



**Pastor Adeboye at 80
His Ministry, Mission and Nationbuilding**

Lead Authors:

**Mr Martins
Oloja**

Affiliation:

Managing
Director/
Editor in
Chief
The
Guardian
Newspaper
Limited
Lagos

Public Lecture delivered by

Mr Martins Oloja
Managing Director/ Editor in Chief
The Guardian Newspaper Limited Lagos

Introduction

Thank you for challenging me to explore the issue of our Daddy G.O's Mission, Ministry and Nation Building as the significant man of God clocks 80. He clocked 80 years on March 2, this year. I used the word 'significant' deliberately in this opening paragraph to describe Daddy G.O because it is a word I have never been tired of borrowing from the brilliance of another man of God, Rick Warren who wrote a classic of which the publisher sold more than 30 million copies from the first few months of releasing the book, The Purpose Driven Life. The book actually sets the tone for how to separate prominence from significance. I believe that the world is still celebrating the life and times of Daddy G.O not only because he has clocked 80 as a prominent man of God. According to Pastor Warren of Saddleback Church in California, there are some people in this world who are prominent but they are not significant just as there are some people who are significant but who may not be prominent, after all. But the author of another related book, The Purpose-Driven Church reveals in the book that God the Almighty isn't seeking prominent people. He is dependent on significant people who will remake the world for His Kingdom.





I believe in Nigeria, there is a sense in which we can proudly claim that the General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye is being celebrated because of his clear and credible significance. What's more, we can even claim that the man other G.Os in the household of faith respect is both prominent and significant. That was why in the week he clocked 80 in my Sunday column in *The Guardian* on Sunday, I described him as 'God's Humble General'@ 80'. I had then put my opening paragraph thus: 'If Pastor Rick Warren, author of that un-put-down-able classic *'The Purpose Driven Life'*, were to write a tribute on the man of God fondly called 'Daddy G.O', Enoch Adejare Adeboye @ 80, he would have described the man as both a prominent and significant man (of God)....' It is important for us to deconstruct the Minister of God's Mission and Ministry from contextualisation of Mission and Ministry in the Household of Faith. Let's simplify it this way:

Your church mission statement is why you exist. Your vision statement is where you're going. Getting the two mixed up will lead to confusion for decision-making and for people who follow. Your vision should compel people to join and participate in your pilgrimage

WHAT EXACTLY IS A CHURCH MISSION?

Your vision is different from your mission. Your mission should be closely tied to the Great Commission: making disciples, baptizing and teaching. Your vision is what the mission will look like when it is lived out in your church and your community. It is the desired change, or the end result. But it's more than the business world's "picture of a preferable future." Your vision, according to Rick Warren, is your faith-dream for your church.

The basic function of the church is to be involved in every facet of the life of the believer. Holding true to this mission. Here is the thing, our Christ looked at the needs of the people, provided it, and then began to preach out the good deeds. The church must live up to its true billing meeting the needs of the people.

Let's look at it in another way: a Christian mission is an organised effort to spread Christianity to new converts. Missions involve sending individuals and groups across boundaries, most commonly geographical boundaries, to carry on evangelism or other activities, such as educational or hospital work. Sometimes individuals are sent and are called missionaries. When groups are sent, they are often called mission teams and they make mission trips. There are a few different kinds of mission trips: short-term, long-term, relational and those that simply help people in need. Some people choose to dedicate their whole lives to mission. Missionaries preach the Christian faith (and sometimes to administer sacraments), and provide humanitarian aid. Christian doctrines (such as the "Doctrine of Love"



professed by many missions) permit the provision of aid without requiring religious conversion.

Let's look at some authorities on mission and its benefits and challenges: The summary of the whole matter here is that "The mission of the church, according to Matthew 28:19-20, is to make disciples, and that includes evangelism as well as other functions."

— Aubrey Malphurs, *New Kind of Church, A: Understanding Models of Ministry for the 21st Century*

"Where Churches Are at Fault Churches are too slow to change their methods. Churches have failed to take advantage of their opportunities. Churches don't value evangelism. Churches aren't recruiting gifted leaders."

— Aubrey Malphurs, *New Kind of Church, A: Understanding Models of Ministry for the 21st Century*

"But in reality, according to an article in *Christianity Today*, 80 percent of the churches in America that are growing are experiencing transfer growth, not conversion growth. They're merely "reshuffling the Christian deck."

