



I WILL BUILD MY EKKLESIA

Grace and Peace to all who earnestly care for and serve the flock of His pasture -- to all His servants who are committed to preach the Gospel of the Grace of God unto Salvation and the Gospel of Peace unto the reconciliation of His People unto the Measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Christ!

Jesus said: *"I will build my EKKLESIA and the Gates of Hades will not prevail against it"* (Matt. 16:18).

That's what the ministry of ONE BODY LIFE is all about--the building up of His Ekklesia. Our Savior made this statement after Peter's revelation from the Father that this same Jesus was "The Christ--the Anointed One--Messiah--the Son of the Living God."

It is upon such a revelation of the Person of Christ that He immediately

moved on to disclose His Work on this earth: To build His Ekklesia and prevail against the Gates of Hades!

God's people are NOT serving on "barrack's duty"- i. e. on the defensive but we are on the offensive waging war against principalities and powers as the very Body of Christ:

"... be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against

flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand"

Brethren, this battle is fought by His One Body--we're not fighting alone-- it takes the whole Body for this-- we're with you! Let's put on the "Body Armor!"

Members of "One Body Life"

"MAKE THEM ONE" - By Henry Hon

Democracy, invented by the Greeks about 600 B.C., is now the dominate form of government among countries around the world.

Certainly, from various perspective it has more benefits than an autocratic government. However, democracy has also magnified division and hatred among opposing groups with corruption baked in.

The forum for democracy invented by the Greeks was called "Ekklesia." This was a gathering of diverse citizens with the right to speak openly about their convictions. They would freely deliberate before legislating. When Jesus came and asked Simon Who He was-- Simon received revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Immediately, Jesus said that He would build His Ekklesia. Jesus didn't say He will build His Kingdom, His Body, His temple, or His Bride; He said He will build His Ekklesia, a democracy. However, His Ekklesia is described in the New Testament as all of the above-mentioned items and more.

Consider the contrast between the secular Ekklesia and God's Ekklesia. During the days of Jesus, women and slaves were excluded from Ekklesia; whereas, Jesus' Ekklesia includes everyone who has received Him through faith including all people groups which are often found with differing, even opposing, perspectives: Jews and Gentiles (racial issues), circumcision and uncircumcised (religious differences), barbarians and Scythian (cultural contrasts), male and female (sexual differences), masters and slaves (political, educational, and socioeconomic), and young and old

(age disparities).

However, unlike the secular Ekklesia, where hatred, divisions, and corruption are rife, the Lord's Ekklesia is where there is love for one another, acceptance, respect, appreciation, fellowship, and true unity. This is the testimony of Jesus testifying of His grace, love, life, nature, and the very fellowship of the Trinity indwelling His people. No wonder God's Ekklesia is called a lampstand (Rev. 2-3) --a light of God's people in love and oneness in the midst of a darkened world.

In order to fully understand God's Ekklesia, it is critical to understand the conspiracy in the 15th and 16th centuries where the Roman Church and later King James (Protestant) demanded that the Greek word Ekklesia be translated to "church"--which is literally defined as a physical structure for worship (i. e., a "house of worship"). Both the Roman Church and King James (head of the Church of England) wanted the populace to go to church since whoever owns the church has the monopoly to indoctrinate the populace from the owner's particular perspective of the Bible or religious tradition.

Certainly, today with the explosion of churches there are many good churches doing good works, preaching the gospel, and teaching the Bible; however, every church continues to teach and preach according to the perspective of its building's owner. Christians today are even more divided than the secular world since they have multiple divisive secular issues (race, politics, social hot-button issues), plus all the segregating doctrinal interpretations and practices which they have adopted from the church of their choice.

One Body Life's ministry, inspired by Jesus'

prayer for His followers to be one (John 17), desires to awaken the eternal life and fellowship with the divine nature imparted to all God's people joined in His oneness . . . whether they go to any particular church or are done with institutional churches. We are commissioned to preach the gospel of peace to divided believers so that the Lord's Ekklesia as described in the New Testament will again be a lampstand testifying to the world that God's people with diverging perspectives can love one another and be one in the Son.

