

MINISTRY NEEDS & PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. THOSE TO SERVE AS VOLUNTEERS & MISSIONARIES:

Kindly pray about the following positions and skills needed in the ministry in Boynton Beach Florida.

Part Time Volunteers:

- Office Manager
 - Accountant – 8 hours per month
 - Computer & website technical assistance 6 hrs. per month
 - Graphics – newsletter, video, website displays
 - Ministry development – joining Pastor Liberty in representing AICM at conferences, churches, etc.
 - Prayer warriors - to make monthly calls to AICM partners and to pray with them from home.
- AICM Office Boynton Beach, Florida**
\$800.00 monthly for rent & other expenses

2. OTHER NEEDS:

- A. Orphanage Building project/food**
- Monthly budget of \$2,500 for food, medical and payroll
 - Pray for 40 other orphans that needs support at \$20 monthly.
- B. Fellowship of Christian Churches of Africa International (FECCA)**
- Monthly subsidy of \$100 for FECCA office in Monrovia
 - \$250 per month for a one-hour weekly radio program. This will enable the Gospel to reach every city in Liberia.

C. AICM Scholarship Program

- To sponsor one Student only costs \$50 per semester. Presently, 100 students need sponsorship through AICM for academic year 2008-2009. If you sponsor a student, the student name will be given to you so that you can communicate with him or her through this office.
- Scholarship in our Divinity school is \$600 per year or \$50 monthly

D. Pastors Support program

- A monthly gift of only \$40 will enable an indigenous pastor to reach his community with the Gospel.

E. Christian High School in Liberia, West Africa

- 8 computers to start the High School computer training program
- 3 Scanners
- 300 Bibles at \$5.00 each for the High School weekly chapel services

F. AICM Office in Monrovia, Liberia

- Monthly subsidy \$150,
- One camcorder,
- Two digital cameras
- One computer
- One Scanner
- One Fax Machine

THANK YOU...

The Board of Trustees and Administration of Africa International Christian Mission, Inc. thank all its partners and friends. They are very excited for all your payers and financial support. Because of you:

- The first phase of Koko Children's Village construction project in Liberia is in progress, almost to completion;
- Many pastors are being sponsored monthly and are evangelizing their homeland;
- Administrative cost for the smooth operation of AICM is being met yearly;
- Pastors and other church workers are being trained in Liberia and are preaching the Word of God with boldness; and
- AICM scholarship for the needed children is blessing many families in Liberia, Africa.

AICM exists to serve humanity. We seek your constant prayers for this mission as we are, together, reaching the world for Jesus Christ. Some of you have been very generous; words are inadequate to express our thanks and appreciation for your partnership with us.

AFRICA INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSION, INC.

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AFRICA INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN MISSION, INC

Mission Statement: Assisting Christian Churches to implement the Great Commission by ministering to the total man.

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CHRISTIAN WORSHIP: ITS OBJECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT

by R. Zarwulugbo Liberty, President AICM



I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in a Church (in the 60s) that condemned the use of musical instruments in Worship. The clapping of hands were allowed modestly. Even the lifting up of hands in praising God during worship were rejected and termed *mere emotionalism*. The Church (Mid-Baptist Church) believes in the inerrancy of Scripture and that the Bible has the final authority in all matters of life. However, the *dark-spot* of this Church is their erroneous concept about worship. Dr. Lincoln Brownell, President of Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary mentioned in one of his lectures, how the Providence Baptist Church in Liberia almost split for introducing the use of Piano/Organ in worship. He came across this fascinating story in his research while writing the history of the Church. Shockingly, I once visited a Church in Africa where the very musical instruments used for the "African Country Devil" were played during their worship service.

Worship is a controversial issue within the Body of Christ. Owing to the differences in the style and objective of worship, every liturgy is prepared to fit a denominational or Church specific doctrinal need/tradition. Moreover, other (independent) churches frown on the use of liturgy or Church Bulletin in worship. Some believe that the centrality of worship is evangelism; others think it is for the sole purpose of fellowship with God and with one another. Accordingly, liturgy is prepared with whatever mind-set a Church believes about worship. However, I am convinced that the center of *Christian worship* is the *preaching/teaching of the word of God*. As I analyzed the development of each element of worship from the Old to the New Testaments, I came to the conclusion that worship is a solemn duty of all men. We are a worshipping community created in the image of God. This worshipping community started in the Garden of Eden with Adam and his wife, Eve. I would like to propose for our reasoning that: *Christian Worship is rooted in the genuine disposition of one's heart before God*.

