

EXTENDED EDITION

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF POWER ZIAKEDE AGINIGHAN

PURPLE SHELVES

60 Days Of Power (2nd Edition)

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Dedication

This book is written in loving memory of my father, PZ Aginighan, the greatest man I have ever met, and dedicated to my mother, whose excellence, humility, and virtues were the stem on which this Great Oak of Righteousness budded and flourished with Jesus, being his root.

Foreword

Greatness is not measured by material wealth; educational attainment, or political height: greatness is determined by the nature and scope of impact one makes in his lifetime, and sometimes after his lifetime. Pastor Power Ziakede Aginighan touched lives as a civil servant, father, friend, and as a Pastor. His existence was anything but unnoticed. I do not intend to start an independent commendation service here. However, there are things too conspicuous to be ignored – his life is one of it!

To further perpetuate Pastor Aginighan's ministerial impact, the devotional, 60 Days of Power is born! This devotional is gleaned from real life events that occurred in the life of Pastor Power Ziakede Aginighan and his family, flavoured with scriptural insights, and serves as a moral compass for

individuals and families that face or may likely face similar situations. Each day presents a unique real life story that exudes an aura of wisdom, experience, practical Christian

living, and Christian virtues that can be emulated.

I welcome you aboard 60 Days of Power, a life-changing adventure, as we sail for sixty days through the inspired life and times of Pastor Power Ziakede Aginighan.

Bon voyage!

Apostle Charles U Achonwa

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Rivers State.

Acknowledgements

First, I acknowledge Mummy and Daddy for making this book easy to write: we simply imitate you as you imitate God - I know many people would have loved to be your children; you read their thoughts and adopted them. Thank you.

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Special thanks to members of the burial committee led by our dear Uncle, Ayakeme Whiskey, Ambassador Felix Datuowei, and High Chief A O Seibi for your sacrifice, love, and loyalty to the Odudu of Africa.

I also appreciate my editor, Amara Chimeka for doing another fantastic job.

Special thanks to Apostle Charles Achonwa for writing the foreword!

While writing this book, I called out for various entries to make up this devotional-styled memoir but not many responded. So, special thanks to Princess H I Ogan, Layefa Jenakumo, Solomon Aginighan, Pastor S Wisdom, Pastor B F Baage, Mummy Adeniyi, Iniruo Wills, Pastor Akpabio, and Dr Felix Dimaro for sending in the entries that made up this book. God bless you.

Lastly, I thank our Father, God, for giving our family the rare privilege to have hosted Power Aginighan. We are greatly honoured to be associated with PZ. Thank you, Jesus!

Disclaimer

This is not an exhaustive narration of PZ's deeds. As a matter of fact, this is infinitesimal, relative to the range of Aginighan's positive impact in ministry, government, family and community - a hundredth has not been told.

Introduction

While we looked forward to PZ's 60th birthday celebration, we had him narrate his journey from the swampy villages of Ogo-Eze in Bomadi Local Government Area to leading the NDDC, pastoring several churches and impacting thousands of lives positively. We hoped to dig into the mind of one of the finest and most selfless leaders to have graced the Niger Delta region, and by God's grace, find the secret of his great strength.

This book is the result of our findings. We believe it would take you on a journey, first by the amiable PZ himself, as he narrates and recounts his pilgrimage from his early days at Okwagbe until he bagged his HND at the College of Science and Technology (CST), now Rivers State University (RSU). What follows is a compilation of stories and encounters that reveal what drove the tireless PZ to accomplish the much he

did in such little time. The goal is to replicate and multiply many more leaders who would carry on the great work pioneered by PZ by making them see what PZ saw – the Love of the Father.

60 Days of Power takes you through the years of the life and times of Power Ziakede Aginighan and exposes you to timeless leadership lessons, while revealing the source of PZ's great strength – a life in union with God.

Dubamo Aginighan

Preface to the Extended Edition

Jesus said that if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed you can command a mountain to be cast into the sea. This would have been a great demonstration of Christ's cosmic power, but we did not see him do that. I learned from Rick Joyner that the purpose of power is to express LOVE.

In this book, you will not find how to wield omnipotence or dunamis for selfish reasons or for dominating your neighbour. Our main objective is to show practical examples from the life of a man named Power Aginighan who lived a life true to his name – by great power, he showed love. In politics, he was a voice for the oppressed; in community, he was a custodian of peace; and in ministry, a disciple of Jesus Christ.

We retained the stories in the first edition but have added some more stories which capture how the family handled the grief and still retained faith in God despite such tragedy.

Through it all, we have seen that God is good all the time, and all the time God is good.

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Unless otherwise stated, all bible verses are from The *New King James Version* of the Holy Bible.



Part A Autobiography



1

Roots

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be

called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6

I was born on the 9th of January 1959 at Ezebri in Bomadi Local Government Area of Delta State. My father, the Great Aginighan Morris Otutu hailed from Ogodobiri and Oviri-Ogor in Ughelli North Local Government Area. My mother hailed from Ezebri in Bomadi LGA and Oboro paternally in Burutu LGA, all in Delta State.

Below is an excerpt from his biography as written by the family.

The last born of his mother whose birth defied all odds and predictions after his mother's reported —Strange ailment gave fillip to a purported inability to further children, late conceive PZ Aginighan had five elder sisters namely Ekpoeniyeke-emi, Enainamene, Akpoaboere, Amananaotu, and Enaibrade. His birth at a when his mother had lost hopes of fulfilling her heart's desire of having a male child like many African women, brought joy, hope, and excitement the Aginighan family. He would to providentially become the Iroko tree of the family by dint of his sense of perseverance, hard work, dedication, and commitment. The misunderstanding that ensued because of the said sickness resulted in his mother

departing her

matrimonial home for Ezebiri to live with her mother, Late Mama Mieyebo and her aunt, Late Mama Bridonmo Zipamo, who both played impactful roles in PZ's early life.

On the day of his delivery, his mother was not allowed to deliver in the house but in a place where animals were kept just like our Lord Jesus Christ in the manger. He was named Agi Ziakede, meaning, —Out of sickness, the joy of a baby boy came forth. Given the events at his birth, an elderly man in the community named him FULL POWER, signifying that he broke all odds to come to life. The circumstances surrounding his birth explain his strong ties to his maternal home, Ezebiri.

As he himself puts it, —I grew up as a young man at Ezebiri with my grand aunty, the Late Mama Bridonmo Zipamo. Growing up with a great aunt who was strict, forthright, and exemplary, he was not pampered or over-indulged like most only-sons or last borns, but was brought up to imbibe discipline, humility, and hard work; virtues he carried as guide-posts in his latter life. Playing a commercial supportive role in his early age, PZ often paddled with his grandmother to Okwagbe for trade on realising that it was an inevitable venture he had to undertake to guarantee the qualitative education that his great aunt. Mama Bridonmor, happily availed him.



2

For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity - Proverbs 24:16

I was enrolled in the then Local Authority Primary School, Ogo-Eze, in the present Bomadi Local Government Area of Delta State. In those days, a school year was from January to December, so I was admitted shortly after my 6th birthday in 1965. We had no school uniforms, so we moved into school with our Christmas jumpers and got enrolled. When I was in Primary 1, my parents were informed of my inability to correctly write letters and figures. I wrote 7 as L and L as 7, and as such, I had to repeat Primary 1 as I could not pass the **promotion exams**. As I repeated the class, I had a new teacher, Mr Markson Mieveibo, and this time; I did very well and came first in class.

Many times, we beat ourselves up for not performing as expected. Our identity should not come from our performance or material possessions but from our identity in God. He is the one able to keep us from falling and present us faultless. He has promised never to leave us nor forsake.

God loves you.

Further Reading/References: Luke 12:15-21, Hebrews 13:5-

6, Jude 1:24



If the jounaations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?

- Psalms 11:3

In Primary 2, I was taught by Simon Ambakederemor aka Beks Royal. I recall being drilled on the knowledge of the Times Table. This helped lay the solid foundation for my future success in Mathematics – I would later go on to author a book on Mathematics. Then, in Primary 2, the whole class was required to commit the Times Table to memory. Those who were able to recite the Times Table were kept on one side, while those unable to were kept on the other side – separating the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25) with a twist. A cane would then be handed to those who had crammed the Times Table to give lashes to those who had not. This was a terrible idea because I was very small in size and had to give lashes to my bigger and older classmates. You can imagine that while we

sang the closing hymn, Now the Day Is Over, I was always looking for a way of escape (2 Corinthians 10:13); and as soon as I found one, I would take it and run home as fast as I could. The bible says, —If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteous do? People find Mathematics difficult because they missed it early when they were being taught the Times Table, BODMAS, and other aspects of Arithmetic. Our Christian walk could also suffer setbacks if we do not have roots in ourselves (Matthew 13:20-21). Many struggle in life because of faulty foundations.

Prayer: Ask God to help you lay the right foundation – let your life be built in Christ.

Action: You may enrol for adult education, take a refresher course in your field or a short course in theology. Read books, pray, and work on your foundation.

Go back to the basics.





So, I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you.

-Joel 2:25

In Primary 4, I was taught by Edward Tekedou, and in Primary 5 by Mr Eboh. I remember his lessons on History were notably of Oba Ovonramwen and European explorers like Mungo Park. We were also drilled on Current Affairs and facts about the country. This prepared us for Common Entrance Examinations, which I travelled to Bomadi Local Government Area to write. Fortunately (because I know that all things work together for my good), I was not accepted into the school. Despite the disappointment, I was encouraged and determined to wait until Primary 6 to repeat the examination.

You see, God is able to alter national policies to favour you. I once read of a praying people who believed their child could be offered admission into the university without JAMB or WAEC. Women without wombs have been seen to give birth, and men with low sperm count have impregnated their wives. It is said that God is able to use a basket to fetch water so as to disgrace the bucket. Nothing is impossible with God.

Miraculously, St. Vincent's College at Okwagbe, a village, hours away (by paddling a canoe) from my village, was open to accept new students. My parents accompanied me and we paddled to write the entrance exams, after which my name came out as a successful student. This way, the year lost repeating Primary 1 was restored by my entry into secondary school from Primary 5.

God is able to restore all the lost years. He can compensate supernaturally.

Prayer: Pray for those things that have been lost to be found, or have lost years, properties, or vision. Decree restoration. Amen.



Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. – Romans 13:1

Student unionism almost always brings you into conflict with constituted authority and some will earn you deprivation and detentions. One issue I can still recall had to do with congestion of the refectory. The refectory was too congested, and I felt the conditions were unacceptable. I took a JVC cassette player to the refectory and made announcements, calling for a congress meeting. A congress meeting was a meeting for all students of the university, while students' union meeting was on a representative level – not all students were required to attend. I was among the first to convoke congress.

How? I collected – as required by the constitution – nine hundred and four signatures constituting about one quarter of

the students' population at the time, which was the requirement to force the leaders of the student union to summon a congress meeting.

I stood on a path with pieces of paper for people to write down their names and sign until we got nine hundred and four signatures. With this, we typed the forwarding letter to the chairman of the Students' Union Caretaker Committee, calling on him to convoke a meeting of the congress. While sleeping at Hostel E, Room 40, I got word that the Vice Chancellor was looking for me. I had been summoned together with other student-leaders to the Vice Chancellor's office. The Professor demonstrated his administrative astuteness in handling the situation. I remember him telling us that he was not bothered whether congress was held or not, but that he was interested in the solution to the problem that was causing the demand for the meetings. After our presentations, a catering affairs management committee headed by the then Deputy Vice Chancellor with my humble self as a member was set up. It

was this committee's recommendation that led to the building of an additional, prefabricated refectory. If you visit UST or RSU today, another building can be found beside the refectory – this was a product of that struggle.

Further Reading: 2 Kings 6:1-7 (The sons of the prophets needed more room and decided to build). Exodus 14:11-31 (The Israelites sandwiched by the Red Sea and the Egyptian army).

Leadership Lesson: If you complain about a thing, do something about it. Challenges are launching pads to your next level. Stretch! Grow! Let the giants fall.



Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. –

Colossians 4:6

I was offered admission by the College of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, to study Accountancy in September 1977. Two years for an Ordinary National Degree (OND) and an additional two years for a Higher National Degree (HND). While I studied there, I was involved in campus politics, first from joining the Association of Accounting Students, then the Students' Literary Movement. There, by my associations, I developed my flair for writing and reading novels not just for the fun of reading but to improve my spoken English. That is why I can read one novel for three

months whereas my wife will claim to have finished a Hardley

Chase novel within a

week and I would exclaim, "HOW!" I felt it was impossible to consume such volume and understand the content in such short time.

My appreciation of books is quite different because while reading, any word of English I am unfamiliar with would be examined. I would underline, write down, and look up the meaning in a dictionary. This slowed my reading pace and as such I can count the number of novels I have read by my fingers, but slowly reading and memorising lines from the novels I read all influenced greatly my spoken English.

I was part of the CST Drama Club and the CST Literary Movement. We published a magazine called the Torch Magazine. I was the PR of the literary movement. I was also elected as General Secretary of the Association of Accounting Students. In 1979/80, I vied for the post of Secretary General of the student union, and I was elected unopposed, twice, and served with Felix Datuowei, the president. Student union politics gave me a lot of exposure to the country. I remember

travelling to Jos to ratify the constitution of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) in 1980. We also travelled to Enugu Institute of Management and Technology to attend the West African Association of Technological Students' Conference.

Leadership: —You will be the same person in five years as you are today, except for the people you meet and the books you read. I — Charlie Tremendous Jones

—Reading out loud, good books to yourself improves your oration. ■ – Rabbi Daniel Lapin.

Action: Participating in clubs, churches, and political parties gives you the platform to meet and interact with people and extend the love of God to the world.

Tuggli ng Unionism

With Acade mics

Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces.

- Psalms 122:7

I was involved in a lot of activism; I was among the Ijaw youth leaders. In January 1980, there was a threat on non-indigenes, particularly the Igbos. They were ordered to leave Rivers State by a group called IJAWGBO, The Izon National Movement, which we later discovered (found out) was headed by a man who later became a close friend. This movement demanded that the Igbos pack out of Rivers State on the 26th of January 1980, and that if they did not move out, the people of Rivers would arm themselves and cause harm to any Igbo person they found. On hearing this, we said, "No! We cannot sit with this

report and allow it to happen."

My compatriots and I headed to Ikwerre Street, Ikwerre Road where the president of the Rivers State Tenants Association resided. The house was filled with people calling for diplomacy. There was one man in particular, who I vividly remember was shouting: "This is not the time for diplomatic language!"

We resolved that a delegation should be sent to the governor at the time, Governor Melford Okilo. While we gathered, unbeknownst to us, we were being recorded by an NSO personnel who attended the meeting.

On that day, Port Harcourt, particularly Mile 1 Market, was like a desert. This shows the economic value of the Igbos in any community. The plan never came to fruition as the governor made a broadcast ascribing the threat to the handwork of a rival political group. This way, with security operatives on red alert, peace and order was restored to the city, and the Igbos returned to continue business as usual.

Thought: —The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. ■ — John F Kennedy. Jesus said, whatever you bind on earth is bound in heaven.

Action: What will you let in your community or nation? Act today.



If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

- Proverbs 24:10

We were writing exams at one time, and I had a paper in the morning. I got a message that a comrade in the struggle and I were wanted at the office of the security officer. We were held up at the NSO (now SSS) office, detained, and guizzed until evening. Thankfully, we were not held through the night. At the Akugbene Convention, many of our patrons wondered whether I could pass my exams with the level of involvement because no May Day (May 16) passed without my mobilisation of Ijaw students to Kaiama for the Isaac Boro Procession (Ogele). The day I wrote my final exam, the precious weekend was Boro Day Celebration, we were there, and then, we wrote the exams, so when the results came out and I passed all my papers with

no references. A dear patron who ran a supermarket at Aggrey

Road called me and said, "You've made us very proud," and handed me fifty naira. I was so happy and a lot of the Ijaw leaders in Rivers State were very very proud that inspite of my involvements with these activities, I was able to go through my studies without a referral.

Leadership Lesson: No aspect of your life should suffer because of devotion to another; strike the balance. Jesus is at the same time High Priest, King, Father, Son, Saviour, Lamb, Lion, Teacher, Brother, and Friend. PZ was Father, Pastor, Politician, Writer, Teacher, Businessman, and Philanthropist.

You can do all things through Christ, which strengthens you.





But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8

As the last born of the house, I was privileged to watch, learn, and observe from the many who had come before me. In the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus told parables of the lost son, the lost coin, and the lost sheep. Many people identify themselves with what was lost and is now found. PZ easily identifies as the shepherd in search of the missing sheep, the woman with a missing coin, and the father who would not sleep until his son comes home. Many of Daddy's sons lost their way, stole from him, disappointed him many times, and failed at projects, but PZ never spoke ill of them. He never regretted having them in his life – He loved until the end. There was an issue regarding a certain child of PZ who held

him at gunpoint requesting money from him. Daddy, in his

audacious manner, spoke his way until he disarmed the young man. Yet another son of his accused him of not caring for his own but giving what he had out to people who were not related to him and not really caring for his family. But Daddy loved until the end.

On investigation of Daddy's earth suit as found after the accident, it was evident that God's angel had wrought a mighty deliverance, as none of PZ's bones were broken. So, what made him leave earth? LOVE. As PZ watched his sons in flames, he would not accept deliverance; he crossed into the heavenly realm to bring them back but alas the glory ... that they might obtain a better resurrection. (Hebrews 11:36)

Lesson: Jesus came to seek that which was lost. He revealed the heart of the Father. God is not in the business of sending people to hell but saving them from hell!

Action: Pray for your friends, family, and relatives to know God – that God may draw them to himself. Take on the Father's job, and reconcile men to God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).

Father Of The Day

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." - Hebrews 13:5

It was not unusual to hear the sounds of sirens drive past the walls of our school while we played football or carried out labour in boarding school. You would hear us remark, —That's my dad passing, which was of course a wish [or a declaration, perhaps].

Daddy visited my school just thrice throughout my six years in high school. I never for once delayed payment of fees or lacked any books or provision throughout my stay at school. But there is a day I will never forget.

I was approached by the student affairs' officer; Daddy was to be made the —Father of the Dayl during my

graduation

ceremony from Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Borikiri, Port Harcourt. It had been six unbelievable years, and we all could not wait to leave boarding school.

We prepared for hours on end and practised our march-past drills.

—Three hearty cheers to the Flag Officer Commanding the eastern naval command, Hip! Hip!!! Hip!!! ordered the parade commander. All echoed —Hurray!!!

We mastered our drills. Fell-in in threes, rehearsed slow march, quick march, etc. It was to be a glorious occasion.

On the D-day, we displayed with precision as had never been seen for many years because our predecessors had been so bad that the commandant of the school would not honour them with a Passing Out Parade.

While I stood, reflecting on my time in Navy Secondary School (*six years don waka, I still dey carry go...*), I looked at my teachers, my juniors, the naval officers, and friends turned

brothers. It was a moment I would never forget. I then looked at the stand for Father of the Day, but Daddy was nowhere to be found. I was heartbroken and disappointed, and a thousand and one thoughts ran through my mind like a flash of lightning. What had I done to deserve this? I had always been a good boy, and I never failed a class. I was even a prefect. Why would my family desert me on a day like this?

Daddy, Mummy, why hast thou forsaken me?

As the parade was rounding up, a convoy came driving in. For a second, we thought it was the FOC, but the FOC was already represented by the CMC. Who could this be? We could not break our ranks. We were standing at ease, and our ears awaited the next command, but we skilfully moved our eyes to study who this special guest might be.

Mobile policemen came out from the escort vehicles; and lo and behold, Daddy showed up. *See swag!*

My classmates whispered; —That's Dubamo's dad! || Who's got the last laugh now?

Lesson: God will show up for you and he will show up with glory, with his train of Angels; and you will never lack.



DAY 11

Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. – John 15:13

Growing up with PZ, I saw growth in every area. You see, we attend a church that gives both secretly and openly. I mean, everybody gets to see the amount of money given, perhaps for record purposes or to encourage others, or as practised in Old Testament times. Whatever the case, it was good for us at this instance, as we all got to witness growth in giving.

In the nineties, Daddy would give – money for any and every project; goat meat to pastors for Christmas, hampers, rice, clothes, etc. We observed that his capacity to give increased with time. When we saw Daddy and Mummy give ₹1,000, everyone was happy; it seemed a milestone. Later, we saw

pledges of N2,000, and the church rejoiced.

Oh! The first time they gave ₹10,000! Boy, you need to attend a —Calabar church; for one thing, they are close to heaven because of the joy in the atmosphere.

Daddy's giving continually climbed to the hundreds of thousands and even to whole buildings and cars as time progressed. He not only gave money, clothes, and material things, he gave his time to noble causes for the good of the Niger Delta. He gave audience to many people who by our (human) assessment should not even be in the same country with him, let alone in the same room. He gave his life; his doors were always open. Our house could be said to be the unofficial community centre of Ukukalama, where PZ resided.

Action: It is never too late to give. It is an expression of love. God loves us so much and he gave. He also gave us one new commandment; love one another as he has loved us, for by this shall all men know we are his disciples.

Power Aginighan was a powerful disciple of Jesus. He exemplified his following by giving. Look around you. You are never without something to give. Give a smile, give an offering, give your time, give a counsel, give out clothes, give out land, give your life ... God gave His!



When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned nor shall the flame scorch you. - Isaiah 43:2

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. - Psalms 23:4

In July 2010, while I was on my Master's programme, I had to receive Daddy when he came in for a bone marrow transplant. Already, some tests had been carried out, and after the initial findings, we were told that he would need a bone marrow transplant that involved chemotherapy. The doctors also told

us about the various side effects that may occur before, during chemotherapy, and after the engraftment had taken place. We also went online to read about the process and some of the side effects of the journey Daddy was about to begin.

It was an emotional experience, seeing Daddy going through pain, shivering from cold, and seeing his hair fall off, as the side effects of chemotherapy set in. But Daddy faced his six months journey, which included pre-transplant, transplant, and the recovery process with the strength that only God could give. He was persuaded of victory at the end, and this gave him the peace he needed to face the storm.

Suffice to say, hymns were his greatest companions at the time.

OH! I remember some of the hymns he listened to and I will share some lines from some of the hymns he loved.

More than conquerors are we

Through the blood of Christ our ransom,

More than conquerors are we....

(Culled from the hymn, *Rise*, *ye Children Of Salvation* by James MacGranahan)

For the God on the mountain, is still God in the valley
When things go wrong, he'll make them right
And the God of the good times, is still God in the bad times
The God of the day is still God in the night.

(Culled from the song, *God on the Mountain* by Lynda Randle)

- Layefa Jenakumo nee Aginighan

Dangerous Moha mmed

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who

spitefully used you and persecute you. - Matthew 5:44

I have only honourable memories of Mummy and Daddy. Their conduct has always been virtuous. I never witnessed a quarrel, a fight, or even a —lie until one certain day. We were taking my mother to the airport when a call came in from a strange number. My virtuous mother told my sister to take the call and say she was not around! For a second, I was happy

So, Mummy is human after all. I thought to myself, wondering who in the world could make Mummy lie.

Mummy had saved his name as —Defeated.

I later found out the caller was a fellow who claimed he had

kidnapped many people and went by the name

—Dangerous

Mohammed. He said he was out for our family unless a ransom was paid. Like Adam who named the animals, we can name things, situations, and circumstances. What do you call your —predicaments, giants, or bread? God quickens the dead and calls those things that are not as though they were (Romans 4:17).

This reminded me of a time when while studying in school, a strange call came in from someone who said he was paid \$\frac{1}{2}7,500\$ to kill me. ME! Dubamo? I felt insulted. My life for just \$\frac{1}{2}7,500? Me that Jesus died for! I left my books and took out time to pray for the one threatening my life; that the good Lord would grant him sense and wisdom – this is a true story.

