

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE NATIONAL MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH APRIL, 2018 AT FOURSQUARE CAMP AJEBO.

A. PREAMBLE:

“Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountain; for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted”... Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me” Isaiah 49:13,16. With gratitude in our hearts we give all glory to God for being there for us and for sustaining us with His everlasting arms. We count it a privilege to report on important issues affecting our Organization in the period under review.

B. OUR OPERATIVE ENVIRONMENT:

Major events trending in our macro environment shall be presented under the following subheadings:

1. PAUL RISSER: A SPIRITUAL VETERAN TRANSLATED TO GLORY

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” Rev.14:13. Such is the home call of Paul Risser, a former President of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (I.C.F.G.). He died on December 15th, 2017 at a ripe age of 80years. He will be remembered in Nigeria for bequeathing a befitting library to Life Theological Seminary Ikorodu. The Nigerian Church was fitly represented at the final funeral rites.

2. ANOTHER GOSPEL GENERAL GOES HOME IN STYLE

Reverend Billy Graham, considered to be one of world's foremost Evangelists went home to be with the Lord on 21st February 2018 after 99 years of fruitful soul wining ministry. Graham was noted for ministerial integrity and consummate passion for lost souls. In his life time, his evangelistic ministry made direct contact with over 218 million

people (more than the entire population of Nigeria). This is aside those reached through electronic and printing media. He finished well and strong to God's glory.

3. RACE FOR 2019 ELECTIONS HOTS UP

Amidst political and regional permutations and intrigues the race for 2019 general elections are warming up to feverish points. More so, the public declaration of President Buhari to run for second term in office has elicited mixed reactions among political pundits and across party lines. Apart from praying for successful electoral success, believers are encouraged to revalidate their voters' card so as to have a say in the imminent political process that has already begun. Remember your voters card is your impetus to correct any perceived political malady. So ensure you register now.

4. A RIDICULOUS HATE SPEECH BILL

A hate speech bill undergoing preparation process at the National Assembly prescribes death sentence for any person found guilty of any kind of hate speech. The irony of this bill is that what constitutes hate speech is not defined? Any President of Islamic leaning could use such tool to clamp down on the spread of the gospel, hiding under hate speech. This bill contradicts our most basic laws just as it extinguishes our most basic rights. Nigeria civil society organizations have been expressing their shock as well as the Christian community. Truly, it is clearly the time to speak out. The gospel may be the covert target but the Lord will not allow them.

5. LEAH SHARIBU: A HEROINE FOR CHRIST.

Leah Sharibu, a Christian girl among students abducted from Government Girls' Science and Technical College in Dapchi area of Yobe State has remained with Boko Haram insurgents for refusing to renounce her faith. Like Peter, continuous prayers must be made for her until she is freed. Her resolute stand for Christ is exemplary. We must stand with her until victory is won.

6. FOURSQUARIANS ON THE CREST OF NEW HEIGHTS

We thank God for the fulfilment of our Theme for 2018 which is NEW HEIGHTS. To God's glory, some outstanding testimonies about divine lifting include the following:

- (a) Rev. Tunde Lemo, The former deputy Governor of Central Bank was appointed by the President as the Chairman of Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) He will resume work after senate approval.
- (b) Another illustrious son of Foursquare was appointed the Commissioner of Police for Abia State. He is Mr. Anthony Ogbizi. He has since resumed work in his new command.
- (c) A Pastor's daughter, Grace Gureje dazzled with a superlative performance in her academic pursuit. Sister Grace has 1st Class honours in Law from University of Lagos. Again in the Law School Abuja, she not only had 1st Class but also emerged as the best graduating student in the law school carting away 15 awards to the glory of God. Praise the Lord.

C. OUR SPIRITUAL PERFORMANCE

We give God all the glory that our Decade of Multiplication is on full steam. In the last two quarters, spanning from October 2017 to March 2018, Ninety (90) new Churches were planted, thereby bringing the total member of our churches across the Country to 4187. Furthermore 19 new missionary zones were created in the last two quarters bringing the total number of zones to 861 (Full-fledged and Missionary Zones). We still have 156 districts all over the Country. The new mission's strategy "One Man, One Soul. Every month" is also yielding fruits which will be evident in no distant future.

D. MINISTERIAL MATTERS

- (a) **ORDINATION:** Fifty seven (57) ministers were ordained during the last National Convention to the glory of God.
- (b) Though 323 candidates were initially approved for induction during this 2018 ICML, only 319 made it through the orientation exercise. Four (4) candidates were dropped due to complaints of sharp practices leveled against them. The successful candidates will be given their ministerial credentials and letters of appointment after their Induction by the General Overseer. To God's glory, this set of

Induction candidates, under-took a 3million naira project of ceiling the riverside Chapel building.

