



COMPASSION DIGEST

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF ALL CHRISTIANS FELLOWSHIP MISSION

THEME OF THE YEAR

GOD OF ALL IMPOSSIBILITIES

JEREMIAH 32:27 KJV

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES

FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH
Atmosphere of Worship
 ACFM Cathedral of Compassion

6AM

EVERY TUESDAY
Bible Studies
 Small Group Centres

6PM

EVERY THURSDAY
Help from Above
 ACFM Cathedral of Compassion

5PM

EVERY SUNDAY
Celebration Service
 ACFM Cathedral of Compassion

8AM

PASTOR IN CHARGE
Resident Pastor
 08033141485

MON - FRI

1 OUR VISION

To raise Christ-like disciples who would be agents of transformation in the world.

2 OUR MISSION

To bring people to Jesus and **membership** in his family, develop them to Christ-like **maturity**, equip them for their **ministry** in the Church and life **mission** in the world, in order to **magnify** God's name.

3 2023 MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; Is there anything too hard for me?"
JEREMIAH 32:27 KJV

4 OUR MOTTO

LOVE GOD AND LOVE PEOPLE.
 Life is all about love and developing relationship with God and with other people. Learning to love is life's most important lesson.
 Jesus called it **THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT.**

5 WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:18 LB

ANNOUNCEMENT

- 02** SUNDAY 2ND JULY, 2023
Mid-Year Thanksgiving Service
- 04** TUESDAY 4TH JULY, 2023
Bible Study
Manual: Extract from Issues of Life Volume 1
Topic: When the Odds are against You Part 2 Study 71
From the Beginning to end of "Tell God exactly how you feel."
Time: 6:00pm (Or as agreed by the various centers).
Venue: ACFM Cathedral of Compassion.
- 06** THURSDAY 6TH JULY, 2023
HELP FROM ABOVE is
- Prayer and Fasting day for the entire church.
- A Healing, Miracle and Deliverance service
- An outreach programme (reaching unsaved people for Christ and reaching out to other people who are hurting and are in need). Please invite your neighbours, friends, colleagues and unbelievers.
Time: 5:00pm.
Venue: ACFM Cathedral of Compassion.
- 08** SATURDAY 8TH JULY, 2023
Faithfulness group, Sanitation Group B and the Youth Fellowship (All Tribes)
- 15** SATURDAY 15TH JULY, 2023
Joining of Holy Matrimony Between Sis. Esther Toyin Olugbemi & Bro. Omoyeni Bamidele Favour
Date: 15th July, 2023
Time: 10am
Venue: ACFM Cathedral of Compassion

*Joining of Holy Matrimony Between Sis. Princess Gaza & Bro. Chijioke Iloabuchi
Date: 15th July, 2023
Time: 10am
Venue: ACFM Cathedral of Compassion
- 29** SATURDAY 29TH JULY, 2023
ACFM Women Retreat comes up
Date: 29th July 2023.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father,
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
 As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me! A-MEN.

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 Join with all nature in manifold witness
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

JULY

ACCOUNTS

TITHES & OFFERING
 ZENITH BANK
 ACFM MAITAMA
 1010516655

KINGDOM BUILDERS CLUB 1000
 GUARANTY TRUST BANK
 ACFM MAITAMA
 0215507515

TV ACCOUNT
 ACCESS BANK
 ACFM TV
 0088076679

PROJECT
 ZENITH BANK
 ACFM MAITAMA
 1012662178

GLOBAL MISSIONS - GIVERS
 FIRST BANK
 ACFM MAITAMA
 2031750510

RADIO ACCOUNT
 ACCESS BANK
 ACFM RADIO
 0075709935



A PUBLICATION OF ALL CHRISTIANS FELLOWSHIP MISSION

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ENRICH YOUR LIFE SPIRITUALLY with balanced and inspiring messages by Rev. Dr. William Okoye and other Ministers. Visit the Church's AUDIO VISUAL DEPARTMENT or call +2348033327841 to place your order.



