

HOLY FATHER'S FAREWELL ADDRESS
AUGUST PENTECOSTAL DELIVERED ON 2/9/89

UNDERSTANDING BROTHERHOOD
MANY ARE CALLED, FEW CHOSEN

The children of Israel who left Egypt, the land of bondage, were many but only few actually saw the promised land. Now and then you hear the words of God but you imagine these words to be fiction.

What I want to tell you now is history. On 8th August, 1958, a sizeable number of Brotherhood members moved from Eton Street to 26 Mbukpa Street, Calabar. Of these members only a few are actually alive and present in Brotherhood today. This thing is not attainable by him who seeketh or him who runs a race, but through God's mercy upon mankind. That is why you are gathered here today and are advised to sit in reverence, listen with rapt attention and hear what Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is all about.

WHAT BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS & STAR IS

Many of you come here only for prayers, to make requests, to attend services, to be healed of your sicknesses and infirmities and various other problems. None of you knows what Brotherhood of the Cross and Star actually is.

Brotherhood of the Cross and Star is not a church, it is not a prayer house, it is not a healing home, it is not a service centre or a conventional institution. Brotherhood is the New Kingdom of God. The only thing therefore that does the work here is love, and if you do not have love you are not Brotherhood. That is the reason I keep telling you every day that when you hear the word of God you should not joke with it. That, also, is why I always exhort you to come out here and hear from the Horse's mouth words about the kingdom of God.

Many of you go out and beg people to come to Brotherhood so that their sicknesses may be healed, so that they will get children, so that they will have husbands or wives and so that their diverse problems may be solved. Whoever you drag into Brotherhood through this means has not been chosen and will never stay. If the Father does not call somebody no person can come to Him, and if He does not chose someone none will be worthy. This is that Kingdom of God which Nebuchadnezzar dreamed about. It is the same Kingdom Nebuchadnezzar commanded his seers to interpret for him or be killed should they fail to. But when Daniel, the man of God, heard about it he asked Nebuchadnezzar to hold his peace that he, Daniel, was going to request the Father to reveal the meaning of that dream to him.

FAITH, THE PASSPORT INTO THE KINGDOM

I want to show you that nothing can be compared with Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. If you stay in Brotherhood for a hundred years, it does not profit you anything. It does not also profit you anything if you are just arriving in Brotherhood. Equally, you stand to profit nothing if you are to come in the next 20 years. If you had been in Brotherhood for a hundred years and later backslided it does not profit you anything. This is so because God's promise is true. Abraham had no single child when God told him that he will be the father of all nations. God commanded Abraham when he was 75 years old to depart his own kindred and go to an unknown land. Right from that time, Abraham departed his land of birth and wandered about looking for the unknown land. Abraham stayed for hundred years childless yet his faith in God was unshakable. The problem is that; when you grow weary and weak in faith, you are done for. Therefore, the only key to this kingdom is *faith*.

You cannot enter the kingdom if you do not have faith. Faith is an unshakeable belief in what one does not see but which he believes to be true. You will realise that despite the fact that Abraham was one hundred years old and had no child, he was not worried. His belief in God and thus in His promise to him as *the father of all nations* was held onto. He continued to believe that God's promise will not fail to fulfill. And I am telling you that Abraham is in your midst. Isaac, is in our midst, Jacob also is here, Joseph and all the patriarchs are here right now. It has been said that as it was done to the Israelites so shall it be done to the Gentiles. God does not deceive and will never deceive forever.

MAN KNOW THYSELF

God has His own nature. His nature, therefore, is different from that of man. If you are not born in to God's family and therefore in-bibe His nature, you cannot be a child of God. That is the reason from time to time, I gather you together and admonish you, impart knowledge to you. This something that had never existed and nobody ever thought that this kind of phenomenon could ever take place.

When Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, he fell down on his knees and repentantly wept asking God to forgive him. He, fasted and prayed and wept bitterly showing remorse over his evil action. God replied him saying I will hearken to you at the appointed time. Your major problem is that of ignorance. You have the opinion, that any moment you ask God to send down the rain, rain should come down immediately. When you request for sunshine or money or anything, these things should appear within a twinkle of an eye. Also, you think that when you ask God to sit down, He should sit down immediately and when you tell

Him to stand up, He equally obeys. You continue to err because you do not know God and do not know His ways. I have looked through the entire world and have come to the conclusion that there is no individual who knows God and His ways. In fact, 99% of the inhabitants of the world do not believe that there is God. Many others even think that God is man. There are yet others who consider God to be juju, apparition, charm, mermaid or any such like things. Many people think also that once one is rich, he is God. Even as the multitude of members of Brotherhood who came from 8 Eton Street did not know that only a few would be left now, also, you do not know, how many of you gathered here today, would continue as members.

The first and foremost thing every person should know is himself. It is only when you know yourself that you will know where you come from, where you are going and what to do. That is why it is said, "man know thyself and ye shall know all things". Once you know yourself, you will know the place you are called in here and will comply with all the injunctions you are given here. A remarkable example of such a person is Senior Deaconess, Mong. Right from the first day she was called in here she has continued to be steadfast and upright.

THE FATHER CALLETH

I want to prove to you that if the Father does not call you, you cannot follow Him. If He calls you and reveals Himself to you, you cannot go astray. It is God who calls somebody; He reveals Himself to somebody; He holds you firm, and it is He who does everything. It is the Father also who bears witness unto and glorifies Himself. Of all the multitude called by Our Lord Jesus Christ, including His disciples, He knew everyone of them and their minds. He knew those who believed in Him. That was why when the people asked Him, 'Rabbi, whence cometh thou,' He replied them saying, thou seeketh not me because ye have seen wonderful works done by the Father or because ye have seen the truth. But ye seek for me because ye are filled with bread and fish'. That was why He advised the people not to struggle for the food that perishes, but to struggle for one food that endures for ever which the Son of Man would give.

That is why every person who comes here is known by the Father. Whoever comes here in order to get a husband or wife or child, etc., as soon as the person gets what he wants, he goes away. Whoever comes here for the purpose of getting money, the moment he gets the money, he departs with it. Whoever comes here in order to be healed of his illness. the moment he is healed, he disappears. On the other hand, if a person comes here in order to get money or husband or wife or child, if the person waits for sometime and does not get his or her heart desire fulfilled or his or her infirmity healed, he goes away. Therefore, who-

ever comes here for anything material, whether he gets it or not, he will finally go away because he has not been called.

RELENT NOT IN GOODNESS

God is not a respecter of persons. God also never forgets any good thing done by any individual. That is the reason we are advised not to relent in doing what is good. This kingdom is the kingdom of righteousness, and Abraham and all the rest of the prophets and patriarchs who served God diligently are all present here. A thief is not wanted here; a fornicator is not needed here; a soothsayer should not come here, a native doctor need not show up here; a liar is not required here. This kingdom does not admit any act of sinfulness.

BROTHERHOOD OF THE CROSS & STAR, THE MUSTARD SEED

The structure of 26 Mbukpa Road then was so deteriorating that only determined people could sit in it. The number of members that moved into the place from Eton Street was not up to 300. In fact, the membership of Brotherhood at various other centres was not up to 300. This goes to prove the fact stated by our Lord Jesus Christ, 'that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed'. The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. In 1958, Brotherhood of the Cross and Star was not known nor heard of. Why 8th of August is observed as a memorable day in Brotherhood is because, that was the day soutane was first worn by all the members of Brotherhood and marched from 8 Eton Street to 26 Mbukpa Road. Before this time, Brotherhood had no identity and members had the choice of wearing any dress that pleased them. No member then ever was bold enough to tell his friend or another person that he was a Brotherhood member. People came to Brotherhood then coincidentally as the place was very unpopular. That is why I tell you that there is no person, none of you, who can give the history of Brotherhood of the Cross and Star. You can only testify or say something about what you see and what you know of in this place. This is so because the more you look at it, the less you will see, or in fact you see nothing.

