

14 March 2022

Brothers and sisters

It's hard to believe that we are already in March. How is the congregation doing? Greet everyone for us. Each day brings us closer to our grave or to the second coming of Christ. As we listen to the news and watch the things happening in our world we long for our eternal home that knows no injustice, unfairness, man's inhumanity to man, and indeed every evil. There is every reason for us to draw closer and closer to our Lord and allow nothing to separate us from his love.

On Jan 2 we worshipped at Onicha Mbaise which happens to be the home congregation of Dr. Umezurike our son-in-law. They allowed me to preach the sermon. Following the worship service Dr. Umezurike and his wife took us to their house for dinner. On the 6th we attended the burial of Brechwitz's mother. Brechwitz is the one coordinating the nurses and doctors scholarship program of the Nigerian Christian Hospital. Dr. Massey knows more about that. It is a good work that has produced many Doctors and Nurses for us in Nigeria. On the 9th I preached at Agbama. There is a young preacher from my village that someone suspected was among the Pentecostal preachers. I invited him on the 13th to hear from him and was glad to know that the suspicion was not true. We shared experiences and I encouraged him to do nothing against the truth. On the 25th I meet with NIATS Students in a continued effort to equip them to counter false doctrine concerning the gift and the work of the Holy Spirit, especially with regard to miracles. We did a thorough study of Mark 16 and 1 Corinthians 13 after which I gave them some write ups. On the 30th I went to Obudi-Agwa, a village Church in the neighboring state of Imo State. One of their sons erected a church building for them. They invited people to come and witness the handover. I preached and at the end two came out for baptism; we were happy and praised God.

On January 2 at Onicha Mbaise, because they have a good building I encouraged them to work and bring more souls. To encourage that I promised to send them few preachers to work for few days. On February 7th – 11th (6) six preachers were there for house to house and open air lectures. My wife and I were with them for two (2) days only due to other engagements. On the 10th I did the open air and traveled back because I was to meet with NIATS Students on the 11th in continuation of the meeting of January 25th. On the 16th I studied with one of the young men having trouble understanding Mark 16 and 1 Corinthians 13. For them these signs shall follow them that believe in Mark 16 means that every believer (Christian) is promised or given power for signs and miracle. In 1 Corinthians 13, to them the perfect thing is Jesus and for this person the perfect thing is not Jesus but a time when the church has come to maturity. Honestly, I didn't understand what he was saying. This same preacher is leaving his congregation for another congregation, telling them that the Lord revealed to him that it was time to leave and go to this other congregation. Unfortunately for him, the new congregation

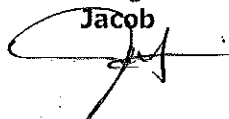
rejected him because of his teachings. The devil is at work, is he not? For them to say that God doesn't do the miracles he did before means that he is no longer the almighty. During our study I showed that God doesn't do a thing doesn't mean that he is unable, that he doesn't form man today from the dust or give a man a wife the way he gave to Adam, divide rivers etc doesn't mean that he cannot do so. He brought two (2) people with him. At a point they were silent and one broke the silence and said, you are saying that God can do it but he doesn't do it and I said yes, and they couldn't say more. On the 19th preachers in and around Umuahia met at a place called Abonifufe and as usual went out for house to house evangelism. When we came back we shared experiences and one of us admonished us. On Sunday the 20th my wife and I worshiped with the new congregation and in the evening I spoke during our monthly open air at Agbama. On the 23rd we had stakeholders meetings at NIATS. The school land was not bought but is on lease and has power of attorney. There was hardly any trouble during the time of the original landlords, but their successors are blaming their ancestors for leasing the land in the manner they did and threaten encroachment and have encroached at times. This time they have come up with hard conditions for which the board of the school invited some of us for brainstorming and finding a way forward.

We took some time out to visit some members in various needs. There was a family that was strong in a congregation I served in 1991 to 2006. The brother became an elder. He has been sick for over eight (8) years now and his conditions has developed from one problem to the other. There was also a young girl in the same congregation that has been sick for a very long time. They are 40 miles from us. I have been talking to them on phone but decided this time to see them in person (I did this about 3 (three) years ago). The man is still sick and is losing his sight. We talked and at last prayed to God. The girl has recovered and has stated attending church activities. I was very happy to see her and encouraged her not to give up her faith which I always told her during our phone calls; we thanked God and prayed together. Please remember the brother in prayers.

Our politicians have started making noise about election coming up next year. The same people who have been in the corridors of power and have made life difficult for the citizens are the same ones clamoring for power. There is nothing these leaders have not done to deny us our rights to be gifts of nature. We are breathing only because there is nothing they can do about it. Can you imagine that as an oil producing country we had refineries some years ago but today we export our crude oil abroad and after refining we import it. There are no justices in our court, might and wealth are right and the voices of the citizens are ignored. Please, Please keep praying for us.

Best regards

Jacob

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jacob', written over the printed name 'Jacob'.

