

RCCG MOUNT ZION PARISH

THE ARK

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2022



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THE ARK



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EDITORIAL PAGE

FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

It is increasingly exciting to see your contributions and the enthusiasm and depth of experiences being shared.

Your contributions, no doubt help us to strengthen our faith, encourage us to be focused, resilient and determined in the face of the many daily challenges that have the capacity to blur our vision.

We encourage everyone to continue to be bold, forthcoming and deep in sharing personal thoughts, testimonies and ideas that can keep us vigilant through this platform. You never can tell who is lifted up and encouraged.

Don't procrastinate.

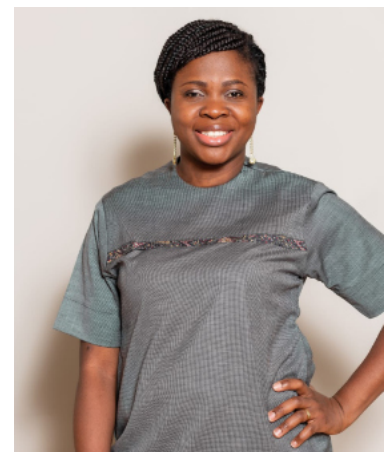
Pen down that experience, idea and encounters.

Let us share it here for the benefit of everyone.

Join the train.



Augustine Agbonsuremi



Funmilayo Oniyide

FROM THE PASTORATE

DIVINE PRESERVATION

I invite you to read the February edition of The ARK with gladness in my heart. It has a load of spiritual benefits. Furthermore, I want to encourage you with the Word of God for us in the just-ended month of February, which is the second month of our year of standing on God's promises.

The gracious God is ever faithful as He swung into action as soon as we stepped into the new year to start fulfilling His promises in our lives. January has been memorable, eventful, fulfilling, cheering and loaded with unusual blessings from God. Indeed, it is a year that we can never waiver in our standing on His promises. I am fully persuaded that what we witnessed in the first month of the year was just the tip of the iceberg in the more incredible blessings God has in store for us this year.

We are in for pleasant surprises this year and beyond in Jesus' name. The theme for February is DIVINE PRESERVATION. Our anchor scripture is, "The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in From this time forth, and even forevermore" (Psalm 121:7-8). Once more, our anchor scripture for this month is fully loaded.

First, God promises to preserve you from all evil. In essence, the omnipotent God is fully prepared to keep you from every form of evil against your home, your ministry, your children, your spouse, your possessions, your life, your career, your academic, your health, your divine destiny, as well as all evil plots against you.

Second, God is ready to preserve your soul from perishing, from the power of death, from losing your salvation, and from every form of attack against your soul.

Third, God is ready to preserve your going out and coming in. This is divine safety of the highest order coming from God, our shield, fortress and defender. In other words, you are fully secured in His hollow hands whether you are in your home, on the road, in the street, on the sea, on the air and even when you walk on your legs. Not that alone, you will constantly escape from the snare of the fowler.

Finally, the preservation is not for a season or a moment but forever. With this, you will not die young as God will preserve you to fulfil your years on earth in Jesus' name. This is the promise of God, and we are standing upon it.

Also, as declared in the scripture, there shall be the performance of all the promises because we believe (Luke 1:45). Kindly note that you need to preserve yourself in the Lord to enjoy divine preservation. In other words, you need to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal saviour. If you have not done so, I beseech you to do it now without any delay. If you are already in Christ, remain steadfast in Him. Fire up your prayer life, increase your tempo of waiting upon the Lord while you make out time for intentional and personal study of the Word of God for revelational knowledge. You are a blessing in Jesus' name.



Pastor Paul Omoyefa

LET IT GO!

ADAPTED FROM BISHOP T. D. JAKES

Some people can walk away from you. And hear me when I say this! When people can walk away from you: let them walk! I don't want you to try to talk another person into staying with you, loving you, calling you, caring for you, coming to see you, or staying attached to you. I mean, hang up the phone. When people can walk away from you, let them walk!

Your destiny is NOT tied to anybody that left. The Bible said that they came out from us that it might be made manifest that they were not for us. ***"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us"*** 1 John 2:19 (NKJV version)

People leave you because they are not joined to you. And if they are not bound to you, you can't make them stay. Let them go! It just means that their part in the story of your life is over. And you need to know when people's part in your story is over. You need to know when it is over.

