

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES FOR

2ND TERM 2010/2011 SESSION

- Week 1: Prayer and Praises
- Week 2: Bible Study: Praise, Prayer and Progress in the New Year
- Week 3: Exhortation: Escape for thy life
- Week 4: Variety: Prayer and fasting for the family, school and Nation
- Week 5: Bible Study: Sowing and Reaping
- Week 6: Talk: Keep thyself pure
- Week 7: Variety: Impromptu Speech *(Selected topics on salvation sanctification, Holy Spirit baptism and other Bible doctrines will be written on a sheet of paper for teachers chosen at random to speak upon for at most five minutes).*
- Week 8: Monologue: Charles fox Parham: father of Pentecost
- Week 9: Bible Study: Child training in the family
- Week 10: Bible Study: Dare to be an Epaphras
- Week 11: Bible Study: Coping with challenges of middle age
- Week 12: Prayer for the end of term programme
- Week 13: The end of term programme

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

BIBLE STUDY

PRAISE, PRAYER AND PROGRESS

Psalm 68:19; Lamentations 3:22, 23; Jeremiah 29:12

You are a witness to the goodness of God to man. It is His goodness and grace that kept us in the past years. There are countless reasons why we should praise God. The psalmist says, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's (Psalm 103:1-5). So also was Jeremiah. As he considered the destructions in his own time, he concluded that it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed. If you will count your blessings and list them one by one, you too will see that you have reasons to praise the LORD.

Question 1: Mention some reasons for praising God in the New Year.

- (i)..... (ii) (iii)
(iv)..... (v) (vi).....

While praising the LORD for His benefits of the past and present, you need to pray for the days ahead. Prayer is the believer's unfailing weapon that will move him from Zero to Zenith point of success. There are great assurances of progress and prosperity for the believer who will pray. If you can pray, nothing will be impossible to you in the New Year. You will surely make a difference among your colleagues this year if you can pray.

Question 2: What should we pray for in the New Year?

- (i) (ii) (iii)
(iv) (v) (vi).....

There are lots of things to pray for. We need to pray for God's protection, higher Christian experiences, provision, power to live a holy and rapturable life, promotion, etc. However, God answers not a sinner but he that is a true worshipper of God (Psalm 66:18). Therefore we need to make our life right with God, by repenting and forsaking our iniquities and believing in

Christ. This year has begun and has many days ahead; therefore, we need a leader to lead us through.

Experience has shown that proper planning precedes progress and prosperity. When an event is programmed in an organized manner, there is every tendency for such programme to have a good result. Most of the time, things that are done without adequate planning have always led to poor achievement.

“Attitude”, they say, “determines Altitude”. To make progress, we must be careful, thorough, and resolute, in identifying open doors of opportunities, growing in goal-setting, supplicating and striving to make progress. We must start today to attempt the impossible to attain the incredible. In this New Year you will surely make it in Jesus name.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

EXHORTATION

ESCAPE FOR THY LIFE

GENESIS 19:12-17; II PETER 3:9-13.

Just as the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah went up before the Lord and angels were sent to destroy the cities, so also has the Lord determined to destroy the sinful world at the end of time (II Peter 3:10-12).

Unfortunately, the people of Sodom were not prepared, neither were they ready when the angels visited. Lot and his family too lingered and delayed before they were eventually rescued by the angels through the mercy of God.

1. DIVINE JUDGEMENT PRONOUNCED ON SINNERS

Genesis 18:20, 21; 19:12, 13; Psalm 9:17

Like Sodom, the world today is very sinful, and the plan of God is to destroy the world with sinners and their sinful practices. The sin of immorality, greed, lying, idolatry, violence, deceit, witchcraft, worldliness, etc., will be judged by God. The divine proclamation has been made upon sinners and this sinful world. The divine gavel is about falling on this world. It therefore behooves sinners and backsliders to escape for their lives.

2. DANGER OF LINGERING IN THE LAST DAYS

Genesis 19:15-18; Proverbs 29:1; Isaiah 57:21.