— Aubrey Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*

"Good assessment is built on what I refer to as the 3Ds. The first D stands for design or divine design. The second D is for direction or divine direction, and the third for development. I believe this is the proper order and approach to determine what God would have us do in terms of ministry."

— Aubrey Malphurs, *Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting, The: A Guide for Starting Any Kind of Church*

"First, the potential church planter must discover his divine design,"

— Aubrey Malphurs, *Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting, The: A Guide for Starting Any Kind of Church*.

"After a person has discovered his divine design, it will lead to God's direction for his life."

— Aubrey Malphurs, *Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting, The: A Guide for Starting Any Kind of Church*

"if God has given us certain gifts, we are to use them for his service and glory."

– Aubrey Malphurs, *Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting, The: A Guide for Starting Any Kind of Church*

“When a person knows the direction he is to go in, the next step is to pursue the third D, development. He must determine how he will develop his gifts.”

– Aubrey Malphurs, *Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting, The: A Guide for Starting Any Kind of Church*

“a spiritual gift as a unique, God-given ability for service.”

– Aubrey Malphurs, *Nuts and Bolts of Church Planting, The: A Guide for Starting Any Kind of Church*

MINISTRY (OF CHRIST)

In Christianity, Ministry is an activity carried out by Christians to express or spread their faith, the prototype being the Great Commission. The Encyclopedia of Christianity defines it as "carrying forth Christ's mission in the world", indicating that it is "conferred on each Christian in baptism." It is performed by most Christians. This is distinguished from the "Office of Minister", to which specific individuals who feel a certain vocation. It can signify this activity as a whole, or specific activities, or organizations within a church dedicated to specific activities. Some ministries are identified formally as such, and some are not; some ministry is directed towards members of the church, and some towards non-members. See also Apostolates.

FOREIGN MINISTRY TOO

Many churches sponsor ministries designed to reach out to others on a local and global scale, usually grouped under the heading of Missions. There are many organisations, which perform missions on a fully funded and organised level.

However, some Christian churches and ministries have evolved to take on a larger role in the community service and global outreach programs. Community service ministries may include a "soup kitchen", homeless ministry, crisis centre, food pantry, senior visitation programme, new parent support or a number of other specialised ministries. These specialised ministries can include formal or informal approaches to intentionally interacting with others, encouraging, counseling, and providing relational care to them.

If activities such as these are held at a church but are not organised primarily by its members and do not contain religious overtones, the activity would better be classified as church reordering, (restructuring) rather than ministry



In Christianity, a minister is a person authorised by a church or other faith-based organisation to perform functions such as teaching of beliefs; leading services such as weddings, baptisms or funerals; or otherwise providing spiritual guidance to the community. The term is taken from Latin minister. (Wikipedia). What have all these mission and ministerial functions of Daddy G.O got to do with 'Nation Building'?

WHAT IS NATION BUILDING ANYWAY?

Nation-building can be seen as a process of constructing or structuring a national identity using the state power which aim at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run. United States and Israel have consistently and persistently pursued the new nation building designed to integrate their people.

'Nation-building' is constructing a national identity using the power of the state. The concept aims at the unification of the people within the state so that it remains politically stable and viable in the long run.

Nation building is a normative concept that means different things to different people. The latest conceptualisation is essentially that nation-building programs are those in which dysfunctional or unstable or "failed states" or economies are given assistance in the development of governmental infrastructure, civil society, dispute resolution mechanisms, as well as economic assistance to increase stability. Nation building generally assumes that someone or something is doing the building intentionally.

But it is important to look at the evolution of theories of nation building and at the other concepts which it has both supplanted and included. Many people believe that nation-building is evolutionary rather than revolutionary, that it takes a long time and is a social process that cannot be jump-started from outside. The evolution of the Italian city-states into a nation, the German city-states into the Zollverein customs union and later a nation, the multiple languages and cultural groups in France into the nation of France, the development of China from the warring kingdoms, took a very long time, and were the result, not only of political leadership, but of changes in technology and economic processes (the agricultural and then industrial revolutions), as well as communication, culture and civil society, and many other factors.

In what Seymour Martin Lipset has called The First New Nation, the United States, at first 13 colonies with diverse origins, came together to form a new nation and state. That state, like so many in contemporary times, faced the prospect of secession and disintegration in 1865, and it took another 100 years for the integration of black and white, North and South, East and West. This was a new type of nation-state,



because its people were not all of the same ethnicity, culture, and language, as had been thought to be the case in the early defining of the concept of nation-state.

