

The **CHAMPION**



JUNE 2014

PLUS

GREATER EXPLOITS

Discover the keys to achieving greatness.

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2014 – Our Year of Great Abundance

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.”

Ephesians 3:20 (AMP) “Now to Him Who, by (in consequence of) the [action of His] power that is at work within us, is able to [carry out His purpose and] do superabundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams].”

Below are 14 promises that God has given us for 2014, believe and declare them over your life.

1. 2014 is your year of Beyond Measure (2 Chron. 4:9-10).
2. It is a year of Intense Prayer. Psalm 37:5 (NLT).
3. God said, Surprising Results will follow our travailing (Romans 12:12).
4. 2014 is your Year of divine speed. The Lord will accelerate your progress (Amos 9:13 MSG)
5. It is your year of restoration. Broken marriages, careers, failing businesses and relationships shall be restored (Joel 2:25-27).
6. It is a Year of great possibilities. It is a year for those who believe. It is our year of great impact for those that will believe, trust and obey God and His Word (Mark 9:23).
7. In 2014, sin shall be exposed, therefore, set your house right and put your house in order. (Obadiah 1:17).
8. It is a year that you will see God's goodness if you demonstrate complete obedience (Deut. 28:1).
9. God said in 2014, expect extraordinary miracles for it is a year of laughter (Gen. 21:1-7, Psalm 126:1-6).
10. It is a Year of breaking fallow grounds (Hosea 10:12).
11. It is a Year of Bountiful Harvest (2 Kings 7:18 NLT)
12. It is a year that God will take many from zero to hero (Job 22:29).
13. You will be a recipient of Overflowing Joy (Psalm 23:4-6).
14. It is Year of Completion. If seven symbolizes divine perfection and completion, Year 2014 is your year of double assurance and completion Nehemiah 6:15).

For the full text of this message please visit <http://www.chapelofgrace.org.uk/2014-our-year-of-great-abundance/#>

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GREATER EXPLOITS

CONFERENCE ARTICLE BY DR. AKPO ONDUKU



John 14:12 *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* (NKJV)

Christianity is a way of life and it is the way of Jesus Christ. Life is not about what you have, but who you are. Heaven and earth is interested about who you are. From the above scripture, the Greek word for works is ‘ergon’. It means: work, labour, action or deed.

Each believer can have equal power with Christ to do what He did as well as greater things if and when the occasion requires it. Greater exploits requires an empowerment with the Holy Ghost as evidenced in the ministry of the early disciples after the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). The word ‘works’ in John 14:12

refers to miracles, healings, signs, wonders and mighty acts of power. John 5:20 says *“For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.”* The Spirit realm is always interested in who you are because who you are will always produce what you need. If you want to be an overcomer all the time, the Holy Spirit must be an indispensable companion to you. You need the Holy Spirit to be able to attack Satan, defeat him and set his captives free.

It is impossible to be prayerless if the Holy Ghost is present. Romans 8:26 says *“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.”* Like Elijah, a man of like passion (James 5:17), God has given us the power to restrict heaven or release heaven. Prophecies are fulfilled only in prayer. God is always looking for an intercessor (Gen 18:16-33). God will not do it without you and also we cannot do it without God. We are the vehicle that God moves through. The church is responsible

3 KEYS FOR GREATER EXPLOITS

1 FAITH is stepping into the unknown, trusting that God will perfect all that concerns you. This paves the way for greater exploits without fear. You must have a winning mentality to succeed

2 SERVICE is central to achievement. Service denotes sacrifice and although never easy, the rewards are immense. The one who humbles himself is lifted up by God.

3 DILIGENCE is hard work and commitment to a cause. Greatness comes through perseverance meaning that no matter the challenges or obstacles you keep going. Paying attention to detail and maintaining focus will take you to the top.

for what happens on earth

In Acts of the Apostles Chapter 19 after great and special miracles has been wrought by the hands of Paul to the extent that many sick were healed by handkerchiefs and aprons that had contact with Paul, there came these seven sons of Sceva to imitate what they heard and saw. The evil spirit questioned their qualification that *"Jesus I know, and Paul I know, but who are you?"* (Acts 19:15). To do greater exploits, you must endeavour to be like Jesus and be filled with His fullness. The same power that raised up Jesus from the dead must be seen dwelling in you (Romans 8:11).

The theme of our conference this year is Greater Exploits.

Greater exploits is an act of greater works. The Dictionary defines 'exploits' as an act or deed, especially a brilliant one. An exploit is a striking heroic act, feat or notable deed. It is an exciting act or action. Daniel 11:32b. *"... but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits"* (NKJV).

The question may arise, how do I know my God? One way of knowing God is by increasing your faith by increasing your daily intake of His Word. When you meditate on God's Word, the scripture says you shall succeed (Joshua 1:8). The faith that comes from meditating on God's Word is an essential ingredient for you to fulfil your days on earth (Psalm 1:1-3). Consequently, it could be said that most problems that believers encounter is not due to the powerfulness

of the devil but could be attributed to lack of faith. The Bible states in 1 John 5:4 that *"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." Faith is the currency of the kingdom. Faith in God never loses any battle. The three Hebrew boys Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego said that "if be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king"* (Daniel 3:17). They believed God and moved on to a state of absolute trust. In verse 18, they said *"But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."* Therefore, to do greater exploits, we must move up the ladder to a position of complete trust in God and not doubting.

