

December 24th 2022.

Brothers & Sisters,

Yes, we are in December. It has pleased our Father to bring us this far and we are thankful. We wish you a successful year end and a happy and prosperous new year in advance-prosperous spiritually and materially. We cannot thank you enough for what you have meant to us over the years. We pray for 2023 to be another year of sweet fellowship. You love us, we love you, God loves all of us.

Towards the end of the last report, I told you of the sickness of one preachers wife. I am sorry to tell you that she died after all the efforts we made. We paid the final bills after which the body was taken to the mortuary. She will be buried January 12, 2023. I asked for help and I still do because that case exhausted my fund. I just couldn't be indifferent and allow the sister to be in such agony. They believed I was in a position to assist them and I didn't want to tell them stories. Please help me so that I can continue to make my preaching appointments. I really don't like to miss any appointment, I have tried to keep my appointments because of you and I am grateful for that.

Our bible classes and preaching appointments have been going on I just want to report few events. A brother retired from Lagos and went back to his village, He was an elder in Lagos. It was important to him that a church should start in his village. He and his family gave their land and began a building for church meeting. On the 4th and 5th of November many preachers and members of different congregations did house to house and open air preaching and on the 6th a congregation formally started with him, his family and one convert. There were interested contacts that promised to come. On the 20th I visited a congregation that was started two years ago. I met their preacher in a program somewhere and he told me of the church and invited me to come and worship with them. I was happy to see them and commended them for the progress they have made. They worship in a batcher but have bought land and have started molding blocks. One problem is that there were two brothers with family issues which may lead to divorce. I stayed back and discussed with them but their wives were not present; I am making efforts to reach them. Please pray for them.

On the 26th I left for Abakiliki, about one hundred miles away, to attend a lectureship organized by a congregation there. This is another part of Abakiliki where we did some work many years ago and I wanted to visit to see how they were doing. The hosting congregation has their concrete house and according to reports from those who attended from other congregations, they were doing well. On Sunday the 27th I worshipped with a congregation 2 years old that I did not know except that some of the members came from an old congregation I know. They have bought land and have started to mold blocks. They received me very well, took our picture- my wife and me- posted in the internet by Dr. Umezuruike and his wife and made an enlargement photograph.

On the 10th of November I spoke during the matriculation and convocation ceremony at NIATS, our school of preaching. On the 11th we visited another newly established congregation. They worship in a school classroom. Near them in the same compound is another group also calling themselves church of Christ but with suffix- Ichota Chineke Nke bu Eziokwu which means finding the true God. The leader of this group was once a member of our church but now believes it is a sin to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but in the name of Jesus. He calls himself an apostle.

I informed you of the death of brother Stephen Okoronkwo who was one of those that brought the missionaries to Igbo land, served as their typist and driver, later studied in US and became the director of our school of preaching. Some of our brothers organized a symposium in his honour the 15th of December. Because he and I served at the school, they chose me to be one of the speakers. Many attended (pictures enclosed). On the 17th his body was laid to rest and the family also asked me to speak. Many people from all walks of life were there. His children, their husbands, wives and grand children, home and abroad were all there. They are dressed in white in the photograph. It was a journey of about forty miles, half of which was on a bad road. On 18th we worshipped with a congregation that broke out from another congregation about 6 years ago due to disagreement over the treatment of their preacher. Some in the congregation wanted him to leave while others wanted him to stay. That was a big congregation by our own standard. They engaged another preacher and remained stable for a while, and this year they have also asked him to step down. The ones that broke out are doing well, the more interesting thing is that the two congregations now relate well. They asked me to teach the adult class. Towards the end of the worship, they announced the items and the officiators for next week. Included was "praise and worship" which would be handled by the preacher. He displayed some Pentecostal tendencies during the worship and I want to go back this Sunday to see what is meant by "praise and worship". They have picked such praises from the denominations. Some in the middle of the worship will have what they call "a moment with Jesus" when they sing and pray emotionally allowing the individuals to pray individually. At a point the moderator will ask them to stop and he leads the closing prayer.

Our old fairly used car we bought in 2014 has done very well on our bad roads. it is beginning to fall apart; it knocked engine, two tyres and shocks are bad and it needs body work. It is estimated to cost \$1,500.

~~Kindly~~ ^{Any} help from you would certainly be appreciated; I don't want to miss my appointments and I can't depend on public transportation to go into the villages.

This is my account details:

Correspondent Bank name: Standard Chartered Bank, New York
(Swift Code: SCBLUS33)

Aba No: 026002561

Beneficiary Institution: First Bank of Nigeria Plc.
Swift Code: FBNINGLA
Account No: 3582-059964-001

Final Beneficiary Jacob A. Achinefu
Account No: 2006346737

Your brother,


Jacob A. Achinefu