

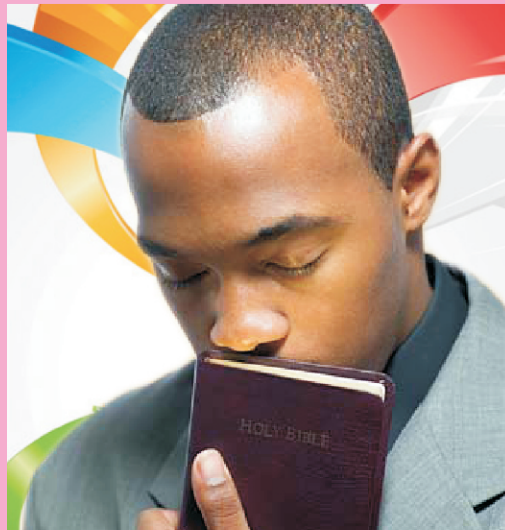


REFOCUSING Summit 2013



It bothers any serious minded and biblical Christian to see what is portrayed or presented as Christianity these days. The scenario is just like what was recorded in Ezra 3 when few of the people of God that went into captivity as a result of their sins returned and laid the foundation of a new temple. We should not forget that, the old temple had been destroyed by the enemies of God as part of the consequences of the sins of the people of God. When the new foundation was laid, people shouted with a great shout of joy. But many old priests and heads of clans and families who saw the old temple wept with a loud voice when this new foundation was laid. In fact, people who heard them could not differentiate between the shout of rejoicing of the younger people and that of weeping of the older people. The question one would immediately ask is why were the old people weeping when the younger ones were happy? The answer is not hard to get; I think it is simply because the old people saw that the new temple judging by its foundation would not be like the old one in terms of size, glamour, glory and beauty. Today, everyone who is well vast in the spirit would see that what Christian youth of today rejoice about

as Christianity is far from true Christianity. The older and spiritual men and women weep over what Christian youth of this century celebrate. They weep because of two things: one, the end of it is disastrous and secondly, the infant generation and the unborn generation are in big trouble if Christ tarries longer and nothing drastic is done. This article would briefly shed light on what today's Christianity is all about and what true Christianity is.



TRUE CHRISTIANITY

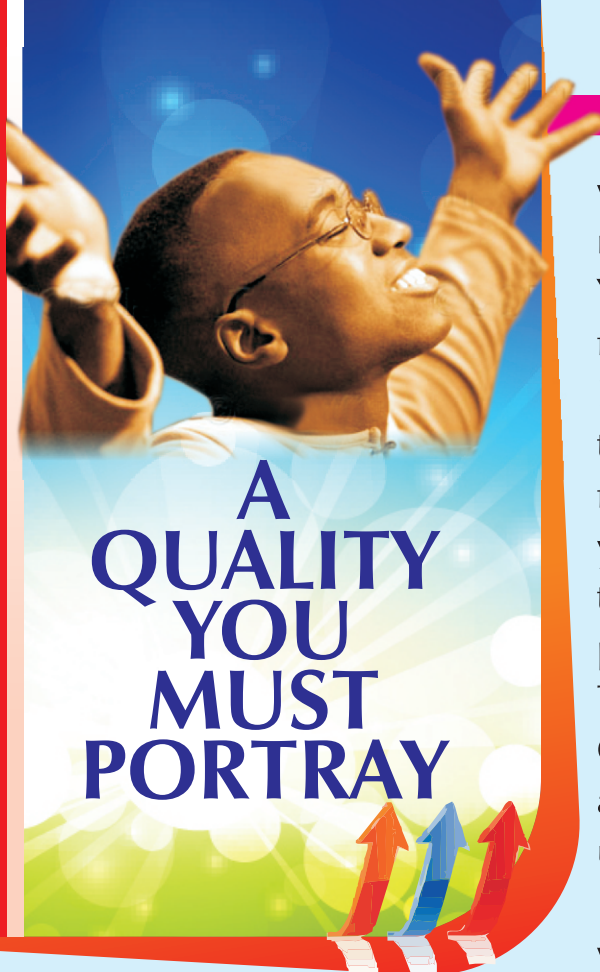
1. Today's Christianity invites sinners to come and fellowship with the church on Sundays and week days, while true Christianity commands every saved saint to go into the world and preach the gospel to the sinners and whoever believes should be baptized and properly disciple.
2. Today's Christianity talks about gradual process of salvation. It ranks sins as part of the challenges of life which sinner will be delivered from over time. But true Christianity tells a sinner to repent of his sins at once and be converted that his sins may be blotted out and believe in the once and for all work of salvation Christ did on the cross.