In our text, God sent His angels to call Lot and his family out of Sodom before He would destroy it because of their sinfulness.

However, rather than responding instantly, Lot lingered. To linger is to delay leaving something or somewhere because of reluctance to do so.

Unfortunately, like Lot, many people linger in their sins and backsliding. They do not believe that the earth will soon be destroyed. Some people think they are too young and still have time ahead.

Lingering is dangerous. It can lead to loss of peace, and eternal damnation in hell.

3. DETERMINATION TO ESCAPE DIVINE JUDGEMENT

II Corinthians 6:2; Isaiah 55:6, 7; Hebrews 3:7, 8.

God is not willing that any should perish. He expects everyone to repent so as to escape from the looming danger.

The Lord is calling every sinner today to acknowledge his sins, confess them, repent and accept Christ as Lord and saviour. For the backsliders they are to retrace their steps back to God by confessing their backsliding and waywardness and humble their hearts before the Almighty God. They should flee to Christ for refuge and escape for their lives.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

BIBLE STUDY

SOWING IN TEARS

Psalm 126:5, 6; Ecclesiastes 11:4, 6

To a farmer, sowing in tears is not just a principle, it is a common practice. Apart from ensuring a bountiful harvest, it guarantees his sustenance. So, he does not shy away from it. Likewise, a genuine believer does not only take soul winning as a principle but a normal practice because it is of great benefit to the kingdom of God and a proof of his genuineness as a Christian.

Christ's command to every believer is: "Occupy till I come" (Luke 19:13). We must obey the command at all times (II Timothy 4:2) irrespective of difficulties in doing this.

Question 1: Why must believers preach the gospel according to the following scriptures?

- (i) Romans 1:16.....
- (ii) Acts 4:12.....
- (iii) Romans 10:17.....

Preaching the gospel is not optional. Why? One, the gospel is the power of God that brings a sinner to conversion. Two, salvation comes only through the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. Third, without the preaching of the gospel, the sinner cannot hear about the mission of Christ on earth, and therefore, he cannot have faith to be saved from sin. For these reasons, we must preach the gospel at all time.

However, the effectiveness of the preaching depends on the believer's diligence and perseverance.

Question 2: What Christian experiences can help the preacher to be fruitful according to the following references:

- (i) John 3:3.....
- (ii) John 17:17, 18
- (iii) Acts 1:8.....
- (iv) II Timothy 2:15.....

To be fruitful in soul winning, the preacher must have genuine conversion, inward purity and baptism of the Holy Spirit. Besides, he must be prayerful, watchful and wise.

There are different methods that the soul winner can employ. These are person-to-person method, friendship method, the use of tracts, Christian magazine, text messages and letters carrying salvation messages.

There are a lot of benefits when the believers faithfully carry out the command.

Question 3: What rewards await a faithful preacher of the word?

- (i)
- (ii)

The believer's effort cannot go unrewarded. His rewards start from this world and continue till eternity. God has promised them joy everlasting. Besides, God will take care of them because they are agents of spreading the goodnews. They shall receive incorruptible crowns in heaven.

Therefore, let us rise up while we can and do the work of the master so that we shall be bold to stand before Him.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

TALK

KEEP THYSELF PURE

Mathew 5:3; Isaiah 6:1, 5; Luke 1:74, 75

A song writer, wrote, "What is the hope you have? the kingdom of God is the hope I have" Everything we are and we will be in the future will amount to nothing if we do not see God. The scripture says, "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God" (Matt. 5:8).

1. THE MEANING OF PURITY OF HEART

1 Thessalonians 5:23; Matt 5:3

The desire of every true believer is to see God on the last day. The scripture makes it clear, that it is only the pure in heart that shall see God. Another name for purity of heart is sanctification. God's will for all His sons is that both here on earth and in heaven, they should serve Him in holiness and righteousness. Luke 1:74, 75.

Just as our earthly fathers cannot give us a load too heavy for us to carry, our heavenly father cannot give us a command that is not practicable; therefore, it is possible to be pure.