FOLLOW OUR WEEKLY RADIO PROGRAMME aired on

Kapital FM 92.9 - Sundays 6:30AM
Wazobia FM 99.5 - Saturdays 2:00PM

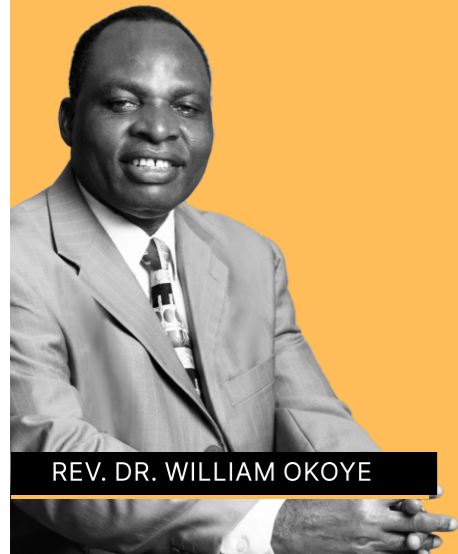


TUNE IN TO OUR WEEKLY TV BROADCAST aired on Wazobia Max Channel 259 (DSTV) Sundays 2:00PM



@acfmonline

LIVESTREAM on our Online Channels Sundays 9:00AM



REV. DR. WILLIAM OKOYE

THE CRISIS OF DRUG ABUSE: WHAT CAN THE CHURCH DO?

MATTHEW 13: 25

DR. DOKUN ADEDEJI

NOTES

We can look to the NDLA, NAFDAC and other regulatory agencies for guidance but the church must also take action to combat the menace of drug abuse. There is no hope if the church does not act, for only God can save us. The church has been dormant for far too long. We wrongly believe the church is distinct from us. The Bible says we are in this world but not of it. It's encouraging to see the church finally waking up to the reality of substance abuse.

Don't think that drug addicts reside in car parks. They live in our homes. Don't believe other people's children committed the heinous crimes you have heard about; they could have been committed by our own. Today's drug dens have men and women who are our husbands and wives, as well as youngsters who are our children.

The book of **Matthew 13: 25** says, "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way" [KJV]. In essence, while men were outside doing all manner of ills, the church slept, believing that the menace only affected the outside world. I can tell you for certain that people use drugs even in the church. **Hosea 4: 6a** says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" [NKJV]. The problem here however is a lack of application rather than a lack of knowledge. The knowledge is there but do you know what we do to ourselves: we block the knowledge with spirituality. Spirituality will not change what's happening; it can only help you face it.

I'd like you to ponder on the following questions: How much do you know about drug abuse? Unfortunately, the majority of us are unaware of this menace because we believe it only affects others. But that is not always the case; sometimes it happens right in front of our eyes and we are unaware. The second question is: do you think that Nigeria has a drug problem? Yes, we do and it's huge. You can assume, "Oh, my child isn't a drug user; this doesn't bother me." But here's why you should be concerned: Did you know that your domestic staff or family members might be drug users? These are the folks who introduce drugs to our children. These substances can now be acquired without even leaving the house. This is a moment to be cautious. Let us quit sleeping on this menace and wake up as Christ's soldiers. Finally, do you believe your family is protected from the dangers of drug and substance abuse? No! Your children attend the same school as others who take these drugs. Your youngster may be exposed to users of these illegal substances in some way. This is why we cannot afford to be careless, but must instead be vigilant.

What is Drug?

A Drug is a chemical substance which when taken affects the body and mind. It changes how the body functions and often times the behaviour of the user. It is the improper or illegal use of drug, taken in

excessive doses without any medical reason that amounts to abuse.

Drug Abuse Occurs:

- When the use of drug is not medically necessary [prescription drugs]
- When its use is legally prohibited [illicit drugs]
- When it is excessively used [alcohol/ cigarettes]

These substances have been reformed in such a way that they are no longer easily detectable. According to research, the issue is not the amount you take but the fact that you take it at all. You cannot be a Christian and have a bar in your home. Who utilizes the bar, one would wonder? It will also expose your children to the dangers of alcoholism.

What is Addiction?

- Drug Addiction is a progressive, primary, chronic disease characterized by compulsive behavior such as loss of control over drug induced behavior, how much drug to use, when to use it and inability to stop using it.
- It simply means that the individual can no longer function without these drugs.
- It's a road to nowhere.

We've struggled with dealing with addicts over the years because we try to approach it as a criminal act and stigmatize and discriminate against victims. We shall lose the battle if we do not address addiction as it is. The church must adequately combat this threat. This morning's awareness must not be limited to just this morning. It must be something we repeat frequently from the altar so that people are aware. We can lessen demand by raising people's awareness in general. It is not a lack of will or poverty that drives people to use drugs; this is not the case. Anyone can use drugs without realizing it, so be aware of your surroundings.

