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VOLUME | ISSUE
21 | **19**

Our year of
2023 INCREASE
LUKE 2:52



J E S U S H O U S E B A L T I M O R E . O R G



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CHURCH SERVICE TIMES

Worship Services

Sunday 10:00am

Emerge

10:00am

Weekly Prayer Meetings

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Lifting Individuals for Eternity (LIFE) Groups

Every Thursday except the last
Thursday of the month
7:00pm – 8:00pm

Solution Night

Last Thursday of every month
7:00pm

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
9:00am – 6:00pm

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DreamWorks Magazine

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JHB 25th Anniversary Thanksgiving

The House Jesus Is Building Dr. Mensa Otabil

As we celebrate 25 years, I congratulate you, but I also challenge you to build Jesus House as the house that Jesus is building. It must not be the house that Jacob built - full of separation and division, but the house of Jesus where barriers are removed, where there is a wholesome environment and people are embraced in ministry. It must be the house where the glory of God tabernacles in the unity of the believers, as it was in Acts chapter 2 when they were with one accord, and the Holy Spirit came upon them.

We don't have a second Jesus or a third Jesus. There's the same Jesus, one Lord, one body, same church. Each one of us has been given a measure of faith to access the power of God. We all have the same hope for eternity, one hope in an eternal home. For each one of us who consider ourselves as Christians, part of a church like Jesus House, we must build the house as Jesus wants it.

And that brings me to address, how does the church constitute itself?

I understand the emergency that makes people stay at home, because there is disease. But as we overcome this disease, the Church must get back to where Jesus wants it: a gathering of people. We can gather online, but that gathering is insufficient because it does not allow us to have a dynamic relationship that is beneficial as when we meet physically in person. We are not joined only in spirit, but we are one body.

In Acts chapter 4, they prayed with one voice and the Holy Spirit came upon them. It is in that environment where the barriers are removed, and we see the amplification of the power of the Holy Spirit in our church.

Father, we thank you for 25 years of your grace, of your mercy, of your goodness, of your kindness towards Jesus House. Thank you for what you have done with Pastor Tola, Pastor Kofo, and the whole team. Thank you Lord, for the story, and thank you Lord, that you continue to use them. It has been 25 years of your favor, but we'll

look to the next few years and we see you Lord, building a bigger church and a better church, and a greater church, a more influential church, an army of Christ which prevails against every gate of Hades and prevails against every resistance of the enemy, and transcends every cultural barrier, and a church that lives and continues to live until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. May you bless this effort and may this planting of yours go on from generation to generation. In Jesus name, Amen.









JHB Couples' Retreat 2022

The 2022 JHB Couples' Retreat gave our couples a chance to reconnect, relax and reignite their love. It was a perfect combination of fun group activities and time alone for the couples. Through interactive, dynamic sessions, our guest speakers and Pastors gave us tools to help strengthen our bond.

Couples had ample time alone with many choices of activities. Some relaxed by the beach while some explored the resort, went sailing, went shopping in town and we even had a professional photoshoot for all the couples!

The retreat ended with a formal gala complete with dinner and dancing!

Ultimately, the Couples' Retreat helps couples grow in their love for one another and their relationship with God. The Bible teaches that married couples should strive to love and serve one another, just as Christ loved the church.

We did just that at the JHB Couples Retreat in Mexico! We look forward to what God has in store for married couples at the next retreat in 2024.

Hope to see you there!!











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REV SAM ADEYEMI



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MRS. AUDREY JOE-EZIGBO



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Dr. Sam Chand

Restructuring Your Leadership Roles in the Ministry and Marketplace

Dr. Sam Chand is a former Pastor, college President, and Chancellor but now serves as President Emeritus of Beulah Heights University. Dr. Sam Chand develops leaders through leadership consultations, resources, and speaking engagements.

My theme for today and my topic is Restructuring Your Leadership Roles in Ministry and Marketplace. Restructuring does not mean you already have this; you come behind it and paste on and add something. No, that's not what it's about. What it is about is that you must tear down. Number two, you must clean out. Number three, you must have a new blueprint. You've got to have new materials to rebuild and restructure the place.

Two Foundational Understandings - First, all restructuring is a critique of the past. So, if you restructure your church building, you are improving wherever there was; it is a critique of the past. You are improving on the past. Number two, all restructuring will be offensive to someone on a very personal level.

So, the first point is that all restructuring critiques the past. But most people, most of you, will not restructure for the second reason. You will not restructure for the second reason because it will be offensive to someone on a very personal level. All restructuring will be offensive to someone on a very personal level. And this number two reason is why most of you will be hesitant, apprehensive, and reluctant about restructuring. Because when you restructure, you're going to offend somebody. When you restructure, you will reposition, remove, or promote somebody.



So, there are five restructuring items of focus:

Number one is Personal. Personal is how you think as a leader. And as you start thinking about it, you'll get excited and fearful because you'll see possibilities and liabilities.

Number two, Personnel - How are you going to focus on those who are working for you? Proper people placement prevents problems.

Number three, processes: How you do things. Global challenges were not just about the pandemic but economic, social, cultural, religious, and political.

Number four, places - locations, on your org chart. Now, that's very important. I have discovered now that I'm a leadership consultant: I have clients on every continent except Antarctica and have clients everywhere.

Number five, is people - all affected by the outcomes, volunteers, family, members of your church, customers, etcetera, all affected by your ecosystem. So, it's not just the people you pastor but the customers you serve. It's not just the vendors that you help. It's not just your social or economic bubble. There are lots of people who are affected by how you restructure.

Mr. Banky Wellington



To be truly a great leader, it is very important to understand that you will get both congratulations and condolences.

For you to truly be a leader, you must be emotionally, mentally, and physically prepared to receive both congratulations and condolences. Here are four lessons of leadership.