2. THE NECESSITY OF PURITY OF HEART

Isaiah 1, 5, 6

Unknown to Isaiah the prophet, who had been a prophet for some time prior to this verse, what he thought he had was not enough to see even the glimpse of God's glory. Isaiah cried in desperation, "... woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips..." (Isaiah 6:5).

There is a close relationship between evil suggestions (an enticement by the devil) which is temptation and evil thought which is sin. (Matthew 7:21-23). Purity of heart gives a believer continual victory over evil thoughts. Believers can pray, believe and receive this experience by faith.

3. HOW TO REMAIN PURE

Proverbs 4:23; Psalm 1:1-3

A man of God once said, "Evil suggestion like a bird can fly over your head, but should not be allowed to make a nest on your head, for if it does, it becomes a sin". We have to constantly watch over our heart (Proverbs 4:23). Whatever we receive by faith should be kept by faith.

A believer should always watch over his heart, this becomes necessary because sin is first sown in the heart before it manifests outside. Watching alone is not enough but should go hand in hand with fervent prayer. Finally, believers should "abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Appearance of evil could be in what we see, hear, touch, feel or respond to. If the devil decides to use any of these to entice us to sin, we should avoid him.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

MONOLOGUE

CHARLES FOX PARHAM: THE FATHER OF PENTECOST

He was born on June 4, 1873 in Muscatine, Iowa by William and Ann Maria Perham who truly lived and considered themselves as American pioneers. Apart from the rugged pioneer life, early childhood was not easy for young Charles. The first five years of his life, he was plagued with dramatic spasms and his forehead swelled making his head abnormally large. At six, he was stricken with a fever that left him bedridden. He felt an overwhelming sense of grief and loneliness at the death of his beloved mother when he was seven. The last words of his mother to him were: "Charlie, be good" which made a deep impression on him and later influenced him in giving his life to God as he had vowed to meet her in heaven.

Charles Perham enjoyed an early awareness of God because he and his brother had been taken to Sunday school during their first years of life. Before he was converted, his constant thoughts were, "woe is me, if I preach not the gospel". He was called to ministry at age nine. He studied God's word on his own and took it literally. Before age thirteen, he only heard two sermons of two preachers and it was in one of the meetings he got converted. He believed that deep repentance must take place within a convert's heart, yet he felt void of such an emotional experience which made him to question his conversion. In the process of time, he became assured of his conversion.

After his dramatic conversion, he served as a Sunday school teacher and worker. He held his first public meeting at the age of fifteen with marked results. When he entered college, he had the intention of entering the ministry, but he did not, because of the disrespect and general disgust that the secular world held toward ministers. He, therefore, chose to study medicine, more so when he thought of his traumatic childhood illnesses. But he was constantly remembering his promise to become a missionary. He contracted rheumatic fever and suffered for months. He nearly died until he cried out to God and said "If you will let me go somewhere some places, where I wouldn't have to take collections or beg for a living, I will preach".

Parham held his first evangelistic meeting at the age of eighteen after God miraculously healed him. At nineteen, he pastored the Methodist Church in Badora, Kansas. He vowed to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit despite what other men asked him to do. He did not believe that joining a denomination is a prerequisite for heaven, hence, he advised new converts to find any church home.

He wrote and proposed marriage to Sarah Thistle Waite. He warned her that his life was totally dedicated to the Lord and that his future was not clear, but if she could trust God with him, they should marry. They married six months later. He believed in healing miracle though the truths of divine healing were rare in the church during those years. He was accused that the power manifested in him was of the devil. This made him to shut himself in a room to establish himself in the truth by praying and searching the scriptures. Through this, he realized

that healing, just as salvation, came through the atoning work of Jesus blood and from that point on, persecution and slander never slighted him.

He built a faith home and called its name Bethel where he had a tremendous success. This made people to encourage him to open a Bible School which was open to every Christian minister and every believer who was willing to forsake all. He believed that praying in other tongues will birth the will of God in one's spirit and that one will no longer depend on one's intellect or the direction of others. He encouraged believers to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of other tongues. His schools were never meant to be theological seminaries but were training centres where the truth of God was taught in the most practical manner (with prayer as a key ingredient). This made many ministers who went through his school to serve God throughout the world.

