

BISHOP'S EASTER MESSAGE

Beloved in the Lord,

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5-11).
NIV

With this admonition, we welcome you to Easter celebrations 2021. If all our whole being is turned into praise, we confess that it will be grossly inadequate as a response to the grace of God in seeing us through to this day. We appreciate your continued support and commitment to our communal life and ministry. We are glad that our Youth are ready for the greatest encounter of their lives as the Risen Lord awaits them at the Joshua Generation International Youth conference starting tomorrow at Nssuka. We applaud the efforts of all in this regard.

Our Easter message this year therefore is not about the empty tomb, or on the traditional Easter story line, but on what we believe is the demand of the entire life and ministry of Christ on every individual Christian—Obedience, Humility and selflessness.

As clearly stated throughout the Scriptures, and emphasized in the above text, Jesus Christ, being God, had no personal beneficial reason to humiliate himself, taking the form of the man He made and even being killed like a common criminal. And He boldly answered Pilate, “No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded”. (John 10:18). It is clear from these words that Christ died on the cross to demonstrate His obedience to His Father, willingness to empty Himself, and sacrifice His life for all, even for those who neither knew nor love Him. In the same way, His resurrection demonstrates His power over death and all principalities and powers of this world and His willingness to extend such victory to all who come to Him in obedience, humility, and are ready to serve others selflessly.

Therefore as we celebrate our imputed victory this Easter morning and season, we must remember that to continue to enjoy and exercise this victory, we must continue to live a life of Obedience to God, humility among others, and willing to sacrifice for the good of all. We must use every opportunity and

privilege we have to better the lot of others. As Christ's ambassadors, **We must understand that our pursuits for livelihood are not to be "do or die". There is absolutely nothing ahead of us that is worth dying for. Our labor and toiling should not be made to maim or harm, but encourage others. We must run away from whatever would make others weep or suffer. We must live our life knowing fully well that "We Are Nothing But Dust And To Dust We Will Surely Return". And that it is only in selflessly serving others that we showcase the mind of Christ and so prepare ourselves for the ultimate elevation of eternal rest with Christ.**

We pray that your celebrations will be filled with joy and assured hope of a regenerated life in Christ and spur you to lead others to such experience.

HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL.

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 Bishop,

 **NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH.**
Easter 2021.