William Carey (1761-1834) often referred to as the father of modern mission, once said that "to expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." When you know the power of a covenant relationship with God and walk in His ways, you will experience a radical change in your life. To know God, and know that in Him all things are possible, will release you into a deeper and more powerful walk with your God. Hence, men of faith are men of action! Their strength is not in the arm of flesh, but in the mighty arm of God, who is strong to deliver and mighty to save. It is one thing to know God, but it is another thing to KNOW Him intimately. Psalm 103:7 says "He revealed his character to Moses and his deeds to the

people of Israel" (NLT). As a word, character is often likened to the mental and stable moral qualities distinctive to an individual. Numbers 23:19 says *"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"* God is true to Himself. He means what He says and says what He means. His promises are yea and are amen (2 Cor. 1:20).

For when you know God and live in covenant relationship with Him, you will rise up with a new found faith, you will rise up with a fresh enthusiasm, inspired, touched by the hand of God, to do greater exploits of faith.

I decree that you will arise from every form of timidity and mediocrity in Jesus' name.

May you be empowered to do greater exploits in Jesus mighty name.

Shalom

ACTION POINT

In addition to identifying your purpose on earth, it is equally important to know what you can become. That is, you should know your potentials in Christ.

Take time over the next few days to dissect the Word and discover your potential in Christ. Thank God for what you discover. Worship Him, asking Him to bring your potentials into manifestation in your life.

THE VOYAGE OF PURPOSE

Once upon a time, on the blue, breezy sea of vision
Purpose boarded the ship of a legend called Passion
Fuelled with his God-given resources, talents & gifts
As is name, so is his focus which he refused to shift

He purposed with unwavering excitement to excel
In his journey of exploits and fulfillments very well
So not for once would he cast away his confidence
Therefore, he stepped out with absolute resilience

Many mocked and laughed him to scorn with no pity
But he understood he just moved to the 'next level' city
Before the giant strides come the tiny, imperfect steps
Before being rated the best come being rated not "hep"

As he wouldn't despise the days of his little beginnings
Hence in spite of all odds, he kept rejoicing in everything
With I haven't arrived mentality he escaped Pride's claws
With God's grace he progressed, not bound with any laws

This I say to all purpose-driven individuals and all dreamers:
The right step out of your comfort zones makes you winners
Ignore the distractions, arise, go dress your world in festoon
For something better, higher and greater awaits you all soon

Bukky Fatokun, May 2014

THE FUTURE LEADERS ACADEMY

■ THE FUTURE IS YOURS



Do you want to live a limitless life, be able to overcome challenges and break barriers holding you back from success?

Then its time for you to learn to
lead and succeed.

The future belongs to the YOUTH.

This is a golden opportunity for you to prepare yourself for the leadership responsibility that awaits you in the future whether you a professional, manager, business owner, student, a mother or a father etc.

The world is in a dire need of
godly and competent leadership.

The pursuit for leadership is not a

straight forward task. Leadership is service; leadership is sacrifice and leadership is all about influence. Proverbs 12:24 says *“Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave”* (NLT). This means that leaders are hardworking, smart, bold, courageous and tactful. Leaders are also knowledgeable and have quick understanding of situations.

A godly leader is best defined as one that lives close to the Lord. He lives in God's presence. He has been changed by God's person and Word. He loves what God loves and hates what God hates.

Chapel of Grace Bradford will be launching a leadership development and empowerment platform for young people called The Future Leaders Academy.

The Future Leaders academy will

focus on: Life Coaching and success mentoring; Leadership Skills development; Team building and bonding activities; Business development skills; Employability and careers information and guidance; Confidence building sessions; Public speaking and presentation skills development

YOU have the potential to lead and impact your world that is why the Future Leaders Academy is committed to unlocking and maximizing YOUR innate leadership potential.

The Academy will also feature trainings and mastermind groups based on principled and practical leadership theories facilitated by seasoned trainers.

Watch out for details about The Future Leaders Academy on our website:
www.chapelofgrace.org.uk

MY FIRST IMPRESSIONS:

CHAPEL OF GRACE :SO GRACIOUS!

SHAIBU A. ADAMA

This is not your everyday article nor write-up. It is just the impressions of a young man who visited a church that was not your everyday church, and just could not resist the temptation of writing about it.

When my wife mentioned to me late last year that there was a nearby church called Chapel of Grace in Bradford, I shrugged and could not be bothered. Did I hear somebody ask why? Simply because I have always got the same old reaction I get at any Church I went to in the past, the fact that people shied away from me at the mere mention of my name. Yes, to them a “Shaibu” should not have anything to do with the Church because his name does not even belong there – talk of Joshua, Joseph, Michael, John, Peter and the many more Christian-friendly names – what would a “Shaibu” be doing in Church? I imagined them asking due to the disdain with which others would distance themselves from me. Forget the fact that I’m from both Muslim and Christian parentage and families; to them it did not matter and I had no right to be in church. So what was my guarantee this church would be any different? I thought to myself. Secondly, we were new to the area and was not sure if this church would be right.

At the time of invitation, almost all of my Sundays were filled with work and if I had one off, I would voluntarily book overtime – yes, money matters abi? I soon changed jobs and had two Sundays free so decided it was high time I tried this Church my wife had spoken about for weeks, albeit still a bit hesitant.

“

You immediately feel a great

sense of belonging and a feeling that you're welcome to the House of Worship, regardless of your name, race, ethnicity, wealth or fame.



Not to bore you but here's a summary of the three most striking observations I first made about the Chapel of Grace and these first impressions made it uniquely distinctive in my eyes.