Our study of worship is divided into three major parts. Part I deals with the definition of worship. In order to do justice to the definition, I did a word study on worship, tracing it etymologically, as well as semantically. However, I chose to do

a summary type discussion in this study, categorized per major section. Several definitions of worship were considered from other authors as well as my own definition, which will be used as a working definition for this study. Part II discusses the Biblical foundation of worship and traces its theology from the Old through the New Testaments. Part III focuses on Worship in the Twenty-first Century. In this final section I discussed the key elements of worship and concluded that the standard of worship is the disposition of one's heart. Thus, some appropriate principles and suggestions are presented (1) to help us avoid the constant worship wars within the Body of Christ, and (2) to guide us as we prepare to worship God in the beauty of His holiness.

I. Definition

Definition is essential in the use of a word because equivocation is inevitable in the absence of a clear meaning of a word in any argument. What I intend to do in this section is to briefly trace the development of "worship," and its semantic range. First, we shall study its definition in Judaism. Second, we shall also focus on the meaning of worship in the early Church up to the Twenty-first Century, including my definition and a profound argument in defense of my position.

Worship: Its development and Semantic Range

According to an *Online Etymology Dictionary* the English word "worship" derives from the Old English and semantically means: "condition of being worthy, honor, renown, 'from weord 'worthy.' Sense of 'reverence paid to a supernatural or divine being' is first recorded c. 1300. The original sense is preserved in the title *worshipful*. The verb is recorded from c. 1200."

The definition of worship now does not refer to deities and honor to renowned people or those who are in leadership positions alone. Generally, worship has a direct reference to God. Also, its attitude and activity is designed to recognize and describe the worth of a person or thing to which the homage is addressed. However, worship, in this study, relates to God and the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The Term: Worship in Judaism

Worship in Judaism is defined as: *homage to a supernatural being who is the Creator of all things*. Yahweh is the God of the Hebrews who elected them, not that they were righteous, but it was God's divine choice. In his book, *Enter His Courts with Praise: Old Testament Worship for the New Testament Church*, Andrew E. Hill says that the Hebrew term **שָׁחָה** (*shachah*) is used "172 times in the

Authorized Version translation and means bow, bow down, obeisance, reverence and to fall down in the worship of Yahweh. The literal meaning of the verbal root of shachah is the act of falling down and groveling or even wallowing on the ground before royalty..." (Hill, 6).

The patriarchs knew the meaning of worship as defined above and they walked with God in obedience to His will. Noah worshipped God and made sacrifices to Him (Gen.8:20). Abraham was also called by God to leave his hometown, Ur of the Chaldeas to the Promised Land, Canaan. I concur with Walter A. Elwell, General Editor of *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, vol. 2 J-z* who observes thus: "Throughout the biblical period listening to God's Word, prayer, and sacrifice constituted the essence of worship" (Elwell, 2164). A man once said, "Worship is a private act with two parts: "seeing what God is worth and giving him what he's worth."

Worship was much more organized when Israel became a nation under the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Though, on many occasions, Israel sinned against their God by paying homage to other gods; some of them repented and continued to worship the God of their fathers. The object of Old Testament Worship was the God of all Creation (Gen. 1:1-2), the God of Covenant Revelation (Gen. 12:1-3), and the God of Redemptive act in history (Exod. 20:2-3). This God, Yahweh, merits the worship and devotion of the Hebrews both for who He is and for what He does.

The Term: Worship in the Early Church to Present

The definition of worship from the early Church to present is a continuity of the Hebrews' concept/meaning of worship. The Hebrew word *shachah* has a New Testament equivalent verb *proskuneo*, both basically have the sense of bowing down, to literally prostrate oneself. To the early Church and to this day, worship means to bow down and give honor to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The early Christians were Jews. They worshipped in the temple, trusted in the God and in the Lord Jesus Christ, who descended from the line of David. The Jews share similar beliefs with the Christians. But the major distinction between Christianity and Judaism is the Lordship of Christ. Christians believe in *Christ* as the *Creator of heaven and earth* (John 1:1). Thus, He is worthy of our honor – to bow down in worship and to serve him in all things.

A. W. Tozer calls worship "the moral imperative of human beings..." (Hill, xviii). Biblically speaking, man is unable to worship God faithfully without the Lord doing it through him. John Huxtable (quoted by Hill) defines worship as "a dialogue between God and his people" (Hill, xix).

In spite of the above definitions, I would like to argue that: *Worship is being in the presence of God.* Scripture supports this definition. The Bible begins with the following firm declaration: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). He created all things and also planted the Garden of Eden – a *paradise on earth*. Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Gen. 1:26). "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the

breath of life; and man became a living soul" (Gen. 2:7). God also gave Adam a wife, Eve. She was made from the bone (rib) of her husband. And God placed this wonderful couple to *be in His presence continually*, that is, to be a worshipping family/community. Adam becomes God's steward for His creation. I believe when Adam and Eve were in that Garden, they honored, God by bowing down to Him and praised Him for who He is. Notice that: being in the presence of God brings joy, wisdom, direction and other spiritual phenomena that cannot be explained in human terms.

