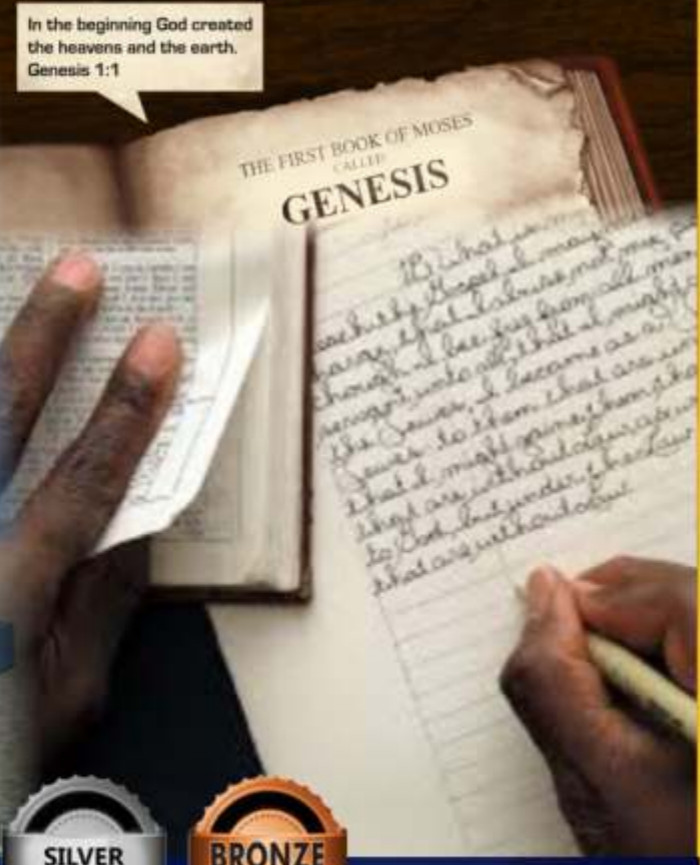


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Genesis 1:1



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THE BIBLE SOCIETY OF NIGERIA
SOWER

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Federal Science & Technical College, Yaba wins BSN's Deaf Bible Quiz



Bible; panacea for communal conflict, terrorism
- Olaoye, Ayokunle

Let's make more disciples – Dr. Onuzo

The Gospel of John chapter 5 tells the story of a man at the pool of Bethesda. *In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water; whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had. And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, "Wilt thou be made whole?"* (John 5:3-6)

The passage tells the story of a man who had an infirmity and had been in that condition for thirty-eight years. He never was fortunate to have someone to help him down into the pool. Many people were at the pool side waiting for it to be stirred. But how come he was the only person who called the attention of Jesus Christ on that fateful day he was healed?

Many issues like economic, social, marital, health, spiritual, etc. have the capacity to hold one down and make it difficult if not impossible to step into one's glory. Most often, people are held down from achieving their visions due to factors beyond their control. No wonder, some people work hard without anything to show for it. How would one explain the case of some people who are professionally competent but their achievements in life do not justify their level of competences? How about many married couples who have put in so much efforts to have good homes but things are not just

working for them? There are also those who have done everything possible humanly but still do not enjoy good health. These cases tell us that there are certain things that are beyond human control.

The passage above exposes the fact that God has created human network and relationship to enable us get help from one another. But the man with infirmity was so unlucky not to have anyone to help him. For thirty-eight years, he wallowed in his infirmity. It may usually not be too painful if one has challenges and knows that there is no one around to help. But it is excruciatingly painful to be in a helpless situation and find that there is solution just by your side without being able to exploit it. Year-in-year-out, the man laid helpless and saw others with less ailments being healed.

I do not know what you are going through or what you went through in the year 2019. I do not know the painful experiences you have been through or you are passing through. It looks like this is a problem you have to live with. But who says that? Man may say there is no solution to your challenges, but I say God is saying you will be divinely liberated this year. There is no sickness, issues of life or challenges that the Almighty God cannot solve. When it seems, your challenges will swallow you up, that is when God's intervention makes the difference to make your testimonies full. The same God who healed the man with thirty-eight years of infirmity without him stepping into the *miracle pool* is alive and able to make you sing new songs and give testimonies. Your story will be rewritten in the new year, 2020.

All you need in what may seem hopeless in this new year is God's intervention. If you can only trust Him and live a pleasing life to Him, you will be **divinely favoured**. Those who have mocked you will praise God with you. Those who have witnessed your disgrace will in 2020 grace your divine turn around celebration. Happy new year.

Those who have witnessed your disgrace will in 2020 grace your divine turn around celebration. Happy new year.