Lessons of Leadership

Character: - Great destiny requires great character. Character can only be built by the experience you go through. You will need a great character that is big enough for the calling. The journey of leadership can be lonely and difficult. Leadership is sometimes sad; sometimes, you fear what could be next. As a leader, you need to free your mind always from the mindset of being liked by everybody; Jesus Christ was the perfect leader that ever lived; even unbelievers testified to that, but some people still disliked Him to the extent that they killed Him. Free yourself from the need of everybody's approval. People will honor you today, and the same people will dishonor you by the next day.

Commitment: - Commitment talks about consistency in your focus and discipline in your duties. Consider the story of David. After being anointed king, he returned to being a Shepherd. Consider his commitment to being a Shepherd boy, running errands yet still having time for his music. Destiny is launched from the discipline of duties. Greatness is something that you are blessed with. Leadership or greatness requires a significant amount of your time, learning, training, and developing yourself.

Courage: - Courage is the ability to do something you are frightened to do. It means strength in the face of pain. Faith and confidence to move

forward in the face of uncertainty. Faith requires courage.

There is a story in 1Sam. 14 from verse 1 - Jonathan here didn't tell his father, who was king; otherwise, protocols would have been required. God didn't promise us that it would be easy, but He promised us that we would be victorious. The presence of difficulties doesn't mean the absence of the promise of God.

As a leader, you can start small before it is big; start small. "You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great" - Zig Ziglar. So, whatever that vision or idea is, just take a step and start. You have waited enough. God is the scriptwriter, the director, and the producer of your life; you are just an actor. The actor doesn't determine how the movie ends; the director does. So, trust the director.

Counsel: - Jonathan picked his armor bearer as his counselor. You can't go on this journey alone; sometimes, you need an armor bearer for God's vision. Sometimes you may be the armor bearer for someone else. In establishing yourself, ensure you create a business, not a job. A business is a system that you set up to produce a result. Don't just set up a job; set up a business. Set up a system to produce the kind of result you desire to achieve through the people you fix in places. Envision the life you want to live in the next five years. Do you want to go on vacation once a year or twice? Envision it. Consider or think about how much money is needed or will be needed by the business to finance the type of life envisioned.

Mr. Leke Alder

Building Structure and Restructuring Your Brand



Mr. Lake Alder is the Founder and Principal of Alder Consulting, Nigeria's leading creative intelligence firm with offices in Lagos and London. He is credited with introducing branding as a discipline to Nigeria and has consulted on policy, politics, and business at the highest levels, locally and internationally. He authored several books and hosted a weekly radio business program, "Mining Your Business" with Lake Alder, on 92.3 Inspiration FM in Lagos, Nigeria.

Today we will be looking at structure, and I'll also be looking at branding. Now, our topic of deliberation is building structure and restructuring your brand.

The first thing you must note about restructuring or structuring a business is that it is imperative. Whether you run an organization, a church, an SME, or a corporation, it's an imperative. It is not optional. Structuring goes to the very heart of the blueprint of the organization. It determines success, defies failure, and regulates growth. Structuring has to do with the clear definition of roles within an organization and the integration of the parts into a cohesive role so that the organization can efficiently deal with a set of objectives.

Let me illustrate with a bit of my personal history, and I want to bring in some anecdotal evidence so we can relate to what I'm saying. I want to go back into my personal history so that you see what I've been through. Now, in the year 2000, that's 23 years ago, I fell terribly ill. Alder Consulting was young at this time. The staffing was even younger. I'm making the point that Alder Consulting survived despite my absence. I spent a year out of

the company, but the company survived despite my absence, and mind you, the people running the company were very young. They were in their twenties. The oldest ones may have been 25 or 26.

The company survived for six reasons:

Number one, I wasn't the sole signatory to the account. There were two or three other signatories to their account, number one.

Number two, we worked out a collegial system for handling briefs. Only some people can handle a brief. So many people handle a brief. So many people brought their perspectives to a brief.

Number three, I was not the sole face of the organization.

Number four, the enterprise wasn't domiciled in me. There are many entrepreneurs in that the enterprise is domiciled in them.

Number five, everyone's role and function were well defined.

Number six, and the last one, the company had a defined set of values and a corporate philosophy that we all subscribe to, the firm's ethos. Now, with a proper structure, the organization could have survived. There was, of course, the grace of God, but we consultants don't talk about God. We focus on reason and logic.

Mrs. Audrey Joe-Ezigbo

Structure and Restructure are a Legacy Conversation



is an experienced leader, business advisor, and coach with a proven track record of over 28 years. She has deep expertise in strategic planning and execution, corporate governance, investor relations, advocacy, entrepreneurship development, and environmental sustainability in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors at the executive and board level. Mrs. Audrey Joe-Ezigbo is committed to building African institutions that can survive and scale sustainable and developing leaders and managers for these organizations who are global in their thinking and networks.

Today, I'm speaking about entrepreneurial structure and restructuring. And that is really a key topic for the world that we're in today. And whether you want the developing world or are in the developed one, we know that the private sector is key as an engine of economic growth and advancement.

The private sector is where we see the aggregation of all the entrepreneurial drive, that spirit of industry that gets up, and the expression of potential creativity, vision, and purpose, right? So, as an entrepreneur, you are literally doing more than just starting a business. You are carving out a process through which you help to identify opportunities, allocate resources, to create value, and solve problems, to meet the unmet needs of people.

From the beginning, it was clear that I wanted to build something that was smart, sustainable, and that would live past me.

Structure and restructure are a legacy conversation. It is a legacy conversation. And this is the first thing I want to put on the table that any entrepreneur looking at what they're doing today, no matter how small it is, no matter how many times you've gotten it wrong, understand

that you're on a legacy journey. But you're on that journey where God says, "Blessed to a blessed saint," there's no full stop after that blessing to the continuous one because our God is also a God of generations.

