

**MAMBILLA PLATEAU MISSION REPORT
THE MISSION TO BANG COMMUNITY, GEMBU,
SARDAUNA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF TARABA STATE,
NORTH-EAST NIGERIA**

Thursday, 27th January - Tuesday, 8th February 2022.

BY BROTHER CORNELIUS MALACHY SHEYIN

Greetings to you beloved brothers and sisters in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I am your brother Cornelius Malachy Sheyin, from Kaduna State, Nigeria reporting the recent mission work that took place in Bang, Gembu, Saradauna Local government, Taraba State, Nigeria.

THE EXHORTATION FROM BROTHER BLESSING NICE AKPAN

The Power To Witness

Acts 1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth

The power which the Apostles received, was the manifestation of the Holy Ghost in them, given for the witness of the baptism of Jesus Christ. This baptism was his death, burial, and resurrection. Matt 20:22-23.

It was clear that those apostles never stood the chance of being his witnesses without the supernatural force given from above. Today, many are zealous and sincerely witnessing for Jesus Christ, but they do not have a positive result.

Why? They lack the power to be true witnesses.

Many have gone ahead to make disciples for themselves, they boast about numbers but the lives of those they gather have not changed.

What did they witness?

Luke 24: 46-48

Jesus admonished that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name beginning at Jerusalem. This statement is exactly what was stated in Acts1: 8.

If they were to preach repentance and remission of sin in his name beginning at Jerusalem, it means they must continue in other places until Christ returns.

In conclusion, whenever we have the opportunity to speak to anyone about the Lord Jesus Christ, we are responding to an unconscious question (What shall I/we do to be saved?).

When people walk into the church, when they ask you the right of way, or any question at all, there is an underlying question, which is "what must I do to be saved?" Therefore, be ready always, to present Christ in the simplest way. Acts 2:37-38, Acts 16:30-33.

Brother Blessing Nice Akpan

THE REPORT

JALINGO



THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN



GEMBU



BANG COMMUNITY



FROM JALINGO TO THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN IS A 7-HOUR JOURNEY. FROM THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN TO GEMBU CENTRAL TOWN IS A 4-HOUR JOURNEY ON MOTORCYCLES. FROM GEMBU TO BANG COMMUNITY IS A 4-HOUR JOURNEY.

The mission work was led by the Lord through our precious brother Blessing Nice Akpan, the pastor of Life Assurance Tabernacle, Lagos, Nigeria. It was a journey that involved vessels from 5 Nigerian states namely; Lagos, Rivers, Edo, Nasarawa and Kaduna States with a total of 14 brethren that began the journey from 27th of January and arrived at Gembu on 29th of January, 2022 to proceed to Bang community in Saradauna local government on the same day.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; BROTHERS MOSES MOMOH, IKECHUKWU LOUIS AGU, GODSWILL DIKE, AUSTIN IMADEGBOR, KINGSLEY NLEMEKE, PETER IDOWU, JOSEPH EDEM, GULEN GENESIS AMANG (RULER OF BANG CENTRAL; THE HOST COMMUNITY), BLESSING AKPAN NICE, IFEANYI OBI, HERBERT OKONKWO, ELIJAH EGWAKIDHE, SAMUEL SUNDAY MOSES, CORNELIUS MALACHY SHEYIN, FAVOUR OKOLIEZE, ABOKI GEMNWI



THE VEHICLES, LUGGAGE AND THE MISSION TEAM AT JALINGO, TARABA STATE.



BRETHREN OFFLOADING THE LUGGAGE AT GEMBU, TARABA STATE

It was a journey full of experiences, one which God had ordained and as such, it was successful, but not without difficulties, most of which seemed humanly impossible to overcome. We never expected that we would scale through but God saw us through because he was the one that led us. When we trust in the Lord, He is obligated to give success in all things. Climbing the mountains to Bang community was a miracle.



A MOUNTAIN AT BANG



THE ROAD ON THE MOUNTAIN TO BANG



THE TEAM CROSSING THE WATERS TO BANG COMMUNITY



THE TEAM ARRIVES AT BANG COMMUNITY



HIGHWAY FROM CAMEROUN TO BANG (A)



HIGHWAY FROM CAMEROUN TO BANG (B)

The first time I saw the mountain was in the picture that was sent through the WhatsApp platform of Life Assurance Tabernacle when it was posted for the prayers before the trip. Seeing the actual mountain was scary. We thank God for sending DSP Aboki Gemnwi, a police officer designated by ACP Zephaniah Lembang to guide us from Jalingo to Gembu, Taraba State. This was because of the incessant cases of banditry, kidnapping, terrorist attacks and the overflow from the Cameroun crises.