Dare Ajiboye
Editor-in-Chief



SOWER

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CONTENTS

Federal Science & Technical College, Yaba wins BSN's maiden Deaf Bible Quiz Pg 4

Bible Society donates 1,000 Bibles to Nigerian Customs Pg 5

Bible Society acquires additional Bible distribution truck Pg 5

Let's make more disciple – Dr. Onuzo Pg6- 7

Foursquare Gospel Church G.O charges BSN staff to seek God's presence Pg 11

Bible Society builds capacity of Board, Senior Management Pg 11

Healthy Living: Medicinal Properties of Certain Fruits – Lemon & Lime Pg 12

BSN holds 17 Trauma Healing sessions in 2019 Pg 13

Bible Society sends off Olaleye Pg 13

Alone with God Pg 14

Wordsearch Puzzle Pg 14

I was healed while listening to audio Bible, says Mary Pg 15

Do you KNOW
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the **Bible** into
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- 500 local languages are in Nigeria
 - 75% of Nigeria's populace live in the rural areas
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 - 11 Nigerian Language Bibles are currently being translated/ revised
- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
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BSN promotes, hires staff

The Bible Society of Nigeria has promoted Mrs. Temitope Ojeleye to the position of Manager Audit and employed seven additional staff members to fill the existing vacant positions in the organization.



Mrs. Temitope Ojeleye

Mrs. Ojeleye joined the organization as Audit Assistant in 2008 and was promoted as an Officer in 2019. She holds MBA

obtained from Lagos State University. The newly engaged staff are Messrs. Michael Orukpe, Tobi Adigun, Uche Ugboma, Pius Ogwuche, Samuel Akinse, Elijah Odunbaku and Peter Temidayo. Mr. Orukpe, who was employed as Maintenance Assistant holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical/Electronic Engineering from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma; Mr. Adigun, employed as Bookshop Assistant, holds Higher National Diploma in Accounting obtained from Osun State Polytechnic. Ugboma, employed as Confidential Secretary, attended Auchi Polytechnic, Auchi

from where he obtained Higher National Diploma in Office Technology & Management. Others are Pius Ogwuche, who was employed as Information Technology/Maintenance Assistant. He holds Higher National Diploma in Information Communication Technology from the Institute of Management and Technology, Enugu. Odunbaku was employed as Office Assistant, while Akinse and Temidayo were employed as Bible Guest House Attendants.



Orukpe Adigun Ugboma Ogwuche Orimolade Odunbaku Akinse

ALONE WITH GOD

Below are Bible portions which we believe will be useful for your meditation.

MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020	MAY 2020
1. Ephesians 3:8	1. John 8:29	1. 2 Corinthians 3:17
2. Colossians 1:21	2. John 10:30	2. Revelation 5:3
3. Colossians 2:14-15	3. Matthew 4:23	3. Revelation 12:11
4. John 16:33	4. Acts 20:24	4. John 1:3
5. Colossians 2:16	5. Ephesians 6:19	5. Colossians 1:16
6. Revelation 5:5	6. Philippians 4:7	6. Hebrew 1:1-2
7. Revelation 6:7	7. 1 Thessalonians 1:5	7. Hebrew 1:10
8. Revelation 17:14	8. Isaiah 52:7	8. Hebrew 3:3
9. Psalm 72:9	9. Isaiah 61:1	9. Daniel 7:14
10. Isaiah 53:12	10. Matthew 24:14	10. Matthew 16:27
11. Daniel 2:34	11. Malachi 1:11	11. Matthew 24:30-31
12. Psalm 44:5	12. Matthew 13:33	12. Matthew 26:3-5
13. Malachi 4:3	13. Matthew 13:38	13. Mark 8:38
14. Luke 10:19	14. Matthew 24:14	14. Mark 14:62
15. Romans 8:17	15. Matthew 28:19	15. Luke 9:26
16. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5	16. Mark 1:38	16. John 1:14
17. 1 John 5:4	17. Mark 16:15	17. John 2:11
18. Revelation 15:2	18. Luke 14:23	18. John 13:32
19. Revelation 2:7	19. Luke 24:47	19. John 17:5
20. Revelation 2:17	20. Acts 1:8	20. John 17:22
21. Revelation 2:26	21. Acts 13:32	21. 1 Thessalonian 2:14
22. Revelation 3:5	22. Acts 13:32	22. 1 Peter 1:21
23. Revelation 3:12	23. Romans 1:16	23. 1 Peter 4:13
24. Revelation 3:21	24. Romans 16:26	24. 2 Peter 2:18
25. Isaiah 9:6-7	25. Hebrews 4:2	25. Revelation 5:12
26. Psalm 68:1-2	26. Revelation 14:6	26. 1 Timothy 1:15
27. Deuteronomy 7:10	27. Ezekiel 33:8	27. Hebrew 2:14
28. Deuteronomy 32:35	28. Acts 26:20	28. 1 John 3:5
29. Deuteronomy 32:41	29. Romans 10:18	29. 1 John 3:8
30. Malachi 4:2	30. 1 Thessalonian 2:4	30. 1 John 4:14
31. Philippians 1:6		31. John 5:19

