

THE ECWA USA Communicator

ECWA Youth Conference

ECWA USA DCC Youth Conference in Atlanta, GA

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Communicator

ECWA USA DCC Youth/Young Adult Conference in Atlanta, GA July 15-19, 2015

For Conference Registration & Information Page 6

Henry Bwanhot, ECWA USA Youth Leader via hbwanhot@yahoo.com

ECWA youth conference this year will take place in the beautiful Atlanta, Georgia, USA on July 15-19, 2015. It's not too late for the youth to sign up for the conference. Feel free to contact ECWA USA Youth Leader, Henry Bwanhot, (hbwanhot@yahoo.com), for further information and details. Be prepared to share and be blessed at the conference.

We will be putting together a newsletter and encourage all youths to submit a writing, poem, or art to be included. Please note that these submissions come at no cost to the individual. Deadline is June 1st. Please invite your friends to this conference.

ECWA Chicago Church Dedication June 7, 2015

After seventeen years of waiting, searching and saving, ECWA Chicago was blessed with the property in this photo that goes with the open lot, in October of 2014. For some of you that haven't had the opportunity to see the property in person; the building has over 11,000 square feet (1st & lower level), playful architecture and a secluded gated deck area. The building itself is seating on 3 lots that is located along South Oakley Avenue. **Article is on Page 5 while your Invitation is on Page 13**

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ECWA USA Communicator (EUC)

Your Christian magazine for a new generation of believers

Maryland Conference Update



ECWA Children at the Maryland Conference, 2014

Prayer Cells

Houston Prayer Cell

Rev. Abednego Marshall

Phone: 832-566-7549

Columbia Prayer Cell

Dr. Maxwell Poswal

Phone: 803-354-1699

Xenia Prayer Cell

Rev. Dr. Daniel Iselaiye

Phone: 937-532-3471

ECWA USA DCC Executives

ECWA USA DCC Executives

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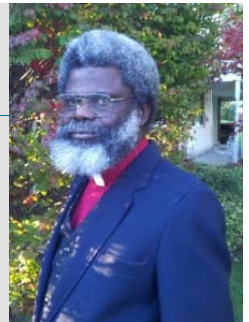
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ECWA USA DCC Executives

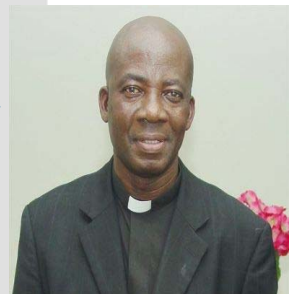
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ECWA Chicago Church Dedication June 7, 2015

by Rev Isaac Laudarji, Pastor. Connect via <http://chicago.ecwausea.org>



After seventeen years of waiting, searching and saving, ECWA Chicago was blessed with the property in this photo that goes with the open lot, in October of 2014. For some of you that haven't had the opportunity to see the property in person; the building has over 11,000 square feet (1st & lower level), playful architecture and a secluded gated deck area. The building itself is seating on 3 lots that is located along South Oakley Avenue.



We have now embarked on renovating, remodeling and eventually expanding the building to meet the needs of the growing church and the neighborhood. Meanwhile, as we celebrate the eighteenth anniversary of the existence of ECWA Chicago, we will also dedicate the property to the Lord. To that end **we invite all Saints who can make it to join us June 7th 2015 for the dedication of the church building of ECWA Chicago.** We also look forward to your contribution towards the remodeling work being undertaken. Come, be a part of what God is doing in Chicago.

If you cannot come, you can still **mail in a contribution to ECWA Chicago, 5644 S. Oakley Ave, Chicago**

2015 ECWA YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

ATLANTA , GA

(JULY 15TH 2015 – JULY 19TH 2015)



Theme

"Light the Night" based on Matthew 5:16
"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven." KJV

Gala

The color scheme for the gala are: BLACK, WHITE, and RED.

Any combination of these colors is acceptable. (i.e. you may wear all white, all black, white and red, or all three colors, any combination is acceptable). This is a Formal Red Carpet Event.

If you will be arriving on Thursday instead of Wednesday please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

We will be compiling a newsletter (conference brochure) and are asking for submission of articles from all youths and young adults. The articles may be on almost any topic (music, school, health, poem), or you could submit a greeting with a picture of yourself, your church, or your youth group. The submission comes at no cost to the individual. The deadline for submissions is June 1st. Please email submissions to yoayo11@gmail.com.

The Conference Will Feature

- Trip to the Coca-Cola Factory
- Dinner at a Restaurant
- Magnificent Gala Night
- Barbecue at one of Atlanta's Famous Parks
- Talented Speakers
- Praise and Worship Night
- Love and Relationship Forum

Please remember to pack your Bible!

We in Atlanta are so excited to host each and every one of you. We look forward to fellowshiping with you and we have so many great things planned. We urge each and every one of you to please pray for this conference and as we plan that the Lord will plan with us.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call or text: **Ayoola Osasona 404-337-6761** or email yoayo11@gmail.com.

See Page 8 for the Registration Form.

HOTEL RESERVATION

**4601 BEST ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, GA 30337**

**At the Holiday
Inn Express
Atlanta Airport**

Phone number for the hotel is **404-761-6500** (Please spell out **ECWA** to get the discounted rate)

The hotel is a 5-minute ride from Atlanta Hartsfield Jackson Airport and has a complimentary shuttle available, to and from the airport, every 30-minutes, 24hours a day.

RATE

The rate for the hotel is \$111.00 per night (tax is included in this amount).

We have reserved all double rooms

The number of people in the double rooms can fit 4 people

(We would strongly suggest four people in a room so that each individual ends up paying only \$111 for the 4 nights)

CALLING FOR RESERVATIONS

When calling for reservation the group name is "**ECWA**" (Again this needs to be spelled out please).

Last date for special rate reservation is June 1st

(CALLING IN AFTER THIS DATE WILL MEAN PAYING A HIGHER FEE THAN THE GROUP RATE!!)

CHECK IN TIME

Check in is at 3pm Wednesday July 15th; Check out is by Noon on Sunday July 19th

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call or text.

- **Ayoola Osasona** 404-337-6761
- **Damilola Olaoye** 678-516-0893
- **email** yoayo11@gmail.com

ECWA USA Youth/Young Adult National Conference in Atlanta, GA

July 15-19, 2015

REGISTRATION FORM

Note:

Everyone is encouraged to register early and send your full registration fee.

Remember to call the Hotel (404-761-6500) for your reservation. Mention “ECWA” for discounted rate.

Please email Ayoola Osasona at yoayo11@gmail.com or call/text 404-337-6761 with your hotel confirmation number and also indicate how many people you will be having in your room.

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone: _____

Spouse's Information

Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone: _____

Your Registration cost: *(Registration fee does not cover Hotel booking).*

Registration cost is going to be \$125.00 for each individual. This covers your feeding for the entire conference, materials for the conference, gala, and public transportation in the city.

NOTE: *To declare your intention to attend or for more information about the conference:*

Call or text: **Ayoola Osasona** (404-337-6761), or **Dami Olaoye** (678-516-0893) or email: yoayo11@gmail.com (if nobody answers please be sure to leave a voice message)

To pre-register, make check payable to “ECWA USA”, write on the Memo “ECWA 2015 Youth Conference” and mail to:

Bukky Olaoye
2004 Oak Terrace Drive
Atlanta, GA 30316, U. S. A.