Learn to have the gift of goodbye. It's the tenth spiritual gift, and it is good to believe in goodbye. It is not hateful, just that one is faithful and knows that whatever God means for you, you will have it. God will give it to us. And if it takes too much sweat, we don't need such. Stop begging people to stay. Let them go!

- If you are holding on to something that doesn't belong to you and never intended for your life, then you need to **LET IT GO!**
- If you are holding on to past hurts and plains, **LET IT GO!**
- If someone has angered you, **LET IT GO!**
- If you are holding on to some thoughts of evil and revenge, **LET IT GO!**
- If you are involved in a wrong relationship or addiction, **LET IT GO!**
- If you are holding on to a job that no longer meets your needs or talents, **LET IT GO!**
- If you have a terrible attitude, **LET IT GO!**
- If you keep judging others to make yourself feel better, **LET IT GO!**
- If you're stuck in the past and God is trying to take you to a new level in Him, **LET IT GO!**
- If you are struggling with healing a broken relationship, **LET IT GO!**
- If you keep trying to help someone who won't even try to themselves, **LET IT GO!**
- If you're feeling depressed and stressed, **LET IT GO!**
- If there is a particular situation that you are so used to handling yourself, and God is saying, "take your hands off it", then you need to **LET IT GO!**

Let the past be the past. Forget the former things. God is doing a new thing for you.

Letting Go allows you to better GRIP of God and what he has in store for you.

REDEEMED CAMPUS FELLOWSHIP

Living in the 21st century has meant changes for the human population. Consequently, it has brought about adjustments, some necessary and otherwise, for each of us. The youth is a group primarily affected by these changing times. Our educational environment has proven very impressionable in our teenage years and early adult years, both positively and negatively. Even more, as a believer, there is a tendency for one to feel alone and conflicted with maintaining a Christian life and staying relevant in our environments. Other times, we are just trying to build our relationships with God and figure out what it's all about. Other times still, we have no idea where we're at. Whatever category you may belong to, we all would feel better knowing that we're not the only ones going through what we are going through. That's where Campus Fellowship comes in!

Call it common-ground, if you will! Campus Fellowship helps you stay rooted and accountable amidst the school hustle and bustle and social tension. Here we get to talk things out and share our struggles. However, it doesn't only stop with us airing out our pet peeves. We also seek solutions and answers, strategies even, based on the Word of God. Our Chatbox sessions provide the avenue for us to get to know each other better. We have movie nights, game nights, and special guests who speak to us on topical issues.

We're all about community, helping each other grow, and learning from one another. We're building a community of well-rounded students who are rooted in the Word of Christ. As a result, make decisions, small or big, based on this infallible Word, a student body who will not only know Christ but make Him known.

Ibukun Omotayo

A WISE COUNSEL IS PRICELESS

Regardless of what stage of life you are navigating, having an external and objective opinion goes a long way. Living life on your own might get you results, but leveraging the knowledge and wise counsel of others will get you results faster. A common saying is that "nothing is impossible for those who act after wise counsel and careful thought".

Most people shy away from counselling because of the myths and stereotypes attached to it:

- It is for people with issues
- It is a sign of weakness
- It means the counsellor is more intelligent than you
- It is just an opportunity for outsiders to interfere
- It makes things worse

These myths notwithstanding, the point remains that we all seek counsel. We regularly seek counsel by chatting with family and friends about the best place to shop/get certain services, about some task at work or going for professional counselling on more tough decisions.

Counselling can be formal or informal. Most of us engage in and are more comfortable with the casual or informal approach. The problem with this approach is that it is not structured, and there is no way to measure how effective it is. It can also sometimes be subjective. Counselling can be preventive or restorative. The preventive approach is often overlooked because people jump into life without the required knowledge or intelligence necessary for the stage of life they are pursuing. This is why the restorative or reparative approach is the most common. Hence, the myth about counselling being for people with "issues" or "problems".

As believers, it is essential that the people we seek counsel from hold the same values and beliefs, the Bible being the single source of Truth (2Tim. 3:16-17 NLT). We are in a time where there is a lot of fluidity, and the concept of Absolutes is being eroded. Therefore, it is crucial to be mindful of the voices guiding and urging us on. The Word of God should be the lamp and Light through which we view every action and decision.