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

NAMES OF SOME OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PLACES IN THE BIBLE

Read the clues at the side to figure out the answers

J W X V J J F Z L R A N N F J X L L G H L S Z W H B I M W N
 E B P N F T A M Q O I F H G A I J A A J S E E E V T I G Z
 R L X V F H G F J H Q P J C C B B B C M B C O A A E N R Q U
 I B B P M L E F F D F F U H N M C I Q R Z U W P W F R A D M
 C A U V I A F P Y W O F I A O R N P N O R M I H S C L B T I
 H S X G R P V S Z A P S H D X J H S U H Y Y I B X A N A O C
 O H F N P P R V B I H M D H J I R D E P N H J M S I A E T S
 S A O M B E T H E L M I E T L O R E Z E G I A N Q S S J Z H
 N N L V I D Y W U W G F V I Q J U X F J T P N R G R C I T I
 K H E C B S I F H E D Z S A F W M Q F N V R Y C A Y C R X M
 S Q R H A T R D M S Y T Z G B Y V L S P H D Q B O N H J P R
 W X D S J N D E V Y I I L H M Z A H K W P A Y E G P A W R O
 D E E Q R O A M P N S U H E F Z B A H A X Y S P C J O U V N
 S L P E P H Z A E H O V I Q J O D P R L C K G N K H Q I G M
 B S M Z P E F Y N N O R B E H R J S M B M H R T B D T U L E
 W N X C F R C R X I D T Y I R J M E Z G V L S N V R D P F R
 N K B K W Y D G H X S H J T L Q F M I Z S V H F X A I A O
 T X T T R A V K I Q N Y G M I E Z I Y H Y S C E A R R P Q N
 E B R U U G F C M T F V J B A V T I G G W I G I R P A B X C
 A L R N B Z W U Z K H O S J C I G N L S K N Q Y H G H N K C
 U B D W B Z N I D Q G R Z N N O M H O Y E B V T C Q P M F Q
 P P E R B Z N S Q U A U I A V M O T L F U R U T Y E M N L U
 U H E H T O R E N N I H C B A P B U I X Z J R A H U Q Y K B
 H Y U U S M A K K E D A H I E O O M S U C M C A L U E P T D
 X M W L Y R L Z M C O A R L K D T R J V U J A V P Y M B P K
 G E R A R A E T U D A A J H A P H A D M U K T L X A K V Y P
 X X C D V W G E W G H C M T B I U J U D R J Q M L R V G S T
 B F C D X Y D N B P N G F L M G W T S H T F E M M U N F C Z
 K Q M Y I R E R E Y S C D B J I Z Z B T K Z O F R U D U U D
 S D O R V S E B K C B T P B T X K Y N T X V A X Q I P A H L

Clues

- Philistine
- Gerar
- Bethel
- Beersheba
- Haran
- Canaan
- Epharaim
- Arad
- Oboth
- Ijeabarim
- Arnon
- Jericho
- Bashan
- Makkedah
- Libnah
- Lachish
- Gezer
- Hebron
- Shimron
- Chinneroth
- Misrephothmaim
- Mizpeh
- Debir
- Adullam
- Hormah
- Jarmuth
- Shimronmeron
- Achshaph
- Megiddo
- Gilgal

Bible, panacea for communal conflict, terrorism - Olaoye, Ayokunle

The Guest Speaker at the Founder's Day Annual Lecture of The Bible Society of Nigeria, Mr. Wale Olaoye, and the President, Christian Association of Nigeria, Dr. Olasupo Ayokunle have said that the Bible is the solution to communal conflict and terrorism.



Mr. Olaoye, the Group Managing Director/CEO of Halogen, who spoke on the theme: *Curbing Communal Conflict and Terrorism for Sustainable Growth and Development*, noted with concern that since 2013 over 2.7 million people have been displaced as a result of attacks by Boko Haram and over 27,000 killed. According to him, the Bible is God's strategy script on how to create and establish peace on earth. "This is why I see that the day has come for helpless man to interact with the Word, so that society can experience peace and development," he added.