The pharises asked our Lord Jesus Christ when the kingdom of God would come. He replied them saying, 'The kingdom of God cometh not with observation. Neither shall they say, Lo here! or Lo there! for behold, the kingdom of God is within you' (Luke 17:20-21). As you are going about now begging people to come to Brotherhood, I have myself never asked anybody to come to Brotherhood. This is so because it is not the physician who seeks for the patient but it is the patient who seeks after the physician.

I AM THAT I AM

Prior, to 1958 you could pass me on the way and would not know me. Brotherhood had existed before 1950, before 1940 and before 1930. You only knew the existence of Brotherhood from the period you are drawn into it. If you read the publication "I Am That I Am" you will understand what I am talking about. Imagine, this classic case, a baby is born, and is not up to one week old, a blind elderly woman requested that the baby be brought to her to carry and join in thanking God for his birth. That is why when people allege that Brotherhood started this year or that year I urge them to close their mouth. When the little baby (who happens to be the Holy Father) was brought to the blind old woman, immediately the woman put the baby across her laps she received her sight. The people I refer to as the survivors from Eton Street, it does not mean that they are pioneer members of Brotherhood. They were only among the group that moved in a procession from 8 Eton Street to 26 Mbukpa Road on the 8th of August 1958. Therefore, if any person tells you that he started Brotherhood together with the Leader the one is telling you a lie. Nobody knows the origin of Brotherhood, not even the people of Biakpan, including my earthly parents. It is the Father alone who knows when Brotherhood started. I have never told anybody the origin of Brotherhood. But I started practising Brotherhood right from 1918 (which happens to be the Holy Father's year of physical manifestation in the world). Right from that time, if you are sick, the moment you see the Father, your sickness is over. If the Father tells you to undertake a particular venture or activity, if you obey and comply that thing will turn out to be successful. The Father has never lived alone in the house. He is always surrounded by people. He teaches all the time. There has never been a time, I do not teach. I am always teaching in the morning, afternoon, evening and night. When you hear that the Father was a draper, that was only a means through which He preached to the people and spread the good news. That is why I tell you that this mission is a dragnet. That is why, I advise you, not to be angry or hate anybody who does not like Brotherhood, and who antagonizes it because to them Brotherhood has no value and is insignificant.

At that early time I did not want a person to know me or recognise me. I just wanted to operate quietly and unknown to any person. There was a revelation in 1917 about the birth, the presence, of the Holy Spirit on earth, and specifically in Africa. This revelation was concealed, and still remains a top secret, by the authorities. due to this state of affairs. I also concealed my identity from the world. I made sure I had no friend. I have the capability to solve whatever kind of problem. A close person, had a problem, I referred this person to a certain person for solution. When he went to this person the man referred him back to

me, telling him that I was the only person capable of solving his problem. He also stated that I was a draper. This man with the problem, explained to the fellow that the draper had directed him to contact him. The fellow insisted that he should go back and see the draper. That, his problem will be solved. When the man arrived my residence, he entered my room. He could not believe what he saw, the bare state of my room. He looked round the house and did not find any talisman, juju, or anything, not even the Bible. Out of amazement the man said but you are the person I am told is the only one that can help me. I laughed at him. It was then, that Father told the man that if he believed in God then He has the answer to all his problems. People get deceived by their friends and so much money taken from them, under the cover that will take them to somebody who will have their problems solved. That wonderful person is the Holy Father. I am not that cheap to find and see or know. Senior Deaconess Mong herself used to be my good customer, a woman of taste. But despite the closeness and relationship she did not know me. When she was finally called into this kingdom, if she dared to recall things of the past and behaved in that wise, she would have derailed. Her parents were God-fearing people and served God throughout their life time. It is because of their service to God, that He compensated them by calling their daughter into His kingdom and giving her the right of place. That is why, I tell you that God hardly forgets any good thing done by somebody and never fails to reward such a fellow. Sister Mong today is a Senior Deaconess, is a Christ Student and is an Apostle.