Some Established Facts:

The UNODC performed a survey on the prevalence of drug usage in 2017. They released the research in 2018 and the findings are terrifying. They discovered:

- Global prevalence rate of drug use - 5.6%
- Nigeria 14.4%
- This translates to 14.3 million people between the ages of 15 and 64.
- Also 1 in 4 people who abuse drugs in Nigeria is a female
- Drug use was most common among those between the ages of 25 and 39.
- Drug use prevalence rate was highest in the South-West geo-political zone of Nigeria.

Geo - Political Zones breakdown:

- South-West - 22.4%
- South-South - 16.6%
- South-East - 13.8%
- North-East - 13.6%

- North-West - 12.0%
- North-Central - 10.0%
- Lagos State has the highest rate of use in Nigeria - 33%
- Ekiti - 11.9%

Types of Commonly Used Drugs:

This has been classified into 4 categories:

1. Socially acceptable drugs - Alcohol and Cigarettes. Cigarettes contain stimulants and substance that can cause cancer.
2. Illicit drugs - Marijuana, Skunk, Heroin, Cocaine, etc.
3. Prescription drugs - Codeine - containing cough syrups, Tramadol, Rohypnol, Amphetamines Benzodiazepines: The reason we should be concerned about these prescription drugs is that we use them in hospitals in doses of no more than 50mg, while the ones sold on the streets start at 225 mg and one of the adverse effects is epileptic fits. Young individuals, to improve their sexual performance, use it in schools. These medications can also be slipped into a woman's drink before she is raped, etc. Miscellaneous - inhalants like - Methylated spirit, Nail polish remover, Pit latrine, Glue, Petrol
4. Naturally occurring substances - Zakami seed, Gegemu.

Why do People do Drugs?

We need to know why people do drugs because in knowing would help us to understand and approve our dealing with it:

- Experimentation
- Dysfunctional family situation
- Escape from "reality"
- Availability and affordability
- To fit in with friends or certain groups
- Ignorance and frustration

Some Telltale Signs of Drug Abuse:

- Red and rheumy eyes

"The problem here however is a lack of application rather than a lack of knowledge. The knowledge is there but do you know what we do to ourselves: we block the knowledge with spirituality. Spirituality will not change what's happening; it can only help you face it."

- Use of strong menthol sweets or perfumes
- Poor school performance and truancy
- Seeking to be alone
- Frequent change of friends
- Loss of interest in surroundings or activities
- Looking unkempt
- Wearing dark glasses even within the house

Negative Implications of Drug Abuse:

- Damage to the Brain, Lungs and Liver
- Suppression of Desire for Food and Sleep
- High Risk of Contracting infections like Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS & other Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- Mood Swings. Anxiety/ Depression
- Aggressiveness/Violence and Destructive Tendencies
- Memory Loss/Psychosis and Paranoia/ Impaired Judgment
- Political Thuggery
- Hired killings/Cultism/Theft and Crime

What Can the Church Do? The church must:

- Make drugs and other social problems, altar issues
- Set apart a special worship day for open discussions of these social issues
- Proper monitoring/guidance of the Youth Church
- Encourage the youth to set their own agenda in their activities
- Set up a Counseling Unit: These must be people or someone they can relate with who has empathy, compassion and who can keep confidence.
- Monitor and manage various vendors selling their wares around the church
- Set up a rehabilitation center or support an existing facility
- Actively discourage stigma and discrimination against victims and families: The greatest stigma unfortunately is in the church. Why should this happen? It is the church that can help the society to deal with stigma and discrimination.
- Offer support to victims and families.

CONCLUSION:

There is no doubt anymore that our country has a huge drug problem. The time for denial is past and neither is this the time to treat this growing scourge with our usual benign neglect. **THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW.** Every hand must be on deck to confront this creeping monster trying to swallow and destroy our children and our youths. We can **TOGETHER** deal with this scourge as a people - either as individuals or in various groups or as a nation.

• DR. DOKUN ADEDEJI IS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CHRIST AGAINST DRUG ABUSE MINISTRY.

ACFM MAITAMA LOCAL CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

- DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP ELD. EDWARD AMUPITAN
- ASST. DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP PST. ANDREW OMALE
- DIRECTOR OF FELLOWSHIP ELD. FESTUS UZUAKPUNDU
- ASS. DIRECTOR OF FELLOWSHIP DCN. MICHEAL JONAH
- DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP ELD. OLALEKAN TOLUHI
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