



CHURCH ARISE!

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Promoting a Christian Agenda for the End Times

EDITORIAL:

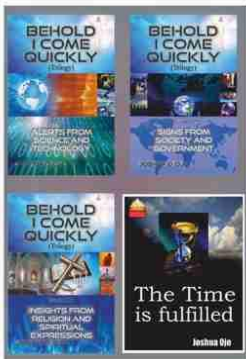
CA! Now to be Published Quarterly

For a while, the paper version of CA! has not come out. This is due to a combination of factors. Apart from the usual spiritual challenges, which we all know will only intensify as the Day approaches, there have been other challenges/restraints. As many of us are now aware, CA! is essentially one man sharing his perspectives and encouragements with fellow Christian brothers and sisters. As we understand it, these perspectives are to be those of a “normal” (as Watchman Nee would probably say), regular Christian, conscious of the end times. This entails having a credible engagement in the market place, and a regular commitment in a local church. In other words, CA!, at least for now, is not meant to be a “full-time” engagement in the usual sense of the expression.

While this position has clearly helped our perspectives to be broad and balanced (we preach what we experience and practice), it also has inevitable strong implications on the time resources available to us. Therefore when sometimes in December last year, the Lord impressed it upon my heart to prepare and present my professorial inaugural lecture at the University where I work (within a five-month period), together with an ordered compilation of past editions of CA! into three volumes, it was inevitable that the regular production of Church Arise! would be affected – both due to time and financial factors.

The LORD has been most wonderful in His faithfulness.

The inaugural lecture has been successfully prepared and delivered (on April 9, 2013), and the Trilogy (Behold I come quickly) launched on the same day. However, while the paper version of CA! was inevitably affected by these special assignments, the real kernel of CA!



continued on-line on the internet. ➔ pg 2

Catholics pull out of CAN at ‘national level’ – complain of cozy relationships and aircraft

In a very surprising move, the leadership of the catholic church in Nigeria recently announced they were pulling out of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN). No one doubted that high level politics are involved in CAN operations, but it wasn't expected to be taken so far. For most of its existence, the catholics have had controlling influence in CAN affairs, until edged out by current president Ayo Oristajefor at the national election in [July 2010](#). The pull-out gets even more confusing as the Catholics corrected the earlier announcement, by declaring they are pulling out of CAN only at the ‘national level’, and not from the states where catholics remain mostly in control. (www.punchng.com/news/catholic-denies-pulling-out-of-can/). Looks like a case of wanting to eat your cake and simultaneously keeping it! ➔ pg 2



Pastor Ayo Oristsajefor

Boko Haram abducting Christian women and children – for sexual gratification.

Just when you think the Boko Haram madness had reached its peak, one gets treated to reports of new levels of perversion by this so-called holy warriors. Tired of their weekly treats of mowing down Christian folks in their churches, Boko Haram insurgents are now no longer summarily killing Christian women and children, they are abducting them and threatening to start using them as sex servants in lieu of their own wives captured by security forces. This must be the heights of all outrages!

Yet, despite all these outrageous actions, some supposedly sane and respectable Nigerians keep advocating that Boko Haram must not, so much as be labeled a terrorist group, talk less of treated as such. The government, these highly-placed Nigerians unashamedly insist, must continue to seek dialogue, and make available multi-billion naira to “compensate” these killers. The victims of course are “too many” to be compensated, these shameless folks argue! ➔ *please turn over*

But why are supposedly holy muhajeedeens, who we are made to believe have no regard for life itself, so desperate about sex? Ironically, that is one of the major root causes of the matter in the first instance! As detailed by an SSS officer during the arraignment in court of some of the arrested BH operatives, they are obsessed with the idea of the 72 virgins awaiting each of them in 'paradise', as soon as they could end their miserable lives in the course of their "martyrdom" operations. Unfortunately for these deceived souls, sex is most certainly not on the menu in the after-life, either heaven or hell! (see Mathew 22:30),

And it is not just the Nigerian jihadist that has problems waiting till the after-life to get women to abuse. In the ongoing Syrian civil war, the Islamic clergy providing spiritual encouragement to the men on the field, first declared *fatwas* permitting holy soldiers to rape and abuse captured women. That apparently not being sufficient, they later issued spiritual summons to their own female supporters all over the world to report on the battlefield to provide sexual services for their battle-weary men! One of the Tunisian ladies, "Aisha", who had responded to the call later came to her senses after much abuse and shared her laments (see <http://frontpagemag.com/2013/raymond-ibrahim/the-sex-jihad/>).