Corroborating Mr. Olaoye, the President of the Christian Association of Nigeria [CAN], Rev. Ayokunle one of recipients of the award for selfless service to God and humanity, said that the Bible should be made available to everyone if Nigeria wants to overcome insecurity. Continuing, he said that if members

of Boko Haram and other perpetrators of violent conflicts had the Word of God, they would not be threading the path of violence and criminality. The CAN President also urged the government to perform its primary role of providing security of lives and properties. Also speaking on security, the Governor of Lagos, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu said that communal conflict and terrorism constitute a major threat to socio-economic development of the nation. The Governor, who was represented by Rev. Bukola Adeleke, urged all to support the government in its efforts to curb terrorism. Speaking earlier, the chairman of the occasion, former Managing Director of First Bank of Nigeria, and Chairman of Friesland

Campina WAMCO, Mr. Jacob Ajekigbe, said that the theme of the lecture is germane, considering the current security situation in the country. The President & Board Chairman of the Society, Rev. Dr. Timothy Banwo welcomed guests to the occasion, asking the awardees to sustain the virtues that qualified them for the award, while the General Secretary, Dr Dare Ajiboye, used the occasion to brief guests on how far the Bible work has progressed. Highlights of the occasion was the presentation of awards to Dr. Olasupo Ayokunle, Chairman of GTBank, Mrs. Osaretin Demuren and General Manager of Aveon Offshore Limited, Engr. Joseph Duntoye.

Ajekigbe becomes a Special Member of BSN



A former Managing Director of First Bank of Nigeria and Chairman of Friesland Campina WAMCO, Mr. Jacob Ajekigbe has joined The Bible Society of Nigeria as a Special Member. Mr. Ajekigbe, who joined the organization as a Special member during the 12th Founder's Day Annual Lecture organized by BSN, said that he was happy to have taken such decision. The President of BSN, Rev. Dr. Timothy Banwo presented his membership certificate to him, while he was decorated with his brooch by the CAN President, Rev. Dr. Olasupo Ayokunle.

CAN President, Rev. Dr. Olasupo Ayokunle (M) decorating Chairman of Friesland Campina WAMCO, Mr. Jacob Ajekigbe (R) with the BSN Special Member brooch and flanked by the Society's President, Rev. Dr. Timothy Banwo

Federal Science & Technical College, Yaba wins BSN's maiden Deaf Bible Quiz

Federal Science & Technical College, Yaba, Lagos has emerged winner of the maiden edition of the Deaf Bible Quiz organized by the Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN).

Federal Science & Technical College, Yaba, which was represented by Ademola Ogunsami and Taiwo Moses, defeated four other schools to clinch the star prize of the competition, which took place in Lagos. Ipakodo Senior Secondary, Ikorodu emerged second, while Ikeja Junior High School, Ikeja; State Junior Grammar School, Surulere and Christ Light School for the Deaf, Alimosho, Lagos, were third, fourth and fifth respectively.

Mr. Philips Odelana, General Director, Scripture Union Nigeria, who chaired the occasion, lauded the Bible Society of Nigeria for taking the initiative to organize Bible quiz competition for the physically challenged.

"The task of taking care of the physically challenged is usually under the purview of the office of the wife of the governor as a charity course. But this is not charity. I was worried that we have over 20 million deaf people in Nigeria. What is the government doing about them?" he stated.

He urged the government to develop a national policy that would take care of the needs of the physically challenged in the country. "We need to know their challenges before we can integrate them into the society," he noted.

Dr. Dare Ajiboye, General Secretary, Bible Society of Nigeria, explained that the Deaf Bible Quiz Competition was borne out of the need to meet the Scriptural needs of the Deaf and encourage them to interact with God's Word,



Mr. Philips Odelana, General Director of Scripture Union Nigeria, [1st left] presenting the star prize to the winners. With them is Dr. Dare Ajiboye, the General Secretary BSN [1st right]

which is the Society's core mandate.

"We don't just want people to have the Bible and keep it under the pillow. We want them to engage with the Word of God by reading and practising what it teaches," he said.

He stated that the Society commenced the translation of the Bible into The Nigerian Sign Language for the Deaf in 2014 and introduced this competition to ascertain if they were reading the Bible produced for them.

Dr. Ajiboye encouraged the Deaf in Nigeria to read the Bible and allow it to influence them positively as it costs the BSN so much to produce the Nigerian Sign Language Bible for them.

The programme was also attended by, Mrs. F.A. Bello of Lagos Education District 3, Mrs. Tinuola Idowu and Olowe K.B of Lagos Education District 2.



A cross section of Deaf students as audience at the Bible competition

BSN Holds 17 Trauma Healing Sessions

As part of efforts to tackle the challenge of Trauma among Nigerians, The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) organized a total of 17 Trauma Healing programmes across the country in 2019.