You can register by:

(i) Calling to indicate your intention to attend, (ii) paying a deposit as part of the registration fee, or (iii) pre-paying the total registration fee. You can also pay the conference registration fee at the door during the conference.

5 Practical Habits of Men in the Happiest Marriages



Here are some steps you can take to ensure harmony in your marriage. (iStock photo)

by **Neil Kennedy**. Kennedy has passionately promoted God's Word for 25-plus years of ministry.

My wife Kay and I are closing in on 30 years of marriage. I must admit that our marriage is better than I ever expected it to be and seems to get better with age.

There are many factors that make for a good marriage; some are tangible, like provision (shelter, food) and protection (financial security, safety). Other factors are less tangible but just as real, such as understanding, respect and empathy.

While the aforementioned factors are important, there is also a very practical approach men can use to ensure happiness in marriage.

Here are five practical habits of men in the happiest marriages:

1. **Grooming.** Do you remember what it was like to go on your first dates? You probably put a lot of effort into making yourself as presentable as possible. Unfortunately, somewhere in the daily grind, men seem to lower their standard of physical presentation. It doesn't have to be that way. I strongly recommend that you present your body to your wife as a reasonable service. Don't brush this off like it doesn't matter.

I've seen an evil under the sun. A middle-aged man goes into a marriage crisis and finds himself alone. What does he do? He goes on a diet, updates his clothing, goes to the barber, joins a fitness center, gets a new car. Why? Because he is trying to reclaim his manhood. I recommend you do these things while you're married. **Cont. Page 14**

Noticias de Ecuador *News from Ecuador*



Connect via Rebecca Laudarji - Campus Crusade for Christ rebecca.laudarji@cru.org.
Please be part of my financial team, my account number is 0660686 at www.give.cru.org



Summer Project

A summer project is a group of staff and students who go on a mission trip during the summer break to be a part of ministry. This year we had a group of 40 people in the project team. There were 11 male students, 13 female students, 3 female staff, and 2 families. The group was split into 3 campus groups and they spend the summer helping at their assigned campuses. Last year we had a group of 20 and that number doubled this year which is an answer to our prayers for help especially because last year we had a 9 person team and this year it is a 5 person team. In the 5 weeks that the summer project was here this is what we saw God do through them: they had **798 spiritual conversations, 463 gospel presentations, 89 people who accepted Christ, 116 follow ups with students and 7 Spirit-filled conversation (for Christians they met)**. The rest of our year in Ecuador was spent meeting with the people that the summer project had met.

Before this summer group arrived, my team had written down prayer request for each campus that we wanted God to answer using these staff and students. By the end of their time in Ecuador, God had answered each request that we had written down! Amazing!

Prayer and Thanksgiving

Thank God for the success of our midyear evaluation and pray for my team as we continue on to the 2nd half of the year. Praise God for how He used the summer to enhance his kingdom on our 3 campuses. Pray for the new students in our movements that they will continue to grow in their walks of faith.

From Translation to Transformation

A friend from my church introduced Karina to me. Karina studies in the states but was home in Ecuador for the summer and offered to help translate for the summer group when they went out sharing the Gospel on campus. Our prayer for Katrina was that as she translated, the gospel would take root in her heart. Well, after a week of translating, Karina pulled one of the girls aside and told her that she had some questions about what she was translating. In the course of that conversation, Karina made the decision to give her life to Christ! Another prayer answered! God is great and He is changing lives everyday. Pray for Karina as she begins this new journey of faith!

Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given to me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the Gospel for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly as I should. Ephesians 6:19-20

PERSONAL UPDATE

It is great being back here. Definitely not the same in some ways and yet sometimes feels like nothing has changed. My Spanish has improved greatly and I know that this is not of my own ability. I see God at work in my life through my language learning process.

I have faith steps where I go sharing alone and during one of those times, I spoke with Dayanara who is an evangelical Christian. Our conversation and now friendship started out with her wanting to help me improve my Spanish but she soon became a part of the bible study group and wants to grow in her faith. Pray with me that she will remain involved and continue to pursue God.

April is vacation time for universities so we found ourselves in Quito (capital of Ecuador) partnering with about 20 high school students and staff who came down from the States during their spring break to help with high school ministry. It was amazing to see young men and women boldly sharing their stories of salvation with other students in a language that for some was new and unknown. Their excitement was contagious and God used them in great ways. The national staff is now meeting with some of the students who made decisions to follow Christ! Thank God for our young laborers!



In March we had a conference held in Guayaquil for all the leaders of the college and high school ministries. It was a really good time especially for our team because we were able to spend time with leaders from different cities, fellowship together, explore our city and share ideas about campus. We went over our mission and vision as a movement and the student had time to create strategic plans for their campuses. It was a very good time of equipping which had students and staff excited for the start of a new year!



THANKSGIVING

Praise God with us for the way he used friends here to help us find places to live. Thank God for the spiritual growth of our student leaders during our time away from them the past few months.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for new student leaders to be raised. Pray for the work of discipleship and leadership training among our students. Pray for me that I will be a good team leader leading in the power of the Holy Spirit.

SPANISH PHRASE: Dios le bendiga.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION: God bless you.

Rebecca Laudarji Campus Crusade for Christ rebecca.laudarji@cru.org. Please be part of my financial team, my account number is 0660686 at www.give.cru.org

Fasting As A Spiritual Discipline: A call to recover the role of fasting in break-through prayer

“ In a culture where the landscape is dotted with shrines to the Golden Arches and assortment of Pizza temples, fasting seems out of place, out of step with the times.” This opening statement by Richard Foster on the chapter on fasting in his celebrated book.



Rev. Joseph Ezeigbo, former Chairman of ECWA USA .



“Fasting adds intensity to prayer that could be likened to a travail in childbirth “

Celebration of Discipline explains why the subject of fasting is often very strange and remote to a lot Christians today. It is an indictment to a culture that has been addicted to hedonism and gluttony. Fasting is largely neglected among the Spiritual Disciplines as evidenced by the scarcity of literature on the subject and the fewness of Christians who practice it. Yet for all our inattention to and shunning it, fasting remains a Spiritual Discipline of which the Bible speaks so much about.

Definition: Without going into technicalities, a simple definition of fasting from the Greek word *nesteuo* is to go without food for a period of time for a spiritual purpose. Although fasting may sometimes include abstinence from other legitimate pleasures or activities such as sports, movies, TV, telephone, electronic games, internet and other entertainments, but in this brief essay, fasting would be limited to abstinence from food and or water only. It needs to be reiterated that fasting within the Biblical context is to devote more time for prayer and spiritual contemplation. This understanding of fasting therefore negates several other practices such as hunger strikes for social or political causes, weight loss and dietary management programs.

