

BISHOP'S PENTECOST MESSAGE

Beloved Brothers and Sister,

Our Lord Jesus The Christ promised "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you; "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever; But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

As we well know, about fifty days after His mighty resurrection and glorious Ascension, on the day of Pentecost, He fulfilled that promise and so we are celebrating today. The timely fulfillment of this promise goes to strengthen the facts that "except a man is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God; and that "those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not belong to Him".

Therefore as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter and enabler, without whom we cannot be called Children of God, we must ask ourselves, both as individuals and a people, are we really led by the Holy Spirit? Are our actions and desires influenced by Him, because then and only then can we be truly Christians. Only then will we be able to fulfill the only responsibility we have been given --to be witnesses of the saving grace of Christ both by word and action.

Undoubtedly we live in a world that is in desperate need of the love and grace of Christ. Every inch you turn you are faced with hatred, tribalism and sectionalism. We are faced with cultism, indecency and other signs of the absence of the Holy Spirit in the life of people, even those in the Church. Therefore every member of our Diocese must understand that it is our individual and collective responsibility to lead those around us to the knowledge of the life transforming love of Christ. And to do this we must have personal knowledge of same love by surrendering our lives to the Lordship of Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

At this point we must show our appreciation to our Diocesan wing of the Evangelical Fellowship in the Anglican Communion (EFAC) and our Diocesan Mission and Evangelism Board, for their continued effort in leading the Diocese towards fulfilling this all important responsibility. Again we remind every Aba Ngwa North Anglican that this is not an exclusive responsibility of the EFAC or any particular group or organization. If you cannot boldly and truly point to, at least one person monthly, you've won for Christ through word and or action, or support of the evangelism work of the Diocese, you are not truly an Anglican and surely not a Christian. For it is through witnessing that we prove our discipleship. Therefore everyone of us must find an avenue of leading people to Christ. This is not a suggestion but a mandate. Remember, "those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the heavens and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever" (Dan. 12:3).

Once again, we congratulate you all as we celebrate this gift that teaches us all truth, provides every needed help, comforts and assures us of our heavenly inheritance.

WISHING YOU ALL AN UNENDING PENTECOSTAL EXPERIENCE.

! And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the only wise God be all glory honor and majesty now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Bishop and Friend,



NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH.