

16th June, 2022

Brothers and Sisters,

Paul said, "in him we live, move and have our being" indeed without God we can't take one breath as one step. That we are alive today is because of him, so we thank him and pray for more days of effective service in his kingdom. We remember and pray for you always as we remain thankful for your fellowship with us in the work of Christ.

The Lord has continued to provide opportunities for service. We fall sick and get weak but he has been our strength from day to day.

On March 13th, I worshipped with the congregation at 12 MCC Road, Aba. This congregation was planted about 1959, in my first year at Bible School. My friend, now late, was their first preacher in 1961 as soon as we graduated from the school. It has grown to be a big congregation by our own standard. I visit them from time to time, this time to encourage them towards becoming scripturally organized for until now they have no elders.

On the 16th, I taught the mid-week class at Agbama on leadership. On the 20th, we worshipped at Agbama in the morning, in the evening we did house to house and open-air preaching. After that we visited a sick member of our congregation. On the 23rd, I continued our study on leadership. On the 27th, we worshipped at Isiala Oboro (the new congregation). After worship we went out for house to house evangelism, calling on our contacts. 30th was our bible class at Agbama.

On April 3rd, we worshipped at Agbama and 6th was our bible class. On the 10th we went back to Isiala Oboro. On the 13th, we went for the burial of a brother at a place called Mbala Isuochi. Township churches are made up of people from different villages and each is taken to his village at death, for burial. On the 16th, preachers here met at a place called Ariam Oboro and we did as usual, preach house to house, share experiences and admonish ourselves. On the 17th, we worshipped with the new church. On the 19th was another burial at Umuaka Isuochi. On the 24th, we worshipped at Agbama. On the 25th, was another meeting at the bible school still trying to reach a compromise with the land owners. On the 28th, we went for house to house at the new congregation and on the 30th, I officiated at the wedding of a son to one of our late preachers.

On May 1st, I worshipped at Agbama. On the 4th, was a burial of the uncle of our State Governor, at a place called Umuobiakwa. The congregation there invited me to preach. Many people were in attendance and so provided opportunity for the message of the

cross. The Governor was there. His mother was the acting matron of the Nigerian Christian Hospital when I was there as the administrator. I mentioned to him that I made efforts to see him during the death and burial of his mother but couldn't beat the protocol. At the end of my speech he was given opportunity to address the audience. Before he did, he walked to me and greeted me, appologizing that I was not allowed to see him; and made comments about the time the mother and I served in the hospital. On the 5th, my wife, another preacher, a brother and I went to the new congregation for house to house evangelism. On the 7th some of us, preachers met at Okwuta, and as usual did house to house, discussed some current issues and encouraged ourselves towards faithfulness in handling the word of God. On the 8th, I worshipped at Opobo Road congregation in Aba. This happens to be the congregation that the preacher I told you about said God had told him to go and become their preacher. They asked me to teach and I did. The moderator gave room for questions. Some asked reasonable question and I tried to give bible answers. At a point a brother through whom the Pentecostal preacher was walking his way into the congregation acted disorderly. Instead of asking question, he began to tell the story of that preacher and how the committee to interview him and other preachers had been unfair and unjust towards him. He said things to discredit the committee and bias the mind of the members to the point that one member of the committee reacted and told him that he was not being reasonable as he was trying to cause problem in the church. At this point I intervined and stopped them, telling them that God will not accept our worship in that manner. I got the two of them to renounce their actions before the congregation. Thereafter we went into worship. I learned later that the committee comprised seven members which the brother was one of them, that he was the only one that disagreed with the decisions of the committee. They even told me that he was going from house to house to campaign for that preacher. Please pray for the stability of that congregation. By the way two weeks before, this preacher called me on phone asking me why I was stopping him from doing the work God called him to do. I told him I did not understand what he meant. He said, how is it that you are using a discussion I had with you, which we have not concluded, against me?

He continued, God called me to work for him, I answered the call and have been doing the work, if you will be the one to stop me, that's okay, but I will still live. When I saw that he was just beating about the bush, I teased him and said, so the god who has called you is the god I can cancel what he has decreed, I can stop what he says would happen! He just continued saying irrelevant things and I ended the conversation. Apparently, he realized that there were things he said during our study that were not sound and believed that I used those things to discourage the congregation from hiring him. On the 10th, I visited a sick brother from the congregation I served in Aba. On the

14th, I was at Onitsha – one hundred miles away – from the unveiling of the land that had been given to the church by a onetime Governor of Anambra State. There was a time when the governor was allocating lands to churches and establishments for development. A brother near the government learnt of it and applied. He informed his congregation and brothers from other congregations worked together to secure the land – 18 plots of land. They have gotten the C of O (Certificate of Occupancy). This day they invited members of the church from various places to see the land and to support its development. I cut the ribbon. Those I asked to take pictures did not make some pictures available. At the end we travelled back and got home about 9:30pm. Thanks to God for safety along the bad and busy roads. On the 15th, we worshipped with the new church, 18th, was our bible class.

On the 21st some of us preachers had a meeting with congregations in one area – middle Ngwa –trying to unite them because of dissension that arose over the issue of pentecostalism. They saw the need and one of the congregations invited others for another meeting. On the 22nd, we worshiped at Agbama and in the evening I spoke during our monthly Open-Air. On the 27th, our church attended the burial of a brother at Ohaji about 60 miles away. After everything we did-singing and preaching-some invited us to come to their place and establish a congregation, we are making plans for it. On the 29th, we worshipped at agbama.

In addition to ours we have extended family health issues. My mother-in-law and her immediate senior sister, both between 95 and 100 years are under our care at this time. The senior sister has no children and depends on relatives to look after her. Others have been doing so and this time we decided to take our turn. The concept of old folks home has not gained ground where we are. On May 20th, we brought her to our house. Just six days after we received a call informing us that my mother-in-law fell down and was in great pain. My wife went and took her to a hospital. They discovered that she broke her hip and long, the right leg, and since then have been running different tests to determine whether or not she would be able to undergo surgery. Her sister is in the house, while she is in the hospital. It hasn't been easy for my wife running up and down.

Thanks to God, we got the help of a young girl, even at that it is a trying moment for us considering our own health. We need your prayers for God's intervention, support and healing.

Greet everyone for us.

Jacob