This is not organizational ecumenism, nor is it building a better church group--it is the freedom of individual and diverse believers associating, fellowshiping, and breaking bread with each other in the Holy Spirit without the barriers of any religious or secular systems.

This is God's eternal purpose! Not practical? Then re-read John 11 and 17 and see what's on the Lord's heart in gathering together "the children of God scattered abroad" and "make them one" (John 11:52-NIV - Jo. 17:20-23 NKJV).

"... as the high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one"

John 11:51-52
"... that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you . . . so that they may be brought to complete unity" - John 17:21-23



Henry Hon





TESTIMONIALS

WE'VE ASKED SEVERAL BROTHERS TO GIVE US TESTIMONIALS OF HOW

the Lord led them into a deeper understanding and experience of Ekklesia—their stories follow - they vary in length but we're certain you'll enjoy how the Holy Spirit has led them in their journey.



MY LONGING FOR THE LORD'S EKKLESIA - A METAPHORICAL JOURNEY - By Femi Adebayo of One Body Life, Nigeria

Somehow, it happened that since I gave my life to the Lord Jesus properly in 1986, He has always directed my heart to the issue of "His Body" (His Church as I used to call it before I realized the price paid by others to distinguish Ekklesia from "Church"). I now see myself not interested at all in building up any denominational structure; although I got my first degree or my 'B.A.' (Born Again) in a denomination. Unfortunately, one of the ministers of that denomination who raised us

up during those days mistakenly said something to let me know that in a denomination he could not express the whole truth on some matters because they were paying him a salary. That was the last straw that broke the camel's back for me. I totally wrote off anything denominational in my heart. I started looking for a credible alternative to serving and pleasing God.

Later, I realized that to be "approved by God" (Rom. 12:1-2)—Whose approval I earnestly sought—was deficient. That for which I was desiring was missing the mark. It was as if the Lord was telling me: "Are you satisfied with your B.A. degree?" Therefore, I needed to proceed for a "Master's Degree." I later got to understand this to mean that I must be disciplined. That meant I needed to go for advance training in learning how to know and serve the Lord effectively before I would be able to continue on this journey.

I inquired of the Lord through prayer—He forthwith led me to one of His renown servants who was also a versatile Bible teacher in Nigeria. A man who lived the Life. So, I joined up with him in a serious, concerted, decisive discipleship training program which served as my Master's Degree to this day.

This training took me close to three decades of my life before I could come to the present level I am now pursuing. I refer to this as the pursuit of the Lord's Ekklesia. Yes, I've been accepted into this PhD (Doctorate Degree) level. Although the arduous task in obtaining such a degree is, after all, a most challenging, but gratifying, experience—nevertheless, I take full responsibility, and by God's grace, am committed up through and including my doctoral thesis!

Now you can see the way I have highlighted my journey into the pursuit of the Lord's Ekklesia? That is my rather feeble attempt in describing my journey. It is an advance Christian life for which I seek. However, it is totally not within the reach of the natural man. Those who still seek anything for themselves, be it ministry, higher degrees, personal fulfillment or personal glory in whatever disguise, cannot comprehend it. I am speaking this with all my heart because I have experienced it. Even sharing the vision of the Lord's Ekklesia with those who have post-graduate degrees in the Christian faith cannot comprehend it. Those who have Master's Degrees at some level of discipleship see discipleship as the end of all Christian pursuit. Why? Because it has to come by

revelation. It comes to whomever the Lord wants to reveal it—they will see it—I can rest in that. Therefore, I discovered that we are as a remnant in this pursuit because the Lord has not yet opened it to His children in greater numbers . . . and there is no need to "despise the day of small things" (Zech. 4:10).

So, we are waiting for them to come and see this. I believe that sooner or later, those who have yet to see it will see it; especially many who have already gone through the quarry site experience in their Christian faith and those who are still undergoing it. Today, I am very much involved in making disciples because it is the commission the Lord Jesus gave to everyone He has disciplined, but I do it now with a focus. I no longer "cast my pearls before swine" because I realize that many folks who are running to Jesus—even for discipleship—have diverse and hidden agenda. Some do not have a hidden agenda; notwithstanding, they have a selfish agenda even if that selfish agenda is to "go to Heaven." They have forgotten that what will make God and His Son happy while we are still here is to come together in unity to build His Body for Him. This is the revelation and understanding I got from Luke 17:8-9.

