

- ✓ **In the acts of the Apostle, the testimonies of Aeneas turned two towns to the Lord** — *Act. 9:32-36*
- ✓ **That us how powerful testimonies can be in drawing people unto the Lord**
- **As often said here, “It is foolishness to be ashamed of what is gainful”** — *Pro. 14:28/ 1 Sam. 2:30*
- ✓ **To be ashamed of the testimony of the Lord is for Him to be ashamed of us** — *Psa. 119:46/ Rom. 1:16/ Mrk. 8:38*
- **It is time to go outside the gate with His testimonies in our hands as tracts and in our mouth, testifying He is doing in our lives for whosoever cares to listen** — *Heb. 13:13/ Heb. 12:1-2*
- ✓ **We saw this illustrated in the case of the Samaritan woman, who went wild to town saying, 'come see a man who told me all I ever did, is this not the Christ?' and they came, and many turned to the Lord through this simile ordinary 'come and See' weapon** — *Jhn. 4:29/39*
- **Also, the man with the legion of demands upon being set free went out, blazing the testimony all around and this brought multitude to Christ when He later revisited the same place** — *Mak. 5:18-22*

**Jesus is Lord!**

*David O. Oyedepo*  
 FAITH TABERNACLE,  
 CANAANLAND, OTA-LAGOS

# ENGAGING OUR SHARP SICKLE OF HARVEST

*...Put ye in the sickle,  
 for the harvest is ripe:....  
 — Joel 3:13*

**M**any years ago, precisely March 1984, I had this unusual encounter with the mystery of Church growth, which has continued to impart on our Church ministry till date. This encounter unveiled the four-fold demands for commanding supernatural Church growth.

- **While seeking the face of God on why this Church was not growing, I called for a three-day prayer and fasting between 23rd and 25th of March 1984 along with two of my co-labourers.**
- ✓ **While we were inside the Church praying, the Lord said to me, “get up and follow me” and I rose up in prayer and followed Him. This was not a dream; it was a real-life encounter and in the broad day light of that afternoon.**
- ✓ **As I walked with Him towards the southern end of the Church and we approached the end of that street, He said to me, “look back now” and as I did, He opened my eyes to see a thick layer of darkness spread over the Church.**

- ✓ **Then He said to me, “that is the blindfolding weapon the devil is using to misinterpret what I Jesus is doing in this Church.”**
- ✓ **Then He stood as it were waiting for me to deal with it and I spoke against that siege of darkness, saying, “you foul spirit of darkness, there is the light that shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” Then, I saw the thick darkness rolled away like a carpet. (Jhn 1:5)**
- **Secondly, Jesus said to me in the same encounter, 'when I came to this World, it took someone to tell another, “Come and see.” He made me to understand that we must go out to tell people what He Jesus is doing in this Church, and this is what we now called, 'Come and see' Mandate (Jhn 1:35-50)**
- ✓ **Immediately, we printed Come and See tracts, with the testimonies of Christ in our midst and the address of the Church and a guide on how to get to the Church. This sparked off the beginning of our Church growth experience.**
- **Thirdly, Jesus instructed me 'keep sowing the seed, and as the grass grows the sheep will come for it. “What is the seed”, I asked? And Jesus said, “in the parable of the Sower, the seed is the Word, that is to engage in life applicable teachings of the Word and as the grace grows, he said, 'the sheep will begin to come for it.' This happens to be a reaffirmation of the liberation mandate, as we all know it, “the hour has come to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the Word of faith, and I am sending you to under this task” — May 2nd, 1981 (Luk. 8:11)**
- **Fourthly, Christ said to me, “keep the grass green and the sheep will lie down there, for He made me to lie down on green pasture.” This implies that only fresh word, that is the sent Word, the right word and the word in season can establish believers both in the faith and in this Church — Psa. 23:2**
- **This four-fold task is what we refer to as our Church growth mandate in this Commission.**
- **Come and see mandate is a vital God-ordained sickle entrusted into our hands for sustainable Church growth—Jhn. 1:40-46**
- ✓ **For example, there was no organized soul-winning platform all through the 5-year long explosive Church growth of 1994 – 1999 which added to the Church over 40,000 worshippers.**
- ✓ **Members simply began to reach out to those around them – come and see it's happening here.**
- ✓ **Everyone that came must have heard someone said, “come and see” so they came and abode.**
- **'Come and see' is our God-ordained mystery that will keep the Church growing.**
- **Come and see is about advertising what Christ is doing in the midst of His people and testimonies — Rev. 12:11**
- ✓ **Testimony enlightened just as the Word — Isa. 8:16/20**
- ✓ **Testimonies are kingdom parables, illustrations, and validations of the truth of scriptures — Jhn 3:12**