One wonders what indeed is the real cause the Jihad seeks to promote, if holiness and chastity mean nothing at all to its foot soldiers! As we reported in vol 15 no 6, even in the absence of a formally-declared jihad, Pakistani men from the majority moslem community feel they are absolutely entitled to rape and murder Christian girls at pleasure, without anyone as much as batting an eye!

In the meantime, what else must Boko Haram do before the Nigerian government becomes convinced we have a war situation at hand? Or is it because it is just mostly Christians that are yet at the receiving end to date?

Catholics and CAN (continued from pg 1)

Catholic leadership apparently complained about relationship between CAN and the Presidency as being too cosy. That's strange, because all over the years, CAN has always been seen as merely the political wing of Christianity in Nigeria. Which was why Northern Christians drafted in Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor then president of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (PFN), to come lead the CAN; and put a little more bite into

its activity. But then and now, since CAN is not a labour union, it could not be faulted as being too close to government. Especially with Pastor Oritsajefor being kinsman to President Jonathan, it should be clear that CAN has nothing to lose if relationship between the two is cosy.

Supposedly, what broke the back of the camel in the Catholic-CAN relationship is the recent acquisition of a private jet by Pastor Ayo Oritsajefor. Scores of critical sermons have been delivered, particularly over the airwaves, by preachers who kept reminding us that the Lord Jesus never used more than boat transport (and a donkey on one occasion) throughout his 3 years of ministry in Galilee and Judea. Pastors who use private jets are therefore vain show-offs!

Like I was puzzled at the MTN promo, offering an aeroplane as the star prize, I still don't understand how an individual can acquire a private jet just for show-off. If not for the talks on the pages of newspapers, unlike a flamboyant car or even a helicopter, no one sees the big man enter or alight from the jet. Nor can he park it at his compound for neighbours to come admire and ogle! A private individual who buys a private jet primarily for show-off must indeed be out of his mind, and will soon be restored to reality by the maintenance costs! More importantly, he needs the help of the media to actualize that crazy dream of getting people to know about his 'new status'.

But if I as an individual have regular worthwhile business in over a dozen locations scattered all over the world, that requires my being on the move every week, round the year; it would be crazy if for fear of what critics would say, I refuse to acquire a private jet which I can easily afford, and insist on struggling to fit my schedules into those of commercial airlines – spending more time in-between connections than actual air travel! The other alternative would be to charter the plane at far more exorbitant costs, just to please some unthinking critical crowd. The Lord Jesus did not hesitate to step on the waters and walk across the lake on foot, when the available group boat service could not fit into His schedules!

The bottom-line: no man (pauper, pastor, or president) that has a mission that goes beyond pandering to the public's whims, will attempt to use donkey for a trip that requires air travel. Whether the plane used is owned by the individual, a charter company, or an airliner can only be a matter of cost, convenience and common-sense.

Editorial Continued (from pg 1): For instance, though we were not able to come out with a print version of the last edition for last year (Vol 15 No 6), it is available on our website for free download as usual. Likewise, since the beginning of this year,

though no volume has been compiled, we continue to post relevant articles onto our blog (www.churcharise.blogspot.com). We are grateful to God for the several thousand visitors to these on-line resources, though we are aware that several of our high-prized readers do not really have time or inclination to go on-line to pick their information!