Charles Parham gave his life to restore the revolutionary truths of healing and the baptism of the Holy Spirit to the church. The miracles that occurred in his ministry were too numerous to record as multiplied thousands found salvation, healing, deliverance and baptism in the Holy Spirit. On January 29, 1929, he went to be with the Lord.

It was said that his life exemplified the harsh reality of the persecution and conflict that accompany God's revivalists. Though several men sought to destroy him, they couldn't touch the pillar of strength that was built in his Spirit. He was never moved from his calling but was found faithful till the end.

Lessons from the life of Charles Parham:

- (i) He had a humble beginning
- (ii) He did not allow adverse situations to discourage him from continuing in faith and ministry.
- (iii) He lived a life of prayer and faith to the end.
- (iv) He succeeded where many others failed.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

BIBLE STUDY

CHILD TRAINING IN CHRISTIAN FAMILY

PROVERBS 22:6

In the world today, many parents want their children to be people of great skills like engineers, scientists, authors, etc., but skill is not the top biblical priority. God makes it clear that parents are responsible for training their children spiritually. Their spiritual life is more important to God than the skill they have.

Jesus is wisdom personified (Proverb 8:35, 36) and any parent that has not known Him experientially cannot possess the right wisdom needed for proper child training.

Question A: from the following passages of the Bible, mention the children that reflected godly training in their lives.

- (i) 1 Samuel 1:22-28,.....
- (ii) Esther 2:7.....
- (iii) Daniel 1:3-6.....
- (iv) II Timothy 1:5.....

Samuel, as a child, never compromised with the sinful and wicked sons of Eli through the godly training and love he got from his parents (1 Samuel 2:19). Esther also reflected the godly training given to her by her uncle. The four Hebrew children, John the Baptist, Jesus and Timothy were good examples of children from godly homes. There is need for every parent to embrace wisdom (Jesus) for the proper training of our children. If we ignore wisdom, the lives of our children will surely be marked with struggles, crises, and empty achievements.

Question B: What are the important areas to focus in the training of our children?
.....

The spiritual, physical, mental, and social development of our children should be paramount in the heart of every Christian parent as it is our sole responsibility to train them because they are dependent, immature, tender unstable and need instructions. For these reasons, training should be consistent, systematic and gradual.

Question C: What are the roles of Christian parents in training their children?

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (iv)

As Christian parents, we must labour faithfully to get our children converted so that we can have rest, joy, and reward from the Lord. We can do this by:

- (a) Fervent Prayer – Interceding for our children even from conception and through all stages of life .
- (b) Being good example – As Christian parents we should live exemplary life of true believers like Abraham (Gen. 18:19), Joshua, Jacob (Genesis 35:2-4), Cornelius (Acts 10:23, 24) and Philip.
- (c) Giving godly Instructions – Specific instructions should be given to our children to follow from time to time.
- (d) Discipline that must be done in love and not out of frustration.
- (e) Making Provision – As Christian parents, we must provide for our children as we see in the lives of Hannah.

There will be multiplication of peace in our homes and nation as we build our homes on Christ, His word and His will (Isaiah 54:14).

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

BIBLE STUDY

DARE TO BE AN EPAPHRAS

Colossians 4:12,13.

While there are many workers in God's vineyards; great teachers, evangelists, prophets and apostles, there is yet a working class that is most desirable yet scarce- the Epaphras class of personality. He was a great intercessor; always labouring fervently praying for other believers that they may stand perfect and complete in the will of God (Colossians 4:12).

Our Christian Teachers' Fellowship is in urgent need of intercessors like Epaphras.

Question 1: Who is an intercessor, and how can one become an Intercessor?

.....

Intercessory prayer is one that is centred on the needs of others rather than personal needs. An intercessor, therefore, spends much time to pray for the needs of other people.