3. Today's Christianity does not emphasize genuine personal encounter with Christ. True Christianity emphasizes a genuine personal encounter with Christ at salvation.
4. Today's Christianity measures spiritual progress and success with size or quantity while true Christianity does not care about size or quantity but about quality of life in Christ Jesus.
5. Today's Christianity demands active participation in Christian activities (services) at the expense of Christian life. This is why many so called Christians are very busy for God but would be guilty and unacceptable before that same God at the end. But true Christianity says: our persons (lives) must first be approved of God before taking up any service for Him.
6. Today's Christianity does not see anything wrong in going back to the world system to borrow some things and adapt some others into church settings and this has made the church to gradually look like an identical twin of the world. For example, the world system is built around tittles, status, hierarchy, superiority just to mention but a few and today's Christianity follow suit. True Christianity emphasizes a sharp distinction between the church and the world. It continually echoes: love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, if anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him. True Christianity says there are Christian songs, dressings and ways of organizing ceremonies e.t.c
7. Today's Christianity is laying emphasis on self esteem; trying to wake the ego (Adamic nature) up in every man. But true Christianity says self (ego or adamic nature) must be crucified with Christ. Today's Christianity presents a Christianity that is devoid of cross and death to self.
8. Today's Christianity does not preach soundly from the bible any longer, though it carries bible and reads it. Its messages are just mere motivation of the flesh and ego. It talks about Christian psychology more than what the bible says. It takes most of its messages from the world's celebrities. True Christianity is anchored on the totality and finality of the word of God. Its messages are purely from the word of God, knowing well that man shall not live by bread alone but by EVERY WORD that proceeds out of the mouth of God. The word of God is the final.
9. Today's Christianity places experience before the principles set by God and controls the latter with the former. True Christianity places the principles over experience and uses principle to control experience.
10. Today's Christianity preaches Christian life without suffering. It says once you are a child of God, you cannot suffer again. But true Christianity says both blessing and suffering are part of Christian life. Christ suffered in the flesh and we should prepare our minds as well to suffer with Him.

In conclusion, today's Christianity is fulfilling a prophesy concerning the end time that many will depart from "the faith" which is the embodiment of truth of the word of God. Dear youth of God, it is high time you changed your focus from today's Christianity and be ready to be a true Christian and practice true Christianity.

REFERENCES: (Mark 16:15-16; Mat. 1:21; Acts 3:19; Rom. 6:14; Jhn 3:6; Jhn 3:3; IICor. 10:12 Ps 49:6-7; IITim. 3:2; Luke 12:16-21; Mat. 6:19-20; Mat. 7:21-23; Jhn 2:15-17; James 4:4; ICor. 7:31b; IPet. 3:3-4; Gal. 2:20; 5:24; 6:14; Mat. 4:4; Heb. 4:12; IITim. 1:8; 4:5; Jhn 16:33; Acts 5:41; Rom. 8:18; Phil. 1:29; IITim. 3:1-5)

FORGIVENESS



FORGIVENESS – A QUALITY YOU MUST PORTRAY

was jailed. It was from the prison that God remembered him and took him to palace. Yet, he did not curse his brothers; he found a place in his heart to forgive them. Please be sincere to yourself, can you do this? May I tell you this that if your heart is full of grudge, malice and unforgiveness, you can never go far. Therefore, you need to change your mind today, do not postpone it because it may be too late.