1. The warmth and hospitality of the congregation. Right at the entrance of the church, a pleasant team greet and receive you with so much respect and dignity, reminiscent of what many Heads of State and Royalty would receive with much glee. I mean the type of warmth and courtesy that would make many dictators want to hang on to power for want of more. You immediately feel a great sense of belonging and a feeling that you're welcome to the House of Worship, regardless of your name, race, ethnicity, wealth or fame. The people are so pleasant that it transcends to their children as well, much so that some of the nicest congregants I have known are just referred to by their children's names, like "Jayden's mum and dad", "Nhyira's dad" to name a few. Quite ironically, our children remember their friends' names better. So yes, "Jayden's mum and dad" are great, just like the others. For me, this warmth and great hospitality of the church is crucial because if one does not feel welcome by other congregants, they would not return even if they were paid to do so, regardless of how good the Pastor.

2. The pastoral team. I say the Pastoral "team" and not just the Pastor because I got the sense of real leadership unity at the Chapel on my very first visit. Both Dr Akpo and Pastor Andrea Onduku who lead the church do so in unison and service is always interlaced in such a way that both play a significant role by way of preaching, broadcast

messages, announcements and other activities. To those who are gender-sensitive, there have been many occasions when Pastor Andrea has preached even though Dr Akpo is present. That for me goes a long way in women empowerment and the strengthening of family values. The subtle message to married couples that it is better to stay united and it is perfectly fine to allow your wife also lead cannot be missed and I am sure many-a-couple have learnt from the example of their practice, even better than the example of their preaching. That said, you can't go wrong with their preaching though. It is quite crisp, concise and precise but the kind that always drives home the point being made. They are not messages about vanity nor overnight wealth, they are messages that stress important ingredients for both spiritual and physical success, often based on God's love.

3. The personal touch of the church. The Pastoral team are simple, accessible and always interacting with others; a greeting or handshake is guaranteed anytime you're in church. If you've ever been in a church where you'd need appointments to even greet the Pastor(s), you'd understand why Dr. and Pastor Onduku's simplicity is worth mentioning. In the last week of May alone, I saw two rare but incredible things – one was personally seeing Pastor Andrea vacuum-cleaning the church hall, and another was seeing pictures of Dr. Akpo carrying new chairs into the church – humility personified. She's a leader and he's earned an academic Doctorate, yet they remain so humble.

The congregants also demonstrate this personal touch



in many different ways. Although we live about 10 minutes walk from the church premises, when my wife got heavily pregnant and could not walk it always, a church member – Bro Mike – personally opted to pick up the family in his car most Sundays.

Additionally, I have lost count of the many important activities that the church has organized aimed to make it more inclusive and build better great rapport: such as International Day where people from all nations represented their countries via their clothing, food etc., Singles Summit and Couples Dinner which provided useful relationship guides and many more such activities.

If anyone told me I'd give my first testimony at the Chapel of Grace, Bradford, I'd doubt it. If I was told I'd come across a church so diverse yet highly interwoven as one big family where everyone matters, I'd even doubt more. However, it's the people, the congregation, the pastoral team and yes, the love of God.

As I end this article, if you asked me to describe the Chapel of Grace, Bradford, in one word; I'd say just so... GRACIOUS! If you're in doubt, visit and see.

Thanks for reading, God bless you!

“WE SHALL DO EXPLOITS FOR WE KNOW OUR GOD”

DANIELLA-JADE LOWE



Do you want to do greater exploits?

The Lord is looking for ordinary Christians through whom He can display His extraordinary nature. He wants to do greater exploits that give witness to the reality of who He is in us. God is nurturing a generation who will know Him intimately, who will be transformed to His image by beholding Him, and who will demonstrate greater exploits to manifest His power for the glory of His Name. We must have an attitude that says, ‘Lord use me!’

Daniel 11:32 also says, ‘And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.’ Corrupt’ means to seduce to apostasy and ‘by flatteries’ are promises of favour. The people that know their God makes reference to the Maccabees and their followers.

Daniel writes that those who violate the covenant will be corrupted, but those who know their God will do exploits, or resist that corruption. This reference to those who have violated the covenant may include Menelaus, the high priest, who was won over by Antiochus and who conspired with him against the Jews who were loyal to God. The ‘people who know their God’ may refer to the Maccabees and their sympathizers, but a further fulfilment may lie in the future.

So what are exploits? An exploit is a heroic act or an act worthy of praise. Exploit is defined as to use someone or something to achieve one’s own purposes.

What does God look

for in these great exploits?

Love is the ultimate attribute needed to do greater exploits. Jesus gave the first commandment as loving God completely. All greater exploits flow from a love of God. Any other motive is self-seeking and renders great actions eternally impotent. Our love for God must be first. We act out of our desire to please him in all actions great and small. We must also have a caring heart overflowing with love for people. 1 Corinthians 13:1 says, ‘Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.’

Obedience is the second quality needed to do greater exploits. God looks for men and women, boys and girls, who will obey His instructions. Too many people want to decide for themselves what is right or wrong. That was the failure of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It is not a choice God has given mankind. He has already declared what is right and wrong. Our choice is simply obedience or disobedience.

The first two assets go

hand in hand because in order to do exploits one must obey out of Love. Deuteronomy 11:1 says, "Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always."

Submission is another important factor needed to do greater exploits. Greater exploits can only be done by people in submission both to God and to His leadership. They know what it is like to be under authority, and so they have authority.

Galatians 2:5 says, 'to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.'

The next characteristic needed is Self-Denial. Self-denial is the sum and substance of Christ's call to true discipleship, daily taking up his cross, and following him. To do greater exploits we must consider the cause of our King greater than our own lives. We must be willing to put it all on the line. We cannot seek our own glory, fame, or satisfaction. We are to be consumed with the Kingdom of God. Matthew 16:24 says, 'Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.'