Before one can be an intercessor like Epaphras, one must be sure of his salvation experience and live a consistent Christian life (John 3:3). Besides, he must have a burden, passion and zeal to pray for the needs of others on continual basis (Colossians 4:12, 13).

We have other intercessors in the Bible who, like Epaphras, prayed fervently for others.

Question 2: Read the following Bible references and mention the intercessors and their requests.

- (i) Genesis 18:23-33.....
- (ii) Exodus 32:31-34.....
- (iii) Ephesians 3:14-19.....
- (iv) Luke 23:34.....

When God wanted to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sins Abraham interceded for them (Genesis 18:23) Moses also prayed for the forgiveness of the children of Israel when the Lord decided to destroy them as a result of their sin of idolatry (Exodus 32:31-34). Paul the apostle interceded for the believers in Ephesus so that God would give them spiritual strength, perfect love, faith and understanding in all things (Ephesians 3:14-19). Our Lord Jesus Christ also prayed for forgiveness of the Jews that crucified him (Luke 23:34). God is still seeking for more intercessors. "And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge and stand in the gap before me for the land that I should not destroy it; but I found none" (Ezekiel 22:30).

Epaphras identified the specific needs of brethren in Collose and devoted quality time to pray for those needs. In our Christian Teachers' Fellowship, we must identify the needs of the members and non members and pray for them.

Question 3: Can you mention some specific needs or problems in the school and in the fellowship which we must pray for as a matter of urgency?

- (i).....
- (ii).....
- (iii).....

In the school, there are lots of students who are given to the sin of immorality like people in Sodom and Gomorrah, and need our prayers. Unsaved teachers in the school who aid and abet examinational malpractice and other social vices need our urgent intercessory prayers. Also, backsliders among students and teachers must be prayed for so that they can quickly retrace their steps back to the fold. Believers must interceed for the sick, the bereaved, the persecuted and those going through hard times in their families. The school authority, the government and the entire country need to be prayed for with all seriousness.

“I have set watchman upon thy walls, O Jerusalem which shall never hold their peace day nor night, ye that make mention of the Lord keep not silence (Isaiah 62:6).

You must pray that God will make you an Epaphras of our time.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN TEACHERS' FELLOWSHIP, LAGOS

BIBLE STUDY

COPING WITH THE CHALLENGES OF MIDDLE AGE

Hosea 7:9, Ephesians 5:15, 16,5.

Middle-age falls within the age bracket between 45 years to 60 years. Everyday of man's life is full of various challenges which must be prepared for if we are to live a fulfilling and enjoyable life that will glorify God. Middle age is full of challenges that can only be overcome by the grace, mercy and favour of God. It is rather unfortunate to mention that people who are in the middle-age bracket do not even know that time wait for no man. You would have expected that the middle-age people would have realized the challenges on their way even before that age, but alas, many just find themselves entering into the age unprepared.

Question: Mention some of the challenges of middle-age.

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)
- (iv)

Some of the various challenges of middle age include: increase in responsibilities - children gaining admission to higher institution, school fees of children in secondary and higher institution, having plan to build house, buy car and save towards retirement with little income. Others are deteriorating health and lack of access to good health services, increased demand from in-laws and religious circles. The realities of giving out children in marriages with all the expenses that go along with it are more factors to contend with.

Question: How one we cope with the challenges of middle age according to the following passages?

- i. Psalm 4:5.....
- ii. Proverb 6:6-8:.....
- iii. Ecclesiastes 11:1:.....
- iv. Lamentation 3:27:.....

Without the help of God it will be very difficult for anyone to cope with all the challenges of this life and that of the middle-age in particular. Infact, this is the time that the world is seriously passing through economic recession can weigh anyone down if not the grace of God. This then calls for a sober reflection for everyone to put his/her trust in the Lord (Psalm 4:5). You can only trust in God when you believe in Him as your Lord and saviour. If you are far away from God, come close and embrace the redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ

as He will bring your desire to pass. God is the only one that knows the future, thus, you need to put your total trust in Him and commit your life and future into His hands.

You must know that worry and anxiety cannot solve the problems of middle-age, but to trust in the Lord and be prayerful.