So, once you stay in that place where you are constantly looking at, "What is happening in my market? What is happening in my economy? What is happening with technology? How can I leverage this? What kind of new ideas are coming to me? What does the world need today?" When I look at the economy now, technology means there rarely are boundaries. We've been talking about globalization for years. We moved into the concept of localization, which is like big global but operates locally. Now technology is even bringing down all those walls. That means nothing is impossible for me. That means that I just need to find the niche, the assignment God has given me.

One of the problems that we find a lot of the time with entrepreneurs, and it's understandable, is many of us just have a vision, there's a burning in our hearts, and we jump in. We don't necessarily have the resources to create these big, gigantic great structures from the beginning.

And so, you must see yourself on a bigger assignment than just this min, "I'm just trying to hustle. I'm just trying to make it." No, no, no. You are on God's assignment. God told me clearly one day; he said, "Audrey, you are a builder of bridges. You are a financier, kingdom financier, builder of bridges between men and ministries." So, I'm very clear that I need to build, I need to continue to grow, scale, structure, restructure, whatever it takes to keep taking territory because I'm on God's assignment to build the kingdom.

Rev. Sam Adeyemi

Creating Structures for Success



Reverend Sam Adeyemi is the founder and senior pastor of Daystar Christian Center, Nigeria. Daystar is one of the largest churches in Africa, having grown from only a few people since its birth in 1995 to now over 20,000 members. He has authored numerous books, including *The Bestsellers Parable of the Dollar*, *Success is Who You Are*, *Second Revolution*, and *Ideas Rule the World*.

Creating and sustaining structures for success.

Creating and sustaining structures for success. So, what is a structure? A structure is a system that shows the distribution of roles and activities toward the achievement of the objectives of an organization.

So, to build structures anywhere, you must be clear about your vision and goals. For your organization, you've got to have a vision. And I say that vision is the ability to see people, places, and things. Not just the way they are but the way they could be.

To build structures, you need to be a systems thinker. Now, this is big. You need to be a systems thinker. On this point, I would like to use the human body for illustration. You see, the human body runs on systems, right? The excretory system, the reproductive system, and the respiratory system, right? The nervous system is a group of parts that carry out a specific function. So, when you say respiratory system, that's from the nose, you know, down to the windpipe and the lungs, whatever takes in oxygen and takes out carbon dioxide, that's that. All those parts together form a system. So, when I say that you need to be a systems thinker, most people cannot think beyond a part, part-time.

The benefits of having a structure. One, it shows the flow of communication. And in this instance, we're talking about an organization, right? It shows how communication flows in an organization. You know, at the end of the day, what really makes an organization is not the building or the equipment; it's the people in the organization. What makes a nation is more than just the geography, it's the people in the nation, right? So, the relationships and connections between people determine how successful we are in building and running an organization, a business, a church, or a ministry.

Having a structure creates culture, ah, culture, culture. That powerful word that literally, literally determines whether an organization will succeed or fail, culture, the way we do things that have been adapted and cultivated over time in the process of solving problems and resolving issues.

Pastor Tola Odutola

Structural Restructuring - Life and in Ministry



There are many structures in an organization that are needed for us to succeed. One important part is the visionary structure. Without a vision, the Bible says that the people perish. A vision tells us where we're going and how to get there.

For an organization, a church, or a ministry to achieve their corporate objectives, we need structures. We need a financial structure, we need a technical and IT structure, we need an administrative structure. The challenge is that many churches and pastors have neglected this aspect of administration or structure because of the spiritual nature of the church. And because of that, they are paying the price for it today.

You need structures to avoid chaotic moments because every vision, calling, or anointing without adequate structures in place might not show significant results. Here are five points to consider when we talk about structure and restructuring:

1. Structure is the backbone of any organization. No organization can thrive without people, whether you are a church or otherwise. If you are buying and selling, you need people to buy from, and you need people to sell to. People are the greatest assets and structure. Without people, vision becomes frustration.
2. Structure determines the pathway to our vision. It's important that we know where we are going; if not when we get there, we will not recognize it, or we might not even have an idea if we get there.
3. Structure should be able to take you further. There's a scripture I love a lot, Ecclesiastes 10:10. The NIV translation says if the axe is dull and its edge is unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success. Because of constant changes in the landscape, structures should be reviewed periodically. Structure should not be cut in stone, so it cannot be reviewed.
4. Structure is about ability first, and loyalty becomes a plus. This is very important. Structure is about ability first, and loyalty becomes a plus. Someone said to me a few years ago, he said I cannot hire who I cannot fire.
5. Structure should not be permanent that it cannot be tweaked or adjusted. Every structure should be subjected to constant reviews. It is the same thing at times with some doctrines of some churches.

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Solution Night PraiseFest

Pastor Tola Odutola

We thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness, kindness, goodness, and mercy. Tonight, we come together to praise You. Almighty God, speak to us in the next few minutes. May Your name alone be praised. In Jesus' name, we worship. To praise God is to exalt His name. If you miss the praise and worship, you've missed the service. Exalting God is to magnify, lift up, and esteem Him of the highest order. As we come together to praise Him, we exalt Him.

David understood the concept of praise well. In Psalm 7:17, he said, "I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness. And I will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High." He praised God for being a righteous God, not for material blessings. In Psalm 9:1-2, David said he would be glad and rejoice in God, and he would sing praise to His name. When we praise God, we should focus on Him and not just sing songs.

