

April 13, 2021.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us that we should be called the sons of God. Therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Behold, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be. But we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as He is. And everyone that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.” I John 3:1-3. This passage of scripture continues to ring in my mind and so I decided to call our attention to it. We cannot appreciate it enough that we are the children of God, with hope for the hereafter.

We greet you in the name of Christ. We trust that, though in the world, nothing disastrous has happened in your midst. We remember and pray for you even as you pass through the pandemic. We still continue to pray and trust that, that which has defied the knowledge of scientists and doctors may come under control one day, according to God’s will. Have you resumed corporate worship? If yes, thanks to God, if no, may our father watch over his children and keep them from slumber.

Let me first correct the mistake in the last paragraph of the last report. March 21 was February 21.

On February 28, we worshipped at Agbama. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, we visited the small congregation at Ntigha. This is the congregation we started many years ago but was divided by our brother that were against indirect support (supporter sending money through a brother for another brother), church cooperation, institution, brother giving anything but money to the church etcetra. The congregation has been struggling since then. This time, we decided to do some personal work in the area. We just announced our intention and allowed them to follow up on the plan. They called and informed us of the dates.

I am sure you have heard of brother Stephen Okoronkwo, Dr. Massey knows him. He and I served together at the Bible Training College for a long time till the tribal war that drove us out of the place. He has been sick with stroke; he doesn’t walk and doesn’t see well. On the 9<sup>th</sup> we visited him and he was happy for our visit. He needs our prayers. On Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2021. I

attended a gathering of Middle Ngwa Congregations. They had invited me to intimate me of the activities of the new-Pentecostal preachers among them, since they know that I am interested in the matter. I am meeting them again on April 24.

On March 14, we went back to Ntigha to finalize arrangements for the evangelism. After worship they reported a matter among them concerning a brother who was disagreeing with the preacher over the interpretation of Eph. 4:8-11. The brother was absent from the worship. We scheduled a meeting to look into the matter as they requested. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, I visited the brother to encourage him to be present in the meeting. He is a brother I have known for a long time. He welcomed my visit. The same day, I had a flat tyre, as we were waiting for it to be fixed, a gentleman was preaching to two people, he gave me a tract and said something about salvation. He turned out to be a religious pastor. I told him I was interested in the subject and would like to meet with him on the subject. He obliged and we chose a date the 18<sup>th</sup>. We met and he had hard time answering the question What must I do to be saved? I gave him bible answer and he accepted. He inquired to know my church and I told him. We agreed to meet again on the 25<sup>th</sup>. I called to remind him earlier on the day but he cancelled the appointment. When next are we meeting? He said he is crowded with activities, therefore cannot say when. After the first meeting, I suspected this would happen. Thanks to God for showing us the light.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> I had the second meeting with the middle - Ngwa Preachers. Some of the New - Pentecostals were not present and so after a brief discussion, their representatives asked for a new date when they come and present their case. They have chosen Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. I have another appointment that day but we have agreed on time. This is 9:00am to 12:00noon, the other would be 12:30 to 4:00pm.

On March 26, our brother who does Prison Ministry invited me to go with him to lay the foundation of a baptistery in the prison yard at Umuahia.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, I preached at Agbama - the two services 8:00am and 10:15am respectively, moved to Umudike University Campus Church and spoke by 12:00noon. This same day happens to be the day we fixed the peace meeting at Ntigha. So immediately I finished here we travelled to Ntigha. I was able to do

this because the three places were 12 miles and 18 miles apart respectively. It doesn't happen like this very often and they were all important appointments. The campus church is what we are using as a base for the place we want to start a new church. I mentioned the matter to them and they promised to perfect the plans.

Now at Ntigha for the peace talk, a strong brother who comes from that village but worships in a different congregation about 18 miles away was also invited. Both of us have known each other for a long time. Glory be to God that, at last, as far as we know, peace was restored, giving chance for the planned house to house evangelism. On April 2, we travelled to Umuhu Ezechi about 30 miles distance for the burial of the mother of one of our preachers. On Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> we travelled to Abakaliki, about eighty miles from where we live, to worship with one of our churches there. This congregation has been there for a long time and we labored there to build it up with one of our classmates – Rogers Nwanna of blessed memory. I used to visit in and around Abakaliki but because of the things I passed through, I haven't been able to see them for over 12 years. I asked about them and was overjoyed to hear of their progress, including the increase in membership, erection of a storey church building and the appointment of elders and deacons. A preacher from that area informed them of my desire to see them and they gave me a date. We left home 6.15am; had a smooth journey but had difficulty locating their new place due to road construction in the township. We finally arrived just as they were ending bible study. Soon after, they called on me for the sermon. Many there knew me and many said they had been hearing about me and were glad to see me. They treated us royally – it was indeed a good fellowship. They promised to invite me for a lectureship. We left them about 3:00pm and arrived home about 6:30pm.

The following day was the commencement of the house to house evangelism at Ntigha. We were very tired from the activities of the past two weeks. However we went to, at the least, see and encourage the preachers. Six of them were present in addition to few members of the congregation that came to lead them around. We joined them fully for the last 3 days. It would have lasted until Friday but it was their big market day where many come from many places. No

person would give you a listening ear that day. We were able to visit some backsliders and new-prospects, some of whom were ready for more visits and few promised to worship with us.

We thank God for every opportunity and for your encouragement. Let's continue to pray for one another. We have tried to reach Cliff but have not been successful. We hope that he returned safely from the burial of his parent and that his wife is doing well.

Your brother, **Jacob**.

**NB:** The pictures I asked them to take did not turn out well, so we have this few to send.