Another element needed to do greater exploits is principles. Greater exploits can only be done by people who will stand on Godly principles no matter what the



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cost. They do not violate the Covenant. They will not be moved by selfish ambition. They will not compromise. They will treat everyone ethically and fairly no matter what the cost (1 Thessalonians 5:12-28) We also need the anointing. In the midst of praising God for His goodness, the psalmist said, "... I shall be anointed with fresh oil." Psalm 92:10

Faith and knowledge can only get us so far. We need to learn to have a heart of praise for it is this kind of heart that the Lord anoints with fresh olive oil. You see in Bible times, particularly in the Old Testament, men were set apart or consecrated to the sacred offices of the prophet, priest, and king by the anointing with oil.

The anointing with oil symbolized that the Holy Spirit would come upon men or women to anoint them to stand in a particular office but what is important for us to note is that the purpose of the anointing is to do God's works and God's works are for God to receive glory. Psalm 91 is telling us that when you praise God you shall be anointed (empowered) to do His will and even in your old age you shall be filled with rich mercy (anointing).

What do great exploits look like? Jesus did His

greatest work on the cross. To the world it looked like failure, to God it was the greatest victory possible. One of Job's greatest exploit was when he praised God after he lost everything, including his health.

Greater exploits are done by people who are the love of God expressed in their community. Yes, they will oppose evil, but it is far more than that. Remember that evil is overcome by doing good. The end never justifies the means. The end and the means must both be righteous. The price we pay for doing what is right may be high. Some may experience rejection, death, and others captivity. In the long run; however, we will win and the Lord will abundantly reward us for any sacrifice on His behalf.

We need to clear our minds of the clutter that often clouds our vision. We need to begin to see things how God sees them and to express the unconditional love of God.

It is then that we will do greater exploits that will echo for eternity even if they are unrecognized on earth.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

with Dr. Akpo Onduku

INTERVIEW



Dr. Akpo Onduku has a passion for winning souls and church planting. He is an astute leadership and motivational speaker who has spoken in both secular and Christian conferences around the world. He has a great drive to inspire people in discovering and maximizing their potential to enable them to fulfill their purpose in life. He is a strong believer in the power of prayer and the manifestation of the power of God through miracles. He has been the Resident Pastor of Chapel of Grace since January 4th 2009

Chapion Magazine caught up with Dr. Akpo in this exclusive interview.

DR. AKPO ONDUKU
THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO THIS INTERVIEW
You are welcome. It is rare honour and privilege

TO KICK OFF, COULD YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS?

My salvation encounter began at a Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International (FGBMFI) lunch meeting at Palmgroove Hotel in Warri, Nigeria when I heard a testimony of a medical doctor who shared his conversion story. I stayed back after the lunch meeting to asking the necessary questions and from there my journey began with ups and downs. I enjoyed attending the FGBMFI weekly meetings and conferences. I got baptized with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues in one of their monthly fasting and prayer meetings. The Redeemed Campus Fellowship at the University of Benin, Nigeria steadied my spiritual walk and there was no turning back.

YOU SET ASIDE YOUR CAREER TO BECOME A PASTOR, WAS THIS A DIFFICULT DECISION?
I was once told by an elderly

lady when I was 16 that I would be a Pastor but I never gave it a thought. Even when I started RCCG Strongtower along with three other adults in 2002 with the help of Pastor Yomi Obadimeji (Strongtower, Manchester), I only did that out of love for God and I did not envisage being a Pastor.

I was beginning to become aware of the call of God in the last weeks of my stay in Bradford in 2005 at the end of my doctoral studies preparing to move over to the USA for an LLM programme. God began using me in a new way but I still did not consider full-time ministry. May be I will leave that story for another time. The struggle to answer the call came in the USA, in Miami, Florida. I am glad myself and my wife are alive. My wife was with me and saw all that I went through. We both had a burning bush experience like the encounter of Moses, or a Jonah of some sort or a Saul who became Apostle Paul. Due to the enormity of the experiences, I was compelled to write most of my LLM law exams in the church building in Miami and only rush to the Law School to submit my exam essays. You may not understand. But simply, I had a burning bush

encounter.

Imagine, three days after I had returned to the US after travelling for my PhD graduation, a Guest Minister, Bishop Asare came to tell me in the Church in Miami that I would go into full time ministry in three years' time. This was on a Saturday in December 11th 2005. God sent several other servants of God to also confirm this word in the US and also when I returned to the UK. With all these experiences, when I finished my Discipleship training and was asked to move from the mother church to pastor Chapel of Grace in December 2008, I went into it full time with no salary. Thank God for those interesting memorable humble beginnings with just a handful of brethren. I was quite sure of the tasks and no-matter how challenging I haven't looked back or regretted it.

IN LIFE, WHAT IS YOUR MAJOR DRIVING FORCE?
I hate failure. I dread failure and therefore, I put myself in diverse kinds of pressure. My success keys or principles as you may like to call them are: hard work, faith and grace. I believe in working and making the best use of

OPPORTUNITIES. CENTRAL TO ALL THESE IS THE WORD OF GOD WHICH IS AT THE CORE THAT HAS MOTIVATED ME IN LIFE.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IS YOUR BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE?

In spiritual terms, my biggest achievement is to have been a candidate of God's grace and mercies. I am what I am by the grace of God. Secondly, is my commitment to my marriage. At the beginning many thought that it won't work out well. Some by inference were of the opinion that Akpo will be backsliding because of the choice of spouse when in fact my wife has been a great encouragement and help in ministry. Though it was challenging at the beginning, I would say with the help of God we have a testimony to help and encourage others.