In Psalm 34:1-6, David declares, "I will sing praise to your name, O Most High." He continues, saying, "I will bless the Lord at all times," emphasizing that he will praise God constantly, regardless of the circumstances. David proclaims that he will continually have God's praise on his lips and boast about the Lord. He knows that his praise will reach the humble and cause them to rejoice. David invites others to magnify the Lord with him and exalt His name together. However, it's essential to note that David started by praising God himself, and we must do the same. No one can praise God with us until we start praising Him first. Let us remember to carry our load and lift our voices in praise to the Most High.

In this passage, the speaker is emphasizing the importance of seeking the Lord and praising Him. He highlights that seeking the Lord does not necessarily mean physically looking for Him but rather speaking to Him through prayer and worship. The speaker encourages the listeners to seek the Lord with their mouths and praises and promises that God will hear them and deliver them from all their fears. He reminds them that in praising God, there is no fear because the focus is on God, and he encourages them to look to God, as those who do so will be radiant.

I encourage the congregation to magnify the Lord with him and exalt His name together. Seeking the Lord is not about physically looking for Him, but rather seeking Him with our mouth. David sought the Lord and He heard him and delivered him from all his fears. In praise, there is no fear because the focus is on God, and anything God cannot do does not exist. The people who looked to God were radiant.

The speaker encourages the audience to praise God for His righteousness. He quotes Psalm 9:1-2, which says that praising God should come from the heart and not just be lip service. He warns that it's possible to sing a song of praise without praising God and compares it to singing a nursery rhyme without understanding its meaning. The speaker emphasizes the importance of focusing on the one being praised, and not just going through the motions.



Sovereign Army Teen Sunday

Forget Not His benefits Fiyinfoluwa Popoola



On Sunday, December 18, 2022, we held our annual Sovereign Army Teen Sunday where teenagers took over the entire service. One of our teenagers, Fiyinfoluwa Popoola, shared God's word with us in a sermon titled "Forget Not His Benefits". Here are some excerpts from the sermon:

There is a difference between thankfulness and thanksgiving. Thankfulness is the feeling that we have, a feeling of gratitude.

In the scriptures there is Godhead: The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit {The Trinity}. Psalms 103 verses 3 and 10 speak about God forgiving our iniquities. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer, He doesn't do unto us according to our iniquities. His word says in Hebrews 8 verse 12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more". This shows a great difference between men and God. Christ doesn't account for any of our iniquities. He is always forgiving us. He doesn't even remember them. What a Mighty God we serve!

What is our response to all His benefits?

We must be useful in His kingdom. Christ said, "the harvest is plenty but there are few laborers."

(Matthew 9:37). He is calling all of us. Our response to being purchased by His blood is for us to labor for Him in His harvest. We must avail ourselves for His works. That is our thanksgiving.

Jesus expects us to grow whatever is given to us. He doesn't expect us to waste His provisions. Use His provisions for the kingdom of God. Use it in the church, give to the charity homes - don't just keep it or waste it. Our response to God's provision is to grow it.

I encourage us to practice something - The way we normally list your prayer requests, especially at the beginning of the year, should be the same way we should list our thanks at the end of the year!



What is the point of Christmas?

Pastor Bunmi Banjo

The Christmas season is unarguably the most joyful and boisterous season of the year. There's some lightness and merriment. It's just in the air. It's palpable. You could almost touch it... There's the trees and the lights... There's the gift getting and the gift giving... There is partying and the singing and the traveling. And then there's Santa Claus and Rudolph; unfortunately, most understand Christmas to be just a nice jolly holiday,

I'm not trying to be a party pooper, but it's easy to focus on the razzmatazz of Christmas... that we totally missed the point. It's like a couple obsessing over the wedding,... the point is really about their marriage. It is referred to as majoring in the minor. Yeah. So, our Christmas message today is a gentle reminder for all of us to major in the major.

Why is Jesus the reason for this season? Why did Jesus Christ, the Son of God, come to earth? Let's unveil it.

I John chapter 3:8. "The reason the Son of God was made manifest, visible, was to undo, destroy, loosen, and dissolve the works the devil has done." That's why we celebrate. Isn't that a reason to celebrate...to rejoice?

One of the most valuable features on our electronic devices, your phone, ... is the undo button... To undo is to cancel or reverse the effects or results of a previous action or measure. Jesus Christ, came to earth wrapped in human flesh to cancel, to destroy, to loosen, to dissolve, and to reverse the effects or results of the previous action taken by the devil against you and I. What are the works and the actions of the devil that Christ came to undo?

Number 1, sin, which is the biggest of all.

So, church, Christmas exists because sin exists. And God was seeking a permanent way to deal with this problem that humanity was facing. So, there is no Christmas if there is no sin, because there will be no need for our savior. I John 3:4-6 says, "All who indulge in a sinful life are dangerously lawless. For sin is a major disruption of God's order." ...He took away sin... Guilt, condemnation, the lies of the enemy... That's why Christ came. That's the reason we celebrate Christmas.

Number 2, bondage.. Jesus came to undo bondage or captivity to make us free. Bondage is a state or practice of being physically restrained as by being tied up or chained. Today, God has sent me to you, to let you know that he has come to untie you... to loosen you from every bondage, every yoke of captivity in the name of Jesus. He came to untie you to fulfill his purpose in and through you. I want you to know that there is still a day of glory ahead of you, because Jesus Christ has come for you...everything that has held you down ... is a liar and that you are free. And whom the Son set free, is free indeed.

Jesus said in Isaiah 61:1, he said, "The spirit of the sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor." This is the mandate of Jesus Christ. He said, "My burden is light. My own yoke is easy." That is the reason why we celebrate Christmas. It is the point behind Christmas. Yes, Jesus is the reason for the season, but the reason behind the reason is that he has come to make himself visible, so that he can undo the works of the evil one. Christmas is a reminder that that hope is available to you and that all we have to do is hold on to the horns of the altar of Jesus Christ, and that he will make your heart light again with hope. Jesus has come to undo the 'can't 'and make it a 'can'. On this December 25th, Christmas Day, 2022, whatever has held you down is no match for your Jesus.