The General Secretary of the BSN, Dr. Dare Ajiboye, who was represented by Miss Lois Christian, made this disclosure at the Society's end of the year get-together, held on December 24, 2019 in Lagos.

He explained that the Trauma Healing Programme had eight convening sessions in Lagos, Ibadan, Yola, Makurdi, Calabar, Owerri and Osogbo; two advanced equipping sessions in Lagos and Port Harcourt and seven initial equipping sessions in Yola, Makurdi, Ibadan and Lagos.

He said the BSN completed the translation of the New Testament into Okun, Epe and Ogbia Languages in 2020, and they would be dedicated this year.

He also revealed that the Society distributed 1.8 million copies of the Bible as at December 24, 2019, which he said was way off its target for the year.



The General Secretary of BSN Dr. Dare Ajiboye cutting the Christmas cake with the children of staff members

However, the General Secretary thanked the staff members for their contributions towards the Society's achievements for the year and demanded greater commitment from them in 2020.

Meanwhile, the Society at the occasion also honoured some of its staffers for their outstanding performance.

Mr. Adewale Oloruntimehin, Assistant Manager/Cashier, who is now retired, was also honoured and given a plaque of appreciation, for his outstanding performance while he was with the Society.

Public Notice

This is inform our new and prospective members that processing of membership certificates for all categories of membership will take at most a period of one month. For enquiries, please call: 08159094126

Bible Society Sends off Olaleye



The Management staff led by the GS/CEO Dr. Dare Ajiboye (3rd right) join Mr. Patrick Olaleye and his family to cut his send-off cake

The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) has sent off Mr. Patrick Olaleye, who resigned his appointment after 10 years of service in the organisation.

Mr. Olaleye joined the BSN as an Audit Officer in 2009.

Mr. Samuel Sanusi, Senior Manager, Church and Public Relations, described Mr.

Olaleye as friendly and the first person to send good wishes to his colleagues at the beginning of every month.

He is an encourager, who always takes interest in the welfare of his subordinates, said Mrs. Temitope Ojeleye, Audit Officer.

Rev. Wale Dada, Manager, Distribution, said Mr. Olaleye saw the Distribution and Audit

Units as partners in progress. "As he leaves, we feel a part of us is leaving with him."

"I always want him to be the first person I meet in the office, because he will always say God bless you. And he hardly gets angry," testified Mrs. Blessing Nwokobia, Mr. Olayeye's wife, Adeola, described him

as very supportive and encouraging. "He believes there is a solution to every problem."

Responding to the encomiums showered on him, he appreciated God, who has been with him during the many journeys he embarked on in the course of discharging his duties while with the Society. He promised to always identify with the BSN, which he described as part of his family.

Prayer for Areas

1. Thank God for bringing us into a New Year.
2. Pray that he will help all BSN formations to achieve the targets for this year.
3. Pray for God's protection especially over those in North Eastern Nigeria
4. Pray that God will renew the zeal and commitment of all the Areas

Healthy Living

with Rev. Tony Akinyemi
Email: tony_tutu@yahoo.com



Medicinal Properties of Certain Fruits - Lemons & Limes Fruits

Lemons & limes contain very high amounts of vitamin C and citrus bioflavonoids. Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant. Natural vitamin C is much more effective than the synthetic ones. The vitamin C in lemon and lime is very effective because it is combined with bioflavonoids (vitamin P). In addition to vitamin C, lemon also contains niacin and thiamin in small amounts. Lemon also contains some vitamin A. Lemon is especially appreciated for its vitamin C. When **Vasco da Gama** made his voyage round the Cape of Good Hope, nearly two-thirds of his crew died of scurvy (a vitamin C deficiency syndrome). However, today, the recurrence of such a disaster is no longer possible, owing to the widespread use of lime and lemon. Innumerable boatmen moving in sea have saved their lives with the use of these citrus fruits.

Drinking freshly squeezed lemon or lime in the morning helps stimulate the liver to detoxify the body. One should not take concentrated lemon-juice. It should be diluted with water before taking it. Pure lemon juice is high in acid, which may be injurious to the enamel of our teeth. The body is well cleansed if lemon-juice mixed with cold water and honey and the mixture is taken on an empty stomach early in the morning. Warm water may be

used occasionally to get relieved of constipation.

Lemons help to rid the body of toxins. Take half a lemon and squeeze into a glass of water first thing in the morning to aid bowel movement. **Lime** also contains potassium and is stronger and sharper to taste than lemon. Lemon is sour, pungent and astringent. It checks the excessive flow of bile and cleanses the mouth. It dislodges phlegm (cough) and expels wind from the digestive tract. It helps in digestion and addresses constipation. It prevents vomiting, throat trouble, acidity and rheumatism.