YOU ARE THE PIONEER OF A 24 HOUR PRAYER CHAIN IN BRADFORD, WHAT MAKES YOU SO PASSIONATE ABOUT PRAYER?

My passion for prayer arose from the aforementioned burning bush experiences in Miami. I don't think I can do anything without prayer. Life to me has been a battle. Prayer has been my spiritual oxygen. I breathe, walk and live prayer. I desire to do more and more in prayer. I believe that whatever I want to achieve in the kingdom, must be first birthed in prayer. Once this is done, then it would only take a specified time for it to be delivered.

YOU HAVE HOSTED FUTURE LEADERS SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES, CAN YOU SHARE SOME TIPS WITH US CONCERNING HOW TO BE A LEADER IN VARIOUS FIELDS?

I believe that leadership must be earned and not demanded for. Leadership comes with

trust and respect. Leadership has to do with service, love. Leadership has to do with exceeding the expectations of the people you lead. In Christian language, a leader must be a lamb and at the same time a lion. Leaders must be bold and courageous and at the same time humble and accessible. As a leader, you must pay the price to shape the vision for the organisation and set the required goals: SMART – The Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely goals. You must be prepared to walk the extra mile. In all, a leader must be able to influence people to buy into the vision of the organisation.

YOU RECENTLY CELEBRATED YOUR 9TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY, WHAT ARE THE KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE?

It's been awesome having been married for the past nine years. We got married on the 16th of April 2005. It's just like yesterday. Oh boy O boy! Some of the keys that has helped us are, clear communication, mutual respect, commitment, transparency or openness, honesty and having God at the centre of everything we do as a couple.

LASTLY CAN YOU SHARE WITH US ON YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE?

That would be Psa. 119:116 which says "Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope." It emphasizes righteousness and obedience to God's word. This is key to the success of every child of God. Know that He honours His Word more than even His name.

Thank you for taking time out for this interview, we have just 10 more quick fire questions:

1 Favourite holiday destination?

Budapest, I love boat cruise along the River Danube.

2 Places that inspire you?

Geneva, the United Nations Headquarters.

3 McD's or KFC?

KFC, I love the family bucket!

4 Favourite sports?

Swimming, Tennis and Football.

5 -Football team?

Arsenal FC, the reigning FA Cup Champions

6 What would you do if you weren't a Pastor?

International Diplomacy

7 How do you relax? /

I like walking

8 Favourite Food?

My wife's lasagne

9 Can you speak another language?

Ijaw, Some Urhobo (Nigerian languages), Basic German, Spanish and French.

10 One thing your church doesn't know about you?

I like cooking.



STRETCH BEYOND AVERAGE

“ *The greatest tragedy in life is to exist without knowing why you are alive or even worse not doing much with what you have.* ”

Do you want to settle for average in your life? No, I pray that you do not settle and admire average. Yet indirectly, so many people settle for average, many are living in the world of complacency. As I have often reiterated, death is not the greatest tragedy in life. The greatest tragedy in life is to exist without knowing why you are alive or even worse not doing much with what you have. The journey from gaps to significance, potential to developing purpose, good to great involves our willingness to stretch beyond average coupled with the desire to do greater exploits.

In this article, I infuse my thought and that of Edmund Gaudet to challenge you to go beyond your comfort zone, familiar patterns and habits and stretch to the next level to do greater exploits. Read below the description written by Edmund Gaudet as he defines what average is and make your own decision.

“Average is what failures claim to be when their family and friends ask them why they are not more successful. Average is the top of the bottom, the best of the worst, the bottom of the top, the worst of the best. Which of these are you?”

Being average is the lazy person's cop-out; its lacking the guts to take stand in life; its living by default. Being average is to take up space for no purpose; to take the trip through life, but never pay the fare; to return no interest for Gods investment in you.

Being average is to pass one's life away with time, rather than to pass ones time away with life; its to kill time, rather than to work it to death. To be average is to be forgotten once you pass from this life. The successful are remembered for their contributions; the failures are remembered because they tried; but the average, the silent majority is just forgotten.

To be average is to commit the greatest crime one can against one's self, humanity and one's God. The saddest epitaph is this: here lies Mr. and Mrs. Average- here lays the remains of what might have been, except for their belief that they were only average”

Wow, this is deep thought from Edmond. I wonder how you feel now? What legacy do you want to live behind? How do you want your children, family and even society to remember you for? And least you forget, you are born with a legacy but it depends on you to decide or choose the kind you will leave behind.

Friends, a major component to making the journey beyond average is by stretching. Indeed Abraham Maslow was right when he said “if you plan on being anything less than you are capable of being, you will probably be unhappy all the days of your life.” God has empowered us to have a big picture mentality and as we stretch from small beginnings to fulfilling potential, we will meet up with happiness and joy all the days of our lives.

Because come to think of it *"if you won't be better tomorrow than you were today, then what do you need tomorrow for?"* (Rabbi Nachman). Is this not true? Tomorrow is simply of no use to the man who is unwilling to stretch beyond average daily.

Jesus one day said to us, *"And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him two."* Matthew 5:41.

A mile is what we do when others compel us to but the second mile is what we are capable of doing that benefits the world. Is this not what greater exploits is all about?

What will move us from the first to the second mile that Christ is talking about is our willingness to stretch.

Personally, I feel I am not fully what I passionately desire to be, but I am not what I used to be, I have not stopped learning, I have made a resolve to keep going forward irrespective of challenges today or tomorrow. What about you?