Types of Fasting: Although the Bible does not use our modern terminology, but it distinguishes between different types of fasting

Normal Fast: This involves abstinence from food but not from water. It is the opinion of many Bible commentators that this was the type of fasting that Jesus underwent during his 40 days in the wilderness.” And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry”(Matt.4:2; Lu.4:2) . Since nothing is said about His being thirsty, the common assumption is that He abstained from food only, but not from water. **Cont. Page 28**

ECWA Chicago



INVITES YOU TO OUR
18TH ANNIVERSARY

&

NEW CHURCH BUILDING DEDICATION SERVICE

JUNE 7TH AT 10:15AM
5644 S. OAKLEY
CHICAGO, IL 60636

**COME AND ENJOY A DAY OF CELEBRATION
AND THANKSGIVING UNTO THE LORD
FOR THE PROVISION OF OUR NEW CHURCH BUILDING**

**PLEASE BE SURE TO INVITE
FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

**THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS
AFTER THE SERVICE**

5 Practical Habits of Men in the Happiest Marriages

Cont. from Page 9

2. Cleaning. One of the first principles my wife and I implemented in our marriage was not going to bed with the house in disarray. It was uncomfortable and made for a restless night for me if the house wasn't in order. I always help around the house. I have a habit of picking up after myself. If I see a need, I fulfill it. If there are dishes that need to be cleaned or put in the dishwasher, I do it without thinking. We're in this together and we want our house to be comfortable. Amazingly, we've found that this simple habit helps keep strife out of our home.

3. Attention. We're living in a very distracted culture. Take a look around the restaurant the next time you're out. How many couples are looking at their phones rather than at each other? We are very connected without being intimate.

I've made it a habit to leave my phone off or on silent when I am with my wife. When we talk, I look at her and make eye contact. I listen and really engage in the conversation, regardless of what we're talking about. I am blessed that my wife is one of the smartest people that I've ever met (and I've met a lot of really smart people). After 30 years of marriage she is still intriguing to me.

4. Affection. Affection is emotional and physical attention. Giving affection is something a man should be proactive in doing. Some men get out of the habit of pursuing their wife. They allow their hands to become cold, their words become boring, and their heart to become hardened.

Couples who are very active and proactive in affection have the happiest marriages. Again, it gets better with age. The longer your marriage endures, the more precious and esoteric it becomes.

5. Prayer. I am not sure why it was difficult for me to start this habit but once I did, it brought us together closer than anything else. I want my prayer time with my wife to be authentic, private and intimate. I started preparing and having communion and prayer with my wife when we set aside the tithe to be paid to our church. It really has become one of our most cherished times. We celebrate the goodness of God in our lives, for our families, and in the provision of our household. Prayer is a difference maker in happy marriages.

In the last five years, our three children have all gotten married. It is interesting to see them navigate their young marriages and develop their habits within their relationships. It really is a miracle when two people come together in covenant to embark on their joint venture. Developing a few good practical habits early on will help their marriages remain strong and youthful in excitement.

For the original article, visit fivestarman.com. Fivestarman was founded in 2008 by **Neil Kennedy**. Kennedy has passionately promoted God's Word for 25-plus years of ministry. He is known for practically applying biblical principles that elevate people to a new level of living. As a business, church, ministry and life consultant, Kennedy has helped others strategize the necessary steps to reach their full potential.

For the original article, visit fivestarman.com.



2015 Youth & Young Adult Conference

Evangelical Church Winning All

ECWA

USA District Church Council (DCC)

Hosted By: ECWA Atlanta

4601 Best Road, College Park, GA 30337



Theme

“Light the Night” Matthew 5:16

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven.” KJV

The Conference Will Feature

- Trip to the Coca-Cola Factory
- Dinner at a Restaurant
- Magnificent Gala Night
- Barbecue at one of Atlanta's Famous Parks
- Talented Speakers
- Praise and Worship Night
- Love and Relationship Forum

Atlanta, GA USA

July 15th - 19th 2015

© 2015 ECWA

Igbaja DCC Needs Prayer and Monetary Support

By ECWA USA Editorial Board. Connect via ecwausa@ecwausa.org

ECWA DCC Igbaja need our prayer and monetary support. The leaders and members there are having hard times making ends meet. Providing basic needs like meals are very hard for our brethren and church members there. This is due to lack of industry in the area which translates to little or no opportunities.

The long term solutions is for us to pray for jobs and Government contracts in the area. Immediate solution is to donate to Igbaja DCC. No amount is too small. You may give your support to your minister or send it to your DCC and have it earmarked for Igbaja DCC. None of us that are able to provide basic amenities of life for our family knows what our brethren at Igbaja DCC are going through. Don't let our first DCC in Nigeria die, support Igbaja DCC. For our brethren in the USA, your donation is tax deductible. May the Lord bless you for your support.



Deuteronomy 31:8
And the LORD,
he [it is] that doth
go before thee;
he will be with thee,
He will not fail thee,
neither forsake thee:
fear not,
neither be dismayed.

Daniel Kolenda: Our Talents Do Not Belong to Us



Are you allowing fear to paralyze you and keep you from doing God's will? (iStock photo)

When I was a teenager, I went on a missions trip to England and stayed in a "host home" with a lovely British couple. I'll never forget a poster they had hanging on their wall that reported the results of a survey given to 10 groups of people.

There was a group of 10-year-olds, 20-year-olds, 30-year-olds, all the way up to 100-year-olds, and each was asked the same question: "What is your number one regret at this point in your life?" All the answers were interesting, some were funny, but the only answer I remember was from those who were 100 years old.

For some reason it is burned into my memory, and I can never forget it. After living a long life, they said their No. 1 regret was that they "should have taken more risks." I determined then, as a very young man, that when I come to the end of my life I don't want to look back and realize that I never really lived at all because I was too afraid.

To many people, fear seems to be a legitimate reason not to do something. But I want you to see that the master in Jesus' parable was not sympathetic toward the servant who buried his talent. When the servant said, "I was afraid," the master did not put his arm around him and say, "There, there, it's all right, you poor little servant. I'm sorry I put you in such an uncomfortable position." No, the master rebuked him sharply with anger and said, "You lazy servant!"

Why did the master accuse the servant of laziness? Because rather than facing his fears and taking a risk for his master's sake, he chose to take the easy path: bury the talent, stay at home, and relax.

Cont. Page 19

HOW TO TRUST GOD WHEN YOUR LIFE IS UNRAVELING

In the last years of her life, Corrie ten Boom, author of *The Hiding Place* and honored for her work in sparing the lives of Jewish people from the Nazis, often began her testimony by holding up before the audience a piece of embroidered cloth.



When your life is under duress, who do you turn to? (Flickr)

First, she showed the beauty of the embroidered side with all the threads forming a beautiful picture, which she described as God's plan for our lives. Then she would flip over the cloth to show the tangled and confused underside, illustrating how we so often view our own lives from a human standpoint.

She then quoted the poem "*The Weaver*" by Benjamin Malacia Franklin.

*My life is just a weaving
Between my Lord and me.
I cannot change the color
For He works most steadily.*

*Until the loom is silent
And the shuttle cease to fly,
Will God roll back the canvas
And explain the reason why.*

*Oft times He weaves the sorrow
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.*

*The dark threads are as needful
In the skillful Weaver's Hand
As the golden threads of silver
He has patterned in His Plan.*

The challenge of the Christian life is to trust God with the upper side when all you see in your own life are the threads of tangled confusion.

With [Psalm 138](#), we begin a series of eight psalms hearing for the last time the prayers of the man David who continued to worship the Lord amid all the underside sorrows and setbacks. How did he survive "walk[ing] in the midst of trouble" (v. 7)? This psalm tells us.

In Psalms 135 and 136, the focus was on community worship. But this psalm reflects the intimate tones of "I" and "me."

What is your response to the Lord on this particular day of your life? What prayer, if any, do you choose to lift upward to Him? You can begin any day without praise, or choose every day to worship. David's choice was always clear because it was rooted, not in his feelings, but in his will and from all his heart (v. 1). **Cont. Page 22**

Our Talents Do Not Belong to Us (Cont. from Page 17)

If you think fear is a good excuse for not doing God's will, you'd better think again. If you want to know how to overcome your fears, there is only one way—face them! Most of the time fear is like a mirage; as you walk toward it, it will become more and more transparent until it disappears completely. But to face your fears requires courage.

After Moses died, his protégé, Joshua, became the new leader. God promised to be with Joshua as He had been with Moses. God promised to give Joshua every place upon which the sole of his foot would tread. God promised to prosper Joshua wherever he went.

But there was one requirement: "Be strong and very courageous," the Lord said (Josh. 1:7). Imagine you are about to embark on the most challenging undertaking of your life. You have no idea what lies before you, and then the Lord comes to you and says, "Be very courageous." That would scare me! Why? It's because courage is needed in the presence of danger. Courage is *not* the absence of fear. In fact, there is no courage without fear. Courage is the willingness to face fear. All the promises, victories and destiny awaiting Joshua were dependent on his willingness to face his fear.

If fulfilling God's will for our lives were just a matter of promoting our own names, reputations and personal destinies, I would say, "Don't even bother. Stay home, watch television and enjoy a comfortable, quiet life."

But we must remember that what is at stake is God's eternal kingdom! Our talent does not belong to us—it belongs to the master. He has entrusted it into our hands. But one day He will return, and we will have to give an account for what we did with His investment.

Daniel Kolenda, a missionary evangelist, has led more than 10 million people to Christ face-to-face through massive, open-air evangelistic campaigns in some of the most dangerous and remote locations on earth. He is president and CEO of Christ for all Nations and hosts an internationally syndicated television program.

Praise and Prayer June, 2015

EMS OF ECWA

Prayer/Counseling hotline: 07064359520
E-mail: prayerpromotion@emsofecwa.org
Website: www.emsofecwa.org

PRAISE AND PRAYER June, 2015

Brethren, pray for us (1 Thess 5:25)



Brethren, pray for us (1 Thess 5:25)

MONDAY 1ST

Give God the glory for bringing us into the month of June safely; we should also thank Him, for the raining season that has recently started. Thank God for the successful civilian to civilian transition in Nigeria on the 29th May, 2015. Pray that God will bless this season and also give wisdom to President Buhari's regime to build a peaceful Nigeria, for the progress of the work of missions.

TUESDAY 2ND

Thank God for using the ECWA Leadership to constantly encourage the EMS Leadership in ensuring that the Great Commission task does not lose its current tempo. Pray that God will continue to give the EMS leadership wisdom and strength to faithfully sustain the mission tempo and value, as she continue to receive such encouragement.

WEDNESDAY 3RD FOCUS ON SCHOOL SERVICES:

Thank the Lord Almighty for using the City Ministries (Gidan Bege) to assist the EMS Children School in Jos grade her football and volleyball fields. Pray for God to grant the children safety as they use these sport facilities. Also pray that God will use the medium to mould their characters as they relate with one another. Pray for God to bless the kids academically and spiritually as they learn together.

THURSDAY 4TH FOCUS ON NORTH WEST REGION:

Thank God for the success of the mission awareness in Kaduna Central DCC on the 23rd-24th May and that of Fadan Kagoma that took place on the 30th-31st last month. We were able to make awareness in 35 churches in Kaduna Central DCC and 45 churches in Fadan Kagoma of which God raised men and women to continue to support EMS.

Pray for God to continue to strengthen this Region as she progresses in her efforts to complement the work of EMS. Also pray for God to bless them the more as they trust and remain faithful to Him.

FRIDAY 5TH FOCUS ON SOUTH WEST:

Thank God for how He is helping our newly posted missionaries to adapt to their new environments and culture. Pray for God to grant wisdom to the Regional Coordinator as he intends to work with the Leadership of this Region to organize mission awareness. Also pray that God will grant him favor to build a strong relationship between church and mission in the Region.

SATURDAY 6TH FOCUS ON FAR NORTH REGION:

Thank God for using the 1st EMS Mission Week of Prayer to raise 8 Supporters in ECWA Gospel Church Kano. Give God the glory for the success of the EMS Regional Conference that took place on the 13-17/5/2015, at Malumfashi. Also thank God for using our Donors for the wells project, praise God for the conversion to Christ of one of those who dug the well in Gidan Marke. Pray for his spiritual growth and for the success of the coming mission awareness in Kano on the 13th-14th June, 2015.

SUNDAY 7TH FOCUS ON FAR NORTH WEST REGION:

Thank God for 73 people, who rededicated their lives to Christ and 134 new converts to our Lord Jesus Christ in this Region last month. Pray for their spiritual growth. Continue to pray for God to intervene in the activities of armed robbers in Dansadau area, and pray that God will comfort the families of 58 people killed by these armed robbers last April. Also pray that God will use our missionaries at this time to share the saving gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the people.

MONDAY 8TH MID-EAST REGION:

Thank God for using ECWA Good News Church Akwanga, to donate 3 bundles of zinc, 5 packets of nails, packets of washers, 2 packets of rubbers, 5 plastic chairs, N31,000.00 for bags of cement and 10 copies of the Holy Bible during their outreach to Nidam Gona village. Also thank God for the partial completion of the Regional house and for enabling the Regional Coordinator to enter the building. Pray for God to protect them and also use him and his family to reach out to this developing community with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for God to help the 114 new converts to grow in their new found faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY 9TH FOCUS ON CROSS BORDERS UNIT:

Praise God for the progress so far in our cross borders fields. Give God the glory for the conversion of a woman as a result of miraculous healing of back pain in the Gambia. Pray that God will continue to encourage our missionaries serving in cross borders' fields to experience God's divine providence and peace as they preach the gospel to the people in their communities. Also pray for God to grant them the spiritual, moral and physical strength to endure challenges in their various fields.

WEDNESDAY 10TH FOCUS ON SPORTS MINISTRY:

Thank God for the success of the Basic Sport Training of more than 90 missionaries in North East Region that took place on the 25-28/5/2015, at Tangale DCC in Gombe State. Pray for God to use our missionaries that had undergone this training to put to practice what they have learnt in their various stations. Also pray for the 29 new converts won to Christ Jesus, to grow in their faith.

THURSDAY 11TH FOCUS ON SOUTH NORTH EAST REGION:

Thank God for the 57 new converts to our Lord Jesus Christ last month. Pray for God to help them grow in their knowledge of Him. Pray for God to provide 7 motorcycles for 3 EMS DCCs Coordinators and 5 field missionaries in the Region. Thank God for touching the Donkin community this time, to develop a strong desire for EMS to build a mission field school in their village without minding if their children will become Christians, unlike their earlier resistant attitude shown. Pray that God will satisfy their longing so that their younger ones may come to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ through education.