It destroys intestinal worms. Though lemon is acidic to the taste, it leaves off alkaline residues in the body. This is why it is useful in all symptoms of acidosis. Lemon-juice is a powerful antibacterial. It has been proved by experiments that the bacteria of malaria, cholera, diphtheria, typhoid and other deadly diseases are destroyed in lemon-juice. Lemon-juice prevents or restrains influenza, malaria and cold. Lemon-juice gives good relief in fever. Lemon-juice mixed with water is useful in quenching the thirst of diabetics.

It gives almost immediate relief in abdominal disorders. Lemon calms the nerves and the heart and allays troublesome palpitation.

Vitamin P (citrus bioflavonoids) in lemon strengthens the blood vessels and prevents internal hemorrhage. It is, therefore, extremely useful in high blood pressure, in which cerebrovascular accidents commonly occur. The most valuable ingredient in lemon, next to vitamin C, is citric acid. Lemon contains more potassium than apple or grapes, which is beneficial to the heart. Lemon has been used for many years in gout and rheumatism. It gives relief in kidney and bladder disorders. It helps in cases of hepatitis and can also serve as a diuretic. Lemon has been proved to be a blessing for mountaineers. In the cases of insufficient oxygen and difficulty in breathing, lemon comes to their rescue. Edmund Hillary, the first man to put his foot on the top of Mt. Everest, has admitted that his victory over Mt. Everest was greatly due to lemon.



Bible Society Donates 1,000 Bibles to Nigerian Customs

The Bible Society of Nigeria has donated 1,000 copies of customized Bible to the Nigerian Customs Christian Fellowship of Nigeria.

The General Secretary of The Bible Society of Nigeria, Dr. Dare Ajiboye made the donation at the Nigeria Customs Bonded Terminal, Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos. He stated that with increasing rate of crimes in the country, the work of policing Nigerian borders has become more tasking and therefore requires not only the technical expertise of the officers and men of the Nigerian Customs Service, but total dependence on God for assistance. He said The Bible Society of Nigeria was contributing its

own quota to the country's security with the donation of 1,000 copies of the Bible as spiritual weapon to equip the Nigerian Customs in their enormous task of policing the country's borders and its other areas of operations.

The Assistant Comptroller of Customs and Assistant National Coordinator of Nigerian Customs Christian Fellowship [NCCF], Effiong

Harrison, who received the Bibles, thanked The Bible Society of Nigeria for the gesture, adding that the Bible is a strong empowerment instrument to enable them effectively do their work. He admitted that the officers and men of the Nigerian Customs constantly face the challenge of confronting criminals, who are bent on smuggling contraband into the country.

According to him, the Word of God which they have received would give them both the spiritual strength and protection they need as they go about their duties.

In 2016, The Bible Society Nigeria also donated 2,000 copies of the Bible to the Nigerian Army and donated 1,000 copies to the Nigeria Police Chaplaincy in 2017.



The General Secretary of BSN, Dr. Dare Ajiboye [right] presenting the Bibles to Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Effiong Harrison [m] and Deputy Comptroller, Timothy Abioye [right]

Bible Society Acquires Additional Distribution Truck

The Bible Society of Nigeria has acquired additional truck for Bible distribution. This is to help the organization meet the increasing demand for the Scriptures.

The Mack truck, which has the capacity to carry about 700-800 cartons of the Bible, will complement two other trucks of same capacity in the fleet.

The BSN has Bible depots in Lagos, Jos, Plateau State; Aba, Abia State; Abuja and Ibadan, Oyo State.



Let's make more disciples – Dr. Onuzo



Dr. Okechukwu Onuzo

The Founder of Life Support Medical Centre, Dr. Okechukwu Onuzo, has called on the church in Nigeria to make more disciples than converts. Dr. Onuzo said this during an exclusive interview with SOWER. He claimed Jesus did not ask the church to make converts, but disciples. He said most Nigerian Christians are not making much impact because they were not disciples. A disciple, he said, is a follower of Jesus Christ, a person whose loyalty is to Christ, who lives a Christlike life. Excerpts:

In the interest of our readers, can I meet you sir?

I am Okey Onuzo. I am a physician by training. I have been a Christian since 1970. I was an altar boy but then I was not born again. It was after the civil war that I gave my life to Christ through the ministry of Scripture Union.

Can you share your new birth experience?

