

FEATURES

FEATURES

GOD IS MAN



Brother Amadi E. Emery.

"For as much then as we are the offsprings of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver ... THE TIMES OF IGNORANCE GOD WINKED AT, but now commendeth all men to repent" (be wise)... "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge..." "There is no deeper death than ignorance." They Christians and non-Christians DO NOT KNOW THAT GOD IS MAN. They argue that GOD IS INVISIBLE BEING DWELLING IN HIGH HEAVENS - not on earth. CALLING A MAN, GOD, is to them an exemplary blasphemy worthy of death. And for this same reason the Jews wanted to kill our Lord Jesus Christ for saying that He is the Son of God. "Then, the Jews took up stones to stone Him. Jesus answered them: Many good works have I showed you from my Father; for which of these works do ye stone me? The Jews answered: For a good work we stone thee not, BUT FOR BLASPHEMY: AND BECAUSE THAT THOU BEING A MAN MAKETH THYSELF GOD" (John 10: 31 - 33). But these same Christians proclaim that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. They also pray: "Our FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN, hallowed be Thy name ..." The surprise is that these Christians DO NOT NOTICE THAT BY PROCLAIMING THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD, AND BY CALLING GOD "OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN" THEY AFFIRM THAT GOD IS MAN, because:-

(i) Our Lord Jesus Christ who is the Son of God IS A HUMAN BEING - A MAN - His virgin birth and other attributes not withstanding. He ate, drank, slept, wept, suffered, bled, died and was buried, and had flesh and blood like any other human being.

(ii) If our Lord Jesus Christ is a human being, then His Father also must be a human being. And since Jesus Christ is a human being AND THE SON OF GOD, THEREFORE, GOD MUST BE A HUMAN BEING ALSO TO BE HIS FATHER.

(iii) By calling God: "OUR FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN", we unconsciously acknowledge that

GOD IS A HUMAN BEING, otherwise, we will not call Him Father. IF WE HUMAN BEINGS CALL GOD OUR FATHER, then, it stands to reason that God also is a human being like us. Is a child different from the parents? Can we call a ghost, moon, star, Sun, or tree our father" IF GOD IS NOT A HUMAN BEING, THEN WE HUMANS CANNOT BE HIS CHILDREN. We are simply liars, deceiving ourselves by calling ourselves the children of God.

(iv) If God is different from us, then we would not call Him Father, and we would not be His children, because a child resembles the parents - AND LIKE BEGETS LIKE.

BITTER TRUTH

THE BITTER TRUTH IS THAT GOD IS MAN - whether you accept it or not. GOD IS MAN - but not just the ordinary, lying, mischievous, imperfect and sinful man found everywhere like any of us. GOD IS MAN OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY: A SUPER-MAN, PERFECT, SINLESS, HUMBLE, GRACIOUS. Human beings have to re-incarnate many times to develop and manifest the God-like qualities hidden in them. If we succeed, WE RETURN TO GOD AND REMAIN WITH HIM, AND WE DIE NO MORE. For, then, God makes us "PILLAR IN HIS TEMPLE, AND WE SHALL GO NO MORE OUT." which means "TO DIE NO MORE". Those who "GO OUT" die and re-incarnate. So, when we manifest the Godlike qualities, we return to God and we escape the vicious circle OF BIRTH - DEATH - REBIRTH. "Him that OVERCOMETH will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out ..." meaning Him that OVERCOMES and attains the Godlike qualities will remain forever with God, and he shall neither die nor re-incarnate any more. (Rev 3: 12). Some of the Godlike qualities we are to attain are; LOVE, PATIENCE, HUMILITY, MERCY, LONG-SUFFERING, FORGIVENESS, CHARITY, FAITH, EQUITY, HELPFULNESS, RIGHTEOUSNESS, TRUTH, etc. (Galatians 5: 22 - 24).

