

# WNCC



20  
1994-2014

APPRECIATING  
THE JOURNEY,  
Glorifying God for  
His faithfulness



# WNCC

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

### Presidential Synopsis



I welcome you all in the most precious name of our Lord and Savior. We thank our Almighty Father for the grace to be part of the 20th anniversary celebration of our college. The journey so far has been thrilling and challenging. We thank the Lord for our accomplishments and challenges. Many purposes and aspirations have been fulfilled, many good have been done, many lives have been touched, and many proselytes have been made citizens of the kingdom through the ministry of this college.

#### Graduation:

In the core ministry of preparing men for a life of service in the kingdom of God, 452 have been turned out in nineteen graduation ceremonies both in the Diploma in Biblical Studies and Advance Diploma in Christian ministry programs, at both full-time and part-time levels. Our graduates are serving the Lord's vineyard across Nigeria and countries within West African sub-region like Benin Republic, Ghana and Liberia.'



#### Preachers and Church Leaders' Workshop:

Twenty preachers and church leaders' workshops have been organized to sharpen the leadership skills and nurture the spiritual growth of leaders of God's people. The themes for workshops are as follows:

- 2000 - Church Growth
- 2001 - Church Leadership
- 2002 - True Discipleship
- 2003 - Biblical Preaching
- 2004 - Evangelism
- 2005 - The Eldership Process
- 2006 - Christianity and Culture
- 2007 - Congregational Ministry
- 2008 - The Church in History: History of The Church of Christ
- 2009 - Congregational Autonomy and Church Cooperation
- 2010 - Biblical Hermeneutics: Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth
- 2011 - Intra and Inter Relationships in the Local Church
- 2012 - Re-Kitting the Minister for a Post-Modern Ministry
- 2013 - Accountability in Ministry
- 2014 - Spiritual Formation
- 2015 - Calling and Character: Virtues of Ordained Ministry
- 2016 - The Preacher and His Influence
- 2017 - Ministering in a Time Like This
- 2018 - Missions: Sharing Christ with All the World
- 2019 - Managing Stress and Burnout for Effective Ministry



## Bible Lectureships:

Bible lectureships were organized for spiritual rejuvenation of the body of the Lord and as a forum for proselytes to encounter the saving gospel of Christ. This is the nineteenth in the series. The lectureships were delivered under the following themes:



- 2001 - The Law, The Cross, and The Crown
- 2002 - Here is The Kingdom
- 2003 - The Family of God
- 2004 - Dimensions of God's Eternal Purpose and Grace: Studies in Ephesians
- 2005 - Justification by Faith Through Grace: Studies in Galatians
- 2006 - Heralding the Rule of God: Studies in the Gospel of Mark
- 2007 - Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ: Studies in Colossians
- 2008 - Superiority of Christ Over Old Covenant: Studies in Hebrews
- 2009 - The Righteousness of God in the Gospel of Christ: Studies in Romans
- 2010 - God's Love, Faithfulness and Judgment: Studies in Hosea
- 2011 - Strangers and Aliens in the World: Studies in I Peter
- 2012 - A Spirit-filled Lifestyle Powered by Genuine Faith: Studies in the book of James
- 2013 - The Christian Home
- 2014 - The Upside-Down Kingdom
- 2015 - The Crucified Life
- 2016 - Christian Integrity
- 2017 - The Gravity of Grace
- 2018 - New Testament Christianity: The Message for Modern Man
- 2019 - Quest for Something of True Value in Life: Studies in Ecclesiastes

## Partnership with Local Congregations in Ministerial Training

Students have been sent out as interns in practicum to help local congregations in reaching souls for the Lord and edify the local church through preaching and teaching. Through this exercise, our students were exposed to the rudiments of congregational ministry and their hermeneutical and homiletical reflexes sharpened.

Female Ministry: WNCC is the first Bible College in our brotherhood in the country to train female students for ministry in the local church as sisters' class teachers, speakers at sisters' workshops and seminars, church secretaries and children's class teachers.