But nation building by one nation may destroy others. In the building of the US nation and others, aboriginal nations were marginalised. The Six-Nations Confederacy of the Iroquois had existed before the US nation (and was thought by some to be a model for it). Today many "First Nations" are in the process of nation re-building, re-building the social, cultural, economic and political foundations for what is left of self-governance. First nations seek to re-build cultural identities as nations to challenge their disintegration by others in the creation of their own states.

Association of First Nations National Chief Matthew Coon cited the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (released in 2001 by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard) proposal of a Nation Building Model of Economic Development. The project defined Nation-building as: "Equipping First Nations with the institutional foundation necessary to increase their capacity to effectively assert self-governing powers on behalf of their own economic, social and cultural objectives."

The study identified four core elements of a nation building model: 1) genuine self rule (First Nations making decisions about resource allocations, project funding and development strategy), 2) creating effective governing institutions (non-politicised dispute resolution mechanisms and getting rid of corruption), 3) cultural match (giving first nations institutions legitimacy in the eyes of their citizens), and the need for a strategic orientation (long-term planning).

One of the reasons for the difficulties of what many consider "failed states" is that some peoples who had been integrated were taken apart by European colonialism, while others who were separate peoples were integrated together in new states not based on common identities. Particularly in Africa and the Middle East, new political borders paid little attention to national identities in the creation of new states. Thus the notion of nation-state, a nation, which developed the governmental apparatus of a state, was often nonsense. While in Europe nation building historically preceded state building, in post-colonial states, state-building preceded nation-building. The aftermath of colonialism led to the need for nation building.

WHAT IS A NATION?

To understand the concept of nation-building, one needs to have some definition of what a nation is. Early conceptions of nation defined it as a group or race of people who shared history, traditions,



and culture, sometimes religion, and usually language. Thus the United Kingdom comprises four nations, the English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh. The people of a nation generally share a common national identity, and part of nation-building is the building of that common identity. Some distinguish between an ethnic nation, based in (the social construction of) race or ethnicity, and a civic nation, based in common identity and loyalty to a set of political ideas and institutions, and the linkage of citizenship to nationality.

Today the word nation is often used synonymously with state, as in the United Nations. But a state is more properly the governmental apparatus by which a nation rules itself. Max Weber provided the classic definition of the state:

THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

We must begin to look deep within ourselves and arise to serve the needs of all people in the name of Christ. At the time of celebrating our significant pastor, there are signs of the coming of Jesus Christ. And so the church has much work to do. Now is the right time to become the church Christ expects it to be. This is where nation building through the church becomes relevant. An article in HuffPost by Pastor Gilford T. Monroe in 2012 reveals a lot about what needs to be done by significant pastors especially in this digital age that special technologies daily disrupt.

The contribution shows that today, humans have acquired more knowledge than any other time in history. Science and medicine are going places never before imagined. We have bigger jets and cruise liners, faster computers, and helpful drugs for certain diseases are being discovered every day. Daniel envisioned a time when knowledge would increase (See Daniel 12:4). We have much evidence today of our successes in these and many other areas. We have improved on just about every area of life. Every year, Forbes magazine publishes a list of the richest people in the world. This list continues to grow longer and longer. More people can afford vacations, purchase houses, and buy brand new cars. Some car dealership will have cars for sale that can be purchased with zero percent down. Life, overall, seems comfortable for most citizens of the First World and a few in the developing world and emerging markets. But note the implications: When life is good, most people tend to forget about church... well, until something happens that turns their lives upside down.

Personal or national tragedy (and especially since 9/11), for instance seems to cause a major shift in people's assessment of church. It is a time when people flock to churches in droves. It is the same way most people in the developing world are struggling with poverty, scarcity and poor infrastructure and go to church most times to pray about those inadequacies. There is just something about churches that society



finds in times of tragedy and hardship. This is always fascinating because the media and general public embrace church or (the idea of church) during a time of crisis, but in times of peace and prosperity, the church seems to become irrelevant again.