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Watchnight Service 2022 Increase

Pastor Tola Odutola

Without any doubt, God has been good to us as a church. The year 2022 was declared the year of New Wine (new thing, new beginning). Of all the years I have been pastoring this church I have never heard the testimonies like I heard about God's goodness in 2022. Are you not amazed by what God did in the year 2022? God is not a liar! Every time God speaks to His people, He is able to perform what He has spoken. All these testimonies point to one thing: Only God can do it.

Every new experience comes with an increase. Everyone that experienced new wine in 2022 should be ready for an increase in 2023. When Mary and Joseph had Jesus, it was a new thing, but what He brought to the family was an increase. God set Mary and Joseph apart to showcase to them that He could do something new. Nobody (no woman) has ever given birth without meeting with a man. Their case was the first. God used their story to tell the world that there is nothing He cannot do. May God showcase you for His glory this New Year.

The child was born, and the Bible said the child increased. The child was a child of prophecy.

There are many levels of increase. The word increase is synonymous with growth. It is also synonymous with maturity. Jesus increased in

wisdom, in understanding and had favor with God; and also with men. That is four levels of increase.

Isaiah 9 v. 7 says "Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

As you go into the new year, the Lord shall go with you. He will fight your battles for you. Nobody will be able to stand before you. I welcome you to 2023, your year and my year of increase!





Principles of Increase

Pastor Tola Odutola

Without obedience to God's instructions, increase becomes a pipe dream. God is waiting for us. He is excited to bless us, but the problem is that we lack obedience. The scripture says that "Obedience is better than sacrifice." There are too many believers offering sacrifice unto God when what God is asking for is obedience. God's word also says, "If you are willing and you are obedient, you shall eat the fruit of the land." I have never seen anyone obey God and diminish in life. Stop struggling. Start to obey God and see the word of God work wonders for you.

There are some breakthroughs in life that don't come overnight, but after continuous persistence, we'll see the results. You must be persistent if you want the best from God. That widow followed the judge, even though the judge did not respect God or man, and the Bible says that the judge said, "I must listen to this woman, because she will weary me out."

We must also have strong roots. Roots represent stability. When you are unstable, it is difficult for you to be blessed or to receive from God. How connected is your root to the word of God? God is real and His word is real. When you have roots in the word of God, the word works for you. When you have roots in your business, your business begins to expand and to grow.

The path of the righteous is like the shining light, shining more and more. The Bible didn't say that it shone once and stopped, but more and more. It's time to increase and improve, it's time to do something to move yourself forward.

Daily improvement in what we do brings increase. So, I challenge you today: what are you doing to improve yourself? You must be ready to do something extra for yourself because people are looking for something extra that you bring to the table.

Sowing good seeds is also another important principle of increase. There is no farmer that puts the seed in his pocket and expects to harvest at the end of the year. There is no way that we can sow and not reap. It is a spiritual principle. The scripture says, "Cast your bread upon waters, for you will find it after many days."

I'm praying for you, as you go to God in prayer this year, God will grant your request in Jesus' name.







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Pastor Jide Adebule



Whenever God's word goes forth, it does not come back empty. The word can only come back with results and testimonies. But you must be able to hear what God is saying to you. You must be able to see what God is showing you. His word says that He will give us hearing ears and seeing eyes. I know you can hear in the physical and you can see in the physical, but many people are blind spiritually. Many people are deaf spiritually, and therefore cannot receive what God has prepared.

Everyone has a blueprint that God has prepared for their lives. You cannot have access to that blueprint unless you give your life totally to Jesus.

Let Him lead you. Don't follow the trend, follow the truth. Don't follow what the world is saying, follow what the word is saying.

They are sacred things about your life, and God is saying, all I need you to do is to call me to show you these things. Stop guessing and going everywhere to find answers that are not available and just come to the one who has it for you.

To increase this year, you must obey the word of God. There will be things you will understand. There will be many things you do not understand. There will be times when God will interpret them to you. There will be times when He will interpret them to you later. There will be times when He will not interpret them to you at all. He is God. He will do whatever He wants to do, however He wants to do it, whenever He wants to do it. All you must do is obey.

On this journey of increase, you must work diligently. Whether it's your career, your ministry, a business that God has given you, no matter what it is, you must work diligently. You cannot increase what you have not started. When we talk about increase, it's about something that already exists.

You must obey God not just for your own increase, but also to lead many to Christ. There are people out there who are watching your life, seeing the increase that is happening around you. They will say to themselves, you know what? There is something about that church. See the caliber of people coming out of that church. See the leaders of industry in that church. Let us go there. That is why you must increase. It is not optional.

Pastor Olugbenga Joseph Kuye



One of the greatest things you can do for yourself is to learn not to take God for granted. Whosoever takes God for granted may soon be grounded in his journey.

Without prayer, nothing moves. The place of prayer is where the action takes place. And if there is a man to pray, there is a God to answer. So, whenever a man is not increasing or growing, don't ask God, "Why am I not growing?" It's the wrong question. You ask yourself, "What am I doing that is preventing me from growing?" Every living thing is supernaturally programmed to grow. For a man not to grow, not to increase, is a disservice to the spirit of creation.

Two things are very critical to meaningful increase or advancement in the journey of life. 1) is stepping out, and 2) is stretching forward. To get ahead in life, you must be ready to step forward and stretch yourself. It will take a lot of distress and discomfort to be stretched out. To stretch is to make great demands on the capacity or resources of something. It is to cause someone to make maximum use of their potential and their talents.

