

Every child matters to God



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S GRACE FOUNDATION

# TORCH

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## God's Grace Foundation's vision

To reach the children of the nations for Jesus

## God's Grace Foundation's mission

To reach children by meeting their spiritual, physical and social needs so they can become all that God created them to be.

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## welcome

It's been such a wonderful experience for us this year in GGF, through it all our greatest source of inspiration, motivation and strength is God. We are glad to let you know that we have extended our scholarship programme in Nigeria from 13 to 21 children and we hope to extend it to other developing nations in the near future. We give God all the glory.

We appreciate all our partners and all who donated to GGF this year, those who participated in our August's sponsored walk and their sponsors, it was fun walking 5 miles. We say thank you for your contributions; God will not forget your labour of love. Thank you to all who joined us this year in praying at different locations. The Lord will make you a thousand times more than you are at the moment and crown your year with great things in Jesus name.

Best wishes,

**Olumide & Dupe Makinde**

## February Prayer Campaign for Families and Marriages Saturday, 3 February 2007

"One shall chase a thousand and two shall put ten thousand to flight"  
Deuteronomy 32:30

Join us as we lift up our voices to the Lord for Families and Marriages. For more details, please call/text Dupe on 07859 057770 or email us on pray@godsgracefoundation.org

# The year in brief

By Kemi Onafuwa

2006 has indeed been an eventful and fun year in the life of GGF. The February Prayer Meeting took place in Peckham (Southwark) and for the second year running, we took part in the World Wide Day of Prayer for Children at Risk in June. We also held two other prayer meetings in South East London during the year.

The summer event was so much fun and a great success - having fun while raising money seemed a sensible mix! On a beautiful Saturday morning in August, twelve of us took to the streets of Charlton walking through parks and woods and finishing five miles later with a picnic in the grounds of Lessnes Abbey in Abbey Wood. We raised over £1,500, which has enabled us to almost double the number of children being sponsored.

In October, three members of GGF visited orphanages, schools and children's homes across the western part of Nigeria. The feedback is that there is a great need and we can ALL contribute - whether in time, in money, in support or through our prayers. Nothing is too little and nothing is too much to give because everything you give goes a long way in making life just that little bit better for a child. Every child is precious to God and through your input these children can taste and see God's goodness.

We wish you a very merry Christmas and thank you for being a part of the GGF family. We look forward to an exciting 2007.



August summer event: Walkers posing for a group photo before setting off.



Olumide, Femi, Funmi & Bukky enjoying the summer sunshine during the sponsored walk



Dupe with the children and workers of Love Home (Real Woman Foundation).



Olumide & Dupe with God's Grace Foundation's sponsored children



Lola and Dupe with the founder of The Great Joy Orphanage, Mrs. Uwagboe and Moses

## The Great Joy Orphanage

By Lola Anuwe

Everyday on the radio or television there is one appeal or the other for children in need. For some of us these grim pictures seem so far from reality, you could almost look at the images shown and ask the question "How can?"

What brought it home for me was my first visit to 'The Great Joy Orphanage' in Ipaja, Lagos Nigeria. It was a memorable experience and is something I will remember and cherish for a long time. I remember looking into the eyes of the children, nothing can quite prepare you for that - those eyes tell you a story, each with a different tale to tell. I met a two-year-old boy called Moses whose mother had a mental illness and lived on the streets of Lagos. As a newborn the first few months of

his life were far from normal, luckily, a good Samaritan spotted him in good time and handed him over to the orphanage. The owner of the orphanage, an orphan herself, knows and understands the pain and needs of these children and loves and cares for them dearly.

People like her are remarkable but the truth is they need our support. These children are the future, we need to empower them and they need to know that the world is not a cruel and bitter place. It is our responsibility to show them a world filled with love where there is hope of a better tomorrow. They don't need pity, what they need is for us to reach out to them and determine in our hearts to do all that it takes to transform these precious lives.



## Children and their role in our lives

by Bukky Latinwo

Bukky (right) with some of the children of Kwara State Children Reception Centre

The dictionary meaning of a child means their, offspring, a product or a result of the union of a man and a woman.

Zohie, a single mum of two, sees her children as her audience, she feels they are part of God's plan whether you plan them or not. She also sees them as gifts whether or not they are valued.

Abby sees her own child as a ministry and a miracle in the making and Abby's mum on her own part sees Abby simply as a blessing.

The bible however in Psalm 127 vs. 3-5 says a lot. It defines children as heritage/gifts from the Lord. They are His reward. Children born to a young man are like sharp arrows to defend him.

Heritage means valued things, and a gift means a thing given willingly to someone without payment. A reward is a thing given to someone and when something is rewarding, we say it provides satisfaction.

In essence children are valuable gifts given to us as a reward and they are meant to give us satisfaction. Psalm 127 goes on to say happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. That man shall have the help he needs when arguing with his enemies.

The study of children from the bible reveals that children are used by God to mould us into people he wants us to be. We can therefore conclude that a child is a gift, a reward, a helper and a defender.

They are a very important part of our existence, they are our responsibility and we are accountable to God the way we handle them, bring them up and value them.