The second man is David, “A MAN AFTER GOD'S HEART”. 1 Sam. 26:1-12 talked about how Saul sought to kill David, but unfortunately, while Saul was sleeping, David and Abishai saw him and Abishai wanted to kill Saul but what happened? In verse 9 “But David said to Abishai, don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the LORD's anointed and be guiltless”? Please, tell me, what you would do if you were David. Some people will say “thank God, my enemy has fallen into my trap, glory be to God”. In fact, some people, if they see evil befallen their enemy they will say 'I know, yes, I know God will fight for me, it is what he sowed that he reaped’. Unnn! If you are still thinking like this, brethren, your salvation needs to be questioned. Please watch and be careful.

Conclusively, Philippians 4v8 says finally my brethren, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, and whatever is admirable. If anything is excellent or praise worthy, think about such things.

Peace!

Timilehin Alade

Do you find it difficult to forgive people when you are being upset? Is it really true that people forgive and forget when they're hurt or offended? Do we even have some people in the scripture that one can emulate? Please, calm down because all these questions will be answered. Let's look at two great men in the scripture who proved that forgiveness is possible, by his grace.

The first man is found in Gen 45 vs 1-28, but the main verse I want us to study or ponder on is verse 15 which says “And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterwards his brothers talked with him? We all know the story of Joseph, how he used to go and check his brothers on the field, give them food and share his dreams with them. Despite all these, they hated him, sold him and lied to their father that he was dead. He was also lied against by his master's (Potiphar's) wife and at the end he

GROWING KNOWLEDGE HIM

IN
THE

of



“that God will give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints is, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe,” Eph:1:17-19.

Have you known the hope of His calling? Have you known his inheritance in the saint and the glory of that inheritance? Oh! Have you known the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe? II Pet. 1:5-10 says, “... giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge...” Thank God for virtue (the quality of being morally good or righteous) which you have added to your faith. But in order not to be blind or shortsighted or unfruitful, you cannot jump knowledge and add others to your faith. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.

Know ye not that to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; you must be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding? (Read Col. 1:9-10). Know ye not that the new man that ye receive can only be renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him? (Read Col. 3:10).

Jesus Christ says, “and this is LIFE ETERNAL, that they might KNOW thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John. 17:3. So, Paul in chapter three of his letter to the Philippians expressed his earnest desire to know Him. Having known Him, he longed to know Him. Having known the hope of his calling, (for he said “Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery,” Eph. 3:7-9) he pressed toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, he wanted to apprehend that for which also he was apprehended of Christ Jesus. And so, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus (his) Lord: ... he suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that (he) may win Christ.

And having known the Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance Eph:1:14, for he was made an able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life 2 Cor. 3:6, yet he continued to, with an open face behold as in a glass the glory of the Lord, and he is being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the

Lord. II Cor. 3:18.

Having known the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe; the power which God wrought in Christ, when He raised him from the dead, (for his speech and preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That (their) faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 1 Cor. 2:5). He wanted to know the power of his resurrection, and if by any means attain unto the resurrection of the dead. So, he saw himself not as though he had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after. He counted not himself to have apprehended: but this one thing he did, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, he pressed toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Why would you not be like Paul “and mark them which walk so as ye have 'Paul' for an ensample” and “be followers of God as dear children” not a complacent Christian, who know and desire not to know more? Children that called themselves youth, youth that say they are old and of age. People who claim to have word but know not THE WORD Himself. They measure themselves with themselves and feel big. Though, proclaiming the wish to know, but no diligence to know. Many even gave diligence to theories, as Jesus said “ye search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life” John 5:39. They are Pharisees that know where Jesus will be born without checking their books, but they know not Jesus that was born.

Jesus said, “I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods (knowledge), and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE, AND REPENT” Rev. 3:15-19. For “Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth Hos. 6:3. “Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you”.