—Dangerous Mohammed, the defeated, kept making his demands, and we, like Hezekiah kept saying, —Lord, behold their threats. One faithful day, Dad got a call that —Dangerous Mohammed had been apprehended. Shortly afterwards,

another call came in of how a dear member of our congregation was taken into custody by the police. Dad knew this brother so well and demanded he be released because there must be a mix-up somewhere.

—He is a son to me, Daddy pleaded.

The police promised to sort things out, but they got back to Dad a few moments later and said, —Dangerous Mohammed is the same as that son of yours.

It was a difficult moment for all of us. Our hearts were heavy! What would we do? —Dangerous Mohammed, by his own words testified of killing many and kidnapping not a few. He had committed crimes, not just against our family but also against the state. Daddy wrote letters, dropping all charges against this young man who acted stupidly. The young man served time in prison but was pardoned because of the forgiveness Daddy gave freely to the lad.

Jesus said, "Love your enemies, pray for those who despitefully use you and persecute you." Be perfect like PZ in heaven. Be perfect like your Father in heaven.

Bashi ng PZ's Car

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "Love will cover a multitude of sins." – 1 Peter 4:8

Attah: Match brake na!

Me: I dey match am.

Attah: Match am.

Me: I dey match.

Attah: Match ooo!

Me: I dey match ooo

. . .

Gbosaaa!

That was how juvenility pushed me to bash my foster father, Elder PZ's car. I, in cahoots with my brother and without permission, took his car key, entered the car parked in the compound and rammed it to the wall. I was fourteen and felt I could drive a car because I had been observing drivers keenly and noted that to bring a car to halt, you stepped on the clutch. I was yet to know it had to be followed with a graded stepping on the middle pedal (the brake). As usual, after the damage, it became clear how irresponsible our act was. We did not know what to do or what to expect from our foster father and from our dad, when he would be told. Having heard the bang, Elder PZ came out.

I do not know exactly how he felt, but he looked at the car, the wall, and then, the two stupid boys. He was disappointed and also shocked at our mischief. Elder PZ left the scene without a word. Though, he sent his driver to repair the car that same day, his silence tormented us for the whole day. We were also too afraid or rather timid to approach him and tell him we were sorry, but without being verbally or physically abused, we still learnt a huge lesson. My regard and the respectful distance I

from that incident. We expected our dad to confront us on it, but he never did. **I doubt my father heard about it**. If my father ever heard, it must have been much later. Elder PZ is a father, and I am one of his children. We will forever miss him.

- Dr Felix Dimaro



have, but they do not speak; Eyes they
have, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not
hear; Nor is there any breath in their mouths. Those who make
them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them. —

Psalms 135:15-18

One morning, the people of Ogodobiri woke up to find their altar/shrine destroyed. Let me give some history of the Ogodobiri deities. My cousins had told us of how the skins of the youths of the village become impenetrable by bullets after they perform their service to the altars. The —Egbesul is known to be powerful, fierce, and indestructible. Many people try hard to deny altogether the reality of demons; some ignore it altogether, but the bible never instructed us to ignore the devil or demons. We are to resist, rebuke, take dominion, etc.

On this fateful morning, investigations began as to who dared or who was responsible for desecrating the altar, and the enquiry led to the Aginighan family. This was a shocking replay of Gideon's act in the Book of Judges. PZ's elder sister took responsibility for the destruction of the altar. The angry mob would have fought for the gods, but for the intervention of the patriarch of the family, who spoke like Gideon's father.

—If she has offended the gods, let the gods fight for themselves, but lay no hand on the lady.

She is still living healthy and free until this day. This created an impression on Daddy's mind on the limitations of the gods of the land and the believer's authority.

You have power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy. Rule your world.

Further Reading: Judges 6:27-32 (Gideon casting down the altar of Baal).



He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God.

And I will write on him My new name. – Revelation 3:12

It is said that Alfred Nobel was privileged to have seen his obituary before he died, so he did everything in his power to change his name. Thus, the one who was termed —Angel of death (for his invention of the dynamite, which claimed the lives of many during the war) is now associated with world peace — the Nobel Peace Prize.

PZ reckoned himself dead with Christ and resurrected with a new life and a new name (Romans 6:11). We have enjoyed

encouragement from different parts of the world from people who came to know we were associated with PZ. Once in Benin City, I was introduced to a young man from Bomadi who told me he was in school because PZ offered him a scholarship. At another time, in a different country, a young lady shared with me how when she just lost her dad and was not sure of what life had to offer in the near future, PZ reached out to her. He was a friend of her dad, and made a way for her to get a full foreign scholarship – now she has a PhD.

PZ identified with Christ, and God gave him a new life and a new name.

Be identified with Jesus today.

Lesson: In Christ, all of our past is blotted out by the blood and we have a new life in Christ. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature – A KAINOS BEING.



d I will curse him who

I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. – Genesis 12:3

We are of the opinion that as a believer, you are a conduit of God's blessing to your environment. We see that God blessed —Portiphar PLC because Joseph was his employee.

—Laban Ltdl also prospered when Jacob was a member of staff. Like Joseph, Daddy was a conduit of blessing in all the organisations he worked for. He became so popular while working in NDDC that it was declared that he was a nuisance to the floor he was meant to work from. As a result, a special office at the basement of the commission was created for him where he received most of his visitors. Due to his relationship

with people, he must have been responsible for over 80% of the people who visited the commission at the time. Daddy saw reasons to **always be thankful**. He really loved his office and his bosses, even though this was meant to be some form of punishment – he would be alone. But God had promised never to leave him.

Daddy served and received many at this —pit, I interpreting their dreams and meeting their needs. In due course, he was promoted and lifted back to the floor he was —demoted I from, this time, not as Deputy Director but as Executive Director.

Leadership Lessons: Do not complain but always be thankful. Do you work with love and honour? Bill Johnson in his book, *The Way of Life*, writes, "Change that lasts happens through those who learn to love. These are the ones who serve with the heart of a king and rule with the heart of a servant."



"Honour your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: - Ephesians 6:2

We once stumbled on the truth that if we honoured our fathers and mothers, it would be well with us and we would live long on the earth, so we practised it. It became a custom in the PZ household to honour fathers; spiritual, biological, and societal. It is commonplace to have malt drinks shared to every member of the household when someone gets a new job or receives a promotion. Once, I felt led after working for a week to give my entire earnings to Dad. He received all of it as the priest over his household, recognising Jesus as our High Priest; then, he spoke blessings over me. He then gave me back most of the money – He always did this. Not long afterwards, I got a job that offered to pay about ten times the amount I honoured

Daddy with.

Daddy never spoke ill of anyone, no matter the wrong they did. He forgave them because he knew his heavenly father had also forgiven him. He genuinely loved people and honoured all men, especially the anointed.

Leadership Lesson: Let us honour our fathers and mothers, give them our substance, and never speak ill of them. —When you are tempted to criticise (condemn) people (God's children), bite your tongue; if you have an opportunity to praise, shout from the rooftops. I — Og Mandino, *The Greatest Salesman in The World*.

Jealousy is one reason people speak ill of fathers, leaders of movements, captains of industry, and spiritual fathers. In the book, *Heavy Rain*, by Kris Vallotton, Pastor Cleddie Keith was quoted to have said, "If you're jealous of someone, invest in them, and their victory will be your victory."

DAY 19



Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. – Colossians 3:16

If you visit PZ's family at 6 a.m. tomorrow morning, as long as there are people within the walls, you would have the opportunity to participate in the morning devotions. For over two decades, the family has consistently observed this tradition, which has imparted in all an enviable wisdom and unique worldview of love and honour.

During these sessions, everyone reads from a portion of scripture. The goal for the year usually is to finish the bible in one year as a family. After reading two or three chapters, everyone is expected to share insights gleaned from the text

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It is at this time that family issues are ironed out, and open rebukes, encouragements, family plans, and prayers are offered before God. The word culture in the home was PZ's wisdom. The devotions end with hymns and prayers for the day. Quarterly, with fasting, we prayed for the nation along the lines of life instead of death, peace instead of war, and unity instead of division and religious tolerance.

Reading the word of God exercises your imagination and creates new pictures in your mind. These pictures shape and create your world. Watching more television atrophies your imagination muscles, while reading the bible especially or any other book exercises your imagination. —To improve your creativity, turn off the television and strengthen your imagination. || — Rabbi Daniel Lapin (see reference in next chapter)

Further Reading: Psalms 1; Joshua 1:8; Psalms 119:11,105.



In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ

Jesus for you. – 1 Thessalonians 5:18

The bible says, —In everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. It is the PZ family culture to give thanks always for any and everything. We were taught that all things work together for us because we love the Lord. The local assembly where PZ fellowshipped has in its weekly routine a meeting called Testimonial Meeting. In this gathering, members of the congregation gather to give thanks or share testimonies of God's faithfulness. It is no mean feat to see that a member of the Aginighan family always has a testimony to share. We count our blessings, we do not forget his benefits.

Rabbi Daniel Lapin shares that optimism is an essential

workplace and life virtue a	and that gratitude is the practice to

grow optimism. When David faced Goliath, he remembered the Lord who delivered the lion and the bear into his hands, and he declared that that would be the fate of Goliath. The Aginighan family sees challenges as bread because the goodness of God is ever before their eyes. They looked up to him and were lightened and their faces were not ashamed.

Action: Drop this book for a while and write out five things you are most grateful for.

Reference: Watch Daniel Lapin teach *Creativity and Making Money*. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aZIo5BeCB2M

DAY21



Raisi ng Godly Seed

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it – Proverbs 22:6

He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly. – Proverbs 13:24

"For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." – Hebrews 12:6

We have pondered about the best practice in raising children. Growing up, I never or cannot remember being flogged by either of my parents. In our opinion, we turned out right – I mean that by God's grace, we are sensible, we listen, we obey, and we always look to serve. **So, what works in raising children? WORDS!**

The bible says in Hebrews 11 that through faith we understand

that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that the

Our parents exposed us to the right words. They did not call or relate with us according to the multitude of our iniquities but according to our prophetic destinies. When we disappointed them academically, they would admit that we let them down, but remind us that we are above our actions and our possessions.

When his GPA went down to a second-class lower, my brother got a call from Daddy.

—What is it I am hearing about your academic performance? Better sit up. Daddy let him know that nothing short of a second-class upper degree was acceptable in his house.

My brother described the words as fire in his bones. The word in itself has the capacity to bring out the desired change. With help from friends and devotion to his schoolwork, he graduated with just a few grade points shy of a first class – that is the

extent of the power in Daddy's words.

Lesson: Parents, refrain from saying what you see in the child, say only what God has shown you concerning the child's glorious future. God calls those things that are not as though they were.

Action: Look at your spouse, friend, or family. Think of all the things you do not like about them and declare the exact opposite. Call them: "Beautiful," "Wise," "Intelligent," "Obedient," "Submissive," "Honourable," etc.



Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies at the gate. – Psalms 127:5

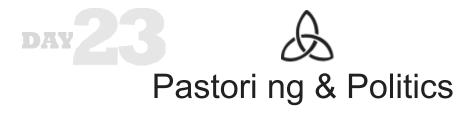
Layefa Jenakumo Nee Aginighan initiated the family practice, Elders at the Gate. She coined it from Psalms 127:3-5.

Every last day of the month, it is now a tradition to gather as a family, sing hymns, read scriptures, sing songs to God, and chart prophetically the course of the next month. Daddy always led from the front. His knowledge of hymns and scriptures were always to be admired. We would dance together and pray together. We have a framed picture at home with the words, —A family that prays together, stays together.

As the Psalms say, —It is vain to wake up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep. We learnt to surrender to God, trusting him to direct our paths; we have judged God faithful.

Lesson: You do not have to be the "Head" of the house or country to initiate change. This practice (though I would prefer sleeping), has come to stay, not necessarily by Daddy's doing, but by my sister's initiative.

As leaders, let us create a culture where followers may initiate programmes and activities that will take the organisation forward.



To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. – 1 Corinthians 9:22

For most Christians in Nigeria, the total time spent in church for a whole week is about four (4) hours out of one hundred and sixty-eight (168) hours. This means most of their ministry (expression of their God-given assignment) is spent at their work place or traffic (if they reside in Lagos). PZ helped redefine ministry with his role as pastor, politician, and philanthropist.