Every genuine increase is accompanied by greater sacrifice and responsibility. It's a childish ambition that imagines success without sacrifice. If we want a higher level, we must be ready for a spiritual sacrifice. Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations. So, stretch forth. Make the sacrifice.

In every adversity, there is an opportunity. Don't be like those who only look at the adversity. Look at the possibility, even in the midst of the adversity, and you shall increase.

You can learn from the past, but don't live in the past. The future has no place for those who think back, who look back and who act back. It's impossible to drive your car forward successfully when you keep looking at the rear mirror. It's an invitation for an accident. Leave the disappointment of the past life where it belongs. Don't allow your past to define your future. God is set to do new things in your life as you set forward this year. And it shall be accomplished, in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Peter Balogun



There's an African proverb that says "the ashes of yesterday's fire can put out the fire of today." If you must enjoy an increase this year, you need to look over the past years, especially the year 2022. Sometimes we have our future tied down in the past. Reflect on your journey. What brought you here? What have you been through? Did you leave anything undone or partly done? What lessons did you take out of that year? What mistakes did you make? Before you take your journey into this year, you must address issues that could tie your future to your past.

You can't talk about increase without growth, and growth is one of the proofs of life. Whatever is not growing it is either dying or is dead. So, if you examine your life and you find that there is an aspect of your life that is not growing, it is an indication that the power of death is at work, because death is the opposite of life. If you find that you've been stagnated for a while, it means that there has been a substitution. You have lost life somewhere and death has come in.

The widow of one of the sons of the prophet never thought that the little bottle of oil was all she needed for a breakthrough. When the prophet asked her what she had, she said nothing, except this tiny thing. Some of us have what would make us and we are looking at what is in other people's hands. You want to be like them, when God has given you what you can use to be better than them.

There is no crime in starting small. This is advice to some of us that are waiting for something big. That big thing may never come. It's not a crime for you to start small. Keep building, against all odds, you will increase.

I'm sure you know there are people that do the same thing as you. Many who started long before you are nowhere near where you are today. And I'm sure you also know, there are people who have gone way ahead of you. Let's seek the blessing of God. And where do you find this blessing? In his presence. Psalm 16:11 says "For in your presence, there is fullness of joy, and at your right hand, the pleasure."

They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish. Be planted.

Pastor Sola Olowokere



As a Christian, you are given power to make judgment. If you see a situation you don't like going on, you say, "this one, I judge you, in the name of Jesus," and there is no devil who can reverse it. You are an executor of God's judgment. You can judge things. So, whatever is attempting to stop, reduce, downsize your increase, the power of God will judge them, in the name of Jesus Christ.

This increase that we have been praying for, there shall be no end. Nobody is permitted to put a full stop on your increase. Psalm 115: verse 14, "The

LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children." I love that statement. You see, the problem we have is that we use our condition to size ourselves. That's why the Bible says in 1 John 3:1, "Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!"

Don't let anybody define who you are. There is more inside you than you have seen. When Abraham was complaining about not having a child, God looked at him and called him the father of nations.

There must be no obstruction to your increase; your increase has no end.

Isaiah 9:7 declares, "Of the increase of His government and of peace there shall be no end." This means that your increase has only just begun, and it will never end. Every increase in God only begins, it cannot end. That's the will of God for you, and it cannot be reversed. The increase will continue in your life. When your business prospers, know that it cannot end. When your children increase, know that it cannot end. When your life begins to increase, know that it cannot end.

Pastor Tayo Arowojolu



When Jesus speaks, impossibilities become possible. When Jesus is present, the Bible says there is fullness of joy, and at his right hand, pleasures forevermore. So, you have the capacity to tap into whatever you want to tap. You just need to open your heart, you need to release yourself. I don't know your situation, but I know the awesome changer can change your situation. He can change your circumstance. What didn't happen last year can happen this year. It is not too late. There is no denial in the Kingdom of God. There may be delay, but ultimately the more delay you experience, the larger your testimony.

So, if I were you, I would begin to dream big. Nobody will call you foolish; let it be inside you. The reason why your dream can come true is because you have dreamt in the first instance, because the first step of breaking through is to dream big.

You have liberty; you don't need money to dream big, just dream big. Ephesians 3:20 says, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think." You can think widely. You can think greatly. You can think passionately. You can think massively. And it says your thinking and your asking is embedded inside you, through the power that worketh it in you.

So, if you are not thinking, if you are not asking, it's your fault and no one else's. If you need to increase, you need to begin to think, conceptualize, and dream it. And before you know it, it will come to you like a dream in the night.

We've been created to be blessed. Not only would you be blessed, but you'll be a blessing. No one can deprive you of your anointing to increase. Nobody can stop you from your limitless abundance. No one can take what God has put in you. Because God said the door that He has opened, nobody can shut!

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JHB Men's Breakfast

Dr. Keith Johnson

3 Financial mistakes I made and how to avoid them

There is a difference between those who become rich and those who remain poor or stuck in the middle class. The difference is that the rich make a conscious decision to pursue wealth and success, while the poor and middle class often don't make a deliberate effort to improve their financial situations. We have a responsibility to face our financial issues and work towards resolving them, rather than ignoring them.

