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Dear Prayer Supporter,

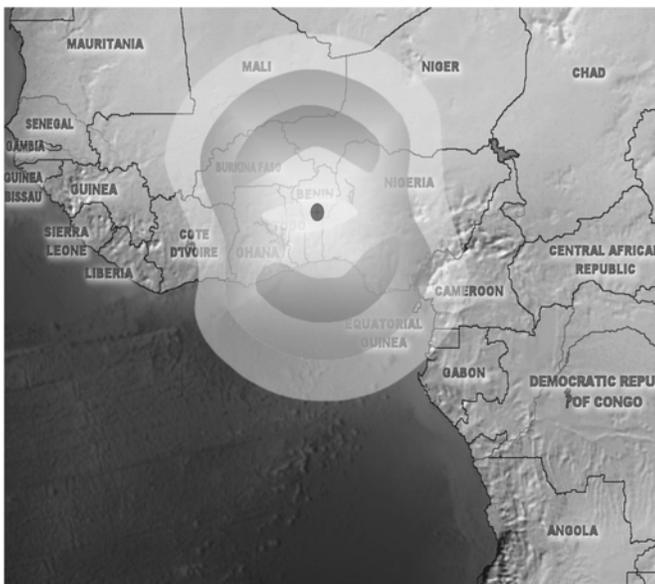
As we face this New Year, international storms are on the horizon. **“Sirs be of Good Cheer!”** encourages our faith to be anchored in our Almighty God.

Thank you for your gifts and prayers which enable us to minister in troubled regions around the world through broadcasts, Bible/literature distribution, and Internet.

At this very critical time for Nigeria, West Africa, we need your prayers and support as we launch two new broadcasts. Listeners need His Word as religious violence and persecution is increasing. Let us together reach as many men, women, boys and girls for the Lord while we still have today!

In His Love,

January 2015 NIGERIA English broadcasts of “The Way of Truth” and “DDD’s.”



This January, we are excited to share that we will take another step of faith by broadcasting two new programs into Nigeria, West Africa. **“Dorothy’s Daily Devotional”** will commence the broadcast day. Richard’s program, **“The Way of Truth,”** will finish the broadcast block a couple of hours later.

We are told that by nature of their Arabic/Islamic influence, the people of West Africa rise early to pray. Let us trust the Lord to bring many to Himself as these messages are daily aired over Benin Medium Wave radio throughout Nigeria and surrounding countries.

Please keep this page as a prayer reminder in your Bible!



Sirs be of Good Cheer!

-by Richard A. Bennett

In an address given at Springfield, Illinois in 1838, Abraham Lincoln said, “If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher.”

At that time, few listeners could have conceived that as the twenty-first century is unfolding, the U.S. Constitution is under sore attack. It is also doubtful that the listeners could have conceived the moral and political climate that exists in America today: Same-sex marriages have become legal; education and entertainment encourages an atmosphere of promiscuity, which results in a multiplicity of sexual diseases and illegitimate births; school children commit illegal acts by putting a Bible on their desks; and America has become ambivalent in its support of Israel. In addition to this, “political correctness” and “hate speech propaganda” seek to silence the clear teaching of the Word of God, which says, “*There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus*” 1 Timothy 2:5.

We might ask who is responsible for this appalling moral malaise. It is easy to blame the politicians, but the question comes, who is it that put the politicians in office? It was by the popular vote of a nation that gets its source of information from anywhere but the Bible.

As present conditions prevail, the imminent and just judgment of a holy God is inevitable. Our only hope is a radical revival among the people of God. This would result in a spiritual awakening among the

populace. Take comfort to know that when Jonah proclaimed judgment to the people of Nineveh, one million people repented in sackcloth and ashes, and the city was preserved for another 150 years.

General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, was at the brink of the of the 20th century when he said, “The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Spirit, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.” In retrospect, as today, we look back on the trends of the 20th century and the state of the contemporary church, it appears that William Booth’s warning was almost prophetic.

The Apostle Paul was arrested because of his unrelenting commitment to proclaim the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that “*Christ should suffer and He should be the first to rise from the dead and show light unto the people, and to the Gentiles*” Acts 26:23. As a result, Paul was arrested and sent by Felix from Jerusalem to Rome where he would face Roman jurisdiction.

Because of weather conditions, Paul’s journey by ship was very devious and treacherous. Arriving at a place called “The fair havens,” Julius, a Roman Centurion in charge of the ship, failed to heed Paul’s warning that to proceed with the journey would result in shipwreck. Julius wanted to leave its frugal

conditions and winter in more attractive surroundings. He was convinced that he would be able to weather the fast approaching winter storms.

On that journey, it became evident that the ship in which Paul, together with 276 people, sailed was headed into extreme peril. At that time, in faith Paul said, “*Sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God that it shall be even as it was told me*” Acts 27:25. This record written by the ship’s doctor is not only historically and geographically precise, it also provides an example to us all as to how we can trust the promises of God when circumstances are beyond human solution.

Never quit! At the hour of greatest peril, the shipmen wanted to “*flee the ship*” Acts 27:30. Sadly, such escapism still prevails when believers, in the face of opposition, choose rather to betray their beliefs with silent lips. Living by faith and escaping spiritual responsibility are mutually exclusive!

Paul’s wise counsel! After 14 days of fasting and recognizing the crew and passengers were very weak, “*Paul besought them all to take meat . . . then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat*” Acts 27:33,36. Later, “*when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship, and cast out the wheat into the sea*” Acts 27:38. Thus, in response to the faith of Paul and to save their lives, they eliminated their “security store.” As the martyr, Jim Elliott said, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.”

Commitment to Divine Providence! We read, “*And when they [the sailors] had taken up the anchors, they committed themselves unto the sea, and loosed the rudder bands, and hoisted up the mainsail to the wind and made toward shore*” Acts 27:40. It was no longer human skill and experience that was in charge of the vessel. Similarly, in the crisis of this present hour, as believers, we too, are called to commit

ourselves afresh in faith to the providential purposes of God and to the wind of the Holy Spirit.

What of the result? Although the ship was wrecked, all 276 people on board were saved! Likewise in this perilous hour, any careful planning and preparation to find our own safe and secure clover patch should not be our top priority. Eternal values and the salvation of precious souls are of paramount importance before the prophetic righteous judgment of God falls on this Christ-rejecting world.

*Rise up O men of God!
Have done with lesser things;
Give heart and soul and mind and strength
To serve the King of kings.*

-William Merrill

Though, as we face this New Year, international storms are on the horizon. As believers, let our faith be anchored in our Almighty God.

*“Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin,
The Blood of Jesus whispers peace within.
Peace, perfect peace, the future all unknown,
Jesus I know, and He is on the Throne.”*

-E. H. Bickersteth

Spiritual Check-up

- * Does this Peace of God prevail in my heart?
- * Am I daily being led by His Spirit?
- * Is He in complete control of my life?
- * Do I appropriate the Word of God in my circumstances?
- * When my answers to these questions are “Yes!” then I will be able to rest my cause on His holy Word.