He saw clearly that ministry was not primarily done in the four walls of the congregation but out in the community – hence his involvement in politics and business.

This gave him a window to extend God's love by precepts and example to all he came in contact with, and God confirmed his word with signs and wonders. Through PZ, policies were made and implemented that positively affected the lives of many in the Niger Delta, one of such is his role in the establishment of the Nigerian Maritime University. He gave to build churches and encouraged ministries. He sponsored many community programmes both in his village, Ogodobiri, and beyond.

Daniel was a statesman in Babylon; Joseph was a slave turned prime minister in Egypt; Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer; Peter was a fisherman; the list goes on and on showing that God does not necessarily need the title or the office of Most Senior Reverend Bishop Doctor to partner with you. All He wants is for you to present your body as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service – Romans 12:1.

Action: Think of the various platforms you have to express God's love and ask for wisdom to give your best all the time.

Bodi ly Exercise

For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. – 1 Timothy 4:8

Growing up, we were free to explore as kids. We played golf! Having learnt the rules off a computer game, we improvised with firewood for clubs and the roll-on balls of empty deodorant bottles as the golf balls. The compound was marked for various holes with the green, brown (made of earth) with a hole dug in the middle. We also played counter ball, football and snooker in our kingdom of a compound.

Despite PZ's busy schedule, he joined us to play table tennis.

He was good, arguably the best in the house. Despite experiencing —Glory with his increasing stature, it was a

wonder how he managed to move the bat effortlessly with skill. **He had a Roger-Federer-like back hand**. Playing table

tennis was Daddy's favourite way to burn fat, bond with family, and fulfil the scripture. He also made consistent effort to swim – the ultimate exercise – regularly and check his vitals as he was well aware that the body is as important as the soul and the spirit, because without a body, man cannot function on the earth.

Lesson: Exercise regularly, bond with your family, and nourish and care for your body – it is the temple of The Holy Ghost.

Action: Take a break and walk around the house, thanking God for any five things you are grateful for.



Is this not the fast that I have chosen: To loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?

- Isaiah 58:6-7

Even as children, we were exposed to fasting. It has become a practice to skip lunch. It is not a law – we just do not cook and eat as a family in the afternoon. I remember attending fasting and prayer meetings in the church with other very young children. We join members of the Apostolic Church to fast every quarter and **pray for the nation throughout the week.** On the first day of the fast, we pray for peace instead of war,

then life instead of death. On the third day, we pray for unity instead of division; on the fourth day, we pray for religious tolerance and freedom of worship, and on the fifth day, we go over all the themes in prayer.

Andrew Wommack, in his book, *God Wants You Well*, shared an interesting insight to the purpose of fasting. He remarked that fasting does not make you any more powerful than you had always been in Christ, but it deals with unbelief, which serves to counter your declarations of faith.

Jesus said, "When you fast," not "If you fast,"; so, fasting is an expected practice for believers.

A final word on fasting: as we fast, let us meditate on God's love for us during the period and commit to love our neighbours as God has loved us. Isaiah 58 says, —Fasting is a time to deal our bread to the hungry and let the oppressed go free; then, your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you, and the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

Action: Schedule times to fast and give yourself to prayers. Meditate on God's love for you. You do not have to start with a forty-day fast. You may start with skipping a meal. My favourite is to give someone else my meal when fasting.

26



DAY

A YOUTH CORPER -

Chima

Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. – Romans 13:8

On a particular thanksgiving service, Mrs Aginighan shared a testimony of how she got a call from the North from a certain individual named Chima. We had not heard from or of him in over two decades, so you could imagine our joy. It was during this thanksgiving that I knew for the first time, our relationship with Chima. He had lived with us for a whole year, working as an intern in Daddy's IT firm, POZAG, while doing his NYSC. POZAG Computers is situated at No. 1 Uyo street, Mile 1, Port Harcourt. There, they offer computer appreciation courses – Dad was always IT savvy.

All the while, I thought Chima was a cousin or distant relative, but no. He was a youth corper under Daddy's payroll. He had lived with us and was a vital part of the family. Perhaps it was

the kind of love and care shown by PZ that bore fruit for me as during my own youth service. I was offered a furnished four-bedroom apartment with a garden and borehole system at Esaodo Community in Osun State.

Paul admonished that we love all men and owe men love. Jesus said, —Be like your Father in heaven. Love!

Question: What will you do about the corpers, interns, or workers in your organisation? Love them. Honour them.





For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. – 1 Corinthians 4:15

Despite having a total of seven children in the house, Daddy found a way to always stretch the heavens, making space for more. Matthew was brought in from The Apostolic Church, Essi Assembly, Warri, to stay with us. He also worked as a computer instructor in Daddy's IT firm, POZAG. Being a church boy, he was also a good example for us while growing up. He was and still is, as a matter of fact very zealous for the things of God, which endeared him to my parents.

His work ethic and loyalty was commendable and resourcefulness admirable. There comes a time, when the boy has to become a man and leave his father's house. Daddy,

as a life coach, and a "Mother eagle," knew how to give his children cues to fly. Daddy was with Matthew every step of the way and helped him get a place of his own and settle down as an independent man. Though he left the house, Daddy was still very much a Father to him; he also helped him get a job as an IT technician at a reputable parastatal. Today, Mr Matthew is married with two beautiful children and has properties to his name in Port Harcourt. Though he came in to PH with just a school certificate, with mentorship and encouragement from PZ, he has done well for himself.

Leadership Lesson: James said "Humble yourself, under the mighty hand of God," not "humble others."

Many Father figures seem to demand/force loyalty and submission from their sons. This is manipulation and witchcraft. If the lad is not submissive, it is not your place as a leader to put him in his place. Your role is to be ever

present and to wash his feet if he allows you to; not control their every move and tell everyone how the boy is rebellious!

Further Reading: John 13.

Recommended Reading: New Covenant Leaders by Jonathan

Welton



oodluck Ebele Jonathan & Patience Jonathan

DAY

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way. – Psalms 37:23

For a number of years, we had very peaceful and quiet neighbours. At the time, the humble Goodluck Ebele Jonathan owned a Bluebird Salon car and I somehow vaguely remember he was almost always dressed in white, with a hat – maybe it was my imagination.

Back then, Cable TV was a luxury somewhat; so, the neighbours came together and paid for a CTL subscription for just one house – Flat 3 to be precise; then, everyone drew cables to their flats. We and Goodluck shared a semi-detached bungalow. His was Flat 6; ours was Flat 8. Mama Pat, as I called his wife, ran their family ice-cream business. As a

young chap, I quickly picked the process of making ice-cream

from her. They had wisely converted their garage into the ice-cream factory, while we, on the other hand, converted ours into an extra-room for Daddy's extended family. In 1996 when Nigeria won the gold medal for football in the Olympics, Goodluck bought a carton of malt, which we celebrated with. It was from being our neighbour that he went on to become the Deputy of Governor of Bayelsa State, then, Governor, then, the Vice-President and finally, the President of Nigeria. A testament to the loving relationship between both families is that despite their busy schedules, Daddy made time to turn up Goodluck's did matters and he for same, sending representatives and warm regards during our family celebrations.

Life Hack: Imagine, the former President of Nigeria sharing cable subscription with his neighbours. It is important to know your place and your stage. Be content with the things you

have. Learn to collaborate if necessary. **Teamwork makes the Dream Work!**

Lesson: Reduce liabilities and increase your assets. Cut down wastes, plug the holes, and work that you may have to give.





THE CHAUFFEUR WITH A DOCTORATE Henry

Let him that stole steal no more but let him work with his hands that he might have to give those who do not have (Ephesians 4:28).

He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap that He may seat him with princes – With the princes of His people. - Psalms 113:7-8

As Daddy progressed in life, gifts increased — To him that has, more shall be given. During the Christmas seasons in his early days, he would get a few hampers, rice, and groundnut oil. It increased to lots of hampers, bags of rice, cartons of groundnut oil, goats, and chickens. At the pinnacle of Daddy's career, he would get cakes, loads of hampers,

cows, goats and chickens. When Daddy retired, these gifts drastically reduced

- it was shocking. At this time, it was the likes of Henry, Matthew, and others who Daddy invested in that consistently, year in and out, came back to say, -Thank you! and wish the family the best during the festive seasons. The fanatics faded like the wind. Mr Henry had worked for PZ as his personal driver. He was always cheerful, smiling, and optimistic. He is like an elder brother to us. Many people tend to devalue others, shout on them, or talk down on them because of their position or authority over the person. I could hardly remember PZ raising his voice at Henry. It always seemed like a loving relationship, as it should be. While working with Daddy, he only had his First School Leaving Certificate and Driver's Licence. But today, he is living comfortably with his family at Uyo and currently pursuing his PhD. The relationship between Daddy and Henry is a model of how bosses should treat their employees: wish them well, hope they rise, pray for them, and talk honourably to them. For all that you have, you

received; why boast? Daddy seemed to always remember this

and lived by it.

Daddy also encouraged him and supported him during his

marriage and helped him multiple times. This brought fruit as

you can see – Henry has learnt to fish on his own.

Further Reading: Colossians 4:1-2; Ephesians 6:5-9

THE BELOVED NEPHEW

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of God. – Hebrews 12:2

Out of PZ's seven biological children, four attended the University of Benin, three of which enrolled for a Bachelors in Engineering Degree programme. Why so? It was no coincidence; we had a cousin, more like a big brother, who inspired us in more ways than we knew. He studied Engineering from the prestigious university.

Just like Ebi inspired our choice of study, let us look up to Jesus to inspire our everyday choices in life. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says that —But we all with unveiled faces beholding as in

a glass the glory of God are changed into that same image

from Glory to Glory as by the Spirit of God. Also, Colossians 3:3-4 says, —When Christ who is our life shall appear; then, shall you also appear with him in glory. Let us look up to Jesus the author and finisher of our Faith.

Daddy, who received no little support from his elder sister and her husband while growing up, accepted that her son stay with him. He supported him throughout his school in the university while Ebi helped out at POZAG or in the house whenever he was on holidays.

At Warri, Daddy ran a school, teaching Mathematics and had as his staff, Ebi and his sister, Powei, who is now a Medical Doctor.

Ebi is now married to his beautiful wife and is blessed with two children.

Life Hack: You change into what you look into. Focus on God, look at Jesus, and be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Action: Take time to meditate on God's word; confessing your identity in God.

Say to yourself; —I am the righteousness of God. I

- —As He is so am I in this world.
- —I have eternal life.

He Without Sin Stone

So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." – John 8:7

I believe that most families have favourites. John was the beloved disciple (well, he called himself that). Our family favourite always topped the class, never had a quarrel or even broke a plate, and was excellent in the kitchen. She was the child every Father would pray for, until the unimaginable happened.

Word got out that our dear one was having a child. The world awaited judgement.

Judah, the son of Jacob, passed judgement when he learnt that his daughter-in-law was pregnant by harlotry. The wise Tamar,

not wanting to bring shame to the family, sent word saying, the owner of the seal and ring is the Father of the child. Judah saw the error of his ways and accepted Tamar and the child. Tamar went on to be listed as an ancestor of Jesus, the Christ.

Sin is bad and terrible, **but blessed be God who has forgiven us of all our sins** and healed us of all our diseases.

Remembering the grace of God, PZ put his reputation aside and standing, and maintained that God had forgiven the children. How could he impute sin on those whom God did not condemn? For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world but that through him all might be saved.

Daddy went on to throw a mega wedding party for his children and the whole city celebrated along. Indeed, blessed is the man whose sins are forgiven, and the man to whom the Lord will not impute sins. Say these words: Father thank you for forgiving ALL my sins.

Song: I love that man, of Galilee

He has done so very much for me

He has forgiven me all my sins

And sent the Holy Ghost to me

I love that Man, of Galilee

Favoured Child

You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways. – Job 22:28

The story of the fourth child of PZ's family, Mrs Layefa, shows that you can re-write the story of your life anytime. In secondary school, Laye did not shine academically as did her elder sister. Boarding school life can be terrible, talk less of an all-girls' school. I remember an episode with a classmate that was a thorn on her side. Laye showed strength and character and turned out to be a strong and beautiful lady as bullying and intimidation can break someone's person.