(c) APPROVAL FOR LICENSING

The recommended list of candidates for licensing has been submitted to the National office by the Induction and Licensing Committee. The list is undergoing due diligence and will be sent for approval in due course.

(d) PRE-REFRESHING VIGIL PRAYER

The quarterly prayer programme which was formerly held for 2days prior to Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigil has been reduced to one night to encourage all ministers and leaders to partake of the prayer fellowship and spiritual nurture. This prayer programme is compulsory for all ministers and will count significantly in appraising the performance of every minister.

(e) MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

It is now compulsory that all ministers should undergo a medical test for fitness every year. Firstly, candidates for Induction are to produce a certificate for fitness as a necessary requirement for screening exercise. Secondly, serving ministers are required to send their medical certificate to the National office at the end of January every year. Your medical certificate is a condition for receiving ministerial credential in April every year. No medical certificate, no ministerial credential. The list of approved health institutions will be given to us in due course.

(f) PROPOSED MEDICAL FACILITY FOR ALL MINISTERS

The National leadership is concerned about the health status of all serving ministers. To this end, the leadership intends that all ministers should be covered by National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) in order to enable our people access health care in any part of the Country. The tentative bill given by a prominent HMO we intend to use is as follows:

- (i)** #45,000 for a family of 5
- (ii)** #35,000 for a family of 4
- (iii)** #25,000 for a family of 3
- (iv)** #20,000 for a family of 2

To actualize this huge project, the leadership is proposing that the contribution for the funding should be spread as follows:

- (i) 50% of 1% welfare fund will no longer be shared to the districts but be deployed for this purpose.
- (ii) The employment base should take part of the bill.
- (iii) The beneficiaries themselves should show commitment by bearing part of the health bill. It should be noted that people already enjoying health care elsewhere are not part of this arrangement.

(g) HEALTH CARE FOR RETIRED MINISTERS

The National leadership is also committed to providing quality health care for retired ministers. However, the details about the mode of the health care and the funding strategy that will be adopted is being worked out and will be unveiled in due course.

(h) MERITORIOUS AWARDS

Twelve (12) retiring ministers will be appreciated on the last day of the ICML. They shall be appreciated with appropriate cash awards and celebrative plaques.

(i) ELECTION OF NEW NMC EXECUTIVES

Three new ministers were elected into the NMC executive for a tenure of 3years. The new entrants are:

- Rev. Elizabeth Fasanmi
- Rev. Tosin Odusote
- Rev. Samuel Ajayi

They have since resumed duty as NMC executives.

E. OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES:

I. INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

To ensure better capacity to sustain the electricity at Ajebo Camp, the 100KVA transformer at the old Camp has been upgraded to a new 300KVA transformer. Furthermore, low tension network has also been extended to other areas of the Camp to ensure hitch free lighting. Also constructed was a 250 meters' perimeter fence around the female mass hostel with a befitting gate which opened

to the express road. What shall we say about the repair of broken portions of Foursquare way which leads to the express road. To God be all the glory.

II. FOURSQUARE TELEVISION

The Foursquare Satellite Television Channel was commissioned in December and has been running seamlessly ever since. All National programmes are carried live by our television channel. This Channel has proved to be a veritable platform to showcase the rich heritage of the Organization. Our missionary efforts and programmes from the districts and churches will also be aired by our television channel. To sustain this Television Channel, the National leadership has decided that the funding strategy shall be as follows:

- a. Special offering on 3rd Sunday of the month will be shared between the National Convention and Foursquare Television.
- b. 2% of National dues coming as follows:
 - (a) 1% taken from F.F.S dues. Instead of paying 4% for F.F.S, the churches will now pay 3% as F.F.S dues and 1% to Foursquare Television.
- c. 0.5% coming from District dues as follows:

Instead of paying 4.5% to the District, chartered churches will now pay 4% as district dues and 0.5% to Foursquare Television. In the same vein, the unchartered churches will now pay 1% as District dues and 0.5% to Foursquare Television.
- d. Another 0.5% will be ceded by the Axes/Regions towards the Foursquare T.V. Now, Instead of paying 1% as Axes/regional dues, only 0.5% will be paid while Foursquare T.V will receive the remaining 0.5%.

This adjustment in dues takes effect from April 2018 reports.

III. ZERO TOLERANCE FOR DEBTOR CHURCHES/DISTRICTS

It is very embarrassing to see many churches and District having outstanding spiritual reports and unremitted dues running for many months. Not that the money has not been collected but

that the fraction that should be remitted to sustain the center is held back for many reasons which are given as excuses. In order to curb this unhealthy practice, the National leadership has taken the following decisions that will apply to debtor districts and their officers:

(a) A taskforce has been set up by the Board to tackle the menace of indebtedness in the system.