Now that the special projects are concluded, we are compiling these online articles into regular newsletter versions, even as back issues. However, the future of communication is Internet, and to ensure sustainability of both the paper and on-line media - within the context of resources available to us, we have come to the conclusion to revise the periodicity of the newsletter from bi-monthly, to quarterly. This means the newsletter will now be prepared only four times in a year, instead of the six times we have prepared it yearly from 1998 to 2012. We will however put more focus on online resources, and will increase the frequency of updating these resources. The newsletter will be summaries of key articles from both our website and in particular the blog.

Please note that we have been streaming news items directly from Worthy news (<http://www.worthynews.com/>) on our site (www.churcharise.org) for years. This, in addition to links to hundreds of other christian sites and critical end-time resources thus guarantee you a fruitful visit anytime you checked our sites. Please go ahead and pay us a visit today!

To the glory of the almighty God, newsletters for Quarters 1 and 2 of 2013 are now ready and are hereby being served. Enjoy and be stimulated!

To download free copies of Behold I come quickly, go to www.churcharise.org

You can order print copies, directly from us for N1,500 per book (postage included within Nigeria)

Our first book, The Time is Fulfilled is out of print, but is also available on our website for free download.

Re: Jail is too good for Nigerian Pastors (Punch Newspaper, November 22, 2012)

In the article under reference, Adelakun Abimbola rants off idiotically with names of pastors, just because *she* considers their claims to be incredible.

No crime, no complaints...not even a gossip to cite, other than the musing of some "undercover journalist" of Daily Mail - of all newspapers. Yes, that's the same newspapers that sent journalists to hound down their own country's future king; using high zoom cameras, took his nude picture, and despite all reasonable entreaties, splashed the picture on their front page. A feature article about Nigerian

pastors in such a journal is the inspiration for Adelakun's back page article in the Punch, and the basis for heaping abuses and insults on these honorable hardworking citizens - by name. Even many that did not feature in the Daily Mail's article were not spared.

Thank God Abimbola was not around when Elijah was meeting the widow of Zarephath! If this lady-writer has problem believing in a God that works miracles, or that millions apparently naïve people do, does that now give her the liberty to start insulting people far more endowed and infinitely more honorable than her?

In any case, this is not to defend the men of God maliciously slandered by Abimbola. I guess if they are truly men of God, in the mould of Elijah, say, God knows exactly what to do.

My simple question however is could Ms Adelakun have dared to write such an article on Moslem clergies? No, we are not talking Boko Haram leaders here; but even regular Islamic clergy, could she have written one percent of her imprudent article citing the name of one notable Islamic clergy?

The last time some Islamic mob beat up a local masquerade at Ibadan, killing the handler in the process, Adelakun still managed to turn her comment on the incident into an insulting piece on Christianity! (see Punch, July 12, 2012) The only mention of the word "Muslim" in the entire article was tucked in somewhere in the 5th paragraph and was quickly followed by the qualifier "youths" - suggesting the problem was more of youthful exuberance than an Islamic thing. Of course the earlier paragraphs had much to say about paranoid Christians, who would embrace Santa Claus and Barney but resist any interaction with even just the children masquerade, Tombolo.

It's really a shame that a national newspaper like the Punch will offer itself as a platform for someone who is quite obviously out on a personal vendetta against the Church. Abimbola would applaud those trying to infest our land with homosexuality and such core humanist values. She knows that the Church is the mortal enemy of such satanic ideas, and the losing party that she belongs to, vents off her frustration in rabid attacks on the Christian clergy.

Very soon, reasonable people will learn they could use their time better than continue reading Abimbola's thrash.

