



WEAKENED BY WOUNDS, STRENGTHENED BY GRACE: TIMELESS LESSONS ON CRITICISM

[ABOVE]: The President/Vice chancellor of Babcock University - Pastor (Prof) Ademola S. Tayo, on the 19th of July 2025 preaching a spirit-filled and powerful sermon in the Pioneer Church of Babcock University where he drew attention to the story of King David's experience with Shimei, a Benjamite and distant relative of King Saul (2 Samuel 16:5-14). It offered valuable lessons on responding to criticism especially as leaders.

It was a call to remain humble, prayerful and hopeful amidst our trials as well as to understand the power of silence over angry retaliation in the face of provocation.

We are all called to:

1. Take our devotional life seriously
2. Soak ourselves in the gospel to overcome criticisms.
3. Rely on God's grace to make things right while trusting Him.

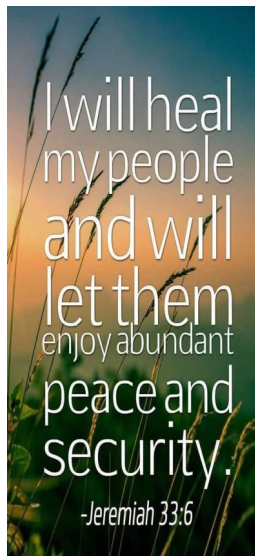


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The pictures in this issue were obtained courtesy of Pastors Joseph and Emereonye.

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- Excellence
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- Servant Leadership,
- Team Spirit
- Autonomy & Responsibility
- Adventist Heritage

IN THIS ISSUE

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| • Editor's Reflections | 3 |
| • University Pastor's Palette | 4 |
| • COF On A Mission for Christ | 6 |
| • Testimony In the Spirit of the Lord | 8 |
| • Contact BU Spiritual Life | 10 |

EDITOR'S REFLECTIONS

An interesting story is related in 2 Chronicles chapter 25 about a prince named Amaziah who became a King at the age of 25 and reigned for 29 years. The scriptures record Jehoaddin from Jerusalem as his mother. Verse two of that same chapter says he did what was pleasing to the Lord but did it reluctantly.

Another prince named Joash became king at a very young age. In fact, he is on record as the youngest king to ever reign in Judah. Verse two of 2 Chronicles chapter 24 says Joash did what was pleasing to the lord as long as Jehoiada the priest was alive.

We see another interesting story of another king who reigned in Judah in chapter 27 of the same book. Jotham became king after 25 years and ruled in Jerusalem for 16 years. "He did what was pleasing to the Lord, just as his father done; but unlike his father he did not sin by burning incense in the Temple" (2 Chro 27:2).

These illustrations are meant for me to check my life and stop to ask myself how my relationship with God really is. Do I serve God for my own selfish reasons?



Do I serve with a perfect heart or are there conditions attached to my service for God? Are there situations that if they become non-existent today my relationship with God will follow suit?

As we ponder on these things and read through this July issue, it is my earnest prayer that we will serve consistently, genuinely and faithfully and be encouraged to live for God every moment of our lives.

Thank you, dear reader, for being consistent. God bless you immensely.

- Faith Onitayo

UNIVERSITY PASTOR'S PALETTE

Let's be honest. Do we really want to please God all the time? You know the answer better than anyone else. Deep down, we long to hear Him say, "Well done." Everyone enjoys a pat on the back, a gesture of approval and praise. But with so many voices pulling at us—social media, culture, deadlines, and even our own self-doubt—it can be hard to know what a life that truly pleases God looks like today.

It's reassuring to know that God is not waiting for us to be perfect before we can please Him. Neither is He watching for us to slip so He can punish us. What He wants is a heart that leans toward Him, a life that says, "Lord, I trust You," even when things don't make sense.

Hebrews 11:6 gives us a solid foundation: "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." Faith is all about honest trust. When we believe that God is real, present, and good, and choose to live like it, we bring joy to His heart. Abraham did just that. He wasn't perfect, but he believed God's promises, and that was enough to please Him.

In our achievement-focused world, it's easy to think God is impressed by our spiritual accomplishments such as titles, good deeds, or how many Bible verses we can quote. But God is not hiring workers. He is inviting sons and daughters into relationship. He wants your attention more than your activity. From that relationship flows something beautiful: obedience. Not forced or fearful, but born of love. When we love God, obeying Him doesn't feel like a heavy burden. It becomes our joyful response. It means choosing honesty even when lying



Pastor (Prof) Efe M. Ehioghae

seems easier, forgiving when it's hard, and holding to His values when the world pulls the other way.

We also face the subtle pull of people-pleasing. The need for approval can shape our choices more than we realize. Whether it's chasing likes online or applause in real life, we often drift from our convictions to fit in. But Paul reminds us in Galatians

1:10: "If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ." Pleasing God may not always win us popularity, but it brings us peace. When God becomes our audience, we stop performing and start living with purpose and confidence.

The life that really makes heaven smile is a fruitful one, not just successful by the world's standards but spiritually productive. That might mean showing kindness when others are rude, holding onto peace in chaos, or choosing joy when things go wrong. Colossians 1:10 tells us to "live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work."



PLEASING GOD

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UNIVERSITY PASTOR'S PALETTE

Gratitude ties it all together, not the surface kind that thanks God for the weekend, but deep, daily thankfulness that says, "Lord, I trust You here too." Worship isn't just about singing; it's in how we speak, give, serve, endure, and treat people. A grateful heart pleases God because it reflects faith, humility, and trust. Pleasing God is about surrender, more and deeper. It's living with open hands, a soft heart, and the courage to say, "God, I'm Yours. Lead me."

So instead of asking, "Am I doing enough?" try this simple prayer: "Lord, how can I please You today?" That one question, when asked from the heart, could change your day and your life.

QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven.

Everything in our world is in agitation.... Only a moment of time, as it were, yet remains.

Ellen White

So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

Isaiah 59:19

CHRIST OUR FOUNDATION CHAPEL ON A MISSION FOR CHRIST



The Christ Our Foundation (COF) Chapel of the Babcock University (Iperu campus) visited an orphanage on the 14th of March, 2025 to share the light and love of Jesus with the children living there through gifts of food stuff, toiletries, books and money. Led by Pastor Emereonye, students and the COF chapel leadership teamed up to carry out the mandate of God as stated in Psalms 82:3 & 4 - "Vindicate the weak and fatherless; Do justice and maintain the rights of the afflicted and destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; Rescue them from the hand of the wicked." (AMP)

CHRIST OUR FOUNDATION CHAPEL ON A MISSION FOR CHRIST



"The students were in high spirit as they sang and talked with us using sign language. The joy of the teachers, especially the Head Teacher knew no bounds as they continued to praise God and thank us for the wonderful visit. According to one of the teachers, the children have only speech and hearing disorders and should not be viewed as problematic or less than human." - Pastor Ndubuisi Emereonye (Senior Pastor, COF)



TESTIMONY CHAPEL IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD



On Sunday, the 20th of July, 2025, students and staff - members of Testimony Chapel on the main campus of Babcock University visited the Blessed Assurance Orphanage in Ikenne-Remo Ogun state, Nigeria bringing foodstuff and toiletries, many wonderful gift items; joy, laughter and encouragement to the young residents of the establishment.

TESTIMONY CHAPEL IN THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD



Feedback from BU students who participated in the project:

- A laudable Exercise
- Contributed to personal spiritual growth
- The kind of program they would love to experience again

To Make Contact & Be Part of Mission In BU ...

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