

NEWS AND VIEWS
from
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**“Southern Baptists with the Full
Gospel for the Whole World”**

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When I received your call, I was on the road. I heard this statement the other day while participating in a conference call to a man in Nigeria. Reflecting on this statement has caused me to think deeply about what the Lord God is doing in our time and in the nations of the world. The logistics of the call are amazing. We were using a laptop computer and he was using a cell phone while driving. The technology to make that happen has advanced so rapidly in our day that we take these things for granted. I remember rotary dial phones and party lines! “What hath God wrought” was indeed the first text message over telegraph lines. How far have we come? Sometimes farther than we need to go. Sometimes the technology that allows me to read an email while on the go or send a text message while in someone’s waiting room keeps me at a distance from other human beings. I’ve known managers that conduct business all day long without ever speaking to another human being. That’s why the statement is so intriguing to me. As a preacher I listen for things that will preach. When we receive God’s call, we are always on the road...our response is either to pull to the side so we can listen or drive faster.

The conference call was to establish a link between Mount Olivet and the Good Heritage Baptist Church in Lagos, Nigeria. This is the church that our sister Abiodun Akinsola was a part of when the Lord called her to begin to minister to the widows in Nigeria. I guess you could say she was on the road when she received the Lord’s call. And she stopped to listen. A couple of weeks ago we presented the James 127 ministry to our congregation and our people made many commitments to make a personal difference in the lives of these widows and orphans. Lord willing, we plan to send the first ministry offering to this church for distribution by the time you read this. God is at work in the nations of the world and He has summoned us to be a part of that. I am constantly amazed at how He manifests His desire in our midst.

In the past couple of years I see how the Lord is assembling His church at Mount Olivet. I was impressed with our Daily Bible Reading this week in Luke 19 where we see that Jesus *approached Bethpage and Bethany, near the mount that is called Olivet...* A textual note in the margin of my translation says it was *near a hill called Olive Grove...* All this comes together in my mind as a reminder of who we are to be as a church family. A group of fruit bearers learning to glorify the Living God. Living and loving life as God defines it.

On any given Sunday I can look out from my vantage point in our congregation and see many different representatives of several different people groups. We have become and are becoming a church of God’s design and desire. In Genesis God calls Abraham to become a blessing to the nations and in Revelation we will see the following passage come to fruition:

Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; (Revelation 22:1-3)

Lately our people have started to hear me make the following declaration on Sunday mornings:

Welcome to Olivet Nation... Where we are Called to... Worship Christ in Community...

Praying to Know the Manifest Will of God... Living in Practical Holiness...

Making Disciples of the Most Excellent Kind.

Watch for the Olivet Nation Page on the website coming soon...as soon as I can get to the side of the road...

Blessings to you,
Pastor Sam