Laye seemed to take spiritual things more seriously than other members of the family. I remember her always telling me that God needs me and FECA needs me. She used to be on my case; now, she tells me my own is too much.

Laye added —Favour to her name. She called herself —Favour, and she was favoured. From a lady just getting by academically in high school, she graduated as the Best Graduating student from the Linguistics Department of the University of Uyo. She also, like her father, was actively involved in student unionism. She was elected as the Assistant Secretary General of the SUG. Her excellent spirit also manifested in her graduating with a distinction from Coventry University in the UK.

My sister's name was not necessarily evil, but she chose to add to her name what God had freely given her, Favour. What do you call yourself, situations, and circumstances? Some see giants, but will you see bread?

Action: It does not hurt to use your words to change your life, rather, it is recommended. Make it a practice of speaking God's promises over your life. You are the prophet of your destiny.



Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? – Isaiah 53:1

Moses sent twelve spies to investigate the land God had promised Israel and bring back word. On return, they had nice things to say, but also added that they saw giants in the land, and they were like grasshoppers in the sight of the giants. They then advised Israel not to advance for their kids would be killed easily. They forgot the Lord of Hosts, who had always been with them. Of the twelve spies, only two, Joshua and Caleb spoke courageously, remembering the faithfulness of God. For this cause, they were the only ones of that generation who were promised that they would enter the Promised Land.

Media and politics has made our great nation a comedy for the

nations. Any regard I had for the media was lost when they

reported that PZ had bank accounts in the UK. They offered the name of the bank and the balance with precision up to two decimal places (to show accuracy, perhaps). Sadly, people actually believe what is written in the papers, forgetting that it is first a business out to make profit. It is said that Evangelist Billy Graham read the paper with one hand and the bible on the other. Whatever news or information we read on the paper should be filtered with the lens of God's faithfulness and his promises to us his children, lest we run the risk of perishing in the wilderness. Like Caleb and Joshua, let us believe the report of the Lord.

Leadership Lesson: Leaders should learn to ask, "What is happening now?"

"What is not happening now?"

"What can I do to affect what is happening now?"

I heard Dr Mike Murdock say, —The most important thing in the world is a conversation, and the most important part of a

conversation is a question. Ask questions and be a lifelong learner. Buy the truth and sell it not





Deliverance From Gunmen

For He shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. – Psalms 91:11

PZ had an experience, which was a shocking parallel to the bible story below.

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, "Fear not, Paul"; thou must be brought before Caesar; and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. Howbeit we must be cast upon a certain island. – Acts 27:22-26

On Daddy's return from a political meeting in Asaba, Delta State, gunmen who had intent to kill ambushed his vehicle. The thief comes but to steal, kill, and destroy, but I came that you may have life and have it more abundantly. The vehicle was sprayed with bullets. By God's grace, the car did not go into flames and did not stop as the driver drove past the gunmen. The bullets were found in the spaces between the car seats and inside the car seat, but no one had a scratch. It was a miraculous deliverance.

As God's angel protected Paul and his travelling party, so did God send His angel to keep Daddy and his team. Though the vehicle got harmed, no harm came to anyone aboard the vehicle. The Lord will give his angels charge concerning you. They shall bear you up with their hands, lest you dash your foot against the stone.

Action: Acknowledge the ministry of angels. Release the angels assigned to you and your work to be free to operate in your life, ministry, and community.



Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it." –

Habakkuk 2:2

I have a dear friend whom I tease a lot, especially about how he failed JAMB so much so that they let him use red pen to shade his answers (this is a joke). Our family has had its share of academic failures. Growing up, our parents were not rigid, as to their expectations of us. We did not have the —You must be a doctor ... lawyer, or juju priest, as is seen in many African homes. They simply exposed us to the options, prayed endlessly for us, and trusted us to make the right decisions, while trusting God's guidance to groom us up to all we should be.

We learnt to couple computers, install software, make music,

write screenplays, etc. The downside to not being focused is that it could affect performance in the conventional system of education in Nigeria. Two of us had to switch schools because of our poor academic performance. This broke Daddy's heart because they worked hard to ensure we never lacked, and we never complained, so where did they go wrong? They thought. Despite the setbacks, PZ persisted with firm words, declaring his expectation concerning his children with prayers to God for help. He never withdrew his support and love for them, just like God never does His. In time, five out of his seven children all bagged their master's degrees before he turned fifty-seven. Need I say, all seven of his children are graduates.



Where there is no counsel, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. – Proverbs 11:14

On completing my youth service, I came home proud with the manuscript of the book I had written about my service year. I believed it was the best book ever written on the subject. I handed a copy of the book to Daddy for review; he, being a writer and a speaker himself, his opinion mattered a lot. Daddy looked through my work and was not impressed with my writing at all. Whatever thoughts and plans I had towards early publishing had to wait. Daddy's public reputation mattered more to him, and he remarked that anyone could look through my work with my poor tenses and violation of everything good in literature, and then, take me to the cleaners – ending my writing career before it began. He said people could take my

work apart, using my book as a model on how not to be a writer.

It was a hard pill to swallow, but I had to be patient and cancel all the plans I had towards publishing and contracted a professional editor. When she was done with the book, I realised the importance of Daddy's counsel.

With my parents' help, I was able to publish the book, printing about a thousand copies, which sold out.

Sons Of Adoption

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God – Ephesians 2:20

Franklin, Tope, Jennifer, Success, Sylvester, Chima, Ndifreke, Ejike, etc. are just a list of the many sons and daughters adopted into PZ's home. Many of them seemed to have as much right as PZ's biological children. The range of their stay was from a day to decades because the door to PZ's house was usually open until about 11 p.m. – PZ's house was a home for all.

Revelation 21:25 says —And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there ... ||

The death of Jesus reconciled humanity back to God, and we

that were not a people are now the people of God. We have full

rights as sons, abiding in our Father's house forever. PZ exemplified this character of God, adopting sons.

Lesson: Let our doors be open always, receiving many sons to glory and exposing them to a father's love, to the Father's love.



Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. – 1 Corinthians 13:1

If Daddy ever found fault in me, it would be my not picking up the Ijaw language. While growing up, I made attempts to learn – I tried, honestly. My parents put in a lot of effort, and I still have my vocabulary.

Here are some:

Mofun – salt

Fun – book

Brasin – leave that thing

Emi – fine, or good

Bra soro beni com bo – bring water to wash hand...

I believe my Ijaw uncles would be impressed or maybe not.

My comprehension of the Ijaw language in everyday

conversation and in speaking never really worked. I was

—DUKOOOO□ as my auntie always remarked – I still hold her responsible for my failure and inability to communicate in Ijaw. I forgive her officially with this writing.

Dad's success in mother tongue transfer was in teaching us to communicate with the language of Love. It is the universal language. This, I picked fluently. By observing Daddy's lifestyle and learning his teachings from the bible, I developed my love vocabulary and mastered the language of love; giving, serving, and communicating.

In the great commission, Jesus said, —Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

Amen. || Question is, what was commanded? John 13:34 says, —A new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another; as I have loved you that ye also love one another. ||

In this, I am sure Daddy is proud of me. I speak my mother tongue – I love, as Jesus loves me.

Lesson: Let us love one another for love is of God and everyone that loves is born of God.



In the morning, sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.

- Ecclesiastes 11:6

I had just been learning of the importance of sowing and reaping. I had watched my parents give and grow. I thought I could do the same. In church, whenever there was an opportunity to give, I would rush down to —Sow my seed. I kept at it, giving, conveniently and inconveniently. There were times when I would stretch, giving thousands, but on this fateful day, I gave just a hundred naira.

On my way home, a strange thing happened. Some folks had come to see Daddy, and I had directed them to our house. We had to wait outside as the door was locked. Later, one of them

approached violently, threatening to beat me up. We all were

shocked as to why that was necessary. Subconsciously, I knelt to plead, asking the man to not be offended, and that I was sorry. He left and went back into the car. Everyone wondered why I acted that way, but I did not take it to heart, I had knelt down to lesser men in boarding school, I cared less about my pride or dignity.

Daddy was super proud of how I handled the men – **disarming** them with grace. The bible says, —Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good. ■ They testified to Daddy that they did not expect such a reaction. To reward me, Daddy asked what I wanted. He gave me an open cheque – what a time to be blank! Indeed, the Spirit of God helps our infirmities in prayer (Romans 8:26). This time, my sister interceded on my behalf.

—He needs a phone.

Up until then, I did not have a phone, and the highest amount of money released on phones until then was №10,000. In my case, I received №20,000 – from a 100 naira seed! It seems

our harvest often come in form of challenges – Goliaths. Will you take them? Will you react in love? Sow your seeds, thrust in your sickle, and reap the harvest.

Action: Can you identify —Goliaths|| around? Resolve to take them down with your sceptre of righteousness. Hebrews 1:8





DAY

Pastori ng The People

And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. – Jeremiah 3:15

Sometime in 2006, Daddy called for a family meeting in his room and took his time to explain his political ambition. He would be contesting to become Governor of Delta State. He spoke of how the decision would affect us and that he had thought it through. He gave the chance for everyone to air their opinions. You see, long before Daddy's vying for office, he already lived the life of a governor (maybe not a Nigerian governor). Our sitting room always had a lot of people coming in to see Daddy – it was scary but funny. Now that I think of it, why did Daddy not take Jethro's advice to Moses? —You'd burn out if you alone wanted to take these people's matter on the head.

People from different walks of life and different parts of the Niger Delta would come to see the delectable PZ and he would give everybody enough time and attend to all. God was so gracious that Daddy, though almost never on time to work had no issues with his employers that I am aware of. Once, a man, who probably forgot how PZ had supported him for his father's burial in the past, came again weeping and wailing for a burial that should have happened already. Despite seeing the truth through many complaints, PZ seemed to live off the energy of the privilege of putting smiles on others' faces [Jesus said, —I have a meat ... to do the will of Him that sent me and finish His work. 1. He was a man of God for the people, and though he did not win the election, which would have made him governor of just one state, he was made Acting MD of NDDC, which made him a type of overseer over nine states of the Niger Delta. God does exceeding abundantly above all we ask or imagine.

Lesson: Your decisions, as you grow in life does not affect just you but all you love. David the King made a decision to number the Israelites, while Saul slew the Gibeonites. For these decisions, many people lost their lives. Do not be hasty in decision making; trust in the Lord, you have the mind of Christ.



And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things?

Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." – Matthew 24:2

On one Sunday, a dear cousin, having successfully driven to church, rammed the car into a portion of the church building. This served as the initial wrecking ball impact that would lead to the eventual tearing down of the whole building for the newer and bigger structure to be built. On getting home, he was afraid of being scolded only to hear Daddy say, —If you never jam car, then you never learn finish. This gave him the needed confidence to drive again.

I remember that while the church was being built, I was not impressed at all. I do not know if there are still people like me, who see mega church structures and go, —Why this

waste? You see, I am a believer, through and through. I believed the

bible verse that says that this temple would be destroyed with no stone left upon the other. I thought then that it referred to the destruction of the whole world and all the churches inclusive.

A lot of people still hold the view that in the second coming of Jesus, God would use fire to burn up the whole world, and that by using fire, he would have kept his covenant to Noah. This is a wrong view to have, as it does not take context seriously.

I no longer have issues with church buildings or long-term planning because I now understand that Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21, 2 Peter 3, and the book of Revelations all speak of an event that has happened in our past – The temple in Jerusalem has been destroyed.

Churches are free to build and you are at liberty to think and plan long-term.

Lesson: God's Truth is usually the hammer with which old structures and patterns are crushed, giving way for the reality of the kingdom of God to be established within you.

We must seek above all else the truth, whether we are right or wrong. Value truth above right and wrong.

Dad's reaction to my cousin's accident mirrors God's reaction to our sins and iniquities — God forgives. Forgive one another; encourage people to try again.