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programme out of curiosity. At the end of the programme, they asked the people who gave their lives to Christ to wait behind and write down their names, but I did not wait. On my way home, I heard a voice which said, "Go back and write down your name, that is where you belong." I turned but did not see anyone. So in obedience, I went back and asked for the paper and wrote down my name as one of those who gave their lives to Christ. As I was going home, I kept wondering what it was all about. In the night I had a dream. A voice said to me, "Get up, read. John 6:20. I had to look for lantern to read that portion of the Scripture. I was shocked when I read it and it says: "It is I; don't be afraid." Then I realized that someone is really watching me. Then I now made up my mind to seek God.

You set up the first private dialysis centre in Nigeria. What inspired it?

Professionally, I trained as a nephrologist. We had started something in dialysis in that hospital in 1981, but we kept running out of consumables. The frustration was becoming unbearable. It took me three to four months after getting approval in

principle to get a cheque. We placed an order to purchase the consumables, and it came after some time. What we bought lasted a little over one year. Before it finished, we had started a process to reorder the consumables. We wrote to the minister with several reminders, but nothing was done. Before you knew it, the consumables finished again, and we went back to square one. When I could not continue, I said let me go and provide an alternative, so that patients could have alternative. That was how we set up the place so that the eggs of patients would not be in one basket.

Looking back, how would you describe the experience?

It has been a tough road because we didn't set it up for profit. Initially we were running at a loss because our services were not properly costed. What we were charging could not cover our cost. But it has been very satisfying because sometimes you meet people that would tell you they would have died but for the services received from Life Support Medical Centre.

Foursquare Gospel Church G.O. charges BSN staff to seek God's presence



Rev. Samuel Aboyeji

The General Overseer, the Foursquare Gospel Church of Nigeria, Rev. Samuel Aboyeji, has tasked members of staff of The Bible Society of Nigeria (BSN) to always seek God's presence in order to get the best out of the year 2020.

He gave this charge in a message titled: "A journey and a relationship with God" during the first working day prayer session at the Society's Head Office in Lagos on January 6, 2020.

Speaking from Genesis 46:1-5, he explained that it is obedience to God that would give them access to His presence, advising them to take time to seek God to hear from Him during the year.

"The secret of His abiding presence is obedience. This year, the challenge to us if we will continue to enjoy His presence, is to always obey Him. If we embark on what pleases God, this year will be a different year," he stressed.

Rev. Aboyeji encouraged BSN staff members to obey God completely in 2020 because the year is a perfect year, adding that they must prize Him beyond anything in the year.

He noted that Christianity is a journey and a ministry. "We are on a journey to heaven and our destiny. We are also on a journey of fulfilling our destiny."

The man of God lauded the BSN for its efforts at making God's word available to every Nigerian. He said, "The job of translating the word of God is the most critical. It is more important than what you hear."

He opined that if Adam and Eve had a Bible, maybe they would not have fallen, because they could not remember God's instruction to them, that was why devil could deceive them.

"A world where people cannot read the Bible in their heart language would have been terrible," Rev. Aboyeji concluded.

Bible Society builds capacity of Board, Senior Management

The Bible Society of Nigeria has organized a three-day capacity building programme on governance for the newly elected board members and senior management of the Society.

According to the General Secretary, Dr. Dare Ajiboye, the purpose of the training was to strengthen the organization's governance as 80 percent of the current board are new members. He noted there was therefore the need for proper orientation to help them function effectively.

He said further that the training was not peculiar to the BSN, adding that the United Bible Societies discovered the need for training on governance and

encouraged the Bible Societies that need such training to tap into it.

Some of the topics covered during the three-day training included: Roles and Responsibilities of Individual Board Members; The Mindset of an Effective Board Member; Roles and Responsibilities of a Bible Society Board; Principles and Practices of a Highly Effective Board; Trusted

Leadership – Role and Attributes of Board Chairperson and The Optimal Structure of An Effective Board.

The training was facilitated by Prof. Mumo Kisau, Vice Chancellor of Scott Christian University, Kenya and Isaac Litali also from Kenya.



1st Vice President, BSN, Mrs. Anna Asachaya and President of the Society, Rev. Dr. Timothy Barwo at the capacity building programme held in Lagos.

“But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:” Matthew 6:20 (KJV)

In what **condition** would you like your **property** to be after you have gone?

Have you really considered what may happen to the property you laboured for?

Over the years, you worked hard to build and acquire your assets. Knowing the worth and value of these property, you maintained them constantly so as not to lose their market value. Unfortunately, experience has shown that most of the property left behind soon dilapidate or are wasted by the people whom such are entrusted into their care.

One of the surest ways to guarantee that your property and asset will remain, long after you have gone, is to bequeath it as a legacy to an organization that can take care of it. Such an organization is The Bible Society of Nigeria.