FRIDAY 12TH FOCUS ON SOUTH EAST REGION:

Thank God for rescuing Rev. Peter Akpan, one of our retired missionaries, who was abducted by kidnapers for several weeks. Pray for God to heal him from trauma and the injury sustained during his incarceration. Also pray for God to bring to fruition the plan to plant a church this month in Nnobi. Continue to pray for God to bless the Enugu DCC Coordinator, Rev. Ojo O. Ojo, who is working hard to strengthen the EMS work in the DCC. **Cont. Page 26**

HOW TO TRUST GOD WHEN YOUR LIFE IS UNRAVELING

(CONT FROM PAGE 19)

But what does he mean when he says, "before the 'gods' I will sing your praise?" The gods, with a small "g," represent your decision to praise the Lord in the face of whatever in your life remains as a strong power against you. You minimize their threats by magnifying His name.

You make a conscious decision to point your life in the direction of His temple (v. 2), to look toward the Lord rather than away from Him. When you turn your face toward Him you find the reality of His love and faithfulness. You walk in the confidence that the Lord's exaltation of His name and Word above all things means that all His everlasting promises to you personally will come true.

You gain strength in His presence (v. 3), and great desire for all—even chiefs of state—to know and worship the Lord you serve (vv. 4-5).

Never Stop Trusting

There is a fascinating connection between the thought in verses 4 and 5 as compared to the beginning of verse 6. David invites kings of the earth to praise the Lord, and then immediately notes that it's the prayers of the lowly that God "knows," while the proud He only "knows from afar." In other words, God lovingly watches over the poor-in-their-own-eyes rather than the powerful-in-their-own-eyes.

Perhaps, like David, you have "walk[ed] in the midst of trouble" (v. 6), much deeper and longer than you thought you could endure. But your fear and despair ultimately proved weaker than the Lord's protective care. He shelters you even in the harshest winter of your life.

The psalm closes with one of the most comforting and reassuring words a child of God could ever hear: "The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me" (v. 8, KJV). Why? Because His love endures forever and He does "not abandon the works of [His] hands."

The apostle Paul picks up the same theme in his letter from prison to the Philippians: "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (1:6).

Are you on the underside today? Then, as the gospel song puts it in truth parallel with this psalm, "When you can't see His plan, when you don't understand, trust His heart." He will fulfill His purpose for you.

George O. Wood is the general superintendent of the Assemblies of God. For the original article, visit georgeowood.com.

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The monthly ad rate varies. Discounts are given for ads running a full year. For more information or to place an ad contact advertising@ecwausa.org.

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The EUC welcomes submissions including articles, letter to the editor and *Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down*. Submissions must be copyright free and must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Electronic submissions are preferred. For verification purposes only, submissions must include name, address, email address and phone number. Items are published as space allows at the discretion of the Editor and Executive Director. **Submissions are subject to editing.**

Send Submissions to: editor@ecwausa.org

ECWA USA Communicator (EUC) 2015-2016 Editorial Board

ECWA USA Communicator is published quarterly by the ECWA USA Communicator Committee. It is financed by advertising revenues. Volunteer staff creates, publishes and distributes it.

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Rev. Innocent Nwaobasi

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God has blessed us with bountiful harvests that are too many for us to mention.

God's work in the world has also touched each of us in numerous ways than we can't imagine.....but how do we begin? We can start today or in the future with a gift to the ECWA USA that speaks to your heart and passion. One person can change the world and each of us can help in our own way. Donate to ECWA USA building fund today!

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Send Submissions to: editor@ecwausa.org

The building blocks of our Ministry



ECWA Men's Ministry (above)

ECWA Youth Ministry (below)



ECWA Women's Ministry

Praise and Prayer June, 2015 (Cont. from Page 26)

SATURDAY 13TH FOCUS ON NORTH CENTRAL REGION:

Thank God for using the EMS Head Office to release funds for digging 7 wells to alleviate the perennial water shortage faced by many communities in the Region. Give glory to God for using Rev. Dr. Lee (H.O.D. Missions Department) from Jos ECWA Seminary, to donate One Million, One Hundred Thousand Naira (N1. 100,000.00) only, for the construction of a church building at EMS Station Ndan in Gwol DCC. Also thank God for saving our Missionary, Pastor Ayuba Makeri and his family, from the attack of gunmen in Kadarko and Wadata Kasuwa on 3/5/2015. Also pray for God to comfort the families of about 80 people who were killed and to provide for those who lost their properties in this attack.

SUNDAY 14TH FOCUS ON MID-CENTRAL REGION:

Thank God for saving the life of the Regional Coordinator, Rev. Ishaku D. Katuri and his family who were attacked at their apartment by armed robbers last month. Pray that God will heal them from the trauma and also restore their valuables that were carried away by these robbers. Pray that God will reveal Himself to these criminals so that they may come to His saving knowledge.

MONDAY 15TH FOCUS ON NORTH EAST REGION:

Thank God for His love, protection and provision for the Region despite the activities of Boko Haram, especially in Borno, Yobe and Gombe DCCs. Pray for God to strengthen the 44 new converts won to Christ Jesus last month, to grow in their new nature. Also pray for God to provide resources to roof the pastoriums built in the following mission stations: Kurjale, Gajale, Kupto, Katam, Lapandi and Kwal-lengkwala, before the raining season gets serious.

TUESDAY 16TH FOCUS ON PRAYER AND PROMOTIONS UNIT:

Praise God for helping this Unit to complete the work on the EMS Prayer Calendar for 2015 to 2018. Pray for God's protection in the distribution of this calendar to His people who are willing to pray for the work of missions. Also pray that God will use the material to raise knowledge, interest and enthusiasm in the hearts of His people to pray for the nations to come to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

WEDNESDAY 17TH FOCUS ON EMS ADMINISTRATOR:

Thank God for the strength He is lavishing on the Administrative staff daily as they handle administrative work in the EMS Headquarters. Pray for God to grant them wisdom and ability to cope with daily administrative work as they relate with people within and without. Continue to pray for God to renew the strength of the staff to facilitate effectively.

THURSDAY 18TH FOCUS ON MEDICAL UNIT:

Thank God for using this Unit to care for our sick missionaries and others. Pray for newly recruited clinic staff for Kufana and Jos clinics to be used by God in the clinics. Also pray for God to provide a vehicle to be used as a mobile clinic to enhance good service delivery to our mission fields. Pray for our missionaries who are having health challenges for God to provide for their medical bills and/ or heal them.

Praise and Prayer June, 2015

FRIDAY 19TH FOCUS ON EMS HEADQUARTERS STAFF:

We thank God for some of our staff at the Head Office on their annual leave. Pray for God to renew their strength as they rest with their families. Also pray that when their leave is over, they will improve their productivity in the ministry.

SATURDAY 20TH FOCUS ON THE EMS ACCOUNT UNIT:

Thank God for the commitment of the staff in this Unit. Pray for them to continue to experience God's blessings as they faithfully serve Him in the area of handling finances of the ministry. Also pray for God to continue to protect them from every danger as they make transactions daily.