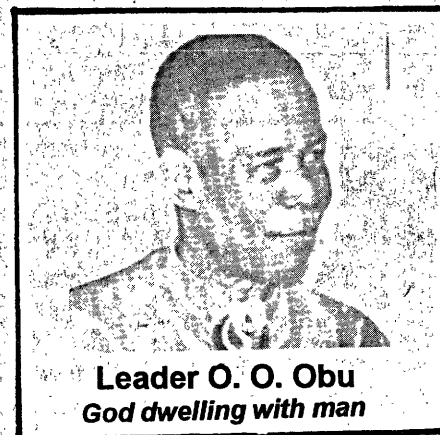
WHAT TO OVERCOME

What are we to overcome? We are here on Earth to OVERCOME (CONQUER) THE PHYSICAL BODY AND ITS PASSIONS AND APPETITES, and put it under the CONTROL OF THE SOUL - "THE INNER-MAN" (Galatians 5: 24). WE DO THIS BY OVERCOMING the 5 (five) senses of the body. These senses are (i) Sight (ii) Taste (iii) Hearing (iv) Smell (v) Feeling. These senses control the body AND OF-

TEN AROUSE PASSIONS AND APPETITES WHICH LEAD MANKIND ASTRAY. And until they are overcome and subjected to the soul, development of the Godlike qualities is elusive and salvation is uncertain. So, WE HAVE TO SUBDUCE THE PHYSICAL BODY AND ITS PASSIONS IN ORDER TO BE LIKE GOD. (Gal. 5: 16 - 17; Gal 2: 20)

(i) **Sight** : Sight sees a beautiful woman or girl or a handsome man and arouse THE PASSION for fornication or adultery. It sees wealth and arouses envy, the desire for wealth and money-grabbing ideas. It arouses the passion for BEAUTY AND MAKE-UP AND ITS HIDDEN AGENDA which often lead to sin.

(ii) **Taste**: This arouses THE TASTE AND APPETITE FOR "NICE FOOD" some of which we may be forbidden to eat - such as meat, milk, fish, eggs, drinks, or other things like smoking and snuffing. The tongue may HAVE A TASTE for boasting, harsh words, curses etc.



Leader O. O. Obu
God dwelling with man

(iii) **Hearing**: We could hear what angers us or puts fear into us. Fear and anger cause strife, hatred, segregation, wars, murder, idolatry.

(iv) **Smell**: This tells us of "nice foods" which may not be good for our body, but all the same, we want them. It detects a well-scented lady or man and arouses some passions.

(v) **Feeling**: This arouses the passion of joy or sorrow, which are strange to the soul. It arouses Superiority Complex, Inferiority Complex, Holier-than-thou attitude, segregation, discrimination, tribalism, attitude for "enjoyment", etc. (Galatians 5: 19 - 21; Colossians 3: 5 - 6)

WHY WE ARE ON EARTH

We should note that THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF LIFE HERE ON EARTH IS TO LEARN TO SUBDUCE THE PHYSICAL BODY AND ITS PASSIONS AND APPETITES, DEVELOP THE GODLIKE QUALITIES HIDDEN IN US, RETURN TO GOD AND ESCAPE THE CIRCLE

OF BIRTH - DEATH - RE-BIRTH- for then, our corruptible body has put on an incorruptible body, and our mortality has changed into immortality, AND DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY, AND WE DIE NO MORE. (1st Cor. 15: 53 - 54). When this happens, WE INHERIT THE EARTH as "a new Heaven and a new earth wherein righteousness dwells," and we shall reign on earth, WITH BIAKPAN AS THE NEW JERUSALEM - the holy city which came down from our God. (Rev. 5: 10) Then the tabernacle of God will be with men, and God will dwell with men, and we shall be His people, and He will be our God." Then God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. (Rev. 21: 3 - 4). Then shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings, and we shall grow like calves in our Father's Kingdom (Malachi 4: 2).

DON'T GLORIFY THE BODY

We are not here to glorify and adore the physical body (flesh) which IS A HOUSE AND A VESSEL FOR THE SOUL. If you adore the physical body and neglect the soul, you are like someone who went to see the king, and on reaching the king's palace the man was overwhelmed by the beauty and splendour of the palace. He spent his time admiring and adoring the palace, and after some time, he went home. Did that man accomplish his mission of seeing the king? Alas! (Galatians 5: 24).