Your property may be in this state if not bequeathed to a reputable organization like The Bible Society of Nigeria



If bequeathed to an organization like The Bible Society of Nigeria it will remain like this for a long time

For over 50 years, we have remained in the service of making the Word of God available to Nigerians through Bible translation, publishing, distribution and organizing life-transforming programmes. So far, we have the complete Bible in 26 Nigerian Languages and are at the moment translating/revising the Bible in over 8 Nigerian Languages at the cost of ₦40 million per language. The money realized from such charitable bequests including shares will help us continue the good work of making the WORD of God available, affordable and FREE for the less privileged. We therefore encourage you to partner with God by bequeathing any of your assets to The Bible Society of Nigeria.

For enquiries, please call 08159094116 or email: info@biblesociety-nigeria.org. You can also visit our website: www.biblesociety-nigeria.org



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I was healed while listening to audio Bible, says Mary

Mrs. Mary Gba, a farmer and widow, has revealed how she was healed of an ailment while listening to the audio Bible in Tiv Language at Ijan, Ekiti State.

She also disclosed that the audio Bible listening session has strengthened her prayer life. “It has helped my prayer life, because as the Proclaimer was playing, I picked some prayer points from what is being read and pray with them.

“Three times, my food got burnt because sometimes I get lost listening to it, because I didn't remember that I was cooking. I enjoy listening to it. Since the audio Bible device is in my custody, I listen to it regularly,” she told Sower Magazine.

Mrs. Gba said she was very surprised

but elated the first time she heard the audio Bible playing in her heart language, Tiv.

“I used to be easily provoked but listening to the audio Bible has helped me to overcome it. People who don't go to church will not understand the usefulness of the word of God,” she testified.

She stated that having benefited from the Proclaimer, she takes it to her fellow Tiv women to share from God's word together.

The Proclaimer is an audio Bible device used in one our programmes to make the Word of available to people. For enquiries on this, please call 08159094116



Mrs. Mary Gba

PHOTO Splash



President & Board Chairman of BSN, Rev. Dr. Timothy Banwo [3rd right] and General Secretary, Dr. Dare Ajiboye [3rd left] and other NEC members in a group photo



President & Board Chairman of BSN, Rev. Dr. Timothy Banwo [4th left], the General Secretary, Dr. Dare Ajiboye [3rd left], the facilitators, Prof. Mumo Kisau [3rd right] and Mr. Isaac Litali with the Board members and Senior Management, who took part in the governance training



Dr. Fred Odutola, former General Secretary, The Bible Society of Nigeria (L) and Commodore Olu Abegunde (rtd) of the Foursquare Gospel Church.



Publisher of the Guardian Newspapers Limited, Lady Maiden Ibru and President of BSN, Rev. Dr. Timothy Banwo at the Founder's Day Annual Lecture



The facilitator, Mr. Yemi Akiobamide [2nd right] with staff members of BSN during a training on Donor/Project Management



Contestants at the Deaf Bible Competition



A cross section of guests at the 2020 Founder's Day Annual Lecture



L-R: Dr. Dare Ajiboye, General Secretary/CED, The Bible Society of Nigeria; Eng. Joseph Durotoye, General Manager, Aveon Offshore Ltd; Dr. Oluasapo Ayokanin, President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN); Mrs. Doretin Demure, Chairman, GTBank Plc. and Mr. Wale Olayo, CEO, Halcyon Group, at the 12th Founder's Day Annual Lecture and Awards Ceremony.



Senior Manager, Finance, BSN, Mrs. Yemis Oluwabemi [right] presenting a souvenir to Angela Lopez of the British & Foreign Bible Society



Senior Manager, Church and Public Relations, Mr. Samuel Sanusi, [right] presenting a souvenir to Dr. Girma Mohammed of The British & Foreign Bible Society



Rivers/Bayelsa Area Chairman, Elder Omoni Tarmuno [4th right], Financial secretary, Dr. Roseline Uranta [3rd right], President, Rivers Baptist Conference, Rev. B. J. Avor [m] in a group photo during a courtesy visit to Rev. Avor by the Rivers/Bayelsa Area Executives



Former Governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, flanked by his wife, Omolola, writing a Bible verse in WABFOG project.



Senior Manager, Church & PR, Mr. Samuel Sanusi [M] presenting a copy of the Bible to the General Evangelist of the Christ Apostolic Church Worldwide, Evangelist Hezekiah Oladeji [left] during a courtesy visit to him. With them is Pastor Joseph Makinwa



The General Secretary, Dr. Dare Ajiboye answering questions on Publishing from Arise TV Presenters



Chief Security Officer to the former Gov. of Osun State, Mr. Sobowale Edwards [left] taking part in Write and Build for Our God project (WABFOG) and with him is the Osun Area 1 Board Member