SUNDAY 21ST FOCUS ON TRAINING UNIT:

Thank God for the success of the EMS Widows' seminar that was held on the 25-27/5/2015, at Rhizha in Jos. Pray that God will continue to encourage them to trust Him for their daily needs. Thank God for the Training Coordinator, Rev. Titus Turaki, who is now on his annual leave that God will renew his strength as he rest.

MONDAY 22ND FOCUS ON HOME MISSION UNIT:

Thank God for the Nigerian church that is becoming more aware of the global trends in mission. Pray that God will motivate the church leaders to be more proactive in exploring this opportunities to invest greatly in global missions. Also pray for missionaries to be more committed to use the open doors available to reach out to new emerging communities.

TUESDAY 23RD FOCUS ON SUPPORTERS AND DONORS:

Thank God for our Supporters and Donors for their commitments despite the economic challenges around the globe. Pray that God will continue to comfort the families of those who are bereaved, like the family of late Barr. Mandong, in Maitama, Abuja.

WEDNESDAY 24TH FOCUS ON CITY MINISTRIES:

Thank God for using His people to supply the needs of the less privileged children in our various centers in Nigeria. Give glory to God for the donation of Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500, 000.00) only, from an anonymous Donor. Also praise God for securing admission to one of the boys in our Care Center in Makurdi, into the Federal University of Agriculture. Pray for God to mold his character even as he study in the University so that one day his people will see the evidence of the gospel in his life and turn to Christ Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Also pray for God to provide adequate security for Gyero Care Center because of frequent security threats to the community.

THURSDAY 25TH FOCUS ON EMS DIRECTOR:

Thank God for safety to the EMS Director throughout his journeys last month. Pray for God to grant him good health, favor, wisdom, strength and peace as he relates with our partners within and without, on missions. **Cont. Page 34**

Fasting As A Spiritual Discipline (Cont. from Page 12)

Partial Fast: This involves avoidance of a full course meal to a mere simple diet. This includes abstention from gourmet meals, meat, wine and such like delicacies. Daniel and his three Hebrew companions subjected themselves to this type of fasting. "Prove your servants, I beseech thee for ten days: and let them give us pulse to eat and water to drink"(Dan.1:12; cf also 10:3).

Absolute Fast: This involves abstention from all food and water. While no time duration is given in the other types of fasting, two Biblical examples seem to limit this type of fast to three days." Go gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan and fast for me ; neither eat or drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will do likewise..." (Esth.4:16) "And he (Saul) was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank" (Acts 9:9). It is a common knowledge in medical science that the human body can survive longer than three days without food but not water. For this reason absolute fast is not encouraged beyond three days except under a special divine leading.

Supernatural Fast: This involves abstention from food and water for a prolonged period of time. There are only two instances of this type of fasting in the Bible and each instance was by direct divine instruction and the individuals involved were thus supernaturally sustained. Moses, on two occasions when he ascended Mt. Sinai to receive the Commandment; and Elijah when he journeyed from Beer-sheba to Mt. Horeb (Deut. 9:9; 1 kgs.19:8) Both Moses and Elijah carried out their fasts under clear divine direction . A strong note of warning therefore needs to be sounded here; except under a similar clear divine instruction, this level of abstention from life sustaining sources should be avoided. A sad incident that left a dark blotch in the history of the Revival movement in Nigeria occurred in 1971. A zealous University student was misguided into attempting this type of fast for 40 days resulting in his death within days.

Why Some People Avoid Fasting: It had earlier been stated that ours is a culture surfeited by gluttony and hedonism. A culture which has little or no tolerance for any "inconvenience" that may interrupt its voracious sensual appetite. So it comes as no surprise that every flimsy excuse is sought to avoid seeing fasting as a necessary Spiritual Discipline. Some reasons that have given to avoid fasting include:

- Fasting is a relic of Medieval asceticism.
- Fasting is modern legalism
- Fasting can be injurious to your health
- Fasting can sap your energy and limit your work output
- Fasting is part of the Roman Catholic doctrine of penance
- Fasting is a practice of the Mainline liberal denominations

Is There A Command to Fast?: This question is at the root of the reluctance or disregard of many Christians towards fasting. They argue that the Biblical teaching on fasting views it as a voluntary task. While it is true that there is no strict commandment in the Bible for the believer to fast, yet there is sufficient evidence to vouch that fasting is expected of the believer today.. In his teaching on the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said "When you fast"(Matt.6:16) Fasting was a common practice of His day that had been misused which He sought to correct. By His statement, he affirmed rather than negating

Fasting As A Spiritual Discipline

the practice. On another occasion when the disciples of John and the Pharisees asked Jesus why His disciples did not fast like John's disciples and the Pharisees (Matt. 9:14-17). Jesus answered them that a time will come when they (His disciples) would fast; "when the Bridegroom is taken is taken from them, and then they shall fast". Jesus's answer is clear enough to show that He expects His followers both then and now to fast.

The Role of Corporate/Public Fasting :Fasting is presented in the Bible as a task that can be undertaken privately by an individual. Jesus's teaching on the Sermon on the Mount lends support to this (Matt.6:16-18). But at the same time the Bible records numerous occasions of corporate fasting. It appears from the records that in both NT and OT, that each occasion of corporate fasting was prompted by a special situation or desperate circumstance.. King Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast when Judah was invaded by a military alliance (2Chron.20-1-4) The unnamed King of Nineveh summoned the entire city including animals to fast when Jonah warned about the impending doom of the Assyrian capital . (Jonah 3:7-10)

Ezra, the scribe proclaimed a fast on the bank of River Ahava to seek for protection against marauders for his entourage (Ezra 8:21-23). Under the threat of extermination of the Jews, Queen Esther called for three day fast before appearing before the king (Esth.4:16). Perhaps under a special burden for the expansion of the Gospel, the Church at Antioch ministered unto the Lord and fasted . They prayed and fasted before releasing Barnabas and Saul to set out on their missionary journey(Acts 13:1-3). Barnabas and Saul adopted the same practice during their missionary travels. Both they and the churches they founded prayed and fasted for the new leaders (Acts 14:23).

The Purpose of Fasting: The prophet Isaiah wrote " for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children"(Isa.66:8). Fasting adds intensity to prayer that could be likened to a travail in childbirth. In his classic work, *God's Chosen Fast*, author Arthur Wallis makes this insightful remark:

Fasting is calculated to bring a note of urgency and importunity to our praying, and to give force to our pleading in the court of heaven. The man who prays with fasting is giving heaven notice that he is truly in earnest; that he will not give up nor let God go without the blessing....Not only so, but he is expressing his earnestness in a divinely- appointed way. He is using a means that God has appointed to make his voice to be heard on high.

