

called the Sardis Church to order, He is calling you and me to order too. Would you listen?

As Christ holds the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the Church too must have the full measure of the Holy Spirit and individual that make up the Church must be filled by the Holy Spirit.

As the stars shine and bring light, the Church must shine and bring light to its community (world) and this is possible only if individual shines and bring light to their neighbours.

God is not only in a number game but more importantly, in the quality of life of each individual. The two must go together. He is not interested in the hollowness of worship and life but in a sincere, deep and convicted life of love, grace, mercy and giving.

What sort of Church is Harringay United-Baptist and what sort of Christian am I? Wake up; the groom will soon come let Him meet us alive and not dead.

This may mean that all people's names have been written in the book of life but on their death, if some people did not repent and come to Christ then their names will be erased from the book of life.

What does this mean to us today?

A living church is not the number, not the music, not the oratory of the pastor (Premier has a good name for them, Motivating speakers) but the one who obeys God's command, who shows love, grace and influencing their community. The Church who is not after money but character and holiness, but a Church that is filled with the full measure of the Spirit of God and acts it out by the fruit of the Spirit.

Nims Obunge said yesterday at Logos Hope that 'it is high time pastors get out of the number game'. We measure ourselves with ourselves by our standards. He said that next time anyone asks you how many people are in your congregation; tell him or her 'just under 50,000'. We know that 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 people are under 50,000.

Do not get me wrong. I am not excusing bad sermons and presentation of the Gospel neither do I condone bad songs, worship and doing things haphazardly.

A pastor must be faithful, hard working, listening to God and do his/her best to present the Gospel in undiluted way and leave the rest to the Holy Spirit. The pastor must work so hard as if the success solely depends on his message but pray and believe that nothing happens without the anointing of the Holy Spirit. If the pastors do this, every Christian must follow suit.

Conclusion:

Not all that glitters are gold. Face and beauty could be deceptive. Proverbs 31:30 "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

The Church is the bride of Christ and her lively worship, good music and motivational speech may be deceptive and fleeting, but a church that fears God, obeys God, do God's will and honours God will be pleasing to God.

No aspects of Church's life must stagnate; we must be changing for the better all the time

In one of the Redeem's Church of God worship service with about 50,000 in attendance, God spoke to its overseer Enoch Adeboye that only 50 out of the 50000 are true worshippers. That is frightening and calls for concern. As Jesus

HARRINGAY UNITED CHURCH-BAPTIST
SUNDAY 14TH JUNE 2009

What sort of Church are we, dead?

Revelation 3:1-6

Theme: Lively Church may not be lively at all

Location: Sardis is located 50 miles East of Ephesus and 30 miles Southeast of Thyatira on a plateau of about 1500 feet above the ground level. It is also a military post because of its location on a plateau.

Industry/Commerce: Jewellery, dye and woollen clothing

Religion: worship of Artemis,

Christ Description:

One who holds the seven spirits of God and seven stars?

What is seven spirits means – complete and fullness of the Holy Spirit

Seven stars – the angles of the 7 churches, which some people think, are the pastors of those Churches. I believe that each church has a guardian angel who is the ministering Spirits of God for each church and of course for each believer who constitute the Church.

The message:

Noted for being lively – active, living, reproducing and thriving but dead – no spiritual life, fakeness, masking, masquerading and deception.

Rebuke:

Wake up! Revive your souls; otherwise, what is left will die too. The Church's deed is not complete in God's sight. Although the Church may look OK to people but to God, it is not.

Commendation:

Not all the members are dead, some are still righteous and alive and they have not been stained but they will be clothed in white meaning with righteousness and found blameless before God

Promise:

Who overcomes will be clothed in white as the righteous ones. Christ will not erase their names from the book of life and confess them before His Father.