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

Our Lord Jesus Christ came as a man and FOUGHT THE (7) SEVEN BATTLES AND WON THE (7) SEVEN VICTORIES, AND SUBDUED THE PHYSICAL BODY. Then He declared: "He who attains THE VICTORY OVER SELF IS THE SON OF GOD BY FAITH, and He who speaks to you (Jesus Christ) HAS OVERCOME, and He is called the Son of God, BECAUSE HE IS THE PATTERN FOR THE SONS OF MEN ... AS MAN, I have been subject to all the trials and temptations of the human race, BUT I HAVE OVERCOME THE FLESH, WITH ITS PASSIONS AND APPETITES. What I have done, all men can do... All men can gain power ... BUT THEY MUST CONQUER ALL THE PASSIONS OF THE LOWER SELF (physical body), and they can conquer IF THEY WILL ... THE SOUL IS DRAWN TO PERFECTION by four white seeds, and these are: "WILL, FAITH, HELPFULNESS AND LOVE" HE THAT OVERCOMETH SHALL INHERIT ALL THINGS, and I

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No Vacancy

will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

ONLY THE FATHER RULES

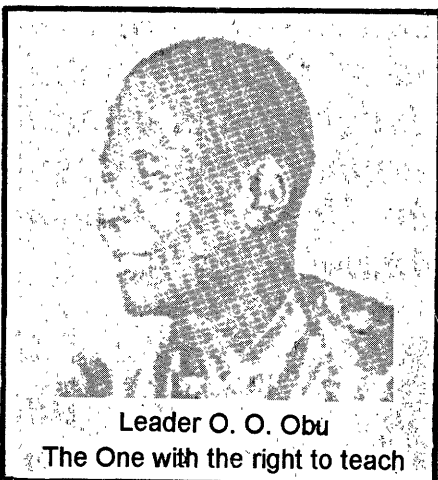
It is a pity that anybody who comes here is seeking to be served. You are saying that nobody has ever done anything for you and so on. But were you coming here to hire your labourers or for people to serve you? Our motto here is "Service unto Others" thus, we are all maids. So, if any of you came here to be made a Christ' Servant or Pastor, such a person is walking directly into hell.

There was a certain chief who got baptised into the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star but on hearing that song which says, "Everything that flies in the sky and moves on earth is under the rulership of Olumba" went back to his domain very angry. He quickly returned his membership card to the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star members in that village. He told them, "let the rulership of your Father stop at where he is ruling but as far as this my kingdom is concerned, he does not reign here. If it is because I have been baptised into his church, take your card." He dropped the card and left. But soon after he did that he was dethroned and even manhandled by his subjects. To his chagrin, before the new king mounted the throne, he rushed and got baptised into the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star and even requested the government to come and erect a Cathedral for Brotherhood in that town.

So, those who have problem in this kingdom are those who are contesting positions with the Father. They come here with their eyeballs removed from their sockets, wanting everybody to recognise them, fall down and worship them whereas those who enjoy in this Kingdom are those having a peaceful life. They are those who come and sit on the floor, not looking for any position nor contest for anything. They subject themselves completely to the power that be in this Kingdom. You find out that those who come here to look for position, are those who are always complaining and of course, do not last here.

You will also notice that some others who came here with their wives and children are often surprised that their children no longer call them father except the Father

here and their wives, no longer call them those sweet names but refer them to the Father. So, they begin to wonder if the Father was taking their wives away from them. They say, my children no longer recognise me. If that is the case, I have to abandon this church and go to another one. That is the problem the entire world is facing.



