *Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul* (by Philip Doddridge); and reading this together with the Bible, he became convinced of the truth of the Gospel. He emerged a believer in 'real Christianity' centred on Christ's redeeming work. For several months, Wilberforce continued to live the high life. Christianity was in his mind, but had little bearing on his daily decisions yet a conviction grew within him: if he was to follow Christ fully, he would have to say no to his worldly ways.

After discussion with John Newton (the famous converted slave trader), Wilberforce resisted the urge to give up his political career for Christ, resolving rather to use it for His service. Fueled by his faith in Christ, he led the campaign against the slave trade, contending against formidable enemies for over twenty long years. Everyday, he and his friends set apart 3 hours for prayer on this issue.

Wilberforce was known to be involved with over 60 organizations in his driving concern to spread the Christian message and lift the moral climate. This included work for prison reform, opposition to pornography, and funding Christian schools for the poor. He also served as a co-founder of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Church Missionary Society (CMS). However he was best known as the leader of the 'Clapham Sect' of parliamentary evangelicals. One of the achievements of this group was the founding of the Sierra Leone colony in Africa for slaves who had been freed. From this colony came a people who were to be vital for the spread of Christianity in West Africa, including Nigeria's Samuel Ajayi Crowther.

William Wilberforce influenced prominent politicians quietly and persuasively – particularly his friend William Pitt, who was Prime Minister for many years. He used his charm, tact and eloquence in a political life to which he was sure he had been called by God.

(Culled from articles by D.W. Bebbington in *The History of Christianity [A Lion Handbook]*, and *Glimpses Issue #5 of the Christian History Institute*.)