Fasting is like pouring fuel to a burning fire to flare it up and make it burn brighter. This is not to say that any prayer is inefficacious without fasting. Records abound in the Bible of prayers without fasting that received heaven's answers . But Biblical records as well accounts from history show how frequently the saints of old, whether in Biblical times or in past generations resorted to fasting. Whenever they encountered unusually threatening or challenging situations, intensely sought the will of God or lamented over a morally deplorable situation, they added fasting to their pleading before God(Ezra 8:21-23: Neh.1:4: 9:1-3: Esth.4:1-4: 2 Chron.20:1-4 : Dan.9:1-3:10:1-3:Acts 13:1-3) During the early history of America, the Congress on three different occasions called for a national fasting. Presidents John Adams and James Madison each during his time called America to prayer and fasting. Abraham Lincoln did the same three times during the civil war.

In 1756, when England was under the threat of French invasion, the king of Britain summoned his subjects to prayer and fasting. The observance was so solemn and had great impact on the nation so much that John Wesley entered it in his Journal . The result of the prayer? The French withdrew from their intention. **Cont. Page 35**

Communicator Writers' Guidelines

The ECWA USA Communicator Magazine is written by people like you and me. ECWA USA Communicator is published quarterly by the ECWA USA Communicator Editorial Board. It is financed by advertising revenues. Volunteer staff creates, publishes and distributes it.

What is the purpose of ECWA USA Communicator?

The ECWA USA Communicator Magazine features human-interest stories, news, action items, information, and advice on a wide range of matters concerning Christians in their day-to-day living. Each issue features a variety of articles showing our ways of helping people of all ages to be a better Christian by:

- Growing in their faith
- Growing in their devotions to Christ
- Discovering the importance of Christian faith for everyday living.

How Can I Find Out About Upcoming Topics?

- Check the [complete topics and writing deadlines online at http://ecwausa.org/?page_id=1732](http://ecwausa.org/?page_id=1732) for upcoming issues, as well as previous topics you can read to get your creativity sparked.
- For a printed copy of upcoming topics and expanded questionnaires, send email to editor@ecwausa.org, or mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) to the address at the end of this page.

Who reads ECWA USA Communicator?

- People of all ages who seeks personal Christian growth in their life

What Are Some Tips From ECWA USA Communicator?

ECWA USA Communicator is designed to make people aware of what is going on in our Church Community and as a medium for people to come closer to God

- It serves as a medium for people to come closer to God.
- It captures experiences of real people or group of people who are working to apply their faith to everyday living.
- It expresses an idea applicable to everyday Christian living.
- It leads people into further conversation with God through prayers and about God after reading.

Pray that the manuscripts you submit will be a great source of ideas and inspiration unto other Christians and help them in their day-to-day life.

What Style Of Writing Is Appropriate For ECWA USA Communicator?

- Simple enough for a youth to understand it, however it should be realistic and relevant to life experiences of every Christians, does not need to be overtly religious but should help to open people to

the life of faith in a multicultural setting.

- We employ you to please use language that is non-sexist and inclusive of everyone. We encourage the use of Bible quotes and a wide range of biblical images for God.

How Do I Prepare my ECWA USA Communicator Manuscript?

- Compose your ECWA USA Communicator manuscripts as an email sent to the **editor@ecwausa.org**, an online submission, or a typed or handwritten page (doubled-spaced on 8 ½" x 11" paper).
- If you mail your manuscript to us and want your original submission to be returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE). We cannot acknowledge or return manuscripts submitted without an SASE, so please keep a copy of what you submit.
- Please let us know the publication issue for your manuscript.

What other information do I need to include?

- Date
- Article Title
- Author's Name
- Age/Birth Date (if you are younger than 21)
- Mailing Address

Email Address and daytime phone Number

What is the ECWA USA Communicator Magazine Photography guidelines?

- The ECWA USA Communicator Magazine believes that each story is enhanced by photographs of its subjects. We will be happy to accept photos for articles as either digital files or hard-copy originals. Please use the following guidelines to help you provide us images of the best quality.
- Digital images:
 - Images can be sent via email (one or two at a time) or mailed to The ECWA USA Communicator Magazine on CD
 - Format: Digital photos need to be uncompressed, high resolution JPEG files (.jpg) or TIFF (.tif) files.
 - The minimum file size that will be accepted is 600 x 900 pixels (two inches by three inches, at a resolution of 300 dpi [dots per inch]). We prefer images of 2240 x 1680 pixels or higher.
- Hard-copy original photographic prints:
 - The ECWA USA Communicator Production Department welcomes any original photos that you send to accompany your article, and be assured we will take the utmost care in handling them and ensuring their safe return.
 - For your convenience and peace of mind, we will facilitate the shipping and return of your photos.
 - If you need help with any part of this process, we will be happy to assist in whatever way we can.

Communicator Writers' Guidelines (Cont. from Page 31)

Will my manuscripts be edited?

- The ECWA USA Communicator reserves the right to edit your manuscripts for length, clarity, grammatical correctness, and biblical/theological integrity.
- We are committed to preserving the integrity of the writer's style, voice, language, and personal experience whenever possible.

To Whom Should I Submit My Manuscript?

Choose one of these three options to send your manuscript to ECWA USA Communicator, Editorial Board.

Email: editor@ecwausea.org

We prefer that you submit your manuscript to The ECWA USA Communicator Magazine via this [e-mail](#) link. Please attach the manuscript to your e-mail as a Microsoft Word document. If necessary, you may paste the article directly into the body of your e-mail.

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Email: editor@ecwausea.org
Phone: 404-399-4502

You may submit your manuscript via the postal service but we still need an e-mail address for future correspondence. Please let us know if your contact information changes after your submission to the ECWA USA Communicator magazine

When Life Turns Out Different Than You Expected

Did you ever think that you would be where you are right now? Are your circumstances what you expected them to be? Your marriage? Your children? Your career? Or is your life different than expected?

When I was a junior in high school, the associate pastor from our church joked with me once and said, "Ellen, maybe someday you will marry a pastor." To my parent's great embarrassment I laughed at his comment and assured him, "I will never marry a pastor. I don't want that kind of life, I want so much more. I want to have a successful job, money to travel the world, live in a nice house, drive new cars, and whatever else I fancy." The pastor was generous; he smiled right back and assured me, "You never know what the future holds." I was sure being a pastor's wife was not in my future.



Are you somewhere in life that you didn't plan on being? (image from Charisma archives)

It was with great shock I called one of my good friends when we were in college and said, "I really like this guy, he is amazing, goodness I like him so much I could marry him, but...he wants to be a pastor!" He stole my heart, what can I say.

I married a pastor, and our lives are not what I expected, this life is beautiful. Although it is not easy being the "pastor's wife" I now look back and laugh at the silly teenager that cared so much about material things. We have traveled the world together on mission trips and in our journey to adopt our middle child. Money does not measure our success. And I happen to think our little house is pretty cute, comfortable, and most important, it is home.

I never imagined I would be the mother of a child with Down syndrome, or any special need for that matter. I would have been the first in the line of those that claim, "I could never do it!" And I wrongfully believed the irrational idea that, "God only gives special children to special parents."

I struggled with Nichole's diagnosis of Down syndrome, but God changed me. No, he transformed me. The beautiful life of our daughter Nichole led us to adopt a little girl with cerebral palsy. Two kids with special needs? This is definitely not what I expected when I thought about being a mom. But I wouldn't have it any other way. I love the gifts I have in each one of my girls. They are so different, so unique, so precious.