Regardless of this double standard, the church keeps people grounded, flushing out the burden of life by providing a bed-rock of faith and answers to humanity's deepest needs. So, the role of the modern church in the life of the 21st-century believer is critical because it fills a void only the church can. If a car needs fixing, it is brought to the mechanic shop. If someone is sick, the health centre or hospital is the best place to seek medical attention. Church is therefore where people should go if they are in need of a "spiritual fix." The church is really a hospital for sinners and not an exclusive club for saints.

So why would someone want to attend church? Regardless of what is said about churches, people expect that their life problems can be addressed in some fashion or form. With all the weight and pressures of their world weighing down on their minds, people expect the church to provide Bible-based answers that no other institution can provide.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Over the past 15 years, megachurches have been sprouting up across Nigeria, America and the world. (A megachurch is a large church with 2,000 or more worshippers at a weekly service.) Most of these megachurches are led by visionaries and business-minded and charismatic leaders. Just about all of these megachurches broadcast their services over major TV networks, Internet and satellite radio. Many non-Christians and Christians view these programmes and sometimes develop certain perceptions about church - whether good or bad.

What do people want from churches? Unfortunately, there are those who view church with some indifference. Church is more than just entertainment, having large numbers of people attending services or hearing messages of empowerment from the pulpit that makes one feel good.

Church is the lifeline of any society. Church is a unique place that should instill change in people's lives. The church is a veritable place for nation building. That is a place where we prepare God's own people for the Kingdom of God. So what do people need from church?

MEETING THE NEEDS

People need to have their spiritual, emotional and physical needs met. We are living in a crazy world today. II Timothy 3:1 helps us put this in



perspective, "but know this, that in the last days perilous times will come." I'll take the liberty to say that perilous times are here. More and more children are growing up in broken homes, unemployment is on the rise and Christians are sinking deeper into debt and poverty like never before. Many churchgoers are struggling to make ends meet in their everyday lives, and we feel the pinch of reality just like everyone else. Believers are not exempt from trials of the world. We are living in perilous and drastic times. Drastic times call for drastic measures. Targeted small groups should be implemented in churches to be available to meet the needs in each believer's life. Irrespective of church size, each church can provide effective small group ministries and outreach services, even smaller churches can have and should have specialised small groups. This momentum can then spread out beyond the walls of the church and be incorporated into the community where the church serves. To the best of its ability, the church can provide services, counseling and advice to those in need.

ONE-STOP SUPER CENTRES

Wal-Mart, the largest retail store in America, has built Super Centers across the rural parts of the country. At these Super Centers, one can purchase anything from cooking oil to car oil and from pet food to fresh produce. The convenience of having everything located under one roof is a multi-billion dollar secret. This is the true meaning of a convenience store. The Super Center customers are truly in love with this concept of everything under one roof. Basically, the church is a type of Super Centre. Whatever the situation, there is a Bible-based solution and counsel for each and every problem. I am not advocating that each individual church would have the expertise and know-how to deal with every situation. However, every church should have access to resources needful to guide an individual in the proper direction along with God's Word.

At times it is hard for single mothers to control their teenage children without the help of father figures. If these single mothers are churchgoers and there are no programmes, seminars and sermons to help them in this area, then the church is not meeting their needs. The church should always strive to meet the needs of men and women as it brings the good news of the salvation message of Jesus Christ. The church truly is about people.

One of the greatest lessons of meeting the people's need was demonstrated when the Messiah fed the 4,000 (Mark 8:1-9). Jesus showed by His deeds the church's purpose and function. He gave us the blueprint for successfully meeting the needs of the hearers. Before Jesus gave His sermon, He fed the "churchcomers." They came to hear the Messiah, and after feeding them with physical food, He then gave them spiritual food for the soul. Both their physical and spiritual needs were met. This is the classical Jesus.



PUBLIC SERVICE

Churches are a public service to the surrounding communities. They provide just about everything. In the summer of 2005, our church covered a 15-block radius around the church by going door-to-door introducing ourselves as the "community church." It was amazing and at the same time shocking to see how many people knew about our church and how many didn't know of our church existence -- even though we have been in the neighborhood for the past 35 years! We had an older woman who visited our church recently and said that for 25 years she has lived in the community and walked past our church and never once took notice of our edifice. One would believe that we have a small building, but our church is a huge 4-story brick building that takes up 2 lots and is by far the tallest building on our block. Can you see the egg on my face? I'm thinking to myself that maybe this lady just needs a new pair of glasses. However, the key to this issue still remains...churches must be transparent within their communities.