Recommended Reading:

Paradise Restored by David Chilton

Raptureless by Jonathan Welton

The Days of Vengeance by David Chilton

Victorious Eschatology by Harold Eberle.



Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste? – Haggai 1:4;

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? – 1 Corinthians 6:19

As great and honourable as it is to build churches and houses, priority should be given to building yourself, for you are the temple of the Holy Ghost. Many have sown much, and brought in little, or earned wages to put into a bag with holes. Go up to the mountain, bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD.

My friends always envied my library. I invested in books, but did not have to spend so much as I had a reservoir at home courtesy my parents. Our bookshelves were filled with

different versions of the bible and a variety of bible study tools. I remembered coming home to see Kenneth Hagin's *Tongues* beyond the upper room. I took Daddy's copy and read it, cover to cover. Oh, how it blessed me. Daddy had books by Bishop Oyedepo, Yongi Cho, Watchman Nee, to name a few. The wise king Solomon said, guard your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life. The bible also records that as a man thinks in his heart, so is he. **We must cherish and watch over our thought life, and let the truth of God's word to garrison our hearts**. Building the temple of

Now if any man build upon this foundation; gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 1 Corinthians 3:12-13

the Holy Ghost is building our hearts and minds by the word

of God, which is purer than Gold.

Action: Make a decision to build your mind. Fill it with the wisdom of the ages. Meditate and contemplate the love of God. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

The Apostolos

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. – Matthew 6:10

When the emperor of Rome conquers a new territory, he sends a ship on an Apostolos (Apostolic) mission. The vessel would be laden with artists, musicians, craftsmen, and thought leaders. Their mission is to school the newly conquered land in the ways of the empire. This is so that whenever the emperor leaves Rome to visit, he feels at home.

This paints the picture of our mission on earth; to make it just like heaven so that the glory of God fills the earth as the waters cover the sea. This has been the mission of the church since its inception and has since progressed from glory to glory for the path of the just shines brighter and brighter unto the perfect day.

I once visited a very close family in Bayelsa, and I was impressed by Daddy's Apostolic strides. Their home fellowship was just like ours – just that they had drums, keyboards, PA system and pastors coming in to fellowship with them as early as 6 a.m.

The patriarch of that family, Uncle Dimaro, informed me that our morning devotion culture inspired theirs. PZ is indeed apostolic.

The media makes us believe the world is getting darker, but the word of God assures us that it is from glory to glory. Statistics show that this is the best time ever to live. When last were witches burnt alive in the name of the Lord? Or was slavery legalised? The world is not perfect yet, but it is better than any other time in history and as we cooperate with God, carrying out our apostolic mission, the earth will be vitally full of the glory of God as waters cover the sea.

Hope: This is the best time ever to live on earth. The world is healthier, safer, cleaner, and better than any other time in history and it would keep getting better. He must reign until He makes His enemies His footstool.

Action: You are God's body. You are the one to make the world a better place. If you expect the world to get worse, who will make it good? Change your mind.

Watch Jonathan Welton teach on *The Big Picture*: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6i2uleeqEN8



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Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened." – Matthew 13:33

Daddy was always one to speak his mind concerning the state of his food or when someone was found sleeping on HIS COUCH. The bible says, if your brother offends you, confront him. Open rebuke is better than secret love (Proverbs 27:5).

Once, Dad's nephew, Solomon prepared beans for him, but with too much salt. Solomon knowing that PZ must comment and not willing to face Daddy's wrathful words, feigned sleep. On tasting the beans, Daddy sent for Solomon, and though he was told his nephew was asleep, he ordered, —Wake him up!

Solomon arrived and was asked to taste the beans and speak his observation. He remarked that there was just too much salt!

Daddy was furious but shook his head and asked him to leave. He later told Mummy that Solomon almost killed him with salty beans.

You are the salt of the earth. Sunday Adelaja, often calls for church to shift from the four walls of our cathedrals to the streets because by clustering only in the church walls, we become too salty and not so useful to society. Bill Johnson says, we are the salt of the earth, and not the whole meal. We, as salt, are to operate within an existing framework – the world. It is expected to infuse the life of the kingdom in all of society.

What flavour are you bringing to your office and community? Let your light shine!

Recommended Reading:

The Way of Life by Bill Johnson
Churchshift by Sunday Adelaja



But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.

- 1 Corinthians 6:17

Once in church during bible study, which was Daddy's favourite meeting as this affords the congregation an opportunity to ask questions – questions are not allowed after most Sunday service sermons – we spoke about how we are the salt of the earth. A lady then asked, —Why did Jesus say, we are the salt of the earth and not the sugar?

We were all surprised at the question for a time until a brother suggested an answer. He noted that unlike sugar, salt was an ionic compound made up of an electropositive element (Sodium, Na) and an electronegative element (Chlorine, Cl). He noted that the preservative, purifying, and seasoning characteristic of salt lies in its ionic configuration. Like salt,

we are unique and useful because our —electronegative self is

in union with the —electropositive God. This is what makes us special.

He that is joined with the Lord is one Spirit.

You are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life shall appear, then shall you also appear with him in glory. Colossians 3: 1-4

Meditation:

- —I am dead, and my life is hid with Christ in God. Now Christ is my life.

 ■
- —I am crucified together with Christ; nevertheless I live, and the life, which I live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God. Galatians 2:20

Repeat these words to yourself for the next five minutes.





Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do so. Do not say to your neighbour, "Go, and come back, and tomorrow I will give it," when you have it with you.

- Proverbs 3:27-28

I recalled Daddy telling me of two instances when people called, requesting assistance. They had claimed it was a matter of life and death. One was a personal barber whom Daddy knew very well and knew he had been through a lot. It was not so convenient for Daddy, but he gave even more than was requested. The other was a chief who also was in dire need of assistance for a medical emergency. Despite the timing, Daddy made sure he gave over five times what was requested.

Many times, when people make requests, because of fraudsters, we may want to do background checks, but the bible says that love believes all things. In both cases above, they both passed on. Daddy recounted that he could not live with himself if he had not assisted them when he had the chance and power to.

The bible says, —Encourage the brethren while it is called today lest you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sins. As long as it is in your power to give, do not tell them to go and come back tomorrow. There is no need to test people; just love them, give them, and do not ask questions for conscience sake. Act in faith.

Action: When you meet someone, you may say in your heart to yourself, or address them by name, saying, —I love You. Next, ask, —**How may I be of help to you today**?

- Solomon Aginighan



he Gate man With an A1

For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. – Luke 8:17

PZ was the chairman of NDDC Estate Tenants/Landlords Association. He was responsible for the general coordination of activities and payment of staff of the estate. He was also responsible for recruitment of security personnel when necessary. On this instance, while interviewing a candidate, he noticed the lad had an A1 in Mathematics. Dad, being a Mathematician asked, —Is this really your result?

The young man answered in the affirmative, and he was asked to state Pythagoras' Theorem. After thinking for a while, he opened up that he could not. He later admitted that someone wrote the exams for him.

In Daddy's jovial self, he laughed and asked why that was so

hard to say. Then, he rebuked the boy for the act, and advised

him not to cut corners and cheat for it may hunt him in the future. He employed the young man.

Leadership: God is not anti-greatness. God is not looking for ways to humble people; rather, with his mighty arm, he raises us up together with Christ. A clear path to greatness is service. Look for opportunities always to serve. **The greatest is the Servant**.

- Solomon Aginighan





... The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

- James 5:16 AMPC

Jesus said, —Behold I give you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you. At another place, He said, —You shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.

Many believers have received the promise of the Holy Spirit. We have power! We have not received the spirit of fear but of power, love, and of a sound mind. We have power, but how do we make this power available? We PRAY!

Prayer is the means through which the power we have received is made vitally available for our needs. As a leader,

you need people to willingly submit to the common cause. In the day of power, the people shall be willing. People drag their feet when leaders do not pray. As you pray, the masses will flock towards you, to drink of the life you carry.

PZ often had his company with which he prayed. His number one prayer partner was Mummy. They prayed regularly, singing psalms and hymns, sometimes, all night, and many times with fasting. This steered the course of us, the children, keeping us from evil and making our hearts malleable to the word of God.

Once, some friends and I needed a place to pray. We had heard of people praying for twenty-four hours non-stop in other tongues and wished to give it a try. Daddy, like the Shunamite, made rooms available for us on multiple occasions. As such, we stretched in prayer, and we made tremendous power available. We are eternally grateful.

Jesus said, men ought always to pray and not to faith. Pray without ceasing. Pray that your joy may be full.

Action: Do not waste your afflictions. Pray! Take out time to pray. Pray that your joy may be full. To be prayerful is to be JOY-Full.

Power Distribution

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving vourselves. – James 1:22

- —Physical activities done in obedience produce spiritual realities.
- Jonathan Welton

It is a common complaint of many that Nigerians pray too much with no commensurate result to show. I have heard this cliché in many pentecostal circles about using a certain person as a point of contact. What is a point of contact?

Dr Oral Roberts in a classic sermon defines a point of contact as an act of obedience that serves as a channel/conduit through which the power of God is revealed or made manifest. You see, every miracle in the bible follows someone acting on an instruction from God. It is the obedience that

somewhat aligns earth with heaven (serving like a plug) for which the power flows to our circumstance or situation.

Moses lifted the rod, and the red sea parted. Jesus blessed the bread and it multiplied. Elisha cast a stick on the water and the axe head floated. Naaman bathed seven times on the Jordan River. Many want to make a formula out of the supernatural, but the key is learning to be led by the Spirit of God. When we act on the word of God, we can lay hands on the sick and see them healed. Pray for the afflicted. Give and see it multiply.

PZ, over time, learnt to be a doer of the word for it is not the one who hears alone that is blessed but those to do the word. Your faith is in your action to the words God has spoken to you.

Action: Strong meat belongs to those who by reason of use have their senses exercised... Is there anybody sick around

you, do not ask questions, just obey, place your hands on the sick, and imagine them recovered. Declare them healed.



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Imitate those who through faith and patience inherited the promises. – Hebrews 6:12

For exaltation comes neither from the east nor from the west nor from the south. But God is the Judge: he puts down one, and exalts another. – Psalms 75:6-7

I know being a child of PZ could be frustrating. Here is how. Many people see you and expect you to have millions of naira in your account you are not using. As graduates, we also expected easy placement in the choicest of establishments courtesy of Dad's popularity, influence, and service to the nation – but that is not how life works or that was not how PZ

saw life. Daddy believed in God. You see, he remembered where he came from, paddling hours with his parents to attend school at Okwagbe to sitting as the MD of a federal parastatal

time, we would be lifted and promoted. He was well aware of God's design to use men to lift us as he regularly honoured President Obasanjo for his role in his appointment as EDFA. However, Daddy never believed in lobbying, coercion, or manipulation for promotion and favours. He trusted in God.

For us his children, we have seen God come through time and again. When an opportunity arose, God used a certain Mr PZ who admired daddy's work in his service to the Niger Delta struggle who was heading a government parastatal to provide gainful employment for two of PZ's daughters who though were gifted and talented graduates were yet to be gainfully employed.

Though Mordecai's service was seemingly forgotten, God caused King Ahaseurus to remember a certain Mordecai and honour him.

We Pray: In the name of Jesus, angels will at once whisper your name in the ears of those that will be instrumental to your promotion. Amen.

Truth: God has already raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

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But has now been revealed by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. – 2 Timothy 1:10

When Jesus was quizzed about the resurrection of the dead, he said that God introduced himself to Moses as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Notice he did not say He "was" the God of Abraham or the God of late Abraham. From Luke's account, we see, —For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to him. Luke 20:38

Mark 12:27 — He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living; ye therefore greatly err. If You err if you think God was the God of PZ or the God of Late PZ. From God's perspective, from God's realm, which is now my realm or the realm of the kingdom of God, or the realm of the believers, all

are alive. PZ is alive. Dad has joined the Cloud of

Witnesses! God has been blamed for years for letting people die. Many have turned to atheism because God disappointed them. But see what the Word says, "The death of The LORD's faithful is a costly loss in HIS eyes" (Psalms 116:15 CEB). When people die, it breaks God's heart. We see Jesus weeping at Lazarus' graveside – This shows that Father God was weeping alongside our family when Dad left the earth. You see, like the loss of a US Marine worth millions of dollars in training, so is the loss of a saint. The death of one saint, redeemed by the Blood of Jesus; capable of altering times and seasons, raising dead people, expressing the love of the Father to the world and reconciling men back to God is a great loss. A great loss to God, it is a great loss to the church, and the world at large. Daddy's death is indeed a great loss to the church and the whole Niger Delta region.