## ICT Centre:

WNCC is the first Bible College in our brotherhood to introduce computer studies into ministerial training. In 2014, the state-of-the-art ICT centre was commissioned to give WNCC a cutting edge in ministerial training.





**Church Infrastructural Development:**

The College through the ministry of James and Ileta Beckloff have assisted several congregations in the Southwest region of the country to either acquire landed property, complete existing structures or outrightly construct meeting places from foundation to completion. Eight congregations in Lagos State, six in Ogun State, one in Oyo State, one in Osun State and two in Ondo State benefitted from such assistance.

**Church Planting:** Several congregations of the Lord's church have been planted through the ministry of the College. These include: Mile Six COC, Kajola COC and Odo- Ijesa COC all along Ajebo road on the outskirts of Abeokuta. The church at Mile Six in turn planted another congregation at Basha village off Ajebo road, Abeokuta. The church buildings at Mile six and Kajola were also wholly financed through the ministry of James and Ileta Beckloff.



COC Kajola, Along Ajebo Road



COC Mile Six Ajebo Road, Abeokuta

**Devotional Bible Study Material**

The dream of a devotional Bible study material for our fellowship in Nigeria became realizable through the ministry of the college. Through the involvement of its President, WNCC provides the needed infrastructure for the production and facilitates the distribution of Daily Call since 2005. The devotional is widely read across Nigeria, Benin Republic, United Kingdom, France and Canada.



**Doing Good to All Men:**

To its immediate community and beyond, WNCC was the tool in the hands of God to provide public electricity to several communities along Ajebo Road, Abeokuta, from the Ogun State Television station to Kajola. The project was commissioned in May 2007. The project has opened several doors for the college in the area.

**Youths Retreat**

The College provided an enduring platform for rescuing youths from the evil allurements of the wider society by collaborating with the Likeminds (a group constituted by youths from churches of Christ in Lagos) to organize annual Christian youth retreat on WNCC campus during Easter holiday. The retreat started in 2008 and remains a spiritual platform for Christian youths within the region and beyond.



**20**  
1999-2019



## WNCC Press:

Over time, WNCC has been saddled with the ministry of study and research. The result of researches in church growth, evangelism, leadership, children and women ministry and church history have been documented in books, tracts and other publications. In 2013, we started compilation of presentations on the theme of the annual Bible lectureship. The publication is done under auspices of WNCC press. Seven titles have been published in the lectureship series since 2013 and eight under the general titles covering evangelism, church growth, church history, leadership, youth development, new converts' companion, sisters and children classes. WNCC Press assists budding authors to package their manuscripts and writings for publication at a reasonable cost.



## Home of the Nigeria Gospel Chariot

WNCC through the participation of its President, was actively involved in the processes that led to acquisition of the Nigeria Gospel Chariot and actively involved in its management. WNCC accommodates the chariot and its crew and it operates from our campus.



## Education Ministry:

For over 18 years, WNCC have embarked on education ministry to children from our immediate community and surrounding villages. Children from Lakiri village are brought to campus on Fridays and Saturdays to help them in their school work, teach Bible and also bring them to worship on Sundays. Similar programs were extended to villages in Mile Eight like Aki, Obele and Akiode. Annual children party and Bible Quiz programs are organized for the children.



## Hospital and Prison Ministries:

Since inception, WNCC has embarked on weekly visit to the State Hospital, Ijaye, Abeokuta, the Federal Medical Centre and Ibara Prison to minister in word and in deed to hospital patients and prison inmates. Hospital patients are linked with the nearest church of Christ when discharged for further Bible study while in several cases released inmates are rehabilitated and converted.



**Vocational Training:**



In 2012 WNCC established a vocational training centre in Basic Electronics, Computer Engineering, GSM Repairs, Systems Cloning, Networking and Microsoft packages. The program was designed as a tent-making strategy for ministers to augment their income. One hundred and thirty-two students have graduated from the program. The vocational training is a source on internally generated revenue for WNCC.



**WNCC Ventures**

WNCC embarked on several business ventures to generate revenue to supplement resources from the sponsors in meeting both operational and developmental needs of the college. The ventures include:

- a. **Poultry:** With 600 birds and average of 12 crates of eggs per day.