Leader O. O. Obu
The One with the right to teach

This is the time for everybody to accept His rulership for He has come personally, and whoever accepts Him will never have any problem. "In Nigeria, there is political problem, economic problem and social problems but these problems are not beyond God. He can stay right here and utter a word and another president is sworn in. He can say a word and there is economic boom, new oil discoveries, cash flow and everything will be well and the country will flow again with milk and honey. God is capable of doing all these but the provision is that every man must acknowledge His presence. It is not your place to struggle for position because the owner of the position has come. It is not your place to seek to be served because your servant has already come. He has come to serve you but the condition is for you to accept the rulership of He that has come.

WHY YOU ARE SAVED

You are not saved because of righteousness or anything whatsoever but because of the humility in you. Once you submit yourself to His rulership, your problems have ended.

How can you be a father when you cannot see? How can you be a father when there is no wisdom in you? Can you speak the simplest truth? Have you ever created somebody or can you offer any form of protection? Is there anything you can vividly explain its beginning? The one who is a Father is He who takes care of all our problems. He is the One who protects us. If you say you are a father, can you protect us or what in particular can you do?

Read Matthew 23: 8 - 12

"But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven. Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."

NO VACANCY

Have you heard that? This text vindicates our lecture. It is in fact, judgement. It is said, he who humbles himself, will be exalted but whosoever exalts himself shall be debased.

Which is the position you are looking for? There is no vacancy left for you to occupy now. The only remaining vacancy is that of a servant. Therefore, you have to serve others. Whosoever desires to be great in your midst, should be a servant. God is the teacher, He is the Father, He is the King. So, which position are you contesting for? We are only to serve Him day and night.

You that wants to teach, who made you a teacher. If you are actually a teacher, why have you not taught yourself? You want to be a Christ' Student, and a Christ' Servant, do you know that to be any of these requires steadfast adherence to the word of God? Which of the injunctions of God have you been able to practicalise? If Abraham, Moses and the rest of them could not claim to be anything, why must you claim to be one? God is the teacher, master and everything and there is no position left for any man to occupy. That is why you are advised to listen to Him alone, otherwise, you will be invariably making yourself His rival thereby exposing yourself to danger.

Read Luke 18: 9 - 14

"And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down

to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

DO NOT CRITICIZE

Brethren, to be victorious, you have to be submissive to Him. There is no other perfect being than He that is why you do not have to criticize or judge. You are here advised to do that which you can do and allow another man to do that which he can do while correction or judgement is for God.

Read Luke 18:17 - 19

Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

Having heard this, which position are you looking for? Have you not heard that there is only one perfect being? If He entrusts you with any position, He is doing that out of His grace. Whatever He declares to be good is good and perfect and whatever He has not so declared, you have no right whatsoever to declare

Therefore, wherever He keeps you, sit down humbly and worship Him, and then, everything will be well with you. But when you come aspiring to occupy His own position, you are negotiating with danger and you will definitely be at loggerheads with Him.

GOD ALONE ELECTS

I have taught you exhaustively on humility but you seem not to hear. You will say, I have been in Brotherhood for forty years, we started Brotherhood and so on. What has your claims got to do with keeping God's injunctions? Even if you are hundred years old in the Brotherhood, you still belong to Him because He created you. What happens to the furniture you keep in your house? Can they claim ownership of you? You are therefore, God's instruments.

If God does not teach you, you cannot comprehend. If He does not exalt you, you cannot exalt yourself. Anything He does not approve of, no man can approve. He is the only one to appoint you or elect you. If He does not elect you into His Kingdom, you cannot come in.

Read St. John 6: 44 - 45

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."

Thank You Father.

Welcome Papa

The entire family members of Pastor and Deaconess A. S. Usen with all the children of God in Afikpo Zone of the Brotherhood of the Cross and Star, hereby felicitate with the Almighty Father, and the God of Creation, Leader Olumba Olumba Obu on this auspicious visit of Her Holiness, Queen Ibum Olumba Olumba Obu to Anambra State.

Papa, without your manifestation on earth, by now, the whole world would have been in ruins.



We thank you because your arrival on earth is prompt, we are saved.

Leader Olumba Olumba Obu
The Sole Spiritual Head of the Universe

Holy Father, let your reign in Anambra State and the entire world be for ever and your light, an everlasting guide to all your children.