- Toyin E. Bolarinwa



Looking unto Jesus

II Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us. and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." - Hebrews 12: 1-2.

One good approach to achieving excellence in life is to have a role model. Role models are those who possess the qualities that we would like to have and those who have affected us in a way that makes us want to be better people. Social workers told us that man learns much more through observation and imitation. This may be more frequent in the early stages of life and development. Most world-record breakers have attributed their celebrated success to what they imitated and learnt from their role models. This is all because, as they say it, "Heroes are made, not born." It is therefore not a bad idea; it is in fact a good one to have a standard of whom and what one would like to become by looking unto a "perfect" example of such. So, you may, ask yourself, "who is my role model?"

Incidentally, the Bible affirms positive role modeling and followership as a good way of life. Jesus said "Come... and learn of me". Paul also hinted the Church "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ". Elders are admonished to be good examples to the flock, while members in the churches are admonished to follow the leaders by examples. This is a very serious thing for the Church to consider! Where are those the younger ones should follow in the things of God? Do we have enough of them around? There, really, is no shortage of bad examples of leaders in the Christendom. They abound! But who and where are the good ones to follow? Younger generation of Christians should even be more concerned about this unfolding scenario.

We do have good examples of leaders to follow. They are themselves good followers of the Lord. Like Christ, they seek not after their own interest but after the things of God. They love not their own lives after the example they imitate from their Master, and are ready to die for the will of God. We shall always have such good examples of believers in every generation. When we know them, they are worthy of our attention one way or another. There are various lessons to learn in their lives. One is good in one thing and the other is better in another. We can bear names after them to show that we admire them.

However, these believers who stand out for God are there, "for or against" us, as a cloud of witnesses. The witnesses are so many that we are "compassed about with them" like spectators, who are champions already, in an amphitheatre. As we run the race that is set before us, they remind us of how to run without excuse. No one will truly be able to say "This is too much for me. I can't bear it" We would have known, all along, that our ordeals of life are common. We all are "like all other men, like some other people, like no other person." Whichever way each one views his/her experience, it is a common phenomenon. We should not say "this is unique with me" as an excuse to fail. We should rather see whatever uniqueness we have, good or bad, as an opportunity to do well and say, like Jesus, "but for this cause came I unto this hour".

Something is interesting about the passage of the quotation above. It is the way the writer directed the focus of his message to Jesus. He suddenly and perfectly changed his topic from the many heroes of

faith (those from whom we could learn great lessons) to just one person all of us must take our cue from. So we have here the one only object of Christian contemplation - Jesus! The point is we can only follow the examples of other believers, who are doing or have done exploits for God, as long as they conform to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, no matter how much we cherish and like them. Jesus is the perfect example - the author and finisher of our faith! Nobody should catch our attention and affection as much as Jesus. In other words, each time we observe and imitate the way other believers live(d), we must ask "is this what Jesus also would do or say"? Though we copy and imitate people we admire, we should not do this overboard. This is Christian *modus operandi*. Whoever our leaders are, they must help us further to look unto Jesus. They should not be our distractions.

We shall be better Christians if we make it our practice to look unto Jesus in all things. We must firmly fix our eyes on Jesus. The moment we begin to turn away, we will begin to sink. Remember Peter's case: "And he said, come. And Peter went down from the boat, and walked upon the waters to come to Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried out, saying, Lord, save me." Matt. 14; 29-30. It is the author and finisher of our faith - Who begins it in us, carries it on, and perfects it. We dare not stop looking unto Him!

Another issue about looking unto Jesus is what to see in Jesus. What is it that should most fascinate us all about Jesus? As we look unto Jesus, there is something God wants us to see far more than any other thing. Something that is common to all that have come to God through Jesus. Something everyone must copy perfectly in Him. Yes, it is good to look unto Jesus so that we can pray like he prayed. We can look unto Jesus so that we would teach and cast out demons like he did. But those qualities, we cannot imitate perfectly; for we receive them by measures (Compare Romans 12: 3 and John 3: 34). But we can be exactly like Him in one thing - "who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame..." That is it! That is what we all should be looking unto Jesus to observe and imitate. That is where all champions of faith had it in common with Christ and followed suit. They all endured the cross and despised the shame. The cross has its pain and shame. They endured both!