Upon learning the close proximity of our church and the services we offer, some people are always delighted to use our assistance, whether it is in the form of our food pantry or immigration and free legal clinics, community seminars on health, finance, or emergency preparation. Making a difference in people's everyday lives will benefit the believer as well as the community. When the church is rooted deeply in its community, and its membership is operating as public servants, the church will impact the lives of the people and the believers will fulfill the Messiah's mission on earth.

Reading from the book of Isaiah in the Torah, He read our mission statement, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised" (Luke 4:18).

The basic function of the church is to be involved in every facet of the life of the believer. Holding true to this mission, Christ looked at the needs of the people, provided it, and then began to preach out the good deeds. The church today must live up to its true billing -- meeting the needs of the people. Both the alcoholic and the poor should be able to receive assistance.

BELIEVING IN THE BELIEVERS

Over the past few years, I've been thinking seriously about the future of our church. We are living in a critical time never before experienced in the history of humankind, and the church must respond to human's deepest needs. One question keeps coming to mind: "Who will be the next generation of leaders in our church throughout the future?" We need to bring the church to a new level. Our current leaders will be



deceased or too old to lead a new century of believers. We are in desperate need of new and sound leadership to continue the Master's work.

In my final analysis, the church must do away with all and any excuses and continue to prepare young men and women to lead the church throughout the millennium. It is never too late for the right foundation to be laid for sound leadership. Paul sets the right tone in the book of Titus 2:3-7 on this issue.

All leaders of churches, big or small, must recruit more young men and women to serve in diverse capacities in the ministry. The responsibility of guiding the next wave of leaders weighs heavily on those in leadership positions now believing in the believers. In return, the challenge to prepare a Christian for leadership will take proper training and a willingness to accept a role in church in order to face the many challenges ahead in the community. We must start to look deep within ourselves and arise to serve the needs of all people in the name of Christ. The time is closer until the coming of Jesus Christ and the church has much work to do. Now is the right time to become the church Christ expects it to be.

DADDY G.O (ADEBOYE) AND NATION BUILDING

Indeed, there are so many things we can write and say about this very educated but humble man of God who truly believes that there is no man of God who can be significant without the grace of the God of man. Our own Daddy G.O, one humble God's General, is a classic example of a significant man. The man from Ifewara, Osun State, by the grace of God, has become a global citizen. We have to salute our great man of God, one of Nigeria's remarkable brand ambassadors. This man is undoubtedly the Barnabas (of our time) the only man the Bible boldly describes in many versions as 'A Good Man, full of Holy Spirit And of Faith'.

LESSONS FROM HIS MISSION AND MINISTRY

Olufunke Adeboye who wrote on the impact of the former Mathematics teacher's ministry on the society, his life and calling in a 2017 book noted that Adeboye has been General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) since 1981. "Within these thirty-five years, he has expanded the reach of the church, instituted various innovative programmes and broadened its membership base. His visionary leadership has steered the ship of the church through various courses without any major rupture. This has earned him respect from various quarters across the globe and made him a model for many young people..." The book identifies some areas of influence where the mark of Adeboye has remained indelible both within the local context of the Nigerian society and the



wider global community. This also underscores the fact that the RCCG is no longer a local 'brand' but a transnational church with parishes in more than 200 nations of the world.

For those who have not been following the man's life journey though 'this wilderness called life' as iconic Kofi Awoonor calls it, the first area in which the ministry of Adeboye has impacted the society is in the multitudes of souls converted from their old ways to Christ. Evangelism is his real passion, which grows from the Mission and Vision of the Church, the RCCG, the late Pa Josiah Akindayomi founded: Mission & Vision of RCCG

