

(Nigeria) A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation: Nigeria Easter Conference Report (By Abraham Omotunde)

We thank God, who graciously blessed our Easter Bible Conference to be abundantly fruitful. The conference was held from Friday, April 18, to Sunday, April 20, 2025, at The Redemption Camp, Km 46, Lagos Ibadan Expressway, Lagos. It is about a 45-minute to 1-hour drive (without traffic hold-ups) from the center of Lagos. We had a total of 163 participants in attendance: adults, 130; children 5 years and above, 24; and children under 5 years, 9. In preparing this conference, we were faced with the uncertainty of the universities academic session/calendar due to strikes and rumors of strikes, as well as irregular examination timetables and schedules, as they would affect our invitations and other arrangements. So, we started last year with prayer, where our shepherds from all the chapters gathered every Monday evening to pray. Our focus and prayers topics for the conference had been that

1. God may raise 40 students to be Bible teachers across our chapters starting from this year.
2. The infilling of the Holy Spirit's power for a renewed decision as well as making a decision to accept our new identity to live as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation so that each one and the ministry as a whole can be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ.
3. For God to empower our growing leaders to be effective Bible teachers and disciple makers in their generation.
4. For every chapter to raise student Bible teachers among our young students.

We also used this time and other scheduled meeting times to fix the key aspects of the conference, like messengers, group Bible study leaders, and testimony sharers. All the leaders from all the chapters gathered regularly to take care of the messengers. As we continued with prayer, God helped bless us with the wisdom and direction to fix other programs and logistics of the conference.

We had 4 messengers spread across our 4 chapters in Lagos and a closing message by Pastor Abraham Omotunde. We also had 17 Bible study groups, and the Bible study leaders were drawn from all our chapters. We started the conference with a life testimony by Shep Duke from the Yabatech Chapter.

His testimony was so encouraging to all the participants and revealed the power of the living God, who saved him from an idol-worshipping background and called him to be a Bible teacher and shepherd, a source of blessing like Abraham (Gen 12:2-3).

Br. Mayowa Fasina from Lagos Chapter 1 delivered the opening message on Revelation 5:1-14 titled 'Saved by Jesus the Lamb of God.' This message opened our hearts to worship and honor Jesus Christ as our ultimate mediator and savior because He is the Lamb of God that was slain for our salvation and redemption. It melted our hearts to meditate deeply on His grace and love as well as His power and glory.

Br. Samuel Erigha from the Yabatech chapter delivered the evening message on Friday evening titled 'Kingdom of priests and a holy nation' (1 Peter 2:1-15). Br. Samuel's message helped us to reflect on the marvelous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who saved us from our sins and gave us a new and clear identity as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation of people. His message challenged all of us to live out this identity by repenting of our spiritual laziness and complacency, pride and selfishness, and teaching the Bible faithfully, praying fervently, and respecting and serving others in love. He shared his repentance testimony of self-centeredness and spiritual complacency and made a new decision to serve his Bible students faithfully with the word of God and fervent prayer, trusting God to provide for all his needs.

Br. Kelvin Omue from the Medilag chapter delivered main message 1 on Saturday titled, 'Do you really love me more than these?' (John 21:1-25). His message challenged each one of us that true love for Jesus Christ requires absolute obedience to His words. It also challenged and reminded all of us to figure out our theses and make new decisions of faith to love and obey Jesus Christ. He shared a testimony of Jesus' unconditional love upon him. He made a decision of faith to express his love for Jesus by humbly serving his Bible students with the word of God and fervent prayer.

Shep Monday Togbe from the Lagos chapter 2 delivered main message 2 on Sunday titled, 'You will be my witnesses (Acts 1:1-11). His message reminded us that we need the power of the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ and make His disciples in our campuses. That our circumstances and conditions are not the problems because we can overcome them one by one when we humbly depend on and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The message gave us a clear direction that both as individuals and as a church, we must honestly and sincerely ask God for the infilling of the Holy Spirit so that we can be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ starting from our different chapters across Nigeria, Africa, and to the ends of the earth.

After the Bible study and message on Saturday, we gathered to write and share our reflections on John 21:1-25, 'Do you love me more than these?' We had life testimony sharing on Saturday evening where brothers and a sister shared their life testimonies. We had Bro. Israel from

Lagos 1, Sister Precious from Lagos 1, and Br. Joseph from Lagos 2.

Br. Isreal Abiola from Lagos 1 is a final-year student of the Department of Chemistry, University of Lagos. He was born into a Christian family but never had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ even though he was very faithful in church activities. He was invited by UBF shepherds for Bible study and later to live common life in a tent with other brothers. Through regular one-to-one Bible study, he came to know Jesus Christ and His grace. He has learned to fight his sins in Jesus Christ through obeying the word of God and prayer and the help of the Holy Spirit. Through writing and sharing his life testimony, he could see God's guidance for him to renounce living a selfish and self-centered life and instead live as a Bible teacher to campus students.

Sister Precious Itobe is a student of the Department of Accounting, University of Lagos. She got the admission after three times of failure and other disappointments, which caused deep traumas in her life. She was invited for Bible study and has been studying one-on-one. Through regular study of God's word, she accepted all that happened to her as God's guiding hand in her life to fulfill His purpose. Also, through writing her life testimony, she became very thankful to God that despite the hardships, setbacks, and other personal issues, God has been her constant companion, her strength in weakness, and her light in darkness.

Bro Joseph Olorundami was born into a Christian home, and the father was a very devoted Christian. He was always inspired by his father, and as such, he tried to live a moral Christian life but became disappointed when his sinful nature overpowered him and he became depressed. But through an invitation to study the word of God with UBF shepherds along with spiritual counsel and constant prayers, he could learn to bring his thoughts and imaginations under the control of the word and the Holy Spirit. His decision of faith is to give enough time to study the Bible deeply with his shepherd and in turn study with his Bible student so that he can grow in his inner man.

Actually, many brothers and sisters from other chapters wrote their life testimonies, which will still be shared during programs shortly after the conference. There was a mission report from Sheps Bimbo Agba from the University of Calabar (Unical Chapter).

The conference was closed with a message by Pastor Abraham Omotunde. It was a summary of all the messages during the conference with particular reference to Exodus 19:6. His message was full of thanks and praise to God for blessing our conference abundantly despite many challenges we faced, including heavy traffic that made us spend almost 4 hours on a 45-minute to 1-hour journey because of a motor accident on the road to the conference venue.

His message reminded us that our ability to live out our new and clear identity as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation lies on the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He emphasized the importance of prayer to God, listening, and obeying the Holy Spirit. He also emphasized that practically, as a kingdom of priests and holy nation people, there is great need for us to care for one another because our calling is relational. On this, each should allow the Holy Spirit to overflow his/her heart with the love of Jesus Christ so that he/she can have inner strength to serve in love and humility.

We cannot forget our senior shepherdesses who worked hard sacrificially with some sisters and brothers to prepare food for the conference. Other shepherdesses served the children's Bible fellowship, in which some programs were prepared for them so that they could also participate and be blessed through the conference.

Thanksgivings/Prayer topics:

We thank God for a graceful and fruitful conference.

We pray that God will bless every participant to practically keep their decisions of faith.