RAPE AND NEW SEXUALITY ADVOCATES

With rape occurring in the country every 20 minutes round the clock, India is one of the top contenders for the unenviable title of the "rape capital of the world". Other top contenders



Alfred Kinsey

include the United States of America (with one rape [every 2 minutes](#)), [Sweden](#) (one quarter of Swedish women victims - 77% of it attributed to Moslems who make only 11% of the population), South Africa (where in some localities, rape occurs [every 17 seconds](#), round the clock) and of course, DR

Congo ([8 rape incidents every ten minutes](#)). The difficulty in comparing these data include the fact that in some countries, rape include incidents that happened on matrimonial beds, which are not likely to get reported in some other countries. Also the chilling situation in DR Congo is probably concentrated in the war-ravaged zones (East), and should [be treated with caution](#), as one would for instance, in comparing incidents of murder in a country at war and one supposedly at peace. What makes Incredible India the top contender of the ignoble title will probably be the wide national spread, and the apparent carefree attitude of the relevant authorities to rape incidents and the victims.

The climax came for India in the case of the 23 year old medical student, Jyoti Singh Pandey, who was beaten and gang-raped for about an hour on the evening of December 16 2012, in a public bus, while traveling with a male companion. She later died of organ failure despite concerted medical efforts at Singapore. The spontaneous mass protests from outraged Indians finally seemed to catch the attention of the government, and legal actions were initiated. Official legal verdict on the accused rapists is expected to be announced on 25 July 2013.(see <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/she-the-people/wp/2013/01/07/father-of-new-delhi-rape-victim-tell-the-world-my-daughters-name/>)

But watch out for the sadistic new sexuality people! We can safely predict that they will in their characteristic manner pounce on the subject to exploit it for their evil agenda - thus befuddling the fact that according to their doctrines and teachings, (well documented in their books), every sexual expression man can think of, including rape, is legitimate. Please see CA! Vol 8 no 5 or [here](#) - http://www.cwfa.org/images/content/kinsey-women_11_03.pdf,

or <http://www.whale.to/b/kinsey.html> for more details on the many atrocities of Dr Alfred Kinsey, the father of sexuality education. In fact, the exact same academic justification goes for all the concepts on the sexuality slippery slope - ranging from masturbation

to pornography, to promiscuity, to incest, to rape, to paedophilia, to homosexuality, to bestiality!

One of the often hotly debated factors in the issue of rape is to what extent has the victim "invited" the action on herself – either foolishly unconsciously or otherwise. However, it is probably more important (but sadly more neglected) to discuss such factors as the influence of the myriads of explicit sexual scenes and pornography that now pervade our environment, and which have been glibly accepted by us– in the movies and "arts". Or the evolutionary portrayal of man as nothing better than an animal; and who needs to vent his animalistic passion from time to time rather than "repress" them to his "detriment". New sexuality people are the unseen forces pushing such factors.

Here then is a great irony: New sexuality people promote provocative near-nude dressing, together with pornography in the society; they similarly encourage people expressing and experimenting with all manners of sexual desires, rather than repressing these "legitimate natural" urges, etc. Yet, largely because they conduct their activities under vague omnibus titles like "reproductive health" (for which they provide fantastic "philanthropic" fundings), they have managed to remain respectable in many countries of the world (see <http://www.kinseyinstitute.org/>). To the extent that they could even claim to be at the vanguard of protecting female folks from incidents like rape!

Why, if only the rest of us would absorb their new sexuality teachings, terms like 'rape' will probably not even exist anymore, as everybody learns to have a "better" appreciation of sex and human sexuality. After all, in the words of Alfred Kinsey, who commissioned and documented hundreds of rapes for his "academic" studies, "The only difference between rape and a good time depends on whether the girl's parents were awake when she finally came home." [[Book review: The Kinsey Corruption The Man Who Mainstreamed Perversion](#)].

It's really amazing the world could continue to be fooled by such clearly contradictory blatant hypocritical agenda.

More countries harden their positions for or against homosexuality advocacy

As the advocates for homosexuality go all out threatening fire and brimstone for anyone daring to challenge their agenda, the inevitable polarization of society along that line is becoming more and more accentuated. For instance, the warning by British Prime Minister, David Cameron, that [dire consequences](#) await Nigeria if the resolve of the entire nation to insist on a measure of societal sexual sanity is coded into law, has only infuriated the

masses, making it now more difficult for the President to even consider overriding the National Assembly's position on the matter – if at all, he ever had such a mind. Another country that is hardening its position on homosexuality advocacy is Russia, where the Parliament is considering a bill stipulating a fine of up to \$16,000 for any acts that qualify as "homosexual propaganda".