- b. **School Farm:** About three acres of land were earmarked as the school farm to plant maize, cassava, yam, plantain and vegetables. ICA kitchen provides a ready market for WNCC farm products



- a. Fishpond: Cat fish are raised, smoked and packaged for sale



**International Christian Academy**

ICA was established in 2013 to fill the gap of the absence of a Christian secondary school associated with churches of Christ in the whole of Western Nigeria and states like Kwara, Kogi, Edo and Delta States. ICA offers a holistic education that integrates Christian faith with academic excellence and education for life here and eternity thereafter. A wholly and proudly Nigerian project, to the glory of God, ICA, so far, has lived to its expectations by fielding students for BECE, WAEC, NECO and JAMB examinations successfully. With zero tolerance to all forms of examination malpractices, ICA students have excelled in NECO and WAEC examinations for the third consecutive year (2017 -2019) passing all papers at credit level. Graduates of ICA are in the university studying Medicine, Law, Engineering, etc. Similarly, ICA is gradually overcoming its initial infrastructural challenges with pockets of projects scattered across its 10-acre landscape



## Appreciating the Journey



While we thank God for these accomplishments, we cannot but also acknowledge our challenges and threats to accomplishing the mission and the vision of the college. Our major challenge is that of sourcing adequate financial resources for both operational and developmental commitments of the college as a Christian ministry.

Let me at this point acknowledge and commend the efforts of the African Christian Schools Foundation in sustaining the college in spite of the serious financial challenges confronting the foundation in recent times. James and Ileta Beckloff have also done much to compliment the efforts of the ACSF. WNCC governing board members have always been there for us with the needed financial and moral encouragements.

The above notwithstanding, the college has struggled to survive in the last eight years as a result of dwindling resources from our main sponsor, the ACSF. The situation was compounded with the present global economic meltdown which has further depleted the donor base of the foundation and made it extremely difficult to attract new ones.

Consequently, WNCC has operated on the same budget for the past eight years while costs and operational expenses have skyrocketed. Reserves accumulated over the years have also been depleted. There are many aspects of the college's operations begging for immediate attention to meet infrastructural requirement for degree accreditation as required by the National Universities Commission. These include:

- Ø Multipurpose Block for: Vocational training, students centre, bookshop, clinic, supermarket, etc
- Ø Sports Centre
- Ø Guest House for visiting lecturers
- Ø Rehabilitation and equipping of existing classrooms with modern learning equipment
- Ø Lecture Theatres/Studios
- Ø Well Paved-out Campus Roads
- Ø Campus Beautification

While we trust God for a change of fortune, it is very obvious that the future of this college lies in our capacity to consistently mobilize reasonable resources locally to supplement the efforts of ACSF. This is saying that you and I have a part to play on what becomes of WNCC in the next decade. We encourage individuals to pick up any of the above listed projects and help WNCC achieve her desire to be an accredited degree awarding institution by its silver jubilee in five years' time. God bless you as you plan to assist in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Book Launch

This 20th anniversary celebration comes with the launching of a landmark book, product of 12 years research. American Ancestry of Churches of Christ: The Nigerian Legacy, is a compendium of information to correct our fellowship's assumption that our roots are simply in the New Testament; that we have not been shaped in any significant way by intervening history. We insist that we are simply New Testament Church, no more no less. But thinking this way, makes us to overlook our weaknesses and ultimately deny the fact that we are like other mere mortals shaped by time, culture and tradition.

This book is an effort to fill the historical lacuna between A. D. 33 and the 18th century and confirm that the Church of Christ emerged from specific historical contexts from its inauguration on the Pentecost, through the dark ages, to the reformation, culminating in our forebears - the Restoration Movement.

This work not only acknowledges the human constituent of our history, but also recognizes the mortal elements that greatly influenced it. It demystifies our sacredness while acknowledging our profanity. This demystification is necessary for our story to be more believable and our presentation of the gospel more intelligible. On the inside, it will enhance our capacity to contextualize the gospel when





confronted with challenges of cultural and traditional practices. It will also boost our hermeneutical capacity and sharpen our homiletical reflexes.