I pray that we will all make a resolve from today to stretch beyond average no matter the cost and do greater exploits.

Kofi Owusu - www.purposeachievinglife.com

FROM BOTSWANA TO THE USA

CHANGU SIWAWA



Ms. Changu Siwawa

I am honoured to be sharing this great testimony! I completed a Masters in International Development Management in Bradford before returning to Botswana.

Chapel of Grace is a place near my heart, they understood and had a heart for foreign students.

I lead a team of seven at a women's Shelter and I am responsible for strategizing and implementing outreach and education initiatives that are aimed at building capacity within communities to correctly identify, understand and address gender based violence.

A little over 6 months back I saw an advert in the paper about a call for applications for the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) - a flagship program under the Washington Fellowship. My first reaction was that of excitement and I thought I must apply for it. So here I am six months later- 500 people applied from Botswana and they shortlisted 75. I was called for an interview at the US embassy and I remember looking at the profiles of the other applicants and thinking 'oh dear this is some stiff competition'. I prayed for boldness and confidence and honestly I came out feeling slightly defeated! However weeks later I got a congratulatory email.

I was like glory! I was among the 15 cohorts representing Botswana.

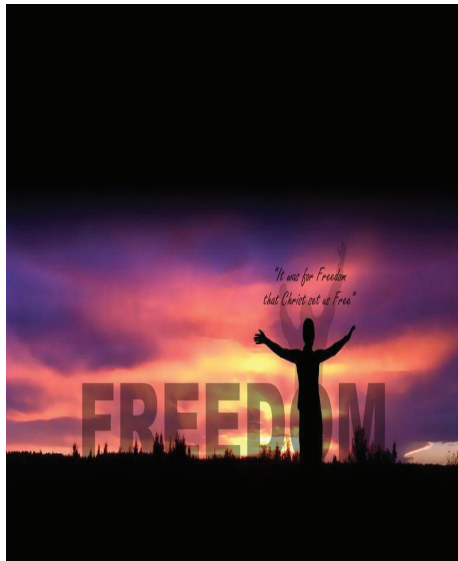
I leave for New York mid June, where I will spend 6 weeks at Wagner College doing a course on Civic Leadership. I will get an opportunity to network with the other 500 participating like-minded African leaders to see how they are providing solutions to problems in their countries, and hopefully leverage resources to raise proposals for cross country projects. I am especially interested in bench-marking strategies that involve men in achieving gender parity especially through the extremely successful Coaching Boys into Men program.

I hope to learn of opportunities between the US and Botswana through the 3-day summit in Washington DC led by President Obama and other experts in various fields. I am excited that such a platform has been provided at a time when there is a clear shift in attitudes on Africa. Emphasis has moved from Africa's problems but the developed nations now view Africa as a strategic partner.

To say I feel privileged to be selected to be part of this prestigious initiative would be an understatement. I can only thank God and I faithfully subscribe to the notion that those that seek and serve Him will never lack.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALENDAR

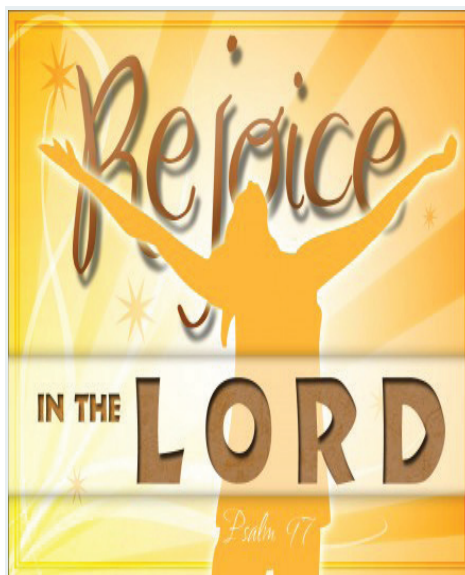


01 DIVINE ENCOUNTER

An interdenominational event that holds on the **first Friday of every month at 7pm-10pm**. It is an evening of intense prayer, deep worship and impactful teaching and a time of deliverance and healing. Visit our website www.chapelof-grace.org.uk for details of the exact date each month.

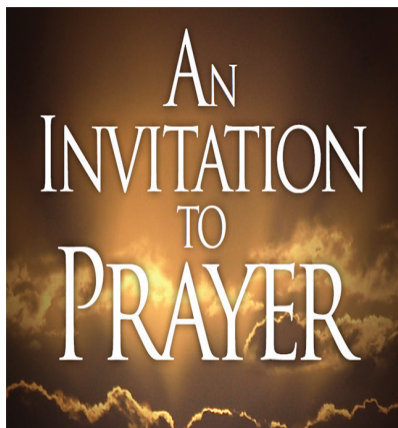
02 EXTRAVAGANT WORSHIP Sunday 13th July 2014 at 10am-

12:30pm. A day set aside to worship the King of Kings and learn more about how to please Him in worship. Come and gain a passion and a calling to not just make praise and worship rise from His altar, but to be that sound; that living sacrifice in His presence at His altar!



03 ROYAL DAUGHTERS LADIES BRUNCH Saturday 19th July 2014

at 11am. An interdenominational event that holds on the third Saturday of every month. It is a time of interaction, reflection and increase. The Royal Daughters Ministry aims to build the self esteem of its members by encouraging them to see the truth of the glorious women that God has created them to be and help them to walk in this truth.



4 24 HR PRAYER CHAIN *Saturday 26th July 2014.*

A quarterly event that is open to all Christians from across the city and beyond who want to intercede for themselves, family, city, nation and the world.