On the other hand the lower house of parliament in France, on February 12, approved a sweeping bill to legalize gay marriage and allow same-sex couples to adopt children, handing a major legislative victory to President Francois Hollande's Socialists on a divisive social issue. In Germany, Angela Mikell is using her considerable charisma to push gay marriage down the throat of a hesitant German public, reflecting the general trend in most of Europe.

So much for what new sexuality people will have us believe is really not a big deal. All the spleen being split shows clearly that having society endorse homosexuality as a natural and profitable interaction, is a far more serious issue, than just exhibiting tolerance for some folks who, for one reason or the other, have chosen an unconventional lifestyle to live. Few will deny there are strong spiritual undercurrents in the entire business.

Ordinary sexual sins (adultery, fornication, masturbation etc) bring people into the worst kind of bondages. In fact the Apostle Paul emphasized that the two individuals involved not only literarily but also spiritually become one in the sexual process – even when it is understood that there were to be no further commitments, as in commercial sex. (1 Cor.6:15-16). Who then can gauge the gravity of the situation, when demons start to copulate with humans? According to the testimonies of many ex-gays, the urge to engage in unprofitable homosexual binges often came on them after some beings had literally stepped in into them. As soon as their spiritual visitors stepped out, they are filled with sorrow, knowing they are only pawns in a game they had no control on. (In other cases, it is drug use that precedes the sexual acts). Clearly it is those alien beings – they not having their own bodies -who are just using the bodies of available victims to copulate with other human bodies. In the documentary film *False Anointing* by Pawcreek (see CA! Vol 5 No 4), people who were clearly possessed by some spirit beings are seen unconsciously simulating sex at church altars, and even have orgasm, clearly, in the words of the commentator “as if being ravished from behind by some invisible beings.” We are indeed back to the days of Noah, where fallen spirit beings are again lusting for the bodies of humans.

In Nigeria, the anti-gay law which is about being sent to the President for his assent, prescribes

14 years jail term without option of fine for people involved in gay marriage, and 10 years imprisonment for those advocating it (<http://blogs.reuters.com/faithworld/2013/05/31/nigeria-passes-anti-gay-bill-with-penalties-up-to-14-years-in-jail/>) . That is clear enough a message!

Celebrating Justice Kayode Eso



Church Arise! celebrates the Christian witness of one of the icon of incorruptibility of our time, the late Justice Kayode Eso whose demise occurred on November 16 2012 at the ripe age of 87. While on the bench, Justice Kayode Eso, the vintage “Incorruptible Judge”, was involved in several high-profile political cases in which he was not afraid to tow the minority way - as long as the truth is not compromised. Confirming the source of the core-values that guided his heart, mouth and deeds while alive, Justice Kayode Eso left behind a glowing Christian witness as well as a chapel – the Church of the Risen Christ, which he built and donated to the Anglican communion in his hometown at Ilesa, Osun state.

“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth” 3 John 4

Russian Meteor evokes thoughts about the end of the world

A meteor (large debris from outer space) crashed with planet earth over the city of Chelyabinsk, Russia on Friday February 15 causing serious panic all over Russia. Just as was the case during the explosion of high caliber bombs at the Ikeja military cantonment on January 27 2002 (see CA! Vol 5 No 2), the initial reaction from many people was that the end of the world had finally come.