Today, many sincere saints are preparing a table for themselves when even the Master is

not yet satisfied. Many prefer a great ministry with large crowds, while disregarding the building up of the Lord's Ekklesia—that vision is far from their thought. Yet it is this Ekklesia, when it is built, which will possess the gates of her enemies!

In summary, my testimony, my journey, is in three stages. I have now enrolled in this my 'PhD', and I have just started. But what qualified me for it was first a B.A. degree (i. e., I was genuinely Born Again). Then I got my Master's Degree (i. e., I was properly and fully disciplined to know the Lord and what He desires. This dealt with every form of ambition in my life.. His cross crossed out every desire for self-glory in whatever disguise it took. I see this as very crucial in my testimony because it graduated me to 'appreciate' the oneness of believers and the need to labor for the building up of the Body of Christ according to the biblical pattern). Now, I am pursuing it, viz. my PhD. This is my third degree which has now narrowed me down to this one thing we lacked which is "building the Lord's Ekklesia" in all the localities of the Earth wherever believers are found.

Moreover, those who have the desire for great crowds cannot survive here.

Remember, "they were meeting in houses, breaking bread and prayers and were eating their meal with gladness of mind."

THE FIRST BOOK ONE: How grateful I was the day I miraculously discovered Bro. Henry and the OBL brethren! It's difficult for others to grasp my experience. But imagine a man who is searching for a pearl who finally finds it—a pearl of great price! What did he do? (read Matt 13:44, 45 & 46 was my real experience). Until this very moment, my joy knows no bounds.

The title **ONE** is something I have never found on any bookshelf. Bro. Henry gave me a copy which has become a treasure to me. I could not stop reading it until I had read it straight. Its contents were to me like 'a glass of cool water in an extremely hot season'. Imagine a worn-out man who has walked throughout the desert finds a stream of water. What will he do next? He'll consume that water! **ONE** summarized all my spiritual desires and biblical aspirations—I entered my doctoral pursuit! (Cont'd on bottom Pg. 4)

THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

WE AT ONE BODY LIFE "TEAMED UP" WITH Wother ministries like Pilgrim House in Ibadan, Nigeria by participating with their annual Christian Workers' Congress held at the Bethlehem Resort near the city. Dr. James Tobih, one of the main driving forces behind this nearly 30-year four-day gathering of Christian leadership, proposed that the equipping of a wide spectrum of Christian leaders be given the opportunity to go into depth in the study and practice of Ecclesiology with great stress upon the Person and Work of Christ--especially in regards to our Lord's prayer for the ONENESS of His people . . . a most critical issue in Nigeria and throughout West Africa. Thus, the Christ Ekklesia Institute was founded in 2019.



By Ronnie Yap EKKLESIA Philippines

My parents and grand-
parents were part of the
leadership core of a

Methodist church, (aka JEMELIF) of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, Philippines.

At an early age of 7, until I was 16 years old, I was a loyal and ever-joyful participant of Sunday school in our local church. I attended almost all of the church's events and activities like Bible studies, music choir, children, youth camps, revival meetings, etc.. However, it was not until I turned 9 or 10 years of age that the truth, reality, and relevance of how I needed the Lord Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior hit me to the core. It was the night after I watched a horrific, death-dealing—although fictional story—about a catastrophic tsunami that happened in Japan. In a very mysterious way, God showed me that anytime death could happen to me! The larger issue facing me back then was the fear of "Where would I go after death?"

Words can't fully explain it but one thing I know that the fear of death can overwhelm a person—filling every part of one's heart . . . that darkness took place in me one particular night in 1980. But all glory to God because at that particular moment and in a split of a nanosecond, His Holy Spirit reminded me of the story of Jesus' death and resurrection for the world. Definitely, for me, what my Sunday school teachers had been teaching me for almost 3 years in different settings or activities became so real to me. I simply prayed out of faith: "Lord Jesus, please save me from death's stranglehold." All of a sudden, so quick, the Lord filled the very room where I was in with His presence—literally death's fear melted away. That night I slept so peacefully. The following morning I was filled with His love, peace, and joy—indescribable!