He led us through the climbing of the mountain which took more than three hours to climb. Then, we continued with the journey on top of the mountain to Bang for another three hours. If we had ventured into this journey without God, it would not have been successful.

While ascending the mountain, thoughts flooded my heart, I thought aloud "Is this how Brother Nice venture into terrible terrains to fulfil the ministry which God has called him for?" I considered it a privilege to have first-hand experience of these as well. Humility is truly built from the things we suffer. My prayer is that the Lord grant him more grace.



THE TEAM ARRIVES AT BANG THREE CORNER WITH MOTORCYCLES



BROTHER NICE AND THE TEAM AT THE PALACE OF THE GULEN OF BANG THREE CORNER, CHIEF GEORGE KATAPS

We arrived at Bang Three Corner at 11:50 am and were warmly received by the chief of Bang Three Corner, Gulen of Barvel whose name is Chief George Kataps. Bang is a district that has five villages under Gembu, Saradauna Local government. Gulen means the chief of a community in the tribe of Bangs.

Furthermore, the chief of the community vacated his administrative building for the period of our stay in the community. The double three bed-room flats which are the traditional council building was where we carried out our major domestic activities. After then, we proceeded to the palace of the district head of the entire Bang community for a meeting. The district head, His Highness (Mbo bo Bang), Chief Mbomu Johnson Iba gladly received us.



THE DISTRICT HEAD (MBO BO BANG), CHIEF JOHNSON AND HIS SECRETARY IN THE PALACE



BROTHER NICE EXHORTING AT THE DISTRICT HEAD PALACE

Then, we proceeded to Bang Central which was divinely revealed to our precious brother Nice to be called Bang Original. The name of the chief of Bang Central is Gulen Genesis Amang (Reverend).



BROTHER NICE AND THE TEAM VISITS GULEN GENESIS AMANG (REVEREND) AT HIS PALACE



GULEN GENESIS AMANG (REVEREND), GULEN OF BANG CENTRAL IN HIS PALACE



BROTHER NICE AND REVEREND ELIAS IN CHARGE OF RELIGION AND CULTURE IN BANG CENTRAL



BROTHER NICE ADDRESSING THE GULEN

I will like to talk about what happened on the first day at the palace of the Gulen in Bang Central (Original). We were well received by the Gulen (Ruler), but we could sense the negative energy in the palace. The Lord revealed to us through Brother Elijah Egwakidhe a night before, that we were about to face the greatest confrontation of the trip and it would be the deciding factor, whether we stay or leave. This prophecy was fulfilled exactly as was revealed.

The Gulen seemed to be under some kind of pressure, whether or not to allow us permission to access his people as that community is known throughout its history from the 1900s to resist and kill missionaries and we were at the exact spot where past missionaries were usually rejected, humiliated, chased away and in some cases, be killed. In modern times, they have boasted of beating up Pentecostal preachers who had come for evangelism purposes and they seemed to be proud of it.

When the chief in charge of Religion and Cultural Matters came in, he introduced himself as the 'village pastor', a term he used to ferment trouble. So he started attacking brother Zephaniah Lembang for trying to infiltrate the villages with false doctrines, baptizing people without the permission of the chiefs or their pastors. He asked the Gulen if he was permitted to ask us some questions and his first question was to declare our doctrine. Brother Nice, in his response, told him that our doctrine is the doctrine of Jesus Christ. This annoyed him the more and he told the Gulen that what it simply mean was that they have no Jesus, so we have to be the ones to bring Jesus to them. This feud continued the next four hours but in all, Brother Nice was firm yet calm. Finally, the Gulen ordered everyone to be quiet and was about to declare his stand. He stood up from his throne and he said, "I have the right to protect my people against any evil in whatever way it may come, be it political, religious, etc." The pastor (chief) interrupted the Gulen and said that he was putting it to the Gulen to ask us to leave and go back to wherever we were coming from. He said that we do not believe the trinity and he paused and said, "Do you believe the holy trinity?" Brother Nice answered, "You are correct. We do not believe trinity because trinity is from the pits of hell." The Gulen called for quietness and concluded with the statement below:

Gulen Amang Statement in brief

“Our fathers chased the missionaries with hails, snakes and wicked powers. They refused the establishment of a hospital by the missionaries. Years later, our fathers carried their sick ones on their backs and made a walk of over seven hours, descending and ascending hills to the nearest hospital in another district. In some cases, they brought corpses of those that died on the way because they never made it to the hospital. In most cases, the dead were too heavy for them to carry back, so they brought descriptions of the spots where they were buried.” He then concluded, “I have the right to say no to these men whom I do not know from anywhere but I refuse to repeat the mistakes of my fathers.”

