

## **TRUTH MATTERS**

*“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” John 8:32.*

*“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” 1 Tim. 3:15*

The events of the last two weeks have encouraged me to continue to write until the truth is told. In writing this memo, I take this quote from William Barclay 2010. ***“Where Christ is allowed to come, the antiseptic of the Christian faith cleanses the moral poison of society and leaves it pure and clean”***. The moral poison of Nigerian society today is Dishonesty/Corruption and only Christians not religionists can cleanse dishonesty/corruption. And I shall continue to refer to this quote so that no one is in doubt about what is my goal in CAN, which is Christian purity, a corruption free CAN.

In this current treatise, I shall focus on two areas:

### **Visit to the President Buhari on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

I had a telephone conversation with Pastor Malomo, Chaplain to the Vice President of Nigeria in which he was worried that I included his name among the four persons I believed were in knowledge and possession of the N25million or N60million given to CAN by the Presidency. As a result of that telephone conversation, Pastor Malomo sent me a text message, which I reproduce here in full:

***“Prof Sir, May I kindly apologise for my presentation earlier if you found it disrespectful. I felt it was only necessary to clarify issues and express the concerns of the VP why my name is brought in these whole issue. In the Spirit of Christ & as a younger person I apologise sir”***

***“I called after a mtg with his Excellency d VP in which he informed me there is a release that d money given was 60m for which I, Chaplain kept 20m. Ds is defamatory***

***I reiterate again that it was only 25m each given to both Muslims & Christians Grp. The State Hse Aproval is available for whole world to see”***

I was by struck by two things in the telephone conversation. The first was when he referred to the N25million as “only” 25million. I want to draw attention here to the

fact that the monthly earning of a Professor of my standing is, at most, N500,000.00 a month. It would take a hardworking and honest Professor of my standing at least four years to legitimately earn that 25million.

The second was that Muslims visited the Presidency the same day, before the CAN delegation, and were given money also. From information reaching us, the Muslim delegation reported back to their people and surrendered the money they were given while the Christian delegation shared what was given to CAN. This I consider unacceptable. Even if the Muslims did not act appropriately, Christians should do so. As Christians, we should insist on the truth at all times. Remember what the Bible says in Matthew 7:5: ***“Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye”***.

When I sent a text message to Pastor Malomo requesting to have the details of how the money was distributed amongst the persons who attended, an SMS from Rev Akanji from Baptist church Abuja was forwarded to my phone. And I reproduce this in full: ***“Don’t ever answer him again”. “He has no right to ask you. Tell him to go and meet me. I have already answered him and will answer him again. Thanks my brother.”*** This imprudent response came from Rev. Akanji

I am persuaded I have the right to demand accountability over this financial gift for the following reasons:

- I am the Vice President of Christian Association of Nigeria elected by Nigerian Christians to serve the Body of Christ and protect the interest of Christians.
- I am part of the current administration in CAN and whatever is done, either rightly or amiss, affects me.
- I am 72-year-old and have sought all my life to maintain clean hands and integrity. I am not going to fold my hands and watch people soil my Christian integrity.
- I have honestly served this country as a medical practitioner for the past 47 years without any record of theft or embezzlement.
- I consider it highly insensitive and mean that while persecuted Christians are languishing in various IDP camps, some church leaders can “casually” share N25million as transport fare from the Presidency.
- I have been a Priest of the Cherubim and Seraphim (Aladura Church) for over 50 years.

- I have been a member of NEC since 2005. I have a reputation to protect.
- Apart from being a Priest of the Cherubim and Seraphim (Aladura Church) for over 50 years, I am a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology for the past 35 years. And have trained and continued to train Obstetricians and Gynecologists for this country. I have trained and continue to train Obstetricians and Gynecologists towards MSc, MD, PhD in human reproduction.
- I am a steward of the Body of Christ in Nigeria, and it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful. 1 Cor. 4:2

On the other hand, I can confidently say that Rev Akanji is not a member of the National officers of CAN and Pastor Malomo is not also a member. The question therefore is what right does Rev Akanji have to “**share money**” to members of national CAN? Who authorized him?

The question Pastor Malomo and Rev Akanji should be answering is who made them supervisors of National CAN? Who also made them intermediary persons between the Presidency and National CAN? They have both played this role on several occasions over the past couple of years. How much money do they allocate to themselves in playing this illegal role?

National CAN has a President, Vice President, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer, Accountant etc. What position does Rev. Akanji hold amongst CAN Executive that gave him right to share money to church leaders? Last year, Rev. Akanji received relief materials from the First Lady of Nigeria and he shared them from his office at Baptist Church, Abuja. Under what arrangements do gifts and relief materials to CAN pass through a non-official of CAN. Rev. Akanji must be made to account for all money and unnumbered bags of rice meant for CAN that he has received and shared from his office.

I demand that that the amount of money that Rev. Akanji shared to each person must be made known especially when he does this at his own discretion. How much did Rev. Akanji keep for himself and how much did Pastor Malomo receive? Was the President of CAN involved in this sharing?

## **CAN NEC meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

As I sat through the NEC meeting on Friday, chaired by the President Ayokunle and literally run by him from the beginning to the end of the meeting, only allowing his chosen people to speak at the meeting, I was struck by 3 incidence.