Believers of old copied and followed Jesus in carrying the cross; they patiently and willingly endured the pain and despised the shame annexed thereto. It is the price all Christian exellers must pay for the joy that is set before them! Jesus said "Whosoever would not carry his cross cannot be His disciple." - Luke 14: 27. This is why and how we are to look unto Jesus - carrying the cross like He did. We should continue to sing with our lives and not stop:

" On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown"

Stephen A. Abimbola



Fashion means the activity or business that involves styles of clothes and people's appearance. It has been noted that fashion changes all the time. In this regard, how should a Christian view it?

Why do we put on clothes? Is it not to cover our nakedness? It is a pity that, most Christian youths expose the sensitive parts of their body in the name of fashion. As a true Christian, you do not need anyone to police the kind of clothes you wear, but the question is – why do you put on what you wear? The interior motive for dressing the way you do dress matters. Some Christian sisters do wear their new dresses in order to be noticed by people or to attract opposite sex. Some Christian brothers do sag (they do pull down their trousers while walking) in order to fuel their sinful act of fornication.

Nowadays, it is very hard to differentiate some Christian sisters from professional harlots. Indeed, you have liberty in Christ, but that should not make you to allow Devil to use you as an instrument of confusion in the household of God or as someone who makes men to nurture sinful thought.

Dressing shabbily or extravagantly does not approve you to be a true Christian. God has called you to a life of modesty and simplicity (... modesty in all) whereby the fashion system of this world makes no meaning to you; and will not be strong enough to make you shift your ground; "...for the fashion of this world passes away" 1 Cor 7: 31. "Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world..." Rom 12: 2. Following the trend of fashion or vogue will only make you to be covetous and this can lead you to all kinds of sin. As a child of God, this is a malady you need to be careful of. 1 Peter 3:3-4 says "Don't be concerned about the outward beauty that depends on fancy hairstyles, expensive jewellery, or beautiful clothes. You should be known for the beauty that comes from within, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God" You should dress to cover yourself and when people see you, they will glorify God. It is a thing of disgrace for you as a true Christian to expose your nakedness. Please watch your motive!

Esther O. AKINADE

VACANCY

“Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send? And who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me”.

The quotation above is taken from the book of Isaiah chapter six verse eight. God was looking for someone he would send to his backsliding people; nation of Israel. He created man with volition; in this case, he would not force His will or what he wanted to do on any one. He would rather seek for a man after His own heart who will willingly accept the would-be-task, hence, the notice “...whom shall I send? And who will go for us?”

In time and space, God has used so many people to take the gospel of Christ to where it has not been named and yet He is still seeking for a willing and committed brother or sister with great passion for the lost that he will commission and empower for the end time harvest.

“... Who will go for us?” Who is ready to leave his or her comfort zone;

not minding the consequence and lay his or her live on the altar of salvation of the lost souls.

“The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few...Luke 10: 2” The lord of harvest needs people who will go for Him and not for self interest or denomination propaganda.

Reference to a publication by Herald of His coming; Vol. 70 No 9 (837) pg 10, 11, citing Luis Bush; a Christian missionary strategist, there is a region that needs our attention rather than places where “Christians” have populated. Total population of about 3.6 billion; 60% of the world population dwells in this region called 10/40 window (a vast rectangular section of the globe stretching from 10 degrees south to 40 degrees north latitude). The region is noted for its stubborn resistance to the gospel of Jesus Christ, hence called “the resistance belt”. Persecution, corruption, lawlessness, terrorism and world religions characterized the region.