**...children are used by God to mould us into people He wants us to be.**

## God's Wisdom: The Principal thing and You...Therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding

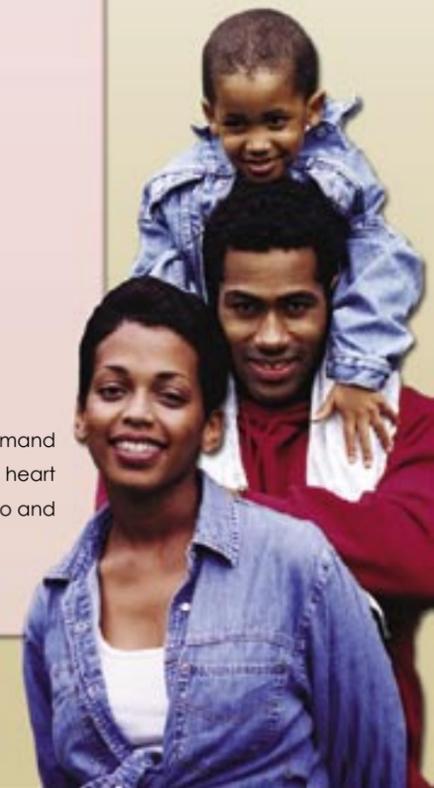
by Olumide Makinde

### Motives

- Motives determine actions. Actions are results of motives.
- Motives can be subconscious but they must be consciously set in line with God's word.
- Motives answer the question of why or reason.
- Without recognising your motives and without motives one is existing and not living.
- Losing sight of your motive at a moment in time means whatever you are doing is meaningless.
- Meaningful living means my motives are derived from God and His word. He that has believed has entered into His rest and has ceased from his own works.

### Application

To obey the word of God; the command or instructions beckons on you to act out the command in reality; that is to live it out. The way to do it is to set that command as a motive in one's heart consciously. The word of God is full of motives or reasons, which we need to set our hearts to and as we do, we will be pleasing God, walking in His ways and obeying Him.



# Are you anxious about your children?

By Dupe Makinde

**"Do not worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and mind as you live in Christ Jesus". Philippians 4:6-7 NLT**

As Christians, we are told not to worry or be anxious about anything but we should be pray about everything. One of the things we often find ourselves anxious about is our children. If you are a parent, it is easy to

be anxious about your children especially if they are not growing as you think they should or when you receive a negative report about them.

According to Philippians 4:6, we cannot have God's peace if we worry about anything, the bible offers us the alternative to worrying - **praying**. Praying about everything is God's alternative to worrying or living in anxiety. I want to focus on not being anxious about your children; it could be your biological children, children or the young people in your neighbourhood or your siblings. Practise praying about everything, it may seem strange at first but as you put into practise, you will see the results. When we pray, God's peace will guard our heart concerning the issues, we will find ourselves not moved by what we see. We know that the challenges that we face are not permanent but they are temporary including the ones relating to our children. The word of God says in Isaiah 54:13 that "and all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children". We are sure that God is mindful of our children and He will come through for them no matter how old they are.

Praying about things doesn't mean we should not seek medical or professional help when necessary. As you go to the doctor or specialist, do not stop praying because Jesus is the Great Physician. I will encourage you to pray about everything that concerns your children. Even as we pray, we need to believe that God will answer our prayers, we need to be specific when making our request and offer him thanks. We need to confidently trust in God as we make requests to Him or as we speak to the challenges facing our children.

"For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will (get it)". Mark 11:24 Amplified.

As the above passage says, when we believe or have faith that God hears us, we will see our prayers answered over our children.

In summary, we need to pray about everything concerning our children and our lives so that the peace of God can guard our hearts and mind.

## PRAYER POINTS

Hundreds of children, some younger than two, are being abandoned in Poland by parents chasing dreams of a new life in Britain. A Mail on Sunday investigation reveals that parents are dumping children in Poland's state-run orphanages before heading to London. Even more tragically, some youngsters have killed themselves after being left with elderly relatives - while others have turned to drugs and crime when their mothers and fathers abandoned them. To read more of this story, see [www.dailymail.co.uk/articles](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/articles).

- Pray for children who have been abandoned by their parents in Poland.
- Pray that the hand of God will touch these children and He will provide families that will love and care for them
- Pray for children who are in foster or care homes during Christmas, that they will truly know the love of God.
- Pray for families, pray for one family at a time. When families break down, it's the children who mostly suffer. Pray for children whose parents have recently divorced or are separated.
- A family unit is the best place for a child to grow and develop. Pray that people will begin to take their responsibilities as parents seriously.
- Pray for your marriage if you are married and marriages that you know are facing challenges.

## Educational Sponsorship

A good education leads to a better and brighter future and it helps us to develop our potential. To find out more about GGF or to make a donation, please call or email us using the contact details below. Thank you for your support.

God's Grace Foundation is a non-profit making organisation that operates as a ministry in the kingdom of God. Our focus is to PRAY and engage DIVINE approach to tackle challenges that confronts children and young people in the larger society.



Yinka Tijani - a beneficiary of GGF's sponsorship.

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