Welcome Papa.



Her Holiness Ibum O. Obu
The Holy Queen Mother

Pastor A. S. Usen
I.R. Afikpo Zone, BCS Ebonyi State

NEWS

NEWS

IKOT ABASI AREA EXECUTIVE CONSTITUTED

In compliance with the Father's directive, His Holiness, King Roland Obu has constituted the following Executive organs to pilot the affairs of the Ikot Abasi Area and its Zones as well as the Pentecostal Assembly Committee for 1998.

Those for the Area, Executive include, Elder Akpan David Etukafia - Area Leader's Representative - Elder Pius Akpan Essien - Deputy Area Rep. - Deaconess Etofia - Area Mother, Elder(Sister) Joyce John - Deputy Mother, Sister Ema Johnson - Secretary I Brother Effiong R. Nwa - Assistant Secretary with all the Ordained Ones and the Full-Time-Workers as Members of the Executive.

For the Ikot Abasi Zone One, the following Officers were appointed. They are, Pastor Udo Ekaette - Zone L/R, Elder (Sister) Joyce John - Deputy L/R, Elder Dominic - Chairman, Gen. Fellowship, Elder M. J.

Okure, Secretary Gen. Fellowship, Sister Comfort Etuk - Vice Chairman Gen. Fellowship, Elder (Sister) Ukonya - Mother - Elder (Sister) Udo Green, Assistant Mother, Brother Bassey Udo Ita - Assistant Secretary, Elder (Sister) Mary Udo - Treasurer, Elder (Sister) S. P. Akpan Financial Secretary, Elder (Brother) Obad O. Obed - Welfare Officer I, Elder (Brother) Etuk-Welfare Officer II and Elder U. S. Ndah - Executive member.

Also constituted was the Pentecostal Committee Members are; Elder Samuel Peter Akpan - Chairman, Brother Mfon Odungide, Brother Okon Bassey Ekpo - Co-chairman, Brother Mense - Vice - Chairman, Brother Ifiok Akpan - Secretary, Elder (Sister) Udo Ekaette - Financial Secretary - Elder Grace Udo - Treasurer, Elders Udo Green, William Aka, Elder Elijah Sunday - Members and Elder Akpan David Etukafia -

Executive member.

For Zone Two (Essene) The Executive members are; Brother Monday Ekpo Ukpe - Zonal L/R, Brother Akpan Warri Ufot - Deputy L/R, Brother Sylvester Ntuk - General Chairman, Elder (Brother) Joseph R. Nwa - Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Elder (Brother) Alloysius J. Ndah - Treasurer Brother Gordian Ekpo - Financial Secretary, Sister Adiahs Jackson Umoh Zonal Mother Bethel L/R (Male) - Elder Pius A. Essien Bethel L/R (Male), Sister Christiana Ukporo Bethel L/R (Female) with Sister Comfort Essien - Bethel Mother



Elder Akpan D. Etukafia Area L/R - Ikot Abasi.

The Essene Pentecostal Committee has Brother Lawrance Umo - Chairman, Elder (Brother) Sylvester Ntuk - Deputy, Brother Linus Udom - Secretary, Brother Joseph R. Nwa, Financial Secretary and Brother Alloy-sius J. Ndah - Treasurer.

Others are, Sisters Dada, Comfort Okon Udofia, Elder Pius Essien, Elder (Chief) I. A. Essien, Sister Comfort Essien and Brother U. B. Ufiak, -Ex-Officio membersw.

The Zone Three (Ete) has the following Executive members, namely, Leader's Rep. - Pastor C. M. Idem Udoh, Deputy L/R - Elder Ufot Ibanga, Zonal Mother - Sister Elder U. U. Ekpo, Zonal Chairman - Brother Udom E. Inyang, Zonal Secretary - Brother Isang Nana, Zonal Treasurer - Sister Etop C. M. Idemudoh, Financial Secretary - Sister Edima Udom and Bethel Leader's Rep. - Sister U. U. Ekpo.