GOD FALLETH NOT

The Eton survivors did not know that Brotherhood would attain this position. Neither did they know that things would look so different from the way they had known them. This goes to prove the fact that whatever thing you do to God is not without a reward. But that whatever you do to a human being is only a loss. Just as members of Brotherhood from Eton are surprised at what they are seeing now in Brotherhood, even so will the present members be surprised over what will happen in the future when people from all over the world will flood this place.

The children of Brotherhood are born. Remember what happened to King Hezekiah when he was ill. God sent prophet Isaiah to go and tell him that he should appoint an heir because he was going to die. When Prophet Isaiah left, King Hezekiah went on his knees and facing the wall he prayed God to remember the service he rendered to Him in His youth and have mercy upon him. God sent Prophet Isaiah again to King Hezekiah to inform him that his prayer has been answered, consequently his life span was extended for 15 years. That is the kind of God we have here in our midst. Therefore, if you see somebody who is stea-

dfast in the service of God know that God will never fail him. Apostle Effiong Okon is one of such person in this kingdom. Even the person who brought him into Brotherhood, his in-law, has since backslided but Apostle Effiong Okon is still here. The same thing is applicable to many of you here. That is why it is said man know thyself and ye shall know all things. Those who know themselves and why they are here, from the very first day they were called they do not stumble irrespective of antagonism and persecution. Due to this fact God does not leave such people desolate. You have to hold fast what you believe and stand by it firmly. What you have seen now is only a small thing; great are our expectations. This is just an indication of what is going to happen in future. The patient dog, it is said, eats the fattest bone. Therefore, blessed is the person who endures to the end.

ORIGIN OF B.C.S. NOT TRACEABLE BY MAN

Like I have already told you, no person can trace the origin of Brotherhood. Right now, Brotherhood of the Cross and Star has taken another shape. When people hear that the Father used to move from house to house preaching to people and helping members and other people in doing their domestic chores they baffled. It is also surprising to people to hear that the Father used to baptise. Some people will even beat their chest in anger questioning why they were not called in at that time. You should know that there is no difference between that time and now. You should even be happier now; there is a remarkable change now. You need to be happy and to thank God for His abundant grace. The work here could not have been done by stones or sticks but by human beings. You have every cause to rejoice. The marriage feast is ready for people to come in and eat. I came calling the Bishops, Pope, Reverend fathers and the rest of the V.I.Ps but they have all refused to answer the call. Consequently, I have asked that the poor, the sick, the maimed, the widow and all the rejected and afflicted be called in to enjoy this marriage feast. The Kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of God and His Christ.

What I want done, from now hence, is the celebration of the movement from Eton Street and the wearing of soutane for the first time on August 8, 1958. It was also in August our Lord Jesus Christ was baptised and revealed. Before now, members used to give visions for four hours and over. Most of the things that are done here have been effected through vision. Initially people used to come into Brotherhood wearing their shoes, earrings, necklaces and whatever one pleases. There was no common uniform. I have never asked any person not to come in wearing anything. But one time it was revealed in a vision, by Brother Bonny, that members should not step into the place or worship with their shoes on. At another time necklaces and other ornaments were

forbidden. Drinks and snuff and various other food used to be served in Brotherhood as feast. But today the case is different. All these are the handiwork of the Holy Spirit.

Brotherhood is just like an expectant mother; it is never accurately known when she will deliver and the sex of the baby. Therefore, whatever you see here you only have to observe very closely because Brotherhood is only in transition. You cannot therefore make a conclusive statement about Brotherhood.

WHAT BROTHERHOOD REQUIRES

Brotherhood requires love and not singing, dancing, prayers and fasting. Once you possess that genuine love your entry into this kingdom is sure. If these fruits, and virtues were not manifested how would you have known the Father? If these fruits were not there, how would you have been saved? That explains the practical side of Brotherhood. Wherever the Spirit of God is present you will not fail to see mercy, love, patience, truth, humility, meekness and all the godly virtues. These virtues are themselves the embodiment of God Himself, there are fruits of the Holy Spirit. These are manifested in love, mercy, humility, temperance, meekness, joy, truth, oneness, peace and righteousness. Wherever you find these qualities complete know that, that is the kingdom of God.