(b) Starting from the new church year, July 2018, any church in arrears of dues for 5 months will no longer receive any form of assistance from the National leadership.

(c) In Districts where the arrears in dues are up to 7 months, the incumbent district Overseer will step down from office until all the debts are paid off.

IV. MOBILIZATION FOR EFFECTIVE CHURCH GROWTH AND ENLARGEMENT

The harvest is ripe and every minister is expected to key into our mobilization efforts towards a fruitful decade of multiplication. Some mobilization efforts of the church include the following:

i. AWAKE PROGRAMME:

AWAKE is acronym for Activity Week of Accelerated Kingdom Evangelism. It is a time of intensified or heightened evangelism effort in form of film shows outdoor evangelism, road shows or whatever outreach you can make both to publicize the Refreshing programme and to win souls for Christ.

ii. OCPC (OPERATION CHURCH PLANT CHURCH)

This evangelistic strategy requires every church to plant at least one other church within 3 years while every zone should plant at least one church each year. The National Leadership is giving a grant of #100,000 in support of any new church planted.

iii. ONE MAN ONE SOUL, EVERY MONTH

This is the latest strategy to actualize our Decade of Multiplication vision. If every man wins just one soul every

month, the geometric progression evident in this strategy will enlarge the church greatly and will bless the individual participant for obeying the great commission.

V. EXECUTION OF LAND DOCUMENTS

Churches are reminded that only the representatives of the Board of Trustees i.e The General Overseer and the National Secretary are authorized to sign all land documents. No pastor or any other church officer is allowed to sign for the trustees. Therefore send all your landed documents to the National office for execution.

PART TWO: REPORTS FROM THE MINISTRIES AND ARMS

1. COUNCIL OF FOURSQUARE MEN (CFM).

- The arm participated actively during the January 2018 fasting and prayers and the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils that were held in the quarters under review. It also supported the vigil with one screen.
- The arm is continuing to support Oyo and Ajegunle Districts.
- Factory for cassava processing is about to be completed.

2. FOURSQUARE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

- Jesus match was observed to publicize the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils that were held during the quarters. The programme was extended to all the Districts.
- Hospital committee was inaugurated in October and the draft has been approved by the Board. The survey plan is ready with the approval fee of #3.4 million already paid to the Lagos state government.
- School visitation was held in the month of October at Ajebo, 4 schools were visited (3 primary schools and 1 secondary school.)
- Gifts were distributed to all Key leaders in the organization.
- The ministry participated fully in the January Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigil, about 250 women joined in the Jesus match around Idimu and Orisumbare community.

3. NATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY:

- The arm participated in March for Jesus, it was tagged “Be Bold” text Jer. 1 vs 7-8, apart from Lagos Area; 19 other Districts participated around the country. Branded T-Shirt and flyers were used. Spaghetti and some other food items were also distributed to the people.
- Youths served as volunteers at the Annual National Convention and the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils that were held during the quarters.
- “One zone one school” project received a boost with additional one school added in the quarters, the arm now has 56 schools.
- The youths participated in mobilizing people for the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigil. Iba District youths will lead the mobilization during the October edition.

4. NATIONAL TEENS MINISTRY:

- 44 Teens leaders participated in the Teens Leaders’ Retreat at Abuja; the programme was graced by our Father in the Lord, Rev. Felix Meduoye.
- A special programme was organized where Evangelist Mike Bamiloye ministered to all participants, his wife also ministered to the eligible sisters. 320 people gave their lives to Christ during the programme.
- Mega training was organized for the volunteers that worked with the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigil committee.
- Special Leaders’ Summit kicked off from February – April 2018 for the Teens executives across the country.

5. NAFFS:

- 412 students participated in the arm’s “Leadership Summit” which was held in October.
- The students participated actively during the October Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils, particularly in the area of social media.
- 210 volunteers were in attendance during the Annual National Convention and Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils that were held during the quarters.
- 70 first class graduates were honoured during the Annual National Convention while Grace Guruji the best graduating student in Law school was celebrated during the January 2018 Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigil.

- 110 students attended the “Key Leaders’ Retreat” that was held in December.
- Naffs is currently in 90 campuses across the country.
- The list of students outside the shore of the country is being compiled.

6. NATIONAL CHILDREN MINISTRY:

- Children choir ministered during the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils that were held in the quarters and the National Convention at Ajebo in November.
- Convention 2017 update: 701 children attended the Sunday school with 69 children workers, 1,353 children attended the Service of Grace with 113 workers in attendance. 59 children gave their lives to Christ, 59 received divine healing.
- 8 new schools were added to the school fellowship program. This increased the number of schools from 143 to 151.
- The Children participated in the January fasting and prayers.
- Children workers summit was held in February with the theme “Builders in the hand of God” 1127 participants were in attendance; this includes 180 children who came with their parents. It was also observed in all the Regions, South West and Lagos area Regions held theirs at Ajebo camp.
- Worldwide prayer for children at risk would hold on 3rd June, 2018.