Then he said to us “Do not preach any doctrine. Do not cause any stir and be ready to stop when we say you should stop.” Brother Nice answered, “Yes, all things being equal.”

At last, they availed us of the opportunity to preach. We proceeded from there, as we were allowed to continue with the mission work. The crusade continued for the next five days still under strict opposition.



OPENING ADDRESS BY THE GULEN OF BANG CENTRAL, GULEN GENESIS AMANG (REVEREND) AT THE CRUSADE GROUND;



AN ADDRESS BY THE DISTRICT HEAD OF BANG COMMUNITY (MBO BO BANG), CHIEF JOHNSON AT THE CRUSADE GROUND;



ATTENDEES AT THE CRUSADE GROUND



CHILDREN AT THE CRUSADE GROUND

We heard that the Reverend in charge of Religion and Cultural Matters had gone about telling people not to attend the crusade, however, this did not prevent the crusade. I would like to thank our brother Joseph Lembang, a barrister and also the biological brother to Zephaniah Lembang whom God used to accommodate us in Bang Central (Original). The crusade took place at a market square opposite a mosque.



BROTHER NICE PREACHING AT THE CRUSADE



BROTHER NICE PREACHING AT THE CRUSADE WITH THE INTERPRETER, BROTHER ROLAND.

The first day saw few attendances because the people were afraid of the traditional/religious leaders but the question and answers with the preaching of the word encouraged a large turnout on subsequent days.



QUESTION ON WATER BAPTISM



COMMENT ON THE PREACHING



QUESTION ON WATER BAPTISM

While the religious leaders in Bang were fighting to stop the crusade, chiefs and rules of neighbouring Cameroonian Villages were coming to attend the meeting with their people uninvited. One notable case was a high chief, the Tor of Li-Cop of Cameroon. Many were won unto Christ by baptizing in the name of Jesus Christ. We thank God for the success.



BROTHER ZEPHANIAH AND BROTHER NICE WITH THE TRADITIONAL RULERS.



A MINISTER BAPTIZING BROTHER WILSON, ONE OF THE AIDE OF THE DISTRICT HEAD.

The Lord visited his people individually and there were a lot of testimonies. Below are images of 3 people testifying to the glory of God.



BROTHER AMINU AUSTIN TESTIFYING OF GOD DELIVERING HIM FROM SMOKING AND DRINKING AFTER BAPTISM



ONE OF THE SECURITY OFFICERS TESTIFYING OF DELIVERANCE FROM ADDICTIONS



SISTER DORATHY EKU (THE WOMEN LEADER) TESTIFYING OF THE HEALING OF HER LEG AND HER BAPTISM. HER TESTIMONY SHOOK THE LOCAL CHURCH OFF BALANCE.

There were manifestations of God's gifts through visions and dreams. God spoke to us on how they gathered to attack us. There was a message specifically that came through our beloved brother Herbert a night to the last day. It stated that we should continue to praise Him, and He would fight our battles. I also learnt from our beloved brother Nice the right approach when confronted with challenging situations. He encouraged us to understand that these people need patience from us and to the glory of God complicated issues were handled by the Lord through him in such a way that was so amazing to many of us.

During our stay, we went to visit our precious sister Divine, a widow and a firm believer, one who has confidence in our Lord Jesus Christ, whom the villagers attacked and even labelled her a witch after she was water baptized in August 2021 by Brother Zephaniah Lembang.



SISTER DIVINE



SISTER DIVINE AND HER CHILDREN WITH HER NEIGHBOURS

It was her faith in the face of her persecution by the church/community councils that stirred up the church in Lagos to uphold her in prayers in September 2021. She was disgraced in the village, tortured and labelled a witch, yet she held onto the few scriptures she knew to defend her actions of baptizing in the name of Jesus Christ. Please, let us remember this sister in our prayers.

In the end, there was a great celebration among the villagers, even among the Muslims.