Although there were no deaths, over 1,000 people were reportedly injured in the resulting 470 kilotons massive explosion, shattering windows and rocking houses. By comparison, energy of the nuclear bombs at Hiroshima were [13 - 18 kilotons](#). According to Religion Today (citing the New York Times), such was the grip of mass hysteria all across the nine time zones in Russia, that the Government had to issue a statement assuring “the nation that the End is not nigh”. The Russian Orthodox Church also issued its own statement stating its doubt that the end of the world is approaching. However, according to Religion Today, “It is unclear that this is helping anything”. On the other hand, other Scriptures-citing clergy urged people to learn from the event. In particular, a statement from the Metropolitan of Chelyabinsk and Zlatoust Feofan reads in part: “From

the Scriptures, we know that the Lord often sends people signs and warnings via natural forces. I think that not only for the Ural [regions] residents, but for the whole of humanity, the meteorite is a reminder that we live in fragile and unpredictable world,” (see [Russian Cleric: Meteorite Was Lord's Message](#)).

Less dramatic, but nevertheless spectacular is another meteor that streaked the skies in South Florida, on Monday 18th February, a few days after the Russian incident (see [Another meteor? 'Fireballs' light up Florida sky](#)). The fireballs were also seen in Cuba where residents reported seeing a big ball of fire in the sky, “bigger than the sun” followed by a loud explosion that shook windows and walls. (see [Fireballs reported in skies above Cuba and California](#)).

Meanwhile, the Guardian of UK reports that several astronomers, backed by the US NASA, have announced plans to create state-of-the-art detection systems to give warning of incoming asteroids and meteoroids. ([Scientists unveil new detectors in race to save Earth from next asteroid](#)). It is not however clear how early detection system will be able to eventually *prevent* a catastrophic collision!

On the other hand, the Scriptures (e.g 2 Peter 3:10-16) not only give an early-enough notice of impending danger for the planet, it also gives the clear way out: But is anyone out there listening? Speaking on the 2nd Peter passage at the West African convention of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in 1999, highly respected Nigerian Bible teacher, Gbile Akanni warned that anyone who feels threatened about the imminent crash of the current order and structures on planet earth, is better-off addressing the reason for his insecurity rather than continue to hide the head in the sand like an Ostrich! In his words (paraphrased): **If you are not feeling very comfortable with this message, my prayer is that you may never feel comfortable in a world that may collapse on you any moment!** (see CA! Vol 3 No 1, 2000)

Shakings in the US Military

The unique character of the United States today, is its unparalleled military base. That, and not the economy for instance, is what makes her the superpower. We know the US must lose that status before a global dictator, the antichrist, can become fully manifest (see our article US versus UN, vol 6 No 2). Hence developments in the US military are always relevant to end-times discussion. Moreover, developments in the US military institution, the most visible of the strength of the US, might as well provide indications of

things to come in the other, less visible sectors of that country. We here present a few recent happenings, and leave you to judge the implications.

First is the news report that it would appear that the US military is now ready to embrace eastern religion. See details at <http://www.thebereancall.org/content/us-military-embrace-eastern-religion>. This is coming up at a time that Bible-based Christianity is increasingly coming under attack in that country, particularly within the military.

The in route that homosexuality has made in the US military since President Barack Obama repealed the Don't Ask Don't Tell Acts is simply incredible and is better discussed elsewhere.

But much more surprising is the recently released figure on the number of men (and probably women also) who had survived the tough external battle of bullets, bayonets and various deprivations, only to now start quietly succumbing to the battle within - depression. In an extensive study conducted by the US government itself, it has been established that 22 military veterans (ex-service men) are killing themselves every day. That amounts to one suicide every 65 minutes. That figure covers only data between 1999 and 2010, and is expected to be more today.

Even among currently serving personnel, data from the US military showed that suicides hit a record in 2012 with more soldiers committing suicide than getting killed in battle. The actual figure for the year was 349 active-duty suicides, almost one per day! (See [Military suicides hit record in 2012, outpace combat deaths](#))

Meanwhile, while the US has begun the slow but steady moves to take guns from the American people, (see [Firearms manufacturer ends sales to New York in wake of new gun law](#)) a report by the respected Christian news site World Net Daily indicates that Federal non-military agencies in charge of domestic operations in the US are stocking up an incredible amount of ammunition. By comparing the total number of ammunition (2 billion rounds) recently acquired by the Department of Homeland Security with the 5.5 million rounds being fired per month at the peak of Iraq War, analysts claim that these agencies now have enough ammunition “to ...shoot every American five times” and also “engage in a prolonged, domestic war.” (www.wnd.com/2013/02/feds-buying-enough-bullets-for-24-year-war/)

Watchman, how about the night?