After that encounter with the God the Father and Jesus Christ, I shared His love and saving story to my friends and classmates. Also, I felt a burden to serve the Lord in His Church. I served as a Bible teacher during Sundays and a youth pastor to my high

school friends who normally didn't attend a local church. I simply shared with them Jesus and His love during school breaks—even without the knowledge or approval of our ordained pastor. I simply enjoyed His love—so I shared it.

At the age of 16, and with prayers of my parents and grandparents, along with the guidance of our senior pastor, I strongly felt the urging of the Lord to enter into a Bible seminary for Pastoral Training. Although we were part of a Methodist church, yet it honestly—as early as entering training as a pastor—the issue of denominational identity and the like was "no big deal" to me. I definitely respect its reality, but the Lord simply gave me a heart of oneness with other believers in other denominations or churches. In fact, though I "belong" to a Methodist church, yet I fellowshiped with charismatic churches and other believers outside of our denomination.

I had no exact words to articulate it back then, but now through Henry Hon's writing and expressions, I believe the truth that at the very moment a person believes in Jesus Christ as his or her Lord, he is given an organic, spiritual DNA to be ONE, not only with God but also with other believers in the Lord, regardless of their denominational affiliation or non-affiliation.

So, I served in a pastoral-teaching ministry in different churches for 3 decades, up until the present. Almost three years ago, that's 2019, during one of our fellowships I met Brother Clarence and Sister Linda through a common friend. They invited us to a conference and introduced to us Henry's 1st book titled ONE. Clarence encouraged us to read the book as a primer. He also told us that it will be the main material to be discussed in depth at the conference we were attending.

Prior to that I'd been observing—in fact personally experiencing divisions, dis-fellowship and quarrels on so many fronts, both subtle and overt ones—inside different churches with whom I had been in fellowship. I shared in this type of "church fratricide" because I never bridged the gap. I longed to, but back then, honestly, I didn't know how. I needed an equipping and exposure to God's solution to such factious behavior among believers.

All glory to God—during our 3-day sessions

and fellowship with Henry and Sylvia, Clarence and Linda, and the brethren in Tagaytay in 2019—the Lord ministered to me. I'm sure He's adding more clarity and fullness to His vision of ONE BODY that He's building. He's giving me a priceless opportunity to join Him and the brethren in this regard.

During the present global lock down, my wife and I lost our chaplaincy work at a hotel chain. Together with the rest of the world, we personally saw and experienced the obvious weakness and limitations of a centralized, hierarchical, charismatic-style human leadership system both in business and in church/ministry settings. It appears to me that the Lord shined His bright light upon me—on all of us and on the institutions that we built—to show us no matter how "big and successful" we are that if we're not ONE with Him and His ultimate purpose of building up His ONE BODY we're running on an empty tank, reaching our destination to nowhere, tired, defeated and wasted. But praises to God alone because those dead ends are not His grand design. Jesus Christ said, "Upon this rock I will build My assembly and the gates of hades/hell cannot prevail against it." Jesus prayed, "Father may they be ONE as we are ONE that the world may believe that you sent me."

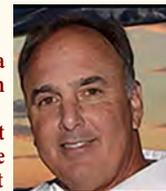
Reading Henry's book ONE Ekklesia and repeatedly watching the OBL videos has made the vision clearer, more simple, and by God's grace and Jesus' Spirit and the brethren, much more doable, enjoyable, and irresistible!

During this difficult and trying time, I, together with my family and friends like Clarence and Linda, Henry and Sylvia, the OBL ministry team, Bulacan and Cavite Fellowships, and our community in Valenzuela, we've started to put the vision on the ground and we found it gloriously practical, exciting and challenging. Not easy but doable!

Now, aside from being saved and forgiven and assured of heaven, I'm starting to realize—to get a glimpse and foretaste of Jesus Christ's vision of ONE and why He gave His life for it! I pray, that together with the brethren, I will do the same—give my all for His purpose. So help us Lord! It's for Your glory, Satan's crushing, and humanity's ultimate joy in You and each other. Amen!