THE COMMUNITY DANCING UNTO THE LORD



THE MISSION TEAM AND THE VILLAGERS

Throughout the crusade period, these Muslims sat in front of their mosque which was opposite the Crusade ground, listening to the messages as they came forth. They even asked questions to know more. I'm saying this for us to remember them in prayers. At some point, we ran out of resources; food and other materials, but I learnt from our beloved brother Nice to depend solely on God and take our eyes off our needs. He encouraged us that even when we leave our homes, we should be assured that He who sent us is taking charge of those we left behind. He cited an example in this mission where our phones were rendered useless whose purpose was to take photographs and listen to messages. In such conditions, what can we do back home from there than to continue to look onto Christ for everything we need? The Muslims surprisingly sent their wives to bring grains and vegetables for our feeding, something that has never happened before.



THE TEAM WITH THE BROTHERS WHO SUPPORTED THE WORK, IN LOGISTICS, IN COOKING, IN BUILDING AND OTHER THINGS.



BROTHER NICE RECEIVING A GIFT FROM THE GULEN OF BANG CENTRAL, GULEN GENESIS AMANG (REVEREND) ON BEHALF OF THE COMMUNITY

OUR ENCOUNTER IN LIP

In September 2021, Brother Nice requested brother Lembang to search out a large parcel of land for the construction of a tabernacle. This was first announced towards the end of the 21 days prayers and fasting meetings held at Life Assurance Tabernacle, Lagos. The land was sorted and paid for and at the end of November when the rains had stopped on the Mambilla plateau, the foundation was laid for the construction of a simple tabernacle. This was the beginning of the crises and intense persecution, threat to the lives of those associated with the project.



THE MAN THAT SOLD THE LAND TO THE CHURCH



THE CHURCH SITE CONVERTED TO A MISSION HOUSE DUE TO THE REJECTION OF THE CHIEFS FOR THE CHURCH TO BE BUILT ON THAT SITE.

Brother Nice told brother Lembang that we are not to strive and that the building should be converted to a simple 4-bedroom house to house missionaries in the future. The chief claimed that there could not be a church directly opposite an existing one or near his palace. The fact is that it would take one four minutes to walk from the building to the church but they wanted to ferment trouble and they threatened us that since we cannot understand peaceful language, they would respond to us diabolically. They even beat up those who accepted to work on the site, that no one should have anything to do with these people who have come in with strange doctrine to destroy the peace of their land.



THE TEAM'S VISIT TO THE GULEN OF LIP



THE PEOPLE OF LIP HAVE WATER SCARCITY CRISES

At the end of the crusade in February 2022, Brother Nice requested that the team should visit the Gulen of Lip, the host where we had the ongoing project. A message was sent across to us that it will not be important to come as we would not be received but he insisted that we must go anyhow. Barrister Joseph Lembang was sent ahead, the younger of Assistant Commissioner of Police, brother Zephaniah Lembang. He spent three hours waiting for the arrival of the Gulen who was said to have gone to his farm. When brother Nice arrived with the team, there was a lot of uproars but he calmed them down, even making excuses on behalf of the Gulen. He told us that we should accept on behalf of the Gulen that he never said those things against us and that he forgot that we were coming. To our surprise, the Gulen came out of his house, claiming that he was deeply asleep. The barrister was so shocked and he said he had never seen someone covering his enemy the way brother Nice did to the Gulen who was persecuting him.

The Gulen brought us this gallon of water and a cup for over 25 of us, then he mockingly said “You are wasting your energy to build a house, where would you get water to build the house, bath or drink when you finally come to live here or to do your evil baptism?”



FIRST MEETING IN BANG CENTRAL, IN BARRISTER JOSEPH LEMBANGS HOUSE



THE BOUNDARY STONE SEPARATING BANG AND CAMEROUN



THE PROPOSED CHURCH SITE THAT IS TERMED "CURSED".



THE ONLY MOTORABLE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION

CONCLUSION

We departed Bang community to our various destinations on the 8th of February 2022. I am thankful to God for the successful mission trip and to all the believers who contributed in prayers, materials and financial support. God bless you all. And also, to our beloved brother Nice for his humility to coordinate the team selflessly. A lot was learnt and I pray the Lord to help us to submit to Him, and grant us the wisdom to approach the unbelievers with the message. God bless you all.

(I was saddled with the responsibility of writing this mission report and I did not know how to go about it. I thank God for Brother Moses Sunday, Arinze Obikobe and Joshua Nice, all of Life Assurance Tabernacle, Lagos for the help rendered in preparing the report. I apologize to the readers if you encounter any errors in the structure of this mission report)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The baptism of Brother Zephaniah Lembang can be located here: <https://youtu.be/yMr9mravLC4>

The testimony of Brother Zephaniah Lembang can be located here: <https://youtu.be/pFCdL4ViVAE>