

GOODWILL MESSAGE PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF MCA CENTRAL WORKING COMMITTEE, ELDER ENGR. AWA EKE OSONWA DURING THE 2021 FATHER'S WEEK CELEBRATION

O! Men of God, Arise and Shine from Glory to Glory as Happy Presbyterians.

Beloved in the Lord, it is yet another time of the year that we come together as men to celebrate fatherhood. We are not just ordinary men created by God, but men assigned with the additional responsibilities of raising up godly families and nations.

The year 2021 is indeed remarkable to us. The 10th of April, 2021 marked the 175 years of the presence of The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and we are privileged to be part of this Dodransbicentennial Anniversary. Despite her challenges, the Church has made remarkable progress in Missions outreach, Education, Health and general emancipation of the people from mental and cultural slavery. The Church is still marching on and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

The General Assembly theme for 2021 is "Living with eternity in view" (Rev. 22:12) and from the GA theme we carved out the sub-title "Men, live with eternity in view". This theme defines our work and walks with God and summarizes what should be the focus of every Christian man. It provides answer to the essence of Christianity.

Apostle Paul said in 1Cor. 9:24 & 26 "Do you not know that those who run in a race

all run, but one receives the price? Run in such a way that you may obtain it.

Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air".

This is the position of a man who is focused with eternity in view. It is therefore little wonder that he was able to confidently declare himself victorious in 2Tim. 4:7 when he said "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

We must live a life of Christian commitment for us to enter into eternity with Christ. Among other things, Christian commitment entails making sacrifices, living up to our responsibilities, dutifully worshipping God, enjoying fellowship with the brethren, and above all establishing father-son relationship with God. These are the traits that we need to build as men with eternity in view.

In the course of celebrating fatherhood this year, let's soberly reflect on our relationship with God and our activities as



men in the Church. The Hymn writer, Frances Ridley Havergal in his ever popular Consecration and Discipleship Hymn wrote:

Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee,
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my love; my Lord I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store,
Take myself, and I will be
Ever only all for Thee

Most of us sing this hymn, albeit without understanding. If we have good understanding of this hymn, our entire approach to worship and service to God will experience radical transformation; and the revival that we seek in the Church will spread like wild fire across the nation with manifestation of the Holy Spirit. All we need to do is to surrender ourselves absolutely, not partially to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The men have resolved to make their imprint in the Hope Waddell University project by building a lecture hall that can

accommodate 150 students. The foundation laying ceremony by Prelate and Moderator of the General Assembly, His Eminence, NzieNsi Eke scheduled to hold on 21st April 2021 could not hold due to unforeseen circumstances. A new date will soon be announced for the project to kick-off.

While we wait for the final preparations, I encourage all men to support this legacy project. Let us not be discouraged. Paraphrasing Nehemiah 2: 19 & 20; When Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem heard about this, they mocked us and ridiculed us, saying, "What is this you are doing? We answered them saying: The God of heaven will give us success." We shall start and complete this project by the Grace of God.

I wish you joyous, grace-filled, power packed, pomp and pageantry Dodransbicentennial celebration of the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria and Glorious 2021 Father's Week.

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Elder Engr. Awa Eke Osonwa
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