Can you now discern these evidences of our planet going through pangs of childbirth indicating something new is in the offings? Please read these summaries: ➔ *please turn over*

Indonesia sees at least 15 dead in floods and landslides

Flooding and landslides in the Indonesian province of North Sulawesi have left at least 15 people dead, [officials say](#). On Sunday thousands of people fled their homes in the provincial capital Manado and surrounding areas to escape the floods. The water was up to 2m deep in some places, a government official told Reuters news agency.

Earthquakes in diverse places

An earthquake with a magnitude of 3.4 shook the East County on Sunday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). ([3.4 magnitude earthquake shakes East County](#)). Also reported on the same day by the USGS was a [5.0 Earthquake that Struck Greece](#), followed two hours later by reports of a second. Other earthquakes that were recorded in diverse regions of the world during the same weekend included the 6.2 magnitude quake at Phillipines ([Earthquake Strikes Phillipines](#)), the 4.8 magnitude near Rome ([Earthquake strikes near Rome](#)), and the 3.3 magnitude earthquake in San Diego Country of the United States. ([3.3-magnitude earthquake hits near Borrego Springs](#)).

POPE (FROM BACK PAGE)

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, Bishop of Buenos Aires since 1998 and former head of the Argentine Jesuit Order, was reportedly the main runner-up at the conclave that had produced Pope Benedict in 2005; and he was reported to have graciously stepped down for Benedict to prevent a long drawn-out exercise at that time. It is interesting that Cardinal Bergoglio became Pope Francis on 13th March 2013, exactly 53 years after he officially became a Jesuit (on [12th March, 1960](#)). Going through the profile of Pope Francis, it is difficult not to see a “good”, very likeable, compassionate, and humble man. It would seem that if any human being could foster peace of earth, Pope Francis could well be the man. Unfortunately, man’s heart is thoroughly degenerate, and the world’s situation direly critical. Clearly, good wishes are not enough to accomplish anything. Only the soon-coming Lord Jesus (and not a supposed ‘Vicar’ of His) can save the world at this juncture. How is the new Pope addressing the real essence of his job – salvation of souls in this world and in the hereafter?

Shortly after his election, in a meeting with ambassadors from the 180 countries accredited with the Vatican, Pope Francis called for more interreligious dialogue – “particularly

with Islam”.^[112] But that’s nothing new. Like Pope John Paul II who had gathered together all manner of religious and spiritual expressions together at Assisi (in honour of Francis of Assisi – see CA! Vol 2 No 6) the new Pope who took his name after the same Francis, is with new zest, forging ahead with this interfaith agenda.

The consummate “negotiator” that Pope Francis is, even those who openly scorn God, attributing the beauty and order of our complex universe to random forces of nature - all these will have a place in God’s heaven. This is how the new Pope puts it: God “*has redeemed all of us, all of us, with the Blood of Christ: all of us, not just Catholics. Everyone! (...) Even the atheists,*” *Everyone!*” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis#cite_note-144)

. Of course, Pope or no Pope, the catholic hierarchy could not allow that kind of statement! [Thomas Rosica](#) promptly corrected the Pope by clarifying that non-Catholics who “*know*” the Roman Catholic Church can only get to [Heaven](#) by converting to Catholicism.