### **1. The CAN trust fund.**

This was up for discussion when the coordinator came out to make his presentation. It was obvious that the President working with some members of NEC had a well-written and choreographed script to shut down the CAN Trust Fund. Had they succeeded, this would have been a calamity for the Nigerian Church. Two persons at the NEC; one from the CSN bloc actually called the CAN Trust Fund unconstitutional and another from the PFN/CPFN bloc who incidentally was attending the NEC meeting for the first time in 13 years and was drafted from Ibadan through that bloc, called for the removal of the coordinator of the Trust fund. After a long and heated argument about the Trust Fund, the Trust Fund survived despite the continuing attacks by the head of the CCN bloc. The most astonishing or bewildering incident was when the President Rev Ayokunle decided to apologise to NEC and I quote his exact words *“I Rev Dr. Ayokunle hereby on behalf of all the Yorubas apologise for the incident that had just occurred between the coordinator of the Trust Fund and the NEC over the Trust Fund”*. First, the Coordinator had no issue with NEC because he came to report the Chairman of the Trustees. Second, the statement took me aback because it is the first time I have heard any President of CAN talk about tribe. If we talk about the Yoruba tribe in CAN, where there is evidence on ground that most of the appointments are from the South West, then CAN has a serious problem. For example and as it stands now, three of the four Directors in CAN are from the South West and literally all the staff that work with the President are all from the South West. How then can we as an association complain that President Muhammadu Buhari has been making tribal appointments? We must be careful that tribal sentiment is not brought to CAN

Let me reiterate that the only way our Christian association can raise *Clean Money* for its activities is through CAN Trust Fund. Here each Christian is required to donate N100 or N500 monthly for 3 months.. We cannot depend on individual large donations from Christians whose source of income we do not know.

## 2. N25 million donations to CAN from State house.

I raised this issue once more after the President had told the whole house that the visit to the State house was carried out in a hurry. Several people whose names were not on the list submitted from CAN secretariat attended. They were all called up to attend by the President and his SSA Rev Onifade and “Executive” Confidential Secretary, Mrs. Eunice Araoye. The President apologized to some of the Chairmen of State CAN who were not invited and whose names were substituted. Rev Ayokunle went on to tell the whole house that he did not know how much was given to CAN and that the distribution of money was done by the State house to the individuals. Rev Akanji who got up arrogantly in his white flowing agbada and walked round the room as he arrogantly said that he received the money and personally shared it, He continued *“there is nothing wrong in sharing money, I have been sharing money, I have been sharing materials.”* But Rev Akanji still refused to tell NEC how much was received and who got what? From the account of those who have received money they said categorically that Akanji invited them to his Baptist Church at Garki and gave them money varying from, one million, half a million and N250,000.00 respectively. In all this arrogant display by Rev. Akanji, the President remained silent. **How can any man of God or church leader with a conscience receive 1million naira for travelling from Baptist church Garki Abuja to Aso Villa in Abuja, for transport, logistics etc. when Christians are dying from malnutrition and hunger in IDP camps?**

Rev William Okoye opened the eyes of every one to the corruption in CAN when he declared that 50 million naira was given to each head of bloc for onward distribution to IDP’s in their bloc in 2015. He went on to say that he was disturbed that in one or two blocs the money was shared by the head of bloc with a few of his cronies. **Any church leader with a conscience will know that this is a crime against humanity.** I know of a bloc where this 50 million naira was completely shared among 5 church leaders.

## 3. Allegations of constitutional breach and reckless spending against the President of CAN.

I made these 10 allegations in four memos. These memos did not come up for mention once during this choreographed meeting, rather Rev Dr Fubara Emmanuel in a letter written to NEC meeting signed by him but cleverly distributed by the media Assistant to the President, Pastor Bayo, in which he called the allegations baseless, fabrications, falsehood, impunity etc. After dropping the letter on the desk for all heads of bloc and members of NEC, he left the meeting saying he had a flight to catch. Immediately, I left for my office and here was Rev Fubara standing with Pastor Bayo beating their chests saying that he Rev.Fubara and his colleagues by their letter have destroyed the allegations written by Professor Otubu. I walked into both of them right in front of the office of the President and I suddenly realized how low he could go discussing with the media personnel Pastor Bayo over the irresponsible letter that he signed. I sometimes wonder when this level of religious rascality crept into CCN/CAN.

#### **My Demand:**

1. Pastor Malomo, Rev. Akanji and Rev. Onifade must be held accountable for the 25M or 60m received during the 10th November visit to the Presidency.
2. The money must be retrieved and refunded to CAN by those who shared and received it.
3. The allegations against the President of CAN must be thoroughly investigated by an independent Committee set up by CAN NEC. The report of the expanded PIC committee of July 2017 on purchase of vehicles in Cotonou is unconstitutional therefore, it is null and void.
4. The questionable Audit that was done in violation of Section 19 of CAN Constitution is unacceptable. Fresh Audit must be done immediately.
5. If CAN NEC is not willing or is unable to set up an administrative panel to look at these allegations, then the Presidential Anti-Corruption committee headed by Professor Itse Sagay should be invited to do so.

**Let us not forget, one day, we shall stand before the Judgment seat of Christ.**

**The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.**