



A WORD IN DUE SEASON

A Publication of the CYJ Head Office

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FRIENDLY FIRES

From the National Coordinator's Desk

Friday July 31 2009 entered the annals of history as the day the last contingent of British Soldiers withdrew from Iraq. The war in Iraq (code named by former US President George W. Bush and his *Coalition of the willing* as "Operation Iraqi Freedom") has claimed the lives of more than two thousand US troops and over 150 British Soldiers and left many more wounded. While most of these casualties resulted from assaults from enemy combatants, a few of them came from what has been termed "friendly fires". What are "friendly fires"? It is a military expression which refers to incidents incurred by individual soldiers, group of soldiers or an army detachment, perpetuated accidentally or unintentionally by forces from their own camp. It may be a stray bullet from a colleague or a missile mistakenly fired on the plane of a military pilot by a fellow soldier.



SOLDIERS IN THE BATTLE FIELD IN IRAQ

In spite of the above explanation one ambiguity still lingers—"How friendly is the fire?" How can we really qualify it as "friendly" when it does not diminish an inch of the pain for those who are wounded or resurrect those to whom it cost their lives? Perhaps the only tenable explanation resides in the fact that the fire came from a fellow soldier (a man or woman from the same camp who may sometime be a close friend, boss or even the person's own mother, father, brother or sister).

Out of the military field, friendly fires can also be adapted to everyday life situations: it may be a just judge who passes a death or life imprisonment sentence to a relative or good old friend; a father or mother who has to severely punish his favourite son or daughter or a best man who finally muster courage to raise up a genuine cause on why his best friend should not proceed with the vows on his wedding day.

In the Christian context, the most glaring example of friendly fire is certainly when the Almighty God had to turn His back to His only begotten son Jesus Christ when took upon Himself the sin of all humanity on the cross of Calvary. Most of us have experienced "friendly fires" at one time or the other in our Christian walk. It may have proceeded from a mentor, pastor, friend or fellow brother or sister. However the result was very different from that which goes on in the military world. It made us better not bitter, stronger not weaker, healthier not sicker.

From a Christian perspective, "friendly fires" can be described as life-enhancing bullets shot by a brother or friend that produces painful healing.

One of the characteristics of the end times (which we are experiencing) is apostasy in the church. It is alarming and disheartening to observe the growing number of Christians who reject sound doctrine and have raise for themselves teachers who preach, teach and prophecy according to their lust (2 Tim 4: 3 – 5, *KJVR*). Some of these teachers even made themselves a sort of *Christian soothsayer* or *prophet on demand*. Many Believers have sold their ears of truth and bought for themselves itchy ears inclined to interesting fables, exciting digressions, and fantasies about a "Good, Good God" too merciful to punish sin and send a soul to hell but ever gracious to bless and prosper everyone everyday irrespective of the life they live. We live in times when some men of God have made themselves "gods of men" and claimed infallibility.

Dear Christian soldiers, we live in a time and season where the greater battle is not with enemy combatants—principalities and powers of darkness, demons and forces of the devil. The greater battle rages within: the battle against arrogance, self glorification, immorality, materialism, covetous-

ness, hypocrisy and other manifestations of self. To this end, the Bible says "He who is slow to be angry is better than a man of war, and he who has control over his spirit than he who takes a town." (Prov 16:32 *BBE*).

In the Sermon on the Mount, our Lord Jesus Christ gave an hard teaching telling us to pluck out the eye and cut off the hand that causes us to sin and eventually close to us the door of heaven (Matt 5:29 – 30 *GW*). The eye and hand here can be interpreted as besetting sins. These are usually some character weaknesses or sinful pleasures we find very difficult to let go or what Hebrews 12: 1 describes as "sin which holds on to us so tightly" (*Good News Bible*). It may be lust, haughtiness, materialism, sexual immorality etc.

It may be very difficult for us to deal with these ourselves as it would be for a man to pluck out his own eye or cut off his hands. However, it can better be done by someone close to him. A brother, sister, parent, spouse mentor, friend or anyone acquainted to those besetting weaknesses.

There comes a time when the best and only way to help a fellow soldier in this Christian battle is to load your gun and shoot a friendly fire at that lustful eye, lying lips, *long hands* or jealous and selfish heart he bares. Of course it is painful but it will produce in him or in her eternal gain. We can perceive in the admonition in Matt 5:29 – 30, an order from our Commander-in-chief and head of Heaven's army to shoot friendly fires.



Br. Asanga Fon
National Coordinator



QUOTE FOR THE MONTH

“An individual gospel without a social gospel is soul without a body, and a social gospel without an individual gospel is a body without a soul; one is a ghost, the other a corpse”.