Here are three financial mistakes I made, and how you can avoid them:

1. I used to think that if I became more spiritual, my money problems would take care of themselves, but that was a big mistake. I failed to realize that I am a spiritual being in an economic world, where money is essential for survival. I used to believe that if I just sought God and gave 10%, He would take care of me. But the king wants me to multiply, not just add to my wealth. I need to understand financial intelligence, not just spiritual intelligence, to succeed.
2. I used to think that money wasn't important, but that's a big lie. Anything that's not important stays away from you. I used to have a religious mindset that money wasn't important, and as a result, it stayed away



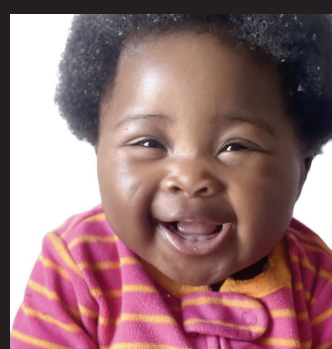
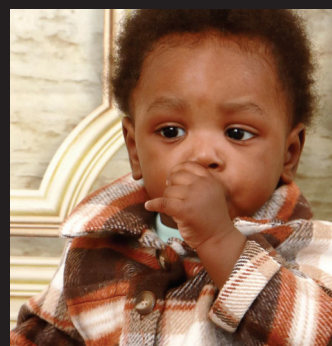
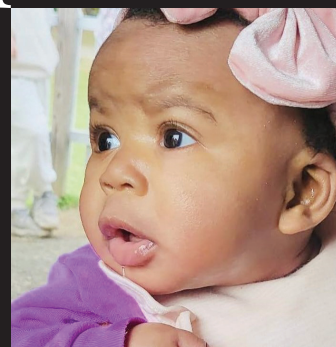
from me. I bought right into the enemy's strategy. I find that people in the church have their eyes on God, but not on their money, because they believe it's not important. I did the same thing.

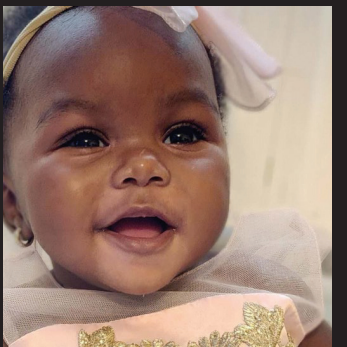
3. I was relying on only one source of income. It's a common mistake to have only one source of income, like a job. If that one source disappears, you could be in financial trouble. 1 multiplied by a hundred thousand or a million is still a losing number if it's your only source. Instead, successful people have multiple streams of income, usually between six to ten.

I did not set any financial goals for my life. I prayed for an increase, but I never had any specific targets. Why do we set goals? We set them because we see big things and then we have to grow into our dreams. Some of you have never had a target, and that's why you've never hit it. So, I want to challenge you: if you're not a millionaire, you have to be at least a millionaire or a decamillionaire to live any kind of life in your future. Who's ready to make that decision today?



JHB 2022- 2023 Baby Dedication February 2023







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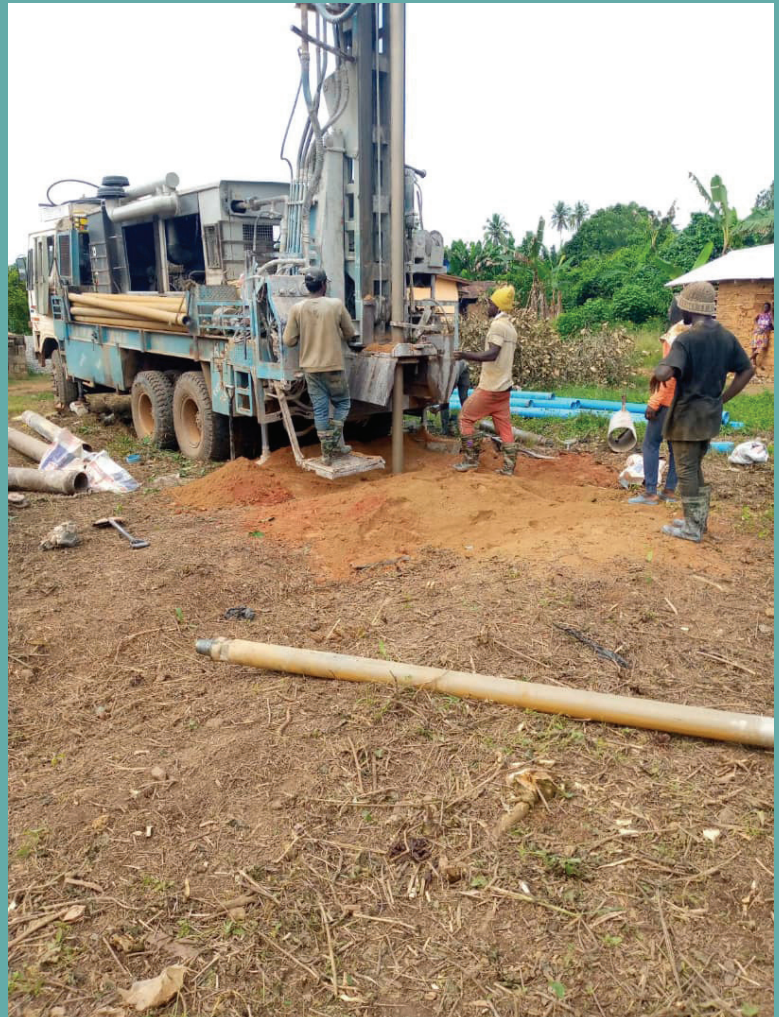


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JHB Fusion Couple's Game Night 2023



Hope Foundation



JHB Hope Foundation built a well in Abisim Dawa community located in Suhum Municipality in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The population is around 1,950 with children and seniors. Pictures show the official commissioning of the well.

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JHB Lifegroups

Pastor Bunmi Banjo

Increase by Connection

God's intention, right from creation right up until now, is that growth, increase, thriving, flourishing, or succeeding is achieved in an ecosystem that is connection-driven. Please, do not disdain the power of connection. The body system, the cells, the blood system, are all interconnected. Everything is interwoven. Each body system includes the organs and the structures that serve a common purpose which helps us remain in equilibrium. We cannot do life all on our own and succeed. Man is not meant to be independent; man is meant to be interdependent.