COUNTRY	POPULATION	EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN %	DOMINANT RELIGION	PERSECUTION RANKING
North Korea	22,757,275	1	Non-religious	1st
Iran	76,923,300	1	Shia Islam	2nd
Afghanistan	29,121,286	0.2	Sunni Islam	3rd
Saudi Arabia	25,731,776	0.3	Sunni Islam	4th
Somalia	10,112,453	1		5th
Maldives	395,650	0.1	Sunni Islam	6th
Yemen	23,495,361	1	Sunni Islam	7th
Iraq	29,671,605	0.2	Shia Islam	8th
Uzbekistan	27,865,738	0.3	Sunni Islam	9th
Laos	6,365,162	2.6	Buddhism	10th
Pakistan	184,404,791	0.6	Sunni Islam	11th
Eritrea	5,792,984	2.1	Sunni Islam	12th
Mauritania	3,205,060	1	Islam	13th
Bhutan	699,847	0.3	Buddhism	14th
Turkmenistan	4,940,916	<1	Sunni Islam	15th
China	1,330,141,295	6	Non-religious	16th
Qatar	840,926	1	Sunni Islam	17th
Vietnam	89,571,130	1.8	Buddhism	18th
Egypt	80,471,869	3.9	Sunni Islam	19th
Algeria	34,586,184	0.1	Islam	22nd
Nigeria	152,217,341	30.8	Christianity	23rd
Israel	7,353,985	0.4	Judaism	

More in the list are : India, Sudan, Kuwait, Bangladesh, Japan, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Thailand, Niger, Kyrgyzstan, Burkinafaso, Mali, Azerbaijan, Benin, Indonesia, Western Sahara, Nepal, United Arab, Albania, Morocco, Tajikistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Djibouti, Taiwan, Bahrain, Brunei, Lebanon, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Chad, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Kazakhstan, Tunisia, Cambodia, Turkey, Jordan, Syria, Tibet, Mongolia, The Gambia, East Timor, Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Paul apostle says in Act 20:24 “... My life worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus; the work of teaching others the good news about God's wonderful kindness and love” (NLT). What is dear to your life? Seeking the lost ones or good career...There is a general task assigned every believer to do; a great commission for all and sundry in Christ Jesus; this is the work of reconciling the sinners to God through His one and only begotten son-

Jesus Christ. Are you seeking convenience or willing and ready to say like Isaiah of the bible “Lord, here am I; send me?” then, you are qualify to apply and God will give you nations as your inheritance, and uttermost parts of the earth as your possession. Psalms 2:8. Don't forget, God deserves the prime of your life for His use.

NOTE: There are three ways of going:

1. Going as a missionary if you are so called of God.
2. Using your money and material wealth to support those that are going.
3. Praying for those who go, where they go and everyone involved in their going.

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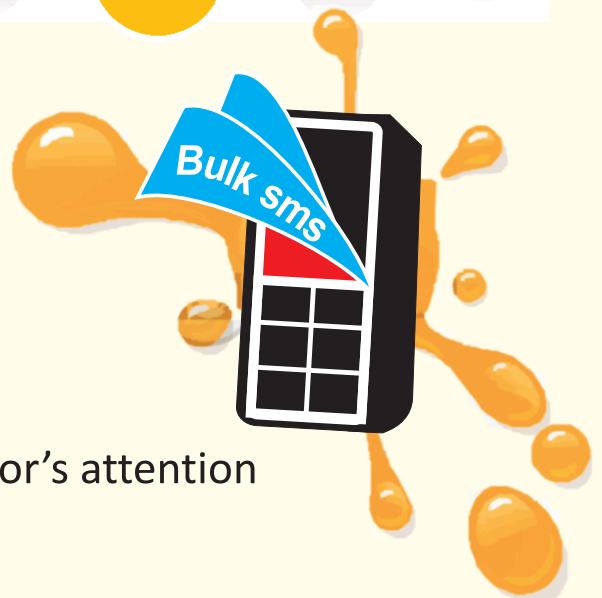
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