7 XPLOSION MUSIC CONCERT *October 2014.*

An annual music event held in Bradford University which hosts leading UK Gospel Artists. It is a good forum for Christians to invite their unsaved friends to as it is a fun time for all, especially students but with a gospel message. Check our website for details nearer the time.



5 FAMILY FUN DAY *August 2014.*

There will be a barbeque, music and fun along with a bouncy castle for the children and other activities. A great chance for church members, friends and the whole community to enjoy sunshine and fellowship together.

8 FUTURE LEADERS CONFERENCE

October 2014. A conference for everyone because everyone is a leader or will be in the future in some capacity. It will be informative and inspiring with a variety of speakers.

FUTURE | LEADERS

6 GREAT AWAKENING *Thursday 11th - 14th*

September 2014. A power-packed four day event that will be filled with signs and wonders. A time of revival, awakening, deliverance, healing, breakthrough and fruitfulness. Put it in your diary because you wouldn't want to miss it.



9 THE LORD REIGNS *November 2014 - 14 days*

of prayer and fasting. We meet every evening for vibrant and life changing prayers culminating in a 3 day Fire Conference where burdens are destroyed and yokes removed.

THE FAVOUR OF THE LORD

PASTOR ANDREA ONDUKU



One of the greatest things we can have in our life is God's favour. God's favour is one of the greatest things you can have upon you. It is the supernatural touch of God upon your life and work, that marks it out as special, that causes it (and you) to be lifted up above the ordinary and stand out: *"For You are the glory of their strength, and in Your favour our horn is exalted"* (Psalm 89:17).

We know the Lord loves everyone equally, does He have favourites? The dictionary defines favour as approval, support, or liking for someone or something: to show preferential treatment, to give advantage to another, and to give special favours. Eg. Can you do me a favour?

Do you think God favours you? How is this possible if God shows no favoritism? I believe that the same base level is available to everyone but

you can make yourself a candidate for extra.

Do you want God's favour to be strong and active in your life? Do you have faith for favour or more faith for trouble? Do you expect God and people to bless or curse you? We can have a rejection and persecution complex, expecting people to not like us and to treat us badly - and as a result it often comes to pass. It is Christ-like to have favour working in our life: *"Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men"* (Luke 2:52). Jesus grew in favour, not only with God, but also with men. The spirit of favour was upon Him. People favoured Jesus. People liked Jesus. Crowds thronged to hear Him preach. We all want to be like Jesus. To be like Him means that we should also grow in favour with people. Believe for God's favour to grow in your life.

Don't believe that people will dislike you.

The first Christians had great favour which helped their witnessing to be successful: *"praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved"* (Acts 2:47).

Here we see favour flows when we have a spirit of praise. Now when God's favour is on us, it will cause jealousy in others (as we will see with Joseph) but God's favour will protect you: *"For surely, O LORD, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favour as with a shield"* (Psalm 5:12). God will surround us with favour as with a shield. You need a shield for protection. Favour will protect you from the gossip and criticism of others. When they try to malign you, favour can protect you from the ill effects of their malicious words. This shield of favour will not just protect you from the front but also the rear. It is a shield that surrounds you. Even when you don't know what people are saying about you, this divine favour will insulate you from damage. Confess this scripture often, especially when going to witness. Unless people favour us, they will reject the message we preach.

“ Divine favour is the key to true and lasting success. Therefore we should pray for favour and receive it by faith. as

Divine favour is the key to true and lasting success. Therefore we should pray for favour and receive it by faith as a blessing God wants for us: *“I entreated Your favour with my whole heart; be merciful to me according to Your word” (Psalm 119:58).*

Ruth found a rich, godly husband named Boaz. The Bible says: *“At this, she bowed down with her face to the ground. She exclaimed, ‘Why have I found such favour in your eyes that you notice me—a foreigner?’... ‘May I continue to find favour in your eyes, my lord,’ she said. ‘You have given me comfort and have spoken kindly to your servant, though I do not have the standing of one of your servant girls’ (Ruth 2:10,13).*

Joseph had favour: The best story in the Bible about favour working in someone’s life is Joseph. Everything started off bad with Joseph. Although he was the favorite (favoured) son of his father, his brothers hated him (jealousy). They sold him as a slave. Eventually he wound up at Potiphar’s mansion. God gave Joseph favour with him, and so Potiphar placed him in charge of the entire estate (Genesis 39:4). Later, Potiphar’s wife falsely accused Joseph of rape, and so Joseph was thrown in prison: *“But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy and He gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison” (Genesis 39:21).* Joseph did not let the circumstances get him down. He trusted God to give him favour and this favour led to him coming out of prison

to become Prime-Minister of Egypt.

Why did Joseph have so much favour with God and people? One key was his forgiving spirit. He had a big heart. He was generous in forgiving an insult or injury, he was free from petty resentfulness or vindictiveness. In all his trials he did not turn bitter, hurt and wounded as we can see from how he treated his brothers when he had power over them. Yes, people will let us down but God’s favour will cover us and put us over, working all things for good (Romans 8:28). When you start to believe in God’s favour, you will begin to have favour with others.

Mary the mother of Jesus was highly favoured (Luke 1:28, 30).

Why was Mary highly favoured?. Mary had a humble spirit, full of praise, not complaints, criticism or bitterness. (Luke 1 v46-48) She said, ‘My spirit rejoices.’

A spirit of favour comes also from the word: (Proverbs 3:1-6, 8:35) God’s word is put to work as we confess the Word concerning favour with God and people. By confession we renew our minds to the fact that God’s will for us as His children is to favour us. Confession of God’s favour gets us lined up with the spirit of favour so it can flow out of our spirit.

Why not speak this confession over your life now with faith: *“I have Christ in me so I am growing in wisdom, and in favour with God and men. Surely, O LORD, you bless the righteous (that’s me!); You surround me with your favour as with a shield. The grace and favour) of our Lord Jesus Christ is with my spirit, I am favoured of the Lord. I have a spirit of favour upon me. God’s favour is flowing out of my spirit. I have favour with God and man.”*

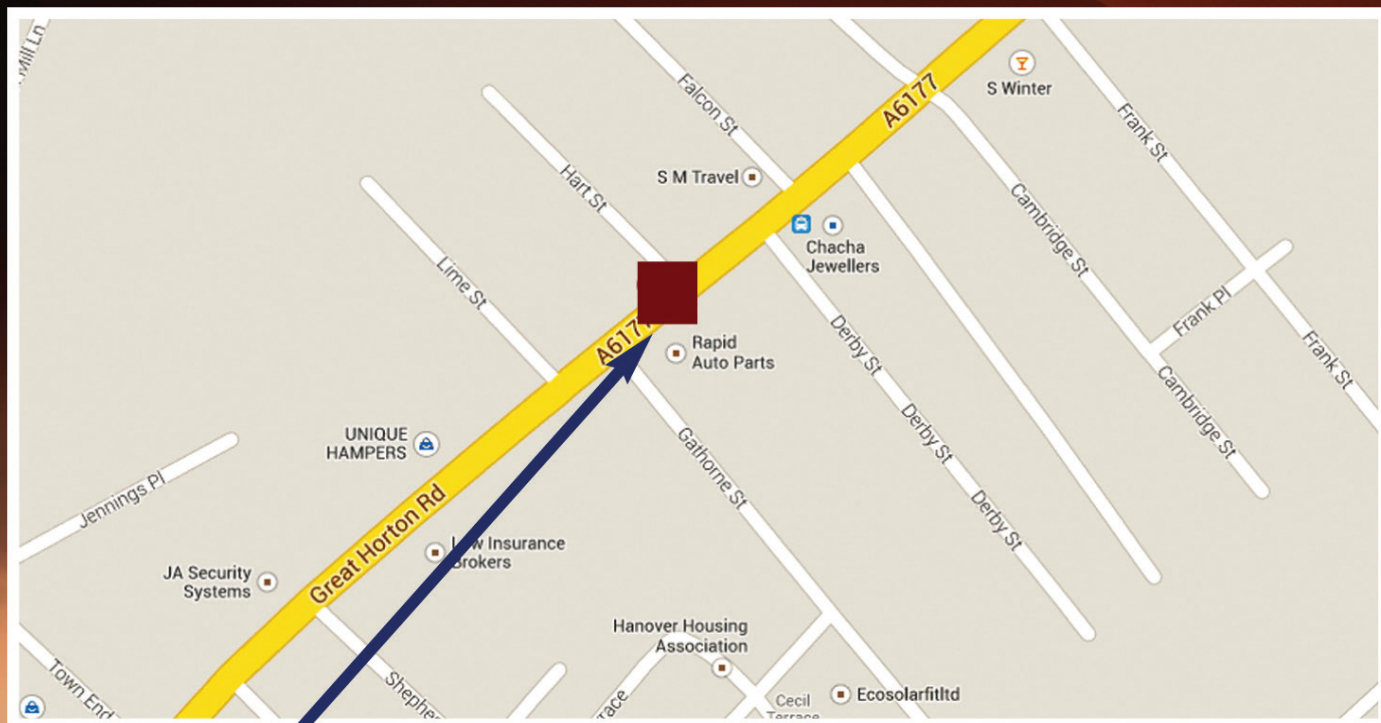
Believe that you have received and walk in God’s favour from today.

Benefits of Favour

1. Supernatural Increase and Promotion – Joseph
2. Restoration of all the enemy has stolen from you (Ex. 3:21)
3. Honour in the midst of your adversaries (Ex. 11:3)
4. Increased Assets (Deut. 33:23)
5. Great Victories (2 Chron. 20:15, 29)
6. Recognition in the midst of many (1 Sam. 16:22)
7. Prominence and preferential treatment (Est. 2:17)
8. Petitions granted even by ungodly authority (Est. 5:8)
9. Policies, rules, regulations and laws changed for your behalf (Es. 8:5, 8)

Chapel of Grace is a growing multicultural church based in Bradford. We are a family who care and support one another. Our vision is to develop leaders and inspire individuals to reach their full potential and fulfil the purpose for which God created them.

We would like to encourage all of you that live in the West Yorkshire area and beyond to come and visit us during this conference and our regular service times. We assure you that as you come, your life will be transformed by the joy that comes from being in the presence of God. The Bible says in Psalm 16:11 that in His presence is fullness of joy and at His right hand are pleasures forever more. Whatever problem you may have, God is more than able to solve it for there is nothing too hard for Him (Jeremiah 32:27) and He will restore peace to your life.



Venue

Chapel of Grace, 355 Great Horton Road, Bradford, BD7 3BZ
For details of our church shuttle bus please contact the church office.

Service Times:

Sunday: 10:00am-10:45am Adult Bible Class
10:45am-12:30pm Celebration Service

Tuesday: 7:00pm-8:30pm Recharge Bible Study

Contacts:

Tel: 01274 504390/07837233452

Email: info@chapelofgrace.org.uk