Read Hebrews 12:14 and see the advice you have been given. "Strive for peace with all men, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord".

NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

Read *II Peter 3:13-14*: "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless".

Tell me, therefore, when this kingdom will admit a thief, swindler, a fornicator, a murderer, a backbiter and any person who is found with any spot? It is said that because of your manners that people speak ill against God and blaspheme His name. All the things you hear and see here do you go out and tell and practise same to the world? The teachings you receive here, the truth you have seen here, the salvation that you have received here, have you gone out into the world to exhibit the same and declare unto them? That is your own problem. Since you are not able to practice the truth, you are not also willing to leave this place. If you have decided to stay here, why then have you refused to practise the teachings you receive here? When you come in here and

listen to the gospel you pretend to be sober and to refrain from evil. But the moment you leave this place you put on your old cloak. You are not ready to practise this truth and would not quit and give another person the chance to come in and hear this truth.

Do you really know that God does not like sin? Do you know that God does not have anything to do with sin? This is the reason I always tell you that people outside know Brotherhood more than you do. This is so because the foremost requirement before you come in here is that you have to confess your sins and purge yourself of every sin.

BE YE HOLY EVEN AS YOUR FATHER

Read *I Peter 1:14–16*:

“As obedient children not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy”.

That is the reason, any person who comes here newly is introduced first to the Brotherhood Handbook, even before baptism. That is what used to be prevalent here. You have to confess and repent of your sins before you can be admitted into this kingdom. That is the pre-condition for entry into this kingdom. But today people are randomly baptized; some without even being asked to confess their sins, let alone to repent. Except you had fulfilled these conditions you are not a part of this kingdom. If every member had realised that this kingdom does not admit any act of sinfulness and changed accordingly, others who come in newly or who intend coming, would equally have changed before coming in. But the reverse is the case today. People are going about fanning themselves that the Father is a friend of sinners and that whatever sins you commit, the Father would not fail to embrace you and give you feast to eat. But you fail to reason, for the number of years you have been here, have you ever seen me committing fornication, stealing, telling lies, quarrelling, fighting and indulging in any vice? None of you is ready to forsake sin yet you desire to enter this kingdom

WHY I RESIST NOT AN EVIL-DOER

Do you know why I do not resist any evildoer or punish any sinner? Many of you here, including even the ordained ones, marry more than one wife. Can you tell me which portion in the Bible which permits a man of God to marry more than one wife? Some of you indulge in husband or wife snatching and in the rest of the vices, yet, I do not punish you. Why?

Read *II Peter 3:9*

“The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slow-

ness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”.

Brethren, have you heard that? From the day I pronounced there would be no more coup in this country, have you heard any successful one? If I open my mouth and utter a word about something that thing would not fail to manifest. If I pronounce now that you are excommunicated from Brotherhood that order will take immediate effect. The Father, therefore, is not slack in His promise but gives the evildoer a long rope to repent. There was a time I ordered that you should refrain from fornication or face the consequences. After I had given that order, one visioner disobeyed and went and committed fornication and died at the spot and the woman fled. If I make any statement now to the effect that whoever commits any act of sin shall be punished, the same shall not fail to manifest. Some years ago, during a pentecostal assembly such as this, members complained of drought that year and requested the Father to do something about it. I stood here in the altar and declared abundant rain and it did happen, and since then uptill this moment there has never been such drought again. During the close of a pentecostal session in 1969 something happened. Members were so demoralized and dejected about their kith, and kins who were trapped at the Biakpan side during the civil war so much that they could not echo hallelujah in response when I shouted. It was on a December of that year and it was not up to two weeks the war was over.