7. PRAYER MINISTRY:

- The ministry participated in the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils, AWAKE, National Convention and Key Leaders’ Retreat that were held in the quarters under review.
- Prayer bulletin for the January 2018 fasting and prayers was put online, while the hard copies were printed and distributed to all the Regions and Axes Headquarters.
- Prayer chain is going on steadily and the Districts are cooperating by sending representatives.
- Lagos Region Fire Conference was held with about 1000 participants.
- Prayer warriors gathered from 2nd April, 2018 to pray for the success of the January Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigil, they also gathered on the 12th April, 2018 at Ajebo to pray for the success of ICML, 2018.

8. FONE:

- The ministry participated actively during Ikorodu Grace Power Night and at October 2017 edition of Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigil.
- Bus, Street and Hospital evangelism was observed during the quarters.
- Crusade was organized by Abeokuta and Jakande Estate District branch of the ministry where 34 and 74 gave their lives to Christ respectively.
- 340 people attended the single summit that was held in October 2017, while 120 people attended waiting mothers' programme. Average attendance of One Day, One Night program stood at 922.
- Membership strength of the ministry now stands at 470 across the country.
- Hour of Transfiguration and Dominion Hour are attracting more attendees from within and outside the organization to the glory of God.
- Evangelists in Abeokuta, Ita Oshin and Tomori Districts conducted open air crusades with its attendant's miracles.

9. NATIONAL MUSIC MINISTRY:

- 942 Choristers ministered during the 2017 National Convention. Among them were 70 Teens and 120 Children.
- Watch and Pray Vigil was held in all the Regions for the success of the 2017 Annual National Convention.
- On the 11th November, 2017, the choir organized auditioning for talents hunt.
- Praise team ministered at Enugu Aaron and Hur program.
- On the 16th and 17th February, 2018 the choir observed thanksgiving and prayer for the choristers across the country.
- LIFE school of music was advanced to get to every local church.

10. NATIONAL USHERS MINISTRY:

- National Ushers' Retreat was held in October 2017 with about 1,050 ushers in attendance from 71 Districts. The General Overseer and two District Overseers were graciously present. 34 ushers gave their

lives to Christ, 12 were baptized with the Holy Spirit while 45 rededicated their lives to Christ.

- 450 Ushers officiated during 2017 Annual National Convention. 28,000 people attended the vigil on Friday of the convention, while 48,000 attended the Service of Grace on Sunday.
- The ministry held discussions with some District Overseers whose ushers were not forthcoming during major National programmes.
- Training was organized for officers for better performance.

11. PROTOCOL:

- The ministry officiated during the Holy Spirit Refreshing Vigils that were held in the quarters under review.
- They also officiated during the FWI get together.
- Aba and Ikeja Axes, Sabo and Agric in Ikorodu branch of the arm was trained within the quarters.
- National protocol officers held a vigil in preparation for the ICML.
- Protocol now has representative from different arms.

12. NATIONAL SECURITY:

- We thank God there were no adverse security report in the quarters.
- We were however warned against the activities of some syndicates that specialized in snatching phones only to get the information on monetary transfers made on the SIM.

13. PASTORS' WIVES AND LADY MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP:

- Quarterly Districts' intercessory prayers and training programmes were held in all the Districts with a renewed vigour.
- The "Districts Biennial Conference" was observed across the Regions with numerous testimonies.
- Grace Multipurpose Centre was dedicated by our father in the Lord, Rev. Felix Meduoye to the glory of God.
- The arm appreciate the supports of its members and their husbands in particular.

14. AJEBO FOURSQUARE CAMP DEVELOPMENT BOARD:

- The camp purchased and installed a new 300KVA transformer, and there was improvement of LT line in the old camp.
- The Chairman attended the 80th birthday ceremony of Olu of Ajebo as a means of enhancing the camp's community relations.
- The camp is already working towards installing CCTV and also improving security services in the camp as it has already provided hand held scanners for the officers.
- In conjunction with the ICML committee, the camp is working on the Foursquare Avenue road.

F. CONCLUSION

To God be the glory for the privilege of service in His vineyard. I will ever be grateful to my father in the Lord, the General Overseer for being a worthy example of diligence and integrity. Thanks to the Board, NEC, NMC members for their cooperation and understanding. What could we have done without my co-workers at the National Office, I am also grateful to God for the gift of a supportiive and prayerful wife, Chinyere and godly children, David and Samuel. May the Lord take all the Glory.

REV. IKECHUKWU UGBAJA
NATIONAL SECRETARY