- 1) To make heaven.
- 2) To take as many people with us.
- 3) To have a member of RCCG in every family of all nations.
- 4) To accomplish No. 1 above, holiness will be our lifestyle.
- 5) To accomplish No. 2 and 3 above, we will plant churches within five minutes walking distance in every city and town of developing countries and within five minutes driving distance in every city and town of developed country.
- 6) At 80, he still preaches every day in fulfillment of the fundamental objectives and directive principle of RCCG kingdom (nation) building policy. He visits correctional centres to preach the gospel to bad boys and girls there. Some have just been released from Kirikiri Maximum Correctional Centres through his ministrations and prophetic utterances.
- 7) The big man who would just like to be called Pastor doesn't make fiery political statements. No matter what you tell him about any fire on the mountain, in the context of the parlous state of the nation, or even the church, he would smile and tell his audience to 'go and win souls' of the bad and wicked people, the scoundrels you are complaining about.
- 8) As I was saying, there is fire in his belly but he doesn't use such powers to bring down powerful people. His anointing has broken many yokes, yet he is humble. He doesn't allow any exploits and miracles wrought through him to get to his head. He always thanks His father who gives the grace to do the exploits. His is a life of 'Thanks-living'. His is more than 'Thanks-giving'. He truly believes in the words of Christ revealed through part of His Sermons on the Mountain: '...But I say unto you pray for your enemies... and those who despitefully use you that you may be children of your father...'. Not for the man of God to pray dangerous prayers for the enemies and the wicked to fall down and



die. That is a great lesson I have imbibed from the life and times of Pa Adeboye who holds a doctoral degree in Mathematics from the University of Lagos.

It is also worth noting that while most of Adeboye's converts probably came from the background of mainline Christianity, a whole lot never had any Christian encounter before. Many were involved in destructive, anti- social behaviour before they got converted...' Olufunke claims. It is difficult to give a precise number of souls saved through Adeboye's ministrations because of the sheer spread of his activities at various congregations. These include sermons given in various parishes of the RCCG at special programmes such as the 'Go-A-Fishing' evangelistic outreaches, Holy Ghost Services, Annual Convention, Holy Ghost Congress, open-air crusades in various communities and stadia, services held on the campuses of various Nigerian universities...' as revealed through various writings.

His Special Holy Ghost Services are being held in various nations of the world such as the 'Festival of Life' in the United Kingdom. Added to these are the programmes held outside the RCCG fold to which he is often invited as guest preacher.

In addition to the conversion experiences through evangelistic ministry are testimonies of miracles that have taken place under Adeboye's ministrations. These testimonies range from healing of physical ailments, deliverance from barrenness, provision of jobs and breakthroughs to deliverance from the powers of darkness.

In 2008, Adeboye's ministry got international press endorsement when he was listed by the American Newsweek newsmagazine as one of the Fifty Most Powerful People In The World. According to a citation on the man by Newsweek's Lisa Miller, two things impressed the magazine editors about Adeboye. One was his integrity the tribute writer described as "reputation for honesty". According to the report, "behind Adeboye's extraordinary success is his reputation for honesty. While other Pentecostal Pastors (including some Nigerians) have been accused of financial misdeeds or faking supernatural powers, Adeboye remains above the fray".

The second quality the magazine pinpoints is his commitment to the task of church planting much like the way "Starbucks used to build coffee shops everywhere". This endorsement by the reputable international medium shored up Adeboye's image and enhanced the RCCG's brand reputation within and outside Africa.

It was therefore not surprising that Adeboye was invited in September 2009 to lead Pre- summit Inter-faith Prayers for Global Peace at the 64th General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. The



International

Prayer Council of the United Nations in September 2009 actually organised a prayer session titled "Uniting in Prayers for the United Nations". This pre-summit inter-faith prayer attracted representatives of more than 68 nations. In attendance were leaders of various religions. Nigeria's Adebayo participated actively in this session. Again, in June 2011, he was at the same United Nations for a meeting of religious leaders calling on the UN to foster an alliance for the "Culture of Peace", which among other things was expected to enthrone peace in the Middle East and serve as a model for conflict resolution globally. The summit was sponsored by the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics and co-hosted by the mission of Bosnia-Herzegovina to the UN and the Christ Redeemers' Friends Trust (CRFU) led by Adebayo under the patronage of Frederic Mayor, a former Director General of UNESCO, who introduced the 'Culture of Peace' at the UN, and the King Mohammed VI of Morocco. The meeting was attended by leaders of the "Abrahamic Faith Groups", namely, Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Commenting on this summit, Sam Eyoboka and Olayinka Latona wrote:

"For the first time, the Pastor has joined forces with the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics to bring together religious, academic and diplomatic leaders to the summit at the UN with the goal of agreeing to work together and individually implement the UN resolutions developing a Culture of Peace through education, communications and legislation as a milestone to achieve peace in the Middle East region and as a global model".