I AM NOT HERE TO DESTROY

Who can tell me the reason any evil word has never proceeded from my mouth? Or have you ever heard any evil communication proceeding out of my mouth? I am not here to destroy or condemn. My duty is to build, promote, correct, save and to bless. I have not come to kill but to give life. That is why all the time only good and encouraging words proceed from my mouth such as, peace be unto you! be ye well! be ye blessed! and so on. Whoever is in Brotherhood and continues to indulge in sinfulness does not know Brotherhood and is not a child of Brotherhood. Brotherhood abhors any form of sin. Whoever stays in here and continues to sin has already condemned and killed himself. If you stay here and hate one another you do not belong to this kingdom We are all Brotherhood and therefore are one. I do not teach you to steal, to fornicate, to hate or to indulge in any form of sinfulness. Once you are baptized into Brotherhood and your sins remitted if you commit any sin thereafter, your blood is upon you.

MY ADVICE/COMMISSION TO YOU

Read 1 John 3:14:

“We know that we have passed from death into life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death”.

Have you heard that? You are taught that as soon as you practise love you have passed from death into life. But know for sure that whosoever does not practise love remains in death. Now, what have you seen demonstrated in Brotherhood? Is it not love? You continue to do these things you are asked not to do so that people may point accusing fingers at Brotherhood. Does Brotherhood teach you how to steal, or how to hate, or how to commit fornication, or how to commit any sin? Are you a Brotherhood if you indulge in these vices? I have no other message to give to you or any gospel to teach you other than the love of one for another. Anything you do outside that is your own teaching and you stand condemned. ,

You are now commissioned, to go out into the world and raise the dead, heal the sick and administer unto the needy and help the afflicted. I do not want you to continue to come to see the Father. I have given you the necessary inputs, go now and practise the gospel and perform miracles. My major assignment is not to come and heal the sick, pray for people, raise the dead and to do such like duties. You are the one who should perform such duties. As a Supernatural Teacher, I have taught you everything you need to know and have also demonstrated these teachings practically to you. This is the time for you to go out and do those things which I have taught you and demonstrated to you.

COUNT ALL THINGS BUT LOSS

Philipians: 3:8–9

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness, which is of God by faith”.

Our Lord Jesus Christ had only 3½ years of full-time ministry. But in my own case count from 1956 till date and see how many years that would be? I went to Biakpan last in 1955 and returned to Calabar in January 1956. Since then I have not gone to any place or engaged in any other activity other than to teach and demonstrate my teachings. Yet none of you is prepared to hearken to my teachings. What delights

me is that the world has come to know the real and true teaching of the Father. Even non-members of Brotherhood try to practise my teachings.

THE TRADITION/CULTURE OF BROTHERHOOD

The culture and tradition of Brotherhood is to love one another. Brotherhood has reached a point of maturity that you have to abide by its tenents. God has decried that whoever sins shall die, whoever indulges in any sinful act should know that he is already condemned.

GOD WANTS A THANKFUL HEART

God requires a grateful heart. For everything done to you He expects a reciprocation of that gesture. *Read II Cor. 9:6-7*

You can only deceive yourself and not God. If you give to God openmindedly, He also will give you in the same manner. But if you are tightfisted towards God's service, He will also behave in like manner with you. If you give Him your heart, He will equally give you His heart too. That is why it is said, 'it is blessed to give than to take.' After His care, guidance and protection towards us daily and throughout the pentecostal period, we have every cause to express our gratefulness to Him. He takes away your problems; gives you life, good health and the air you breathe. If you do not know that it is more blessed to give than to take it means you have not started Brotherhood. Also, if you do not know that to him who gives much, much will also be given to him. He who gives a little has same quantity will also be given to Him This can not be more true than in the case of Cain and Abel. Cain offered a very tiny yam unto God as sacrifice while Abel offered a very fat ram. God accepted Abel's offer and rejected Cain's. This kingdom does not accommodate misers, beggers and idle people. It is commanded that thou shall not feed the idle and thou shall not eat somebody's food for nought.

May peace and blessings abide with the entire world now and even forever more. Amen!

Thank You Our Most Gracious Father.