The enemy of worship is sin. Adam and Eve committed sin by placing their loyalty/faith and honor in another god, the Serpent. When they disobeyed God as an act of their will, they left His presence and hid themselves. When God, at the cool of the day, came to them as usual, they had already deserted their duty. "Adam, where are you?" This question does not mean God did not know where they were, but He wanted them to know where they had placed themselves!

The purpose of our redemptive history is for man to return to the Garden of Eden - in the presence of God. The sin of pride and of disobedience resulted to man's expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Adam did not lose the concept of worship but it was distorted by sin. This is the whole objective of the redemptive work of Christ.

To be continued in October / November issue.



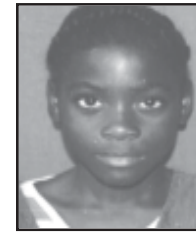
Words are inadequate to express our thanks and appreciation to God for His wonderful blessings upon us. We wish to inform our partners and friends about what God is doing for the Orphans in Liberia. The Missions arm of Sanibel Community Church donated \$9, 634 for Koko Children's Village building project. Additionally, Victory Worship Center contributed \$500 and Calvary Chapel Boynton Beach sent us a gift of \$500 to enable the children move to their Center – Praise God!

Also, a week after the board meeting (held on May 16th), Esther and I went to worship with Victory Worship Center to thank them for hosting the board meeting. During the service the Lord Laid on Pastor Colby's heart and a special offering was lifted for the orphanage. A total gift of \$664 was raised and sent to help out with the children's needs.

Pray with us as we continue to work hard for the completion of this project. Hopefully the project will be completed by this Month (August). Accordingly, we thank all our partners and

friends for helping out prayerfully and financially towards the building of the first phase of Koko Children's Village project.

We praise God for Miatta Musa and Mayama Korgular for their Natal Days in this month. We wish you success and may God richly bless you all in Jesus' precious name.



Miatta Musa was born on August 2, 1995 in Sierra Leone; her parents were killed by strayed bullets during the war in Liberia. She was brought to the orphanage by Mother Mabee. Miatta is being sponsored by Eugene & Evelyn Spencer. Happy Birthday Miatta, Jesus loves you so do we.



Mayama Korgular was born on August 28, 1996. The whereabouts of her parents is unknown; she was brought to the orphanage by Mr. Harris, a Red Cross Worker. She is being sponsored by Victoria T. Bernstein. Happy Birthday Mayama, Jesus loves you so do we.

CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL



From right to left is the School Prefect and his code of officers

The administration of Christian High School, a ministry of AICM, is preparing for its 7th graduation. The Vice Principal for Administration, Mrs. Mai McCrosby says that the exact date of the graduation will be announced later when the Ministry of Education, Republic of Liberia, releases the West African Examinations Council's (WAEC) results any time this month. (The objective of WAEC is to harmonize and standardize pre-university assessment procedures in the West African sub-region, which comprises of 16 countries.) "We are very sure that the 120 students, from Christian High School, that sat for the exam will come out with flying colors. If you can record, in 2006, our School took the first place in the exam in Liberia, we are praying to have that honor again this year," Mrs. McCrosby confidently concluded.

Meanwhile, preparation is being made for the opening of school for the academic years 2008-2009 beginning September 1st.

PRAY FOR ME...



Pastor Liberty second in from right.

As I mentioned in the June Newsletter, I have been accepted at Knox Theological Seminary in the Doctor of Ministry program – pray for me. I attended my first seminar last month - July 7-11 and from the 14-18. Two courses were offered – Apologetics and Christian Classics & the Busy Pastor. The Apologetics seminar was taught by Dr. Wynn W. Kenyon, Professor of Biblical Studies and Philosophy; Chair of the Philosophy Department and Division of Ministry and Human Services at Belhaven College in Miami, Florida and Dr. Michael A. G. Haykin, Professor of Church History and Biblical Spirituality at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Louisville, Kentucky. I was truly blessed just by sitting at the feet of these experts in their respective disciplines.

Pray for me regarding my tuition. I am expecting a miracle from God and would get back to you soon. The Lord provided 70 percent scholarship for my Master of Divinity degree. I am confident that He will do the same for my doctorate.

The above photo was taken during the seminar.

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING USED CLOTHING FOR AFRICA

Do you know that what you really don't need in your garage could be used to bless others? This ministry is supporting 450 orphans in Liberia, West Africa. One of our fundraisers is "Yardsale/Flea Market." Whatever you may have, be it babies, children, men and women clothing, sneakers, bed sheets, shoes, radio, TVs, toys of all kinds, furniture and household utensils will surely be a blessing to the needy orphans in Liberia. On the other hand, we would like to note, that we need gifts that other people can use.

If you would like to have a tax deductible receipt, please let us know and we will give it to you.

Deliver your donation/gift to:

420 SE 4th Street, Apt A
Boynton Beach, Florida 33435

If you need direction, please call us at: 561-577-3725. However, if you have more stuff, give us a call so that we will make an arrangement to pick up your donation.