

# EFAC WEEK MESSAGE 2020

*“Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19-20 ASV).*

## **Beloved In The Lord,**

As we all know, above is the exact reason for existence, and sole mission, of the Church, as clearly and directly given by the Lord of the Church, Jesus the Christ. Today we celebrate the efforts and vision of our predecessors in establishing the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion (EFAC) to be the galvanizing force in leading the rest of us in fulfilling this great mission that has great eternal consequence.

As our theme this year reminds us, to effectively fulfill this mission, we must clearly “understand the time we are in” so as to wisely, strategically and correspondingly plan and carry out a successful mission. Today we live in a time when the love of many for Christ is growing exceedingly cold by the day. A time when corrupt and ungodly practices from high and low places, are the order of the day. Ironically, at same time, Church sanctuaries are daily and weekly packed full of members attending services and activities, a clear pointer that many are In the Church but not Of the Church. Many are followers of the church but not Disciples of Christ.

It is at a time like this that we are called as Anglican Christians and members of this Diocese to examine our lives individually and collectively to ascertain if we are truly disciples of Christ for it is only disciples that can make disciples.

We appreciate the work being done by the leadership of our EFAC group at all levels in conjunction with the board of missions and evangelism. We congratulate them for the many successful outreach programs within this period. We however charge them, together with the board, and the spirituality group, to come up with clear and strategic plan for effective discipling of our members with particular attention to the youth. We once again remind every member of our Diocese that the mandate of making disciples is for every one of us. Therefore we charge each member of the Diocese to look into your immediate local area and evaluate how much positive Influence the Anglican Church has in the life of the people. Every local church must

live out this mandate by strategically and intentionally saturating their immediate community with the undiluted message of Christ as received and preached by the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion). We must do this with every sense of commitment and responsibility. All hands must be on deck.

One of the many great lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic is a clear understanding that man with all his advancement in learning and technology, cannot save even himself. The world today needs a savior more than ever. The world needs Jesus as the only hope, not just for eternal life, even for now in this transient life. We must therefore seize the opportunity of the time to present Christ to the world afresh through our life and conversations.

Once again we encourage us all to continue to observe all the protocols for our safety in this trying time as we believe that this, like every other challenge of the past, shall soon be over and we shall live to declare the glory of our God in the land of the living. May today's celebration bring to each of our hearts the refreshing peace of the message of the love of Christ and challenge us to take same message to others.

And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be all honor, glory and dominion now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Brother and Father in God,

 **NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH**