

Bridging the Gap with the Ezechis and Abuja Bible College (Jan - Feb, 2019)



Delight, Florence & Ezechí Iwuagwu



Abuja Bible College in Kagoro

Equipping and Encouraging Christian believers for faithful bible teaching

Reflections

A Fan or A Disciple

Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. . . .” Luke 6:46-49

Dear Friends,

It is a joy to be able to write you again and to wish you a purposeful and impactful 2019. God has been gracious to us. I'd love to share some of my reflections from the gospel of Luke.

In our text, Jesus has been teaching the Beatitudes, but didn't have good words for the world's rich and famous who ignore God and disregard His word. Did you notice that Jesus was indicting those were following or seem to be following him? “*Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?* He suddenly realised that he has fans flocking around him who are not disciples, committed to obedience. He is saying to people in church who call Jesus Lord, that practical obedience is what it means to have Jesus as Lord. Using the metaphor of two builders to illustrate what disobedience looks like. The wise builder who builds on a rock-solid foundation is the obeying disciple; while the foolish builder is the one who built sand (a fan with excitement without commitment to obedience), which didn't stand when the storms of life came and was completely destroyed.

The only way that I can show that I have a living genuine faith in Jesus is in my obedience. He is saying that

it is useless to come to the bible or hear God’s word preached, without obeying them or a commitment to obedience. It is not only as useless as building on shifting sinking sand, but fatally destructive. Jesus in Matthew 7:21-23 says, **“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.** Jesus says that the destruction of the house built on the sand was complete.

Obedience is difficult, but it is possible, if you will let His Holy Spirit come into you and you hand over the control of your life – plan, dreams, and relationships; and yield your will in obedience to His will. Yes, as an Evangelical, I believe that we are saved by faith in Jesus death and resurrection alone, but faith without “works” of obedience is dead (James 2:17) or deceptively, non-existent.. We should be challenging people to keep walking on the path of active obedience.

Family News

Ezechi.

College work is going well and teaching has been encouraging as I share the teaching with Paul and Onesimus. I still do more, but they will be teachings more as we kick off the Part-Time programme later in March God willing.

Florence

Florence continues to serve well in the administration as well as mentoring the female students. She is enjoying her bible study with two other missionaries’ wives, which has been encouraging and refreshing. Her support with training for the Girl’s Brigade at the ECWA Theological Seminary, has also been fun. Pray for energy to cope with all the demands.

Delight

Delight is doing well in school, but struggling in Mathematics at the moment. She is however, working hard for her schools “spelling bee competition.” She continues to enjoy her drills and bible studies in the Girls Brigade. She is making real progress in her guitar lesson and her teacher is very impressed. Pray for grace to stay focused. She is a lovely girl and fun to stay with.

College News

Students News



Dr. Rick Creighton teaching on preaching Isaiah at the Abuja Bible College

We had a beautiful time of Christmas Carols singing a bit of a party for the student, staff families and some members of the community. We had fun. The second term resumed on 7th January, 2019 with great enthusiasm.

The reading week went well and as each of the students presents his/her summary reflections from a book to benefit all.

ABC Part-Time Programme

The kick-off of ABC Part-Time Weekend Course was postponed to March 22nd due to the National elections. Tensions have not subsided, as we pray for peace and safety, because fair and free election is elusive in our country.

Pray that we would record good student enrolment. Pray also for the faculty and the guest lecturers as they take on added responsibility.

Staff News

Paul is doing fine. He is taking more teaching session than previously and his confidence in handling new material is equally growing.

Onesimus who joined the staff team late last year, is doing very well as he continues to teach the Pastor stream and the shared doctrines sessions with the rest of us. He is beginning to teach some bible books.

I have been encouraged by the staff spouses. Pray for us all as we would take on new and increased work load, especially as we begin the Part-Time program later in March, 2019.

Praise God with us:

- ◆ For the Students, for their passion, commitment the progress they are making in their studies.
- ◆ That there has not been Fulani Herdsmen Islamist attacks on our community, though there has been in some communities around.

Please pray for these:

- ◆ For grace, strength and wisdom for Ezechi, his staff team and the guest Lecturers.
- ◆ Pray for financial resources for students who are struggling with their finances due to poor economic situation.
- ◆ Continue to pray for peace and protection of lives and properties after elections fraught with gross rigging.
- ◆ For all the practicalities for a successful kick off of the ABC Part-Time Course and would not be postponed again.
- ◆ For more students to be enrolling for the Part-Time Program.

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