The text evaluates the extent to which churches of Christ in Nigeria particularly, Southwestern Nigeria have been shaped by intervening history. Our strengths and weaknesses are examined in the light of pragmatic efforts required to indigenize the Gospel once delivered to the saints. It insists on the need to be properly equipped in the battle for the souls of men if we must take our country captive for Christ and take the restoration process beyond the present generation.

Proceeds from this launching will be channeled towards providing portable water to our host community, the Lakiri village. When we started in 1999, a tap was provided outside the wall for them to fetch water twice daily. As the campus population grew, we found it more and more difficult to meet this commitment. Moreover, with the rampaging of trucks along the road, it is increasingly dangerous to carry water across the road. It is as a result of this that we plan to provide a water base within the village for the benefit of our neighbors and to the glory of God. May you be munificently blessed as you help us to bless the community with one of the basic needs of life.

### Appreciation

It will be an oversight on my part to end this address without recognizing the value added to this 20th anniversary celebration by various stakeholders in the WNCC project. First, my appreciation goes to the ACSF through its President, Chad Wagner for helping us to finally complete the rear stairs of this complex which has remained uncompleted and dilapidating since 2007. WNCC Board have carved a niche for themselves in their commitment to the cause of this college. I have said this several times and I am proud to say it again. I have not seen any local board of any ministry in our fellowship that is as committed, proactive and self-giving as that of WNCC in the whole continent.

One of our sisters singlehandedly financed the permanent decoration of this hall in the spirit of this occasion. Another brother bought a new amplifier for the College. Many of you have been responding to our monthly sms for support. Several have gratuitously given to support the annual lectureship. Heaven will be your ultimate reward in Jesus' name.

The Christian Restoration Heritage Foundation (also known as the Committee of Saints) remain resolute in their commitment as a worthy stakeholder in the WNCC project. Many are called, few were chosen. Thank you for remaining to be counted. I equally appreciate WNCC Alumni Association for updating the booklet on the history of the college. Much more is however expected of you. I pray the Lord will enlarge your coasts to occupy your rightful place in the affairs of your college.

God has used and is continuing to use WNCC faculty and staff to drive the development of the college. I cannot appreciate each of you less on what you do daily to further the cause of the Lord through the ministry of the College. No one is paid his worth in ministry, but one is consoled of the privilege to being part of what God is doing with His world. Your eternal reward shall not elude you in Jesus' name.

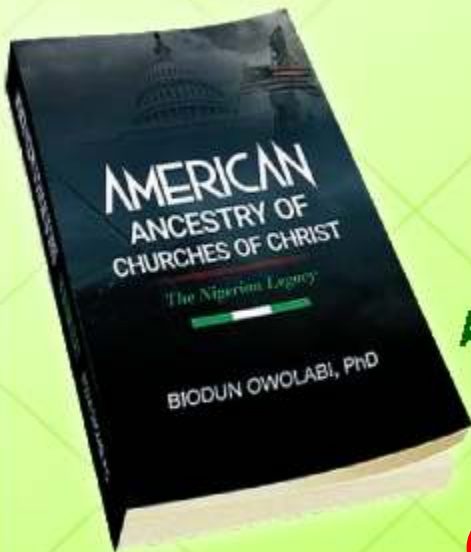
At occasions like this, we cannot but reminisce those who have been with us but have gone to their reward. We remember the sacrifices and the labour of love of the likes of Daniel Ojeh, Andrew Isiip, Anthony Akinola, Helen Owolabi and Ileta Beckloff.

I thank you all for taking the time to be part of the celebration today. I pray we shall all be here to celebrate the Silver and the Golden Jubilee celebrations and even beyond in Jesus' name.

Thank you and God bless.

**Dr. Biodun Owolabi**  
August 8, 2019

# 20th Anniversary Celebration



**PRESENTS**

**AMERICAN ANCESTRY OF  
CHURCHES OF CHRIST**  
*The Nigerian Legacy*

**on August 8, 2019.**

Please join WNCC to appreciate the journey as she negotiates the next bend and support us to unveil our history as never been told.