HOSTING EKKLESIA

By John Polli - Rocklin,
California



Hosting an Ekklesia
comes with certain
responsibilities;
namely, staying out
of the way of the
Holy Spirit and not

engineering your stamp on the meeting! So for one, lessons come along in the way of the Lord—like, "Being still and knowing I am God." In other words, "I got it. Watch and see the salvation of the Lord in many lives as I see fit." So, plainly said, child of mine, stay out of the way.

My attitude from the beginning has been to watch others start to see themselves as the Lord sees them and watch them grow. Of course, many come as seasoned believers who are mature in the Lord. They bring to the table as the Lord leads, but when they don't trust the Lord and have their own agenda, He'll bring correction in the form of us, the Body, coming alongside a brother or sister at first by ourselves, then with another brother—but mostly we pray and ask the Lord if He'd have this faction to stay or leave . . . either way we are still going to love them.

For instance, if we have a brother or sister that has their own agenda they're bringing to the meeting and wants to continually railroad the meeting toward themselves, this is a faction that the mature address. We welcome them here but if they push a different vision than that of His One Body sharing "one by one" and "each one has" a portion of the Lord, then we might suggest they align themselves with a ministry-style their comfortable with. We don't want somebody coming into the Body who wants to draw people to themselves, which is the "god of their belly." When they come recruiting people unto themselves, people in the Ekklesia feel awkward having them there—receiving all whom the Lord receives is really where it's at—being open to all God's people honors the Lord.

(Continued on top of Page 4)

Another note, after attending Ekklesia-style gatherings, I was able to decipher what was of Him and what wasn't. How? You might ask? Simply put, one meeting was controlled and went through a leader while the other "let go of the things" where everyone shared as they felt led of the Lord. In the latter there was freedom to share without being judged.

It was shortly after I attended such meetings the Lord prompted me by asking: "Are you ready to open your home for an Ekklesia?" After saying "Yes," to the Lord, I asked the Lord what was this about, what is the focus? He led me to Psalm 27:4: "To behold the beauty of the Lord and inquire in His temple." Ever since My home has been open the last 2 1/2 years, we have experienced exactly that. The times we have worshiped, like this past Father's Day, His presence was so rich that after some Holy Spirit-anointed worship, no one could speak for about 10 minutes. It was like sitting under a waterfall of His love!

Other weeks the focus seems to be on praying for our nation, our states, locally and for one another. Nearly everyone shares their portion—all can prophesy one by one where Jesus is the center of our fellowship!

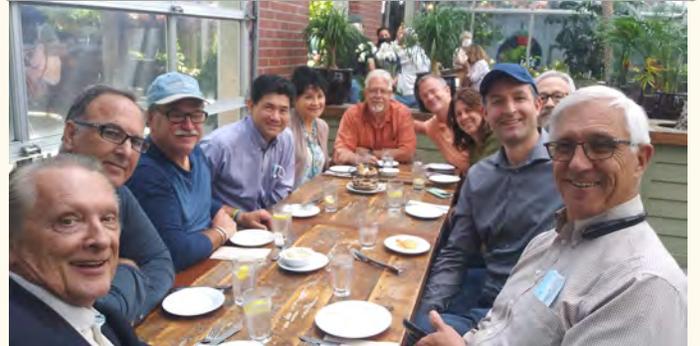
The Word really comes forth. When this happens we have also sensed His presence in a mighty way as well.

People have gotten healed, been set free from sin, and for the most part loved right where they're at.

It's an honor to open my home and hopefully love all the ones that come our way. One of the men in our group has counted roughly 200 people having gone through and then we have our regulars. Of course it's never about numbers, but we are thankful the Lord has entrusted us with many in the Body that He has sent.

We focus our attention in these three areas: "everyone has" something to contribute as each person's gifting is encouraged to open up and share; to love one another as Christ has loved us; and Lord, Your will be done here today. These are continually emphasized on an ongoing basis. Without them I don't think we'd have as much joy as we do.

I am very thankful for enjoying His Ekklesia!



FEMI ADEBAYO'S JOURNEY CONTINUED

It became such an encouragement to me—this is my immediate pursuit. The Lord indeed is great! I am presently one of the most fulfilled men on the planet because I have found what my heart has been yearning for so long—i. e., please the Lord Jesus and making Him extremely happy. Indeed, the love or desire for any kind of denominationalism—whatever