Our Consolation: We know that if someone dies physically, there is a heavenly cloth reserved by God in the heavens (2

Corinthians 5:1-4). When Daddy put off his earthly cloth, he immediately was decked with his heavenly suit with which he functions in that realm with other saints and members of the cloud of witnesses.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death – 1 Corinthians 15:26 (KJV)

Death is an enemy to be destroyed not a foe to be escaped (by rapture) or an ally to be embraced (by ignorance). Our theology, over time, has made death appealing; like death is a way to the Father. Death is NOT the way to the Father. Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and The Life, no man comes to the Father **but by HIM** (John 14:6). Truly, very soon, a generation will stop ageing and stop dying. As believers, we are to enter into this by faith; nothing is impossible to them that believe. If we think we have completed our assignment (an excuse people use for dying), God can give you —extra sheet because there's more work to do. There are galaxies to explore – think BIG.

Death has already been defeated. We enforce and revel in the victory and liberty we have been called into – The Law of The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). There is no New Testament basis for death. Sins have been forgiven, man has been reconciled to God, and we are new creatures. Death has been abolished; immortality has been brought to light. The reason people still die is ignorance. We have believed a lie. It may not be late to repent and confess the truth of Christ's victory. If you are tired of living, or done with your primary assignment, you could, like Jesus, ascend to heaven, taking on a new role with the saints and the household of God.

In the end, when we alive have come to the revelation of the truth of God's great victory in Christ, death being vitally defeated, we would also put on our heavenly cloth, which would swallow our earth suit, then reunite with our loved ones forever, caught up to the image of the Son of God.

While Daddy grew in the knowledge of Christ's victory over sin and death, he made sure He lived Life. He received the life of God; which is an expressive life. He gave his time, resources, wisdom, and strength. He pushed back death for many people. He did not seat idly, taking death as an ally, neither should you. Jesus won the victory. We are triumphant.



DAN Role In The 2003
us says the LORD: Even the captives of the mighty
or & Ogodobiri
all Origina away, and the prey of the terrible be

delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children." – Isaiah 49:25

The year 2003, is a year that has remained indelible in the hearts of the people of Ekeremor and Ogodobiri because of the heart-wrenching crisis that claimed many lives. In this crisis, some Ogodobiri boys invaded Ekeremor Town, burnt many houses and killed many, captured alive a man and a young damsel, and took them to Ogodobiri Town in a bid to revenge the death of late Ajayi.

PZ Aginighan at this point was informed about the development, and he swiftly intervened by speaking to the

boys but not before that the boys had killed the captured man and were about to kill the young girl. When he intervened, the boys listened and released the young girl to him. He took the girl to his house in Port Harcourt before calling an honourable man from Ekeremor to come and take her back to her parents. This kind gesture of PZ was commended by all and sundry, and it remains fresh in the hearts of many.

- Pastor Wisdom



Blessed are the peacemakers, for the, a called sons of Ogodobiri Crisis During The God. – Motthew 5:9

JTF Invasion Of June 2004

There is no doubt about the fact that Pastor PZ Aginighan was a lover of his people. He demonstrated this in June 2004 when JTF invaded Ogodobiri Community in search of General John Togo, a native of Ogodobiri Community and burnt many houses. This operation continued until PZ Aginighan's attention was drawn. As a passionate lover of his people, he was able to call on the Former Executive Governor of Delta State, Chief Onanefe James Ibori to speak to Commander Zamani, the JTF leader, who led the operation, and the operation was brought to an end. As if this was not enough, PZ personally visited Ogodobiri Community, two days later, with

sufficient relief materials comprising bags of rice, bags of beans, bags of garri, and other things from his personal pocket to alleviate the suffering of the people. This is one man who played a pivotal role in matters concerning his community and the entire Ijaw nation at large.

- Pastor Wisdom

PZ's Contribution To Peace Buildi ng In Ogodobiri Community And The Christian Body Conflict

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation. – Ephesians 2:14

PZ Aginighan in his usual manner as a peacemaker and a solution-oriented person played a key role in resolving the conflict between Ogodobiri Community and the Christian body over rituals. The community expected the body of Christ to perform some rituals, which the Christian body considered unholy and ungodly; so, they bluntly refused to obey such instruction.

The community chairman therefore took the matter seriously by instructing and ordering the community people not to greet the Christians and not to sell anything to the Christians. This conflict lingered for a while, but one day, PZ's brother, Keep

Aginighan, assisted one of the community persons and the person informed other community members and Keep Aginighan got arrested by the community forces for violating their law. It was at this point that PZ who came to Ezebiri for the burial of late Benson Bozimo, a superintendent of Immigration, Bayelsa Command in 1998, became aware of the conflict and stepped into the issue and was able to amicably settle the conflict and peacefully reunite the two parties involved.

- Pastor Wisdom

Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow e P2's Role In The Ogodobiri Community Awithout gause shall not alight. Broverbs 26:2 And Pastor Bekes Conflict

The man, PZ, will forever be greatly missed by many whose lives he impacted while on earth. Another very crucial issue he attended to was the conflict between Ogodobiri Community and Pastor John Beke. This conflict started as a result of a masquerade festival that the community. Pastor John Beke, who was at the time the pastor-in-charge of His Presence Favour Bible Church, Ogodobiri Branch, but hails from Inokora, felt the festival was contrary to God's word and was opposed to the masquerade festival. So, after the community set a date for the festival, Pastor John Beke organised a prayer unit and started praying earnestly to stop the festival. At a point, he felt prayer was not enough and went out for morning cry, preaching loudly against the planned masquerade festival

and warning them of similar destruction to that of Sodom and Gomorra. These actions of Pastor John Beke drew the attention of the community head popularly known as the Amananaowei, who warned and asked him to go and recant his words, but he refused. This made the Amananaowe give him a fourteen-days ultimatum, yet to no avail. Eventually, he was asked to leave Ogodobiri Community. As usual, PZ was called upon to intervene, but at the time, he was out of the country. PZ therefore pleaded with the Amananaowei of Ogodobiri to put the matter on hold until his return. On his return, PZ brought together distinguished sons of the land and ministers of the gospel in the persons of Archbishop Ovary JP, Rev Rex, Rev PraiseGod, Pastor Wisdom, and a host of ministers within Ogo-eze and other Ogodobiri people in Bomadi, Warri, Yenagoa, and Port Harcourt to all sit in a round table to discuss and resolve the issue without further rancour.

- Pastor Wisdom



I am among the countless beneficiaries of PZ Aginighan's selflessness and public spiritedness. At different times, PZ sought my promotion, recognition, or involvement in one

important role or the other.

When I was Special Assistant (Deputy Director equivalent) to the then Executive Director and later Managing Director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Timi Alaibe, PZ was one of those (the others including particularly Mr Atei Beredugo and Mr Kaltungo Moljengo) who entirely of their own volition and separately tried to have me retained as a permanent staff at the level of Director, in 2008. Some months after I left NDDC, he called for me and ensured that I got involved as an external consultant in a most strategic assignment I had been steering in-house for the Commission when I was a staff.

In May 2016, during my time as Commissioner for Environment in Bayelsa State, he reached out and prevailed on me to make a presentation at the 2015 Pan-Ijaw Summit, on the theme "The Ijaw Environment: Appraising the Socio-Economic and Security Threats". His reasoning for that summit, largely unheeded, was that the Ijaw nation must be prepared, ahead or early enough in the day to engage the then new administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, with an articulate set of expectations and in a coordinated fashion.

He repeatedly enjoined me to take interest in a national executive position in the Ijaw National Congress (INC) when the current crisis besetting INC was resolved. He took time to set out the grounds for persuading me, though I subsequently had to make him understand that it was not feasible for me to take on the role, though I would be happy to support as I could in other ways. He understood.

I recall when, back in NDDC, we had to jointly engage a man who was considered to be posing a serious security threat.

Over the many days of that task, I gained first-hand from the finest display of PZ's already well-known virtues of patience, incredible humility, calmness, and discretion. We succeeded, thanks mostly to his jolly diplomacy and ever smiling, disarming charm. Those were the same tools he applied in dousing many a tension in the testy early days of NDDC, as youths of assorted dispositions from various ends of the Niger Delta region thronged our offices, with or without notice, to protest their grievances, the very grievances that brought the Commission into being.

More invaluably, PZ took me like an equal in age and learning, though he was far my senior in age, experience, and insights in the issues of our mutual interest. Yet, I know that my interaction with PZ, a.k.a. ODUDU, would be a mere footnote compared to the volume and value of impact he made on many others and especially on the Ijaw nation and the Niger Delta region.

This is another hard hit, but we praise God for the wealth of PZ's legacy. May the souls of Pastor Power Ziakede Aginighan, his dear son, and fellow departed, and the Police aide that also passed on, find rest in the Lord's bosom; and may the hearts of the grieving loved ones and communities be soothed with the Lord's balm and filled with the power of faith, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

- Iniruo Wills



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The man, PZ, represented different positive things to the numerous categories of persons he came in contact with. He loved people and always helped in any way he could, especially the youths, women, and the elderly. That is why his house was always filled with these categories of persons.

He embraced peace with his neighbours and colleagues. He was tolerant and patient, even in the face of provocations. He down played negative news and broadcasted the positive ones, for which I referred to him as —The carrier of good news. I thank the Almighty God for making our paths to cross as I learnt invaluable lessons from his life style.

Of utmost importance is his closeness to the Lord for which he refused to move into a GRA property when he was offered

one, because he wanted his family to be within walking

distance to the Church, to enable them effectively participate in Church activities.

PZ Aginighan has left behind many orphans and widows, both biological and otherwise. The vacuum he created would be very difficult to fill.

I thus pray that the all-knowing God who it pleased to call him home at this time, will always come through for his family as promised in Psalms 68:5, —A Father of the fatherless and a defender of the widows is God in his holy habitation. (KJV)

- Princess H I Ogan

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About Pastor PZ Agi nighan

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

-Ps 112:4-6

I met PZ as fondly called. Many people do not know his surname, Aginighan, but only know him as PZ. He knew me when he was a student of University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, but we began to be close in 1992 and became closer between 1997 and 1998, until his departure on 31 August 2018.

Let me begin with his simplicity and humility. As a Deacon in the church, he did the work as if he was born with the responsibility. As he moved up to Elder, Presiding Elder, Overseer, Pastor, and Senior Pastor, his behaviour towards people remained the same. He always saw himself as a servant and was ever ready to serve.

Booker T. Washington in his book *Up from Slavery*, said,

—Great men cultivate love, and only little men cherish a spirit of hatred. Again, he said, —I've learned that assistance given to the weak makes the one who gives it strong, and that oppression of the unfortunate makes one weak. Therefore, with all boldness I can say that my brother PZ Aginighan was indeed a GREAT MAN and a very STRONG MAN, for his whole life was that of love and giving assistance to the weak.

One event that I cannot forget in life was when a young man came to his office and pleaded with him that his father was in the hospital and in need of a surgery, PZ did not know this young man or his father, but the young man said, —Let me call my father so you could speak with him, and PZ said, —No need, as long as you mention the name of The Apostolic Church.

He gave the young man the money he needed, and the young man wept. (This is an eye witness account.)

As the Area Project Chairman of Ojoto Area, Area 9, and Rumuchiorlu Area, I worked very closely with him during those days as he spearheaded the fund raising to buy the land and the buildings.

In the last twenty years, his influence in my life cannot be expressed in pen and paper. To put it in few words, according to his passion for sharing all that he has with others; he made sure that I shared in his glory and honour, his triumphs, and pains as necessary. Therefore, I am saying it here again as I have said somewhere else of him that God will raise up people, but there will never be another PZ Aginighan, for he was just one and refused to be another or like others.