Commenting on this crucial central issue, the Wikipedia article on the new Pope quotes author [Neale Donald Walsch](#) : “*it was regrettable that the hidden hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church chose to officially retract the recent statement on eternal damnation bravely made by its new leader, Pope Francis.*” ^[139] In any case even if Pope Francis could grant access to Heaven for all atheists, not all of them would like to take up the offer! Outspoken atheist, Richard Dawkins commented “*Atheists go to heaven? Nope. Sorry world, infallible pope got it wrong*”

Showing the world the way to Heaven, validated by making available here and now victory over **sin**, is the bottom-line in religion. All the admirable qualities of Pope Francis notwithstanding, turning round the fortune of the tottering catholic institution would hinge on transforming people from within, and not on another round of human philosophies and niceties. As much as we will like to wish Pope Francis well in his new office, it is evident that if he does eventually finds the work too daunting (like his predecessor), there may be no more room for possible maneuvers by the Roman Catholic Church. It will then become all too clear that it is only the Lord’s ideas and intervention that can save the world. In this sense, Pope Francis might as well be the last Pope in the catholic church, as the famed prophecy by catholic mystic, St Malachy, allegedly predicts. (see CA! Vol 8 No 3)

TOPICAL ISSUE: Here comes a new Pope – the very last?

In an unprecedented move in modern times, Pope Benedict XVI on Feb 28 voluntarily threw in the towel and abdicated his office. The Pope conceded that the pressure of the work was getting too much, and at 85, his health cannot bear the pressure.

As soon as the Pope stepped aside, the exact nature of the pressure of work started coming to light. In particular, the Italian newspaper [La Repubblica](#) claimed Pope Benedict “decided to resign after receiving a dossier investigating the ["Vatileaks scandal"](#) containing details of a network of gay prelates, some of whom were vulnerable to blackmail.” (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis#cite_note-vatileaks-220).

In the face of the never-ending paedophile charges against several high-ranking priests, (virtually all around the globe), together with unimaginable financial scandals in very high places, etc Pope Benedict’s move is a masterpiece. First, he literally saves his health and at the same time, secures a new lease of life for his Church. At least, most critics would be charitable enough to give the incoming Pope some breathing chance and see what sort of reform jokers he might have under his sleeves – especially with the old Pope still around to whisper into his ears!

It was no surprise that it took only a short time to produce a successor to Pope Benedict. → pg 6



Pope Francis

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EXHORTATION: In the US, Christian Opposition Is Literally Dying Out

The Church in Nigeria could learn something from this incisive article from the US. It's not too late to stem here, the tide of a thinning-out rank of believers with conviction. The Church needs to make massive and purposive investments in our youths. - Editor

For a long time, I have been mindful of how the age factor plays a role in the ongoing culture war. Conservative Christians have been losing battles simply because our numbers are rapidly dwindling away.

This past weekend (17-12-12), conservative pundit George Will was very blunt about why he believes the gay marriage forces are on a winning streak [in America]. He said there is no need for the Supreme Court to stick its nose into the issue because, "Quite literally, the opposition to gay marriage is dying. It's old people."

Opinion polls paint a very dark picture for our nation's future. People over age 65 oppose gay marriage by 70 percent. People who are under 45 support gay marriage by the same percentage.

These figures show that time is on the side of the gay lobby. If they wait long enough, same-sex unions will become the normal in all 50 states. Since they only need a simple majority to pass a measure, we are already at the tipping point.

The responsibility for this slow-motion train wreck rests at the feet of the church leadership. We have had the opportunity to instill biblical moral values into the minds of two generations, and we squandered our chance. Now that we have millions of adults with no parent or grandparent to act as role models, it will be very hard to get people back into the church.

I only come up with blank spaces when I look for prophecy leaders in their 40s, 30s, and 20s. In the past few years, we've lost several big names in the field - Grant Jeffrey, J. R. Church, and Hilton Sutton. Unless the Rapture happens in short order, we are going to see a rapid thinning out of the ranks.

The age problem even extends to the people who watch news. The average age of a Fox News watcher is 65. The network has the oldest audience of any cable network. The liberal CNN isn't far behind--its average viewer is 63. Democratic mouthpiece MSNBC is a perky 59. So, not only do we have a host of people in a godless state, they are clueless about the dire world events that are about to engulf them.

Todd Strandberg

Read the full article at www.RaptureReady.com