Oh how great were the plans I had envisioned for my future. I had the drive to pursue those passions, yet little by little, I changed. From career choices, investing time in projects, and learning about the things that really matter in life, I became a different me.

This life I live is different than I expected. A rich mosaic put together, piece by piece, creating something beyond what I ever envisioned. I am thankful that my plans were not to be. **Cont. Page 34**

FRIDAY 26TH FOCUS ON CROSS BORDERS FIELDS:

Thank God for providing 20 plots of land in Ghana for the purpose of developing church building and other ministries to reach out with the gospel holistically. Also thank God for acquiring lands in Duala in Cameroon and Blantyre in Malawi. Pray that God will provide the needed funds to develop these discipleship centers in due season. 5

SATURDAY 27TH GAMBIA FIELD:

Praise God for the projects embarked upon in the Gambia, especially the phase one that is completed in Barra, and those at various levels of completion in Birkama, Gurjur and Bansang. Also thank God for our missionary who had a rare access to young men undergoing traditional initiation rites and preached to them and their care givers and 4 of their care givers gave their lives to Christ Jesus. Pray for God to create a desire for growth in their lives as they are being followed up. Also pray for stations that are urgently in need of places of worship like Soma, Tobokoto 1&2, Sifoe and Old Yandum, for God to raise workers and sponsors for acquiring lands and buildings in various locations.

SUNDAY 28TH ZAMBIA:

Thank God for ECWA Church Angwan Sunday, Kaduna South, that has committed to support Rev. & Mrs. Kuzaswat, who are starting the EMS work in Zambia. Pray that God will use this family mightily to bring people to the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MONDAY 29TH UNREACHED PEOPLES:

Thank God for opening doors for the unreached peoples group to be reached with the gospel. Pray that God will continue to help EMS reach out to the Kanuris in Diaspora. Also pray that our missionaries working amongst the Kambari and Dukawa in the Far North West will be mightily used by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission.

TUESDAY 30TH

Thank God for His divine leadership throughout the month of June. Give Him the glory for what he has done in the lives of His children. Pray for Him to prepare us for the month of July as we earnestly desire great things to happen.

When Life Turns Out Different Than You Expected (Cont. from Page 33)

Thankful for this beautiful life God has given me. Oh, there is plenty of brokenness in me—selfishness, lack of discipline, jealousy—but I am learning to find beauty in the broken places of my life, allowing God to transform me and to guide me in this journey of life.

Ellen Stumbo writes and speaks about finding beauty in brokenness with gritty honesty and openness. She's passionate about sharing the real—sometimes beautiful and sometimes ugly—aspects of faith, parenting, special needs, and adoption. Ellen's writing has appeared on *Focus on the Family*, *LifeWay*, *MomSense*, *Not Alone*, *Mamapedia* and the *Huffington Post*.

In his excellent book, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*, Donald Whitney lists 10 categories for the purpose of fasting :

1. To Strengthen Prayer (Dan.9:3: Joel 2:12)
2. To Seek God's Guidance(Acts 14:23)
3. To Express Grief(1 Sam.31:13: 2 Sam. 1:11-12:
4. To seek Deliverance or Protection(2 Chron.20:3-4: Ezra 8:21-23)
5. To Express Repentance and the Return to God(Jonah 3:5-8)
6. To humble Oneself Before God(1 Kgs.21:27-29: Ps.35:13)
7. To Express Concern for the Work of God(Neh. 1:3-4)
8. To Minister to the Needs of Others(Isa. 58:6-7)
9. To Overcome Temptation and dedicate Yourself to God(Matt.4:1-11)
10. To Express love and Worship to God(Lu.2:37)

Summary: As this limited study has shown, fasting is a Spiritual Discipline that in both Biblical and ancient times many saints of God and spiritual giants have practiced with much spiritual benefit. Some godly leaders of our generation in the past few decades have begun to call the Church back to this Discipline. Paul Yonggi Cho, the pastor and founder of Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, South Korea (the world's largest Mega Church) taught that fasting was instrumental in the in the sporadic growth of his congregation with over 500,000 members. Dr. Bill Bright, the founder of Campus Crusade for Christ deserves a special mention. Towards the end of his life even after he was diagnosed with a malignant cancer, was consumed with a passion for a Prayer Movement. He felt that God had called him to mobilize the Church through Prayer. He initiated Prayer and Fasting conferences for top Christian leaders in America. He had a vision of spreading this Movement around the world. Dr. Elmer Towns (co-founder with Jerry Falwell) of Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia is among today's leaders calling the Church back to fasting. He has also written a best-seller on the subject *Fasting for a Spiritual Break-Through*

It then behooves all of us believers today to heed the call and join the rank of other saints and practice a Spiritual Discipline that through history has been a "prayer-energizer" Arthur Wallis' remark is worth our serious pondering:

In giving us the privilege of fasting as well as praying, God has added a powerful weapon to our armoury. In her folly and ignorance the Church has largely looked upon it as obsolete. She has thrown it down in some dark corner to rust. And there it has lain forgotten for centuries. An hour of impending crisis for the Church and the world demands its recovery.

According to ECWA Minister's Hand Book (p.136-7) ECWA as a denomination believes in fasting in accordance with the teaching of the Bible and encourages her members to fast. Unfortunately, emphasis on fasting is hardly heard from our pulpits, Bible study and Sunday school classes. Our belief in this doctrine needs to reflect frequently in our study and teaching curricula, more often in our preaching and most regularly in our practice.

EMS Crisis Relief Work to Agatu Victims of Fulani Muslim Jihadists and North East Boko Haram Attacks

Rev. Simon Yako Connect via emsdirector@emsofecwa.org



Praying that God grace and abundant mercies will continue to multiply to you.

[You may download a brief report in PDF format by EMS Crisis Relief Desk Officer Brother Mark](http://ecwausea.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Crisis_Relief_Agatu_and_Gombe%20_2015_by_EMS_Crisis_Relief_Desk_Officer_Bro._Mark.pdf) (Here is the URL: http://ecwausea.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Crisis_Relief_Agatu_and_Gombe%20_2015_by_EMS_Crisis_Relief_Desk_Officer_Bro._Mark.pdf). Mark just came back from administering relief to crisis ravaged regions of Benue State in Middle Belt of Nigeria by Fulani Muslim Jihadists and Gombe. This is located in the North Eastern part of Nigeria where refugees of Boko Haram are still struggling for survival.

I request you to please take time and quickly read through. This will provoke you to prayer and greater concern for the suffering church in Nigeria. Feel free to also share this report with other Brethren you know.

This is the time for believers to stand together as one person and pray and help each other all over the world. Through it all, we remain undeterred in our resolute commitment to Christ and the cause of His Kingdom at all cost because we are persuaded that;

“neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

Thanks so much and God bless you all.

OUR HISTORY

ECWAUSA

Evangelical Church Winning All is the result of a long history of ministry. In the late 1800's, several missionaries traveled to Africa from Canada and the United States under the auspices of the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM). Over time, missionaries from this organization planted many churches in the nation of Nigeria. In the middle of the 20 Century, these churches became independent of SIM and formed their own denomination, the Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA).

ECWA USA Headquarter Building in Atlanta

Please send all building donations to: **(Make Check Payable to ECWA USA)**

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