E. Stanley Jones

SCRIPTURE FOR THE MONTH

“Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”

PROVERBS 27:6 (KJVR)



Members of CYJ Limbe with the NC and Regional Coordinator South West

MINISTRY UPDATES

At the dawn of the year, CYJ launched its Ministry Strategic Action Plan (MSAP) 2009—2010, which has as focus a call to leave our comfort zones and penetrate into all the different worlds around us and preach the gospel. Within this framework, 2009—2010 was prophetically declared by the ministry leadership as “ A TIME TO GO”.

Half way into the year 2009, the obvious question is how far have we gone? The MSAP 2009—2010 vision was shared and communicated to the entire ministry in January. February presented an ideal occasion to put words into action with National Youth Day Activities (11th February 2009). The various CYJ regions and branches nation-wide used this occasion to preach the gospel individually and collectively and to lift high the banner of Jesus. Hundreds accepted Christ into their lives.

IN PERSPECTIVE

A storm at seashore

CYJ will be storming the seaside resort town of Kribi with the Gospel of Jesus Christ from 20th—24th October. In partnership with the Fellowship of Churches and Pastors of Kribi and the US Faith Based Non-Profit Friends of Africa (FOA), CYJ will be organizing a Medical and Evangelistic Outreach in Kribi in the aforementioned period. The theme of the programme is “KRIBI FOR JESUS: TOTAL FREEDOM”.

In other to effectively reach out to the land, a strategy has been put in place dubbed “Evangelistic Invasion”. This strategy focuses on mobilizing the body of

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT: CYJ LIMBE

CYJ Limbe Branch saw the light of day on 2004 . After witnessing steady growth with centres in Bota and Bonadikombo, CYJ Limbe grappled with the challenges of dwindling membership and commitment as well as leadership deficiencies. These challenges almost overcame the work of the ministry in Limbe. Thanks to a remnant of faithful and committed brethren the Branch is re-emerging. CYJ Limbe now operates a single centre with a membership of 10 with an attendance of 8.

Some Evangelistic Centres revised their weekly programme, giving outreach a primordial place. CYJ Molyko enforced a weekly outreach strategy during which members met on Saturday and went out for personal evangelism. CYJ Douala-Village oriented its Sunday meetings into a forum to gather, pray and go out for personal evangelism. Similar weekly outreaches have been taking place in CYJ Soa, CYJ Nkolbisson, and CYJ CRADAT in Yaounde.

Other branches opted for mass outdoor evangelistic activities. Prominent amongst which is CYJ Kumba that recently organized a (in collaboration with 6 Local Churches) power-pact crusade in Balangi that witnessed the participation of more



than 3000 persons with several hundreds surrendering their lives to Jesus and a new CYJ Centre seeing the light of day.

The National Coordinator (NC), Br. ASANGA FON and the Assistant National Coordinator (ANC) Br. Emmanuel NKABYO undertook a ministry tour to CYJ Douala, Buea and Limbe during which they enlightened and challenged CYJ brethren on the new ministry orientation focused on dismantling the “settle down and have fellowship” mentality and structures and getting Evangelistic Centres fulfill the purpose and essence of their existence-soul winning.

We serve a God who is always on the move and have chosen us to walk with Him. God goes with all those who choose to go out accompanying them with signs and wonders (Mk 16:17). Meanwhile Satan sits down on all who sat. We therefore urged every member, centre, branch and region to be part of the move in A TIME TO GO.

Christ in Kribi for personal evangelism in the streets, seaside, and specific areas, and organize various contextual evangelistic events in targeted zones (film shows, musical concert, free consultation and HIV/AIDS Screening).

International Youth Conference (IYC) 2010

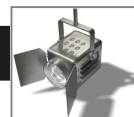
Preparations toward the second International Youth Conference to be organized by CYJ in 2010 will be launched this month (August). IYC 2010 sets out to be an unprecedented international gathering of youths from the Central African sub-region, West Africa

and overseas to seek solutions to common challenges facing youths in 21st Century.

Missionary trip to the North

The National Coordinator will undertake a missionary trip to the North in the upcoming quarter to carry out ground work for the effective establishment of the ministry in that region and the organisation of a medical and evangelistic outreach in the area in 2010. You will get more information about upcoming events in our next edition

AWDS QUIZ WHY JESUS CHRIST? QUIZ



Why did you choose to serve Jesus Christ as a youth? The NC asked this question to Br. Asanga Fon and this is what this CYJ CRADAT member had to say “ What makes JESUS CHRIST so special to me is His youthfulness. HE was born a youth, HE lived His whole life as a young man and died at the peak of His youth (at the age of 33). HE resurrected, is alive AS A YOUTH. He has the Good News for youths which is the object of their desire and lifelong quest—an enjoyable life. “

In one paragraph, give us your answer to the above question. Email your answers to nc@cyjonline.org. The best three submissions will receive a portable hardcover Bible and will be published on the CYJ website: cyjonline.org