From the womb to the tomb, you and I will need people. When God needed a plan to save mankind, guess what he looked for? A virgin. He looked for her womb to incubate the savior. From the get-go, the power of connection, the power of dependency on somebody else has always been established. Many of the times we're looking for help, we're looking for increase in one area or the other. But the help you're looking for is in your blind spot. The blind spot for many of us is how we've disdained the fact that we have people in our lives who are God-sent. We don't take cognizance of it. We take it lightly, and we're out there searching.

I want you to know today that increase is activated and accelerated through the power of connection, or relationships. No woman or no man is all sufficient.

So, in this year of increase, we don't want to leave any stone unturned. We want to be intentional as a church in leveraging every avenue of increase that God has made available to us. That's why we have life groups. Two are better than one; there is a limit to every human being's strength.

One of the ways that God guarantees increase is by relationships. And beloved, relationships are not built in large settings usually. They are built in intimate, small settings. Life groups is JHB's house fellowships system, also known as small groups, and it consists of groups of JHB members coming together within the same neighborhood in a home setting, with a primary focus of studying the Bible, building relationships, and growing together. So, if we want to increase this year, let's take advantage of this.





EMERGE

The Young Adult Church

Minister Dele Akinrinade

I remember Emerge's first service at Jesus House Baltimore. There weren't many of us. We took up at most the first two rows of the sanctuary. It was an evening service and most of us had to return to our respective college campuses right after. The fact that this was 10 years ago is mind boggling. I was still a teenager! But really, this is just another measure of God's faithfulness. From the original vision given to Pastor Tola, to the point that we are now over 10 years later, it is by His grace alone.

Participation in Emerge began quite recently. While in college, I primarily served in the main church and upon graduating, I moved to Philadelphia. A few months prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, God told me clearly that I would be returning to Baltimore. Unbeknownst to me, Emerge was simultaneously going through a transition in leadership. Minister Dimeji took over from PJ at the onset of the pandemic in 2020. I have learned personally that no transition is easy, but I doubt there is a more difficult time to take over a church than in the midst of a worldwide shutdown. Given the relationship we had formed through our service in Sovereign Army, Minister Dimeji asked me to join his leadership team at the top of 2021. I gladly obliged and two years later, here we are.

I am thankful for the leaders who came before me—both Pastor Jide Adebule and Deacon Dimeji Ibitayo. They labored to establish a solid foundation and a culture in Emerge that I cannot take the credit for. It is in this culture that both college students and married couples can thrive. It is because of this culture that the birth of a child does not automatically mean it is time to move on. To be clear, Emerge is a body of multiple business owners, multiple homeowners, multiple married couples, and multiple parents. These are adults making real money, facing real problems, and choosing weekly to serve both peers and the generation coming up after us. The Mingo jackets, Jordan Ones, and Yeezy slippers are by choice, not at all by force.

All in all, we again thank God for his faithfulness. He has kept us from fainting, from scandal, and from every weapon formed against us, through every iteration and every season. During my time here and beyond, I pray and I fully expect to see Emerge go from glory to glory, whilst staying true to the original mandate—raising champions fully devoted to Jesus Christ.





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Living A Life Of Unending Increase

**Charles Eniang-
Resident Pastor of JHB
Charlotte**



First, increase is simply anything that has become more than its original state. And a sphere is an area or range over or within which someone or something acts, exists, or has influence or significance. So in combining those two definitions, increase is essentially within your space of influence in which we have the power to control.

1. Spiritual Sphere

We understand in 1 Thess 5:23 that Man is a 3-Part being- Spirit, Soul and Body- and his spirit is an integral part of his composition. So, ensuring that one has a robust and ever-growing spiritual life is a non-negotiable pursuit. If one is not increasing, then retrogression is inevitable. It was said of John the Baptist in Luke 1:80, "So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the desert till the day of his manifestation to Israel.". If the prophet who was anointed from the womb needed to grow and be strong spiritually, then we also need to do the same no matter how anointed we feel we are.

Mental Sphere

It is commonly said that the mind is a terrible thing to waste. This saying derives its inference from the fact that a mind that is not constantly stimulated and developed will eventually be unproductive and degenerate. The scripture teaches us in Prov 23:7 that who we are now is directly proportional to the quality of our mental life. Psychologists have also proven that our lives move in the direction of our most dominant thought. Bottomline, the more you focus and think of increase, the more your life will gravitate towards increase!

2. Physical Sphere

One gift we should all give ourselves this year, is the gift of good health. There's a faithful saying worthy of all acceptance, no matter how lofty your goals are and how structured your plans are, they are only dependent on the state of your physical health!

3 John 1:2 states “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prosperity”. It is God’s desire for His children to live healthy and productive lives but that can’t happen if we continue to indulge in bad health habits. We can change this by being intentional and disciplined to make our health a priority. Taking simple steps like regular exercising (ie 30mins walk daily) and proper dieting will work wonders to your body if done consistently.

3. Financial Sphere

You have probably heard the expression that ‘money makes the world go round’. In the natural, it does because it seems that almost everything that needs to get done evolves around money. We feed with money. We live with money. We clothe with money. We educate with money. And the list goes on. Coincidentally, the Bible also seems to agree in Ecc. 10:19 “A feast is made for laughter, and wine makes merry; But money answers everything.” So, it is wise to have a reasonable respect for money and its management but never an unholy crave to attain it by all means.

4. Social Sphere

Finally, it is extremely important for us to realize that we are not saved just to make heaven but we are saved to make an impact here on earth. Jesus puts it this way “we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth” (Matt 5:13-16). This simply means we are here to influence society positively. Influence is the capacity or ability

to effect change in a person or society, or simply being a change agent. In the social media age, we need to ensure that we are not drawn into the trap of infamy but instead we are conscious about building a strong reputation because a good name is always better than acquiring great riches (Prov 22:1).





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