Those in the Pentecostal Committee include: Pentecostal Chairman - Brother Udom E. Inyang, Secretary - Brother Isang Nana, Financial Secretary - Sister Edima Udom, Treasurer - Sister Etop C. M. Idemudoh.

The King expressed the hope that with these appointments, Ikot Abasi Area will unite to give the Holy Father the honour and the glory that He deserves for showing such mercy and love to them. He assured them of the Father's ability to perform.

Meanwhile, the Area L/R Elder Akpan David Etukafia has expressed gratitude to the Holy Father for the appointment. He promised to oblige to the expectations of his esteemed office.

Elder Etukafia disclosed that until his appointment as the Ikot Abasi L/R he had served as the Rumuigbo Bethel L/R for ten years. He therefore saw this appointment as a promotion.

Thank You Father.

REPORTS FROM BAYELSA

BY COG. GODDY II

Testimonies now abound in Bayelsa State following the wonderful works performed by the Children of God posted to that State. Many juju priests and herbalists have finally downed their paraphernalia to hearken to the Holy Spirit now on earth.

The wonders started in Amazuma Zone where a man who was feared dead was raised to life by the Father after prayer by a Child of God. On seeing this act of God, many idol worshippers went home to burn their shrines, juju and charms to follow after Brotherhood of the Cross and Star.

Also, in an open air service organized in that Area, persons who identified themselves as members of AMORC and Ogoni denounced their faiths along with some orthodox church Pastors and many other

souls. They accepted baptism after listening to the gospel and on witnessing the wonderful works of the Father.

Record shows that about five hundred and sixty-five converts were baptised during this brief ministry.

During this period too, brethren testified that their farms brought good yields, they enjoyed promotions in their offices and made profits in businesses. There are testimonies also to the re-establishment of Shell Oil Company in the Oporoma Zone and the attendant blessings such as the sinking of bore holes for water supply, establishment of hospitals, schools, construction of roads, and provision of electricity and other infrastructure.

Also in the chain of developments and geometrical growth of the Area was the dissolution and the election of new Executive into

office including the construction of a beautiful Cathedral by Elder Zebulun Abule.

The Chief of Toru - Ebein in Amassoma Zone thanked the Father for joining him and his divorced wife again after he had sworn that no man or angel would do that except the God Almighty.

I thank the Father for the brethren of Amassoma, Oporoma and Peremabri Zones for their generosity to me.

I also thank the Father in the Amassoma Zonal/Area L/R. - Apostle Y. A. Bariabebe for his active and tireless efforts in co-ordinating the Zone and Area.

My profound gratitude goes to the Father for the support by the King of kings towards the Welfare of the Children of God in their various stations.

Thank You Father.



COG Goddy Edem

Continued from P.4

AMBO SCHOOL CONT.

thanked the school authority for naming one of the houses after her. She pointed out that government was appreciative of the moral guidance given by religious organisations which she noted has helped immensely in tackling examination malpractices, holligalism and other vices in the society.

She acknowledged the contributions of the Headmaster of the school, Pastor B. J. Besong for inculcating the necessary standards and ideals in the pupils and for organising such a befitting occasion She appealed to the teachers and parents to support him for the general growth of the pupils and the school.

Earlier, the head of the school, Pastor B. J. Besong paid tribute to the guests who suspended their personal engagements to honour the invitation. He prayed the Almighty Father to continue to use the school to impart His teachings to the pupils, teachers and parents.

To grace the Anniversary was football match between the Junior boys and Senior girls which ended 2 - 1 in favour of the boys.

Other activities include, special song renditions by the school's choir, folk songs, drama presentations, match past, traditional dances, quiz competition, thread and needle games and the egg and spoon games.

In the overall result, the Ebenezer house emerged the overall winner and carted home the star prize.

The Parents Teachers Association Chairman, Chief Ekpo Eyo in his remarks thanked God for the successful anniversary and prayed Him to bless all the organisers, the pupils and guests.

The Chief commended the guests and invitees for gracing the occasion and prayed God's journey mercies for them.

Thank You Father.