One thing that truly bonded us together was his spiritual life. He was a man of the WORD and PRAYER. That was why we met together, once every month, to renew our covenant with God to give us grace and zeal to serve Him and to allow our lives to have maximum positive impact on other people's lives wherever we may be found.

One aspect of his life that is worthy of note and emulation is that of FORGIVENESS and FORGETFULNESS. He did not only forgive but also forgot the hurt and did not pay back.

As I look back and lean on the memory of this great and strong servant of God and humanity (for he did not serve God alone but he also served humanity for God), I enjoin all men to remember that our lives on earth has a terminal date, Therefore, as you read these few lines, live in the way that you will not be ashamed of the appearing before the Judge of the whole earth, self, and others also. (II Cor. 5:10; 1 Thess. 2:7-8)

- Pastor E E Akpabio



O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain, O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, Lift up thy voice, with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid, say unto Judah, behold your God. – Isaiah 40:9

He became the son of man that we might become the sons of God. Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He had neither wealth nor influence, neither training nor education, yet in infancy, he startled a king; in boyhood He puzzled the doctors; in manhood, He walked upon the billows and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services at all. He never authored nor wrote a book, yet all the libraries of the world could not hold the books that could be written about Him. He never composed a song, yet He has

furnished the theme of more songs than all songwriters

combined. He never founded a university, yet all the colleges and universities together cannot boast of as many students as He.

—He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor.

How poor? Ask His earthly mother! Ask the wise men from the East! He slept in another's manger. He cruised the lake in another's boat. He rode on another man's ass. He was even buried in another man's tomb. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned Him over to His enemies. He went through mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon the cross between two thieves. His executioners gambled for His coat.

Great men have come and gone, yet He lives on! Death could

not destroy Him. The grave could not hold him.



كك Lessons On Givi ng

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. - 2

Corinthians 9:7

I have learnt lots of important unforgettable lessons regarding

—Giving Gifts from your heart especially to those who cannot repay back.

Luke 6:37-38 describes the man/woman that gives freely yet gains more and more. Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. Pastor Power Aginighan was a man who gave freely, regardless of language or creed. He had pity upon the needy and less privileged (Proverbs 11:24). Giving with a glad and generous heart has a way of routing out the tough old Adam within us. Giving is the highest expression of potency. Giving

is Living. So, give to the needy, sweet charity bread, and the

Lord shall surely reward. You can give without loving but Pastor Power Aginighan loved and gave everyone that he came across and all those that knew him. If you are not generous with little, you can never be with abundance. As Christians, generosity is central to our faith. John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 9:10

- -11. You will be enriched in every way when you are generous. Summary
 - Giving produces greater contentment (1Timothy 6:6).
 - Giving increases your love for God's kingdom (Matthew 6:21).
 - Giving clarifies your purpose; as you give sacrificially, you discover a real sense of purpose.

- Mummy Adeniyi

Part C Extended Edition Stories



k and slow to wrath, for the wrath of man worketh not righteousness in the sight of God. – James 1:19

Boarding house life in Nigeria can be hazardous, hence the need for continuous prayers and parental intervention in the improvement of childcare in Nigerian institutions. It is not uncommon to see children stand on the WC to defecate so as to avoid —Dirty water splashing back to their buttocks — action and reaction, Newton says, are equal and opposite. An equal danger to avoiding disease on the backside is the WC failing and the brittle of the broken ceramic hurting the child.

Once, our WC at our home suffered a similar fate; it failed. Thankfully, none was hurt. How would Daddy react? What would cross his mind?

Why would these children stand on the WC? Are they that

bush?

Not being one to draw hasty conclusions, he investigated the matter and found that the WC was seen to be suitable for standing as the mirror was situated too high for the ladies to do their regular checks. With continuous pressure on the WC, it had failed and broken into pieces.

Daddy was really sorry that that happened and that his children could not speak up about their challenge of having an accessi- ble mirror. To this end, he bought a bigger and longer mirror with which they could do their makeup or apply powder as the case may be.

Initiative: Be more involved in child welfare, be detailed, and intentional. Jesus said that the hairs of our head are numbered! Turn up for their inter-house sports, read them to sleep, know what they use for their makeup, and be their best friend.



own understanding. – Proverbs 3:5

After completing secondary school, it was suggested that I attend driving school. Mummy, who was always protective of me, tried to resist the idea, but it is at this point you just love Daddy's firmness. I remember him say (and feminists may not like this), —So if I want to go to church, do you expect the girls to drive me there when these boys are around? With that, the matter was settled. Though being the last born, I was the first to drive – indeed, the first shall become last. People before me had made attempts to drive but to no avail. For some odd reason, their hands were never strong enough. On heading to driving school, I could not take chances. I learning to God. The scriptures say, committed my —Acknowledge the Lord in all your ways, lean not on your own understanding. God helped me, and I came out fine – driving like a boss, cool and calm.

At the time, Daddy had a lot of cars and drivers; so, I rarely drove him, until once when no one was available, and I had the privilege to take him all the way to Ogoni Land. Later, he remarked that my driving was excellent.

Remember to cast all your cares on the Lord because he cares for you. Take His yoke upon your neck for His yoke is easy and His burden is light. If it concerns you, it concerns God. God loves you.



The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. – Proverbs 11:30

Have you ever felt guilty for not doing the work of a —soul winner? By soul winner I mean preaching in a bus, going out early in the morning for morning call or participating in a Jesus March. In many of our churches, the need for soul winning is not a little emphasised, but somehow, thanks to God, I have not really participated. I mean, I would not reckon myself a soul winner in the traditional sense of the word, neither would I reckon Pastor PZ one too. But he was.

You see, I have heard Daddy preach a lot of times and he was good, better than most, but in my assessment, he did not get many people —saved. By saved, I mean get them to say the

-sinner's prayer. However, on the day of his burial, the

jetties in the villages could not contain the crowd that came from dif-

ferent parts of the country to honour one man. To minimise the crowd we held a colloquium in Yenagoa, a service of songs in Port Harcourt, and another in Warri, but this did not deter people; they still came to honour the man who won their souls.

He won their souls by constantly pouring out his life like cold refreshing water to thirsty souls. He gave his smile, his thoughts, his money, his time, again and again like an unending stream that flowed from the throne of God within him, which nourished the trees of righteousness – all around him that produced leaves and bore fruit all year round.

He did not win souls by just leading them to say a *magic prayer* (in Paul Young's voice), and like multi-level marketing, getting them to sign under his downline. A soul was not just another number. A soul was precious, a friend to know and serve, and a brother worth dying for.

Jesus won our souls not by getting us to be part of another religious movement but by pouring his life in other centred, self giving, and radically forgiving fashion. He saw us, loved us, and poured himself like an offering for us.

Action: Like Paul, imitate PZ as he followed Christ.



the living God, who is the saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. - 1 Timothy 4:10

When Daddy went to join the cloud of witnesses, his friends immediately stepped up for the family. It was amazing. A burial committee was setup and chaired by our dear uncle whom despite not being of the same religious persuasion as Daddy to the best of my knowledge was that friend that stuck closer than a brother.

Nigeria today is still heavily divided on ethnic and religious lines. Daddy somehow rose highly above these divides and reckoned that there is only one race, the human race. In his ascension with Christ, he was able to draw (Greek word actually implies drag) all men to himself - traditionalists, cultists,

Christians, Muslims, atheist, etc. Dad, like Jesus, drew all to himself.

The bible teaches that we are all included in Christ in His love with the Father and His anointing in the Holy Spirit. It says that when Jesus died, we all died, and when he rose we rose. Through one man Adam, sin entered the world, and through Jesus, we (all humanity) have received forgiveness of sins. No one is exempted, we are all included.

Paul said that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ; not life, death, principalities, powers, things present, future, no created thing can be able to separate us from the love of God.

My evangelical brothers say that the condition is, —In Christ? If but somehow, say to the —sinner II that God loves them unconditionally. Where is this love coming from? All things were made for him (Christ) and by him and in him do ALL things consist (Colossians 1).

This is a more beautiful gospel - We are all Included! Me sef

follow!

Action: You can say, -God LOVES me. I am Included in

Christ. Hallelujah!



65

For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus

Christ and Him crucified. – 1 Corinthians 2:2

When news got to us of the motor accident and of Daddy's involvement; calls, texts, and guests started coming in. People's theological persuasion was then on display. Many said, —You cannot question God. Others said, -God did it so Daddy could make heaven. Another tried to comfort by telling us of the in- evitability of death and that we should all be prepared. My fa- vourite group were those who just showed up, prayed with us, strengthened us, and sometimes said nothing. Where is God in the face of tragedy? Why do bad things happen? What is God's answer to human suffering? The cross! The theologian, C Baxter Kruger said, the crucifixion is what we did to God, the cross is what God did for us – out of the crucifixion. Yes, the primary cause of all things is God - He

initiated everything. But there are two secondary causes, natural laws, and human choices. If you step out of a bridge disregarding gravity, you will fall down. Did God pull you down? If someone pushes you off the bridge, did God push you down? Terrible things happen in the world because of the choices we make every day. Adam made a choice, and sin and death entered the world. We keep on making choices that hurt each other every day. What does God do?

God decided to step into this world. In the incarnation, the Everlasting God became a Man! As a man, like Adam, He had in him the record of everyone who would ever live and has ever lived. He did carpentry, he ate fish, drank wine, broke bread, healed sick people, raised the dead, forgave sins, and interpreted the scriptures. He revealed The Father. He was God in the Flesh. But what did humanity wilfully do? We betrayed him, denied him, condemned him, rejected him, and crucified him. 2000 years later, we still say God did it to him (fulfilling Isaiah 53:4)!

At the cross, humanity's worst came face to face with an infinitely loving saviour. What did God do with our rebellion? He forgave us. He shed his blood. He could have revolted at any point. But He let his blood flow to institute a new covenant that forever binds us to himself. In Love, he commanded light to shine out of our darkness; a light so bright that today, we wear the cross on our necks and sing of God's great love. At the cross we see God for who He truly is - Self Giving, Radically Forgiving, and Co-suffering Love. At the cross, God identifies with everyone who has ever been raped, accused falsely, condemned, rejected, crucified, etc. And says, —I am with you. I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will turn it. All will be well.

God honours the choices we make and delicately for willing participants, makes all things beautiful in His time. The Presence of God with the presence of family and friends have brought healing and hope to the family through the tough time. All is well.



d said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness ... – Genesis 1:26

There is a symbol on every of this book. It is a symbol that depicts the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - Perichoresis. It means mutual interpenetration without loss of individual personhood.

God said, —Let **us...**" (plural). Before the creation of the Heav- ens and the Earth, there was a perfect loving relationship with- in the Trinity. Perichoresis is the root word for choreography. Some scholars call it a great dance. The mystic, Ian Clayton described it to be like a pirouette where three become one and one, three.

It is in the midst of this great dance, this already happening eternal worship service that God said —Let us make man. Not to Judge him or condemn him, but to invite him into this dance

of love, this relentless embrace, into the Godhead.

God did not create humanity to send them to hell or eternal punishment, but to play, to love, to dance. He created all things for His pleasure. All things were made by Him and for Him and in Him do all things consist. Without Him was not anything made that was made.

When Daddy went to actively and consciously participate in
—the great dance, this song by Godfrey Birtil gave me great
comfort. You can listen (on YouTube) and be blessed.

It's a wonderful dance

It's a wonderful dance

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

And we're included in

It's amazing

In this wonderful dance

In this wonderful dance

Participating in

This worship already happening

Within the Trinity

Accepted in this unity

We're in we're in we're in we're in Christ Jesus

We're in we're in we're in we're in Christ Jesus

Dubamo Aginighan, the lead contributor/compiler, is the seventh child of Pastor Power Aginighan. He authored the inspirational *GVU: A Corper's Story*. Like his father, he is a firm believer in translating the realities of the kingdom of God to every facet of life – business, government, and family. He spends his free time studying; he writes and leisurely speaks on topics such as immortality, eschatology and dominion.