Again, on June 21, 2016, Adebayo, in furtherance of his commitment to global peace, met with the then UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon to discuss how the UN system could exploit the influence and goodwill of the RCCG to facilitate inter-faith harmony, thus creating a conducive environment for action towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the issue of global peace and development, he noted that the RCCG, through its provision of above-board leadership and promotion of Christian faith and values, will continue to impact the global community, especially the youthful population positively. From the RCCG model, it is expected that Christians worldwide will serve as "a strong moral compass and voice for the society, speaking for the marginalized and disadvantaged" while remaining accountable to the general population.

These UN meetings showcased the growing significance of Adebayo and they illustrate recognition of the cleric by the inter-faith world of international ecumenical engagement and the willingness of the RCCG to work with global institutions like the UN for the common good.



The engagements also deepened the continuing expansion and globalisation of the RCCG brand equity.

Another illustration of Adeboye's involvement in international politics is the underreported case of Jonathan Pollard. Pollard was an American (later turned Israeli) agent convicted in the US in 1987 (though arrested in 1985) for passing classified information to Israel, an ally of the US. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. After spending more than two decades in American jails, his health began to fail and various groups started to plead for his release. The most consistent request for clemency for Jonathan Pollard came from Israeli authorities in 1995, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2014. According to reports, some American statesmen and politicians also began to speak on his behalf. In 2010, 39 members of Congress submitted a Plea for Clemency to the White House, while former Secretary of State, George Shultz wrote President Barack Obama in 2011 to commute his sentence. It was around this time that Adeboye wrote to President Obama, requesting that the remainder of Jonathan Pollard's sentence be commuted "in the interest of justice". Several other leaders pleaded on his behalf, and eventually he was released on parole in 2015, after spending thirty years in prison. Adeboye's involvement in Pollard's case underscores his cordial relations and remarkable influence with Israeli authorities. After all, Pollard was not the first political prisoner sentenced to life in US jails.

In the main, as we celebrate Pastor Adeboye @80, it is important to borrow some brilliance from his ministry, learn from the power of his focus and the benefits of his uncommon humility despite the power and the glory of God's grace upon him. That should be the source of his blessing, humility. Remember that in Philippians 2: 8-11, Apostle Paul reveals that Jesus Christ fulfilled His Ministry and Mission through the power of humility nurtured by obedience.

'And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross...Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given a name, which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. Of things in heaven, and things in earth: And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father'.

This is the power that uncommon humility can give any man who wants to do greater works... the Master Jesus also promised his followers.

A REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK ON ADEBOYE

'Pastor Adeboye identifies three key enemies haunting man at RCCG Holy Congress 2017 December 5, 2017



The first and biggest victory in life is victory over oneself," Pastor Enoch Adeboye said in December 2017 Holy Ghost Congress at the Redemption Camp of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), where he identified the three major enemies of man as Death, the Devil, and Self the individual. The central idea in that message that Monday is this: that if you want to be powerful in the spirit, the first enemy you should conquer is yourself, and if you can conquer yourself, the first enemy of mankind, you can conquer death and the devil who brought death.

I continue to listen to that message you can find on Youtube. That God has given each and everyone of us the power to do greater works, to be humble and be exalted, to study to show yourself approved, to acquire not only fruit of the spirit, which will help your emotional, social and executive intelligence, to acquire gifts of the spirit, which will help your mission and ministry, the power to be wealthy and healthy to acquire power to be prayerful, etc. But you, and only you have the willpower to do these through obedience and humility. And so, in the same vein, you alone can destroy self by the same willpower. That is one more brilliance, one more lesson we need to borrow from this Humble General who also has taught us that: when anointing meets with a very sound intellectual background, there is bound to be some explosion and the heaven will be more open. Remember that even as many of us ran away from Ordinary Level Mathematics, the humble man of God holds a doctoral degree PhD in Applied Mathematics when universities were universities. I mean our Daddy G.O has demonstrated too to mankind that education quality, higher education and its quality can make a significant difference make even in the Ministry of Christ The Great Commission. That can also explain why the Intellectual In The Temple, has always paid uncommon attention to one of his greatest legacies, establishment of the Redeemer's University in Ede, Osun State, unarguably one of the best rated private universities in Nigeria, building skills and character of Nigerians of RCCG extraction. This he hasn't explained too loudly but one can hazard a guess that he established this Redeemer's university because that is one remarkable way of building a great nation. How do I know that? Have you read the submission of a great man who noted that, 'the destruction of education is the destruction of a nation'?