As you wake up each day, you will make countless decisions. When you seek counsel from family or friends, go back and weigh it on the scale of God's Word and only take in the counsel that aligns with the Word of God. Let Proverbs 11:14 resound in your heart; "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety".

Take the preventive approach! Seek counsel for that next stage of life (marital, career, parenting, education etc.). PRAY, PLAN and PREPARE! (Luke 14:28-32)

Counseling Team

counselling@rccgregina.org

YOUTHFUL ENCOUNTER

TRUSTING GOD IN DECISION MAKING

As youths and young adults, we face many new challenges transitioning from childhood to adulthood. These challenges seem more daunting than 20 - 30 years ago when our parents grew up, mainly because of social media. Our parents took care of our needs and worries while focusing on playing, studying, or enjoying life as a child. Now that we are older, reality gives us a rude awakening that we are no longer children. We are faced with an uncertain future, and how we make our choices would determine our life path. These moments can be nerve-racking and stressful. Through this journey of adulthood, it is crucial to find the best person or tools to guide us during this process.

It is effortless to search Google - the all-answering machine - for any problem. Google has made it so easy to find information. The question is, "Who do we turn to when making these ever-so-important decisions?" Where do we turn to for the best advice?" and finally, "how do we make these decisions?" What about social media, highlight reels, Instagram stories and our favourite influencers? They could also give us good answers and excellent points of view or guard us through life. Rightfully so, they might be experts in specific topics. But when deciding essential matters such as college choice, our major, career path, life values, relationships etc., Christ should be our north star. He is the one that can show us our future and help us make the right decision. He is the compass we need, the direction we ought to take to thrive in our Christian faith.

When making our decisions, we mustn't put God aside. This is in line with our status as ambassadors of God, a royal priesthood, children of God, the chosen generation, emblems of the glory and carriers of his Light. He is the one that knows the future and the end before we even enter it. He is the one that we can put our faith in, and rest assured that all is well. He has marked out a plan for us, and he understands the purpose he has placed in us. He is the most excellent, most caring father, and he will not let us be hurt. Ultimately, trusting God means we need to let him help us navigate our lives, and he will not put us to shame. The Word of the Lord states:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." - Proverbs 3:5-6

"The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day." - Proverbs 4:18

I pray this serves as an encouragement to all youths, especially when deciding life's matters. Know that God radically loves us and his heart only wants the best for us. Rest assured that you can trust him with all that concerns you.

Shalom Peluola



2022

MILESTONES

FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

04	Leonard Entonyeaku	17	Florence Omoyefa
04	Olamide Dairo	18	Anuoluwa Shobamowo
10	Fikayomi Ajayi	18	Ibukunoluwa Omotayo
11	Dora Ogbonna	19	Oluwasegun Ojumoola
11	Seun Olowo	23	Vuyo Ginindza
13	Blessing Professor	25	Mayowa Adewale
13	Kehinde Oniyide	26	Rejoice Godwin
14	Anita Entonyeaku	28	Abayomi Abraham
15	Folake Shobamowo		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

15 BISOYE AND BUKOLA ADETILOYE



ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP

WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Worship can generally be defined as the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity. In this context, it is an expression of devotion to God, recognizing His Lordship, acknowledging His mightiness and awesomeness. The worship of God can be done in various ways; you can bow, clap or raise your hands to heaven. You may choose to kneel or even prostrate in awe of Him. Worshipping may also involve giving an offering, reading psalms, etc. The ultimate goal is to show reverence and honour to God in whichever way it is done.

HOW SHOULD THE WORSHIP OF GOD BE DONE?

John 4: 24 says, 'God is Spirit: and they that worship Him **must** worship Him in spirit and in truth.' Note the clause, 'MUST WORSHIP IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH'.

When you say something is a must, it is a requirement, a necessity, an obligation. Worshippers must understand this. It is not enough to desire to worship God. You MUST worship Him the ONLY required way - 'in Spirit and in truth'.

This implies that acceptable worship before God has to be in spirit, and in Truth, anything apart from this is not acceptable before Him.

IN SPIRIT

God is a Spirit being, so His worship must be in spirit. What does this mean? The spirit is the core of who we are. Everything we do comes from our spirit. It has to go beyond our physical being to touch our spirit. We have to be passionate about it to engage our heart, mind and soul. It is born out of our love for Him.

Ephesians 5:19b says, '...sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.' Note the phrase 'from your heart,' not just from your mouth. Our worship should be the one that comes from the heart; it involves expressing and opening up our hearts, laying everything flat before Him and surrendering all to Him.

IN TRUTH

We need to have the right motive when we worship God from the Truth of our hearts. This can be in two ways;

1. We worship God based on our knowledge of who He is. Psalm 100:3-4 says, 'Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.' Our worship must come from our knowledge of Him. Your knowledge of God will determine the depth of your worship. It is not possible to worship a God you do not know. Jesus said in John 14:6a, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and life.' For our worship to be acceptable, we need to know the Truth Himself.
2. Psalm 15 talks about who can abide in God's tabernacle. V2 says, 'He that walks uprightly and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart.' For our worship to be in Truth, we must be truthful in the heart. (Ephesians 4:25)

Therefore, acceptable worship is the one that goes beyond the physical. It comes from our passion and love for God with truthfulness in our hearts. We worship God with the consciousness of who He is and total surrender to him. This is paramount for everyone who wants to render acceptable worship to God; every worshipper needs to understand this basis to render acceptable worship to Him.

LET'S GO FISHING

Are you facing challenges in life despite your high level of knowledge, skills, and experience? Are you unhappy with your current situation of struggles and seeming defeats from an overcast of darkness? There is good news for you! The saving power of the LORD Jesus Christ is available to destroy all forms of darkness and grant you liberty completely!

When you invite Jesus Christ, the Light of the World (John 8:12), into your life and situation, He will destroy the covering cast of darkness militating against your success (Isaiah 25:7), restoring hope and enabling your glory shine.

Psalm 29:5 makes it clear that the Voice of the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon (which represents strongholds of darkness that cause unpleasant situations). Your success is premised upon getting the LORD to speak into your situation to dispel darkness and introduce Light which will distinguish you and your loved ones for good (Exodus 8:22-23).

Take a courageous step of faith today to establish a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ by inviting Him into your life to dispel darkness and be your Light of life by saying this prayer genuinely from your heart; "Lord Jesus, I accept You today into my heart as my Lord and Saviour, please forgive my sins, wash me in Your Blood, transform my life, fill me with Your Holy Spirit and be the Light who dispels darkness off my life and destiny in Jesus Name, Amen!"

Congratulations, your Light has come! Welcome to the family of God! Please attend a Bible-believing and Holy Spirit-filled Church near you to learn of Jesus Christ, your Lord and Saviour. Be deeply rooted in Him through His Word and Holy Spirit. Feel free to connect with us. God Bless you!

EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT

I introduce the drama department of RCCG Mount Zion Parish, Regina, to you. We are a group of God's people with the mandate to increase the population of the Kingdom of God.

Our anchor scripture is in the book of *2 Timothy 3: 16-17*

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Sequel to the above scriptural verses;

- our inspiration will be from God as we trust in Him for a clear vision and direction;
- our ministration focuses on church edification, constantly reminding us about the things of the Kingdom.

In addition, if God has laid it in your heart to be part of us, please do not hesitate to contact the department's leadership.

DRAMA DEPARTMENT



BOOK OF THE MONTH

"...I, Daniel, understood by the books..." are the words of Daniel as seen in Daniel 9:2. This one testimonial was evident throughout his life and ultimately contributed to his success. Without a doubt, books are very instrumental in our daily lives: academically, career-wise, financially, physiologically, spiritually—the list goes on and on. They keep us informed and are essential tools for holistic growth. The Library Department presents you with the platform to pick from a selection of books of different genres, including faith-based books and devotionals, fictional books, and educational books for all those looking to deepen their knowledge in particular disciplines. It is safe to say that there is something for you!

Furthermore, we have a new "Book of the Month" feature that will be officially implemented beginning from March. As the name suggests, the library department will present an e-book that we will read and review every month to enhance our growth and walk with CHRIST. We premier this segment with a book by Edward M. Bounds titled "***Power Through Prayer***".

Yours in CHRIST

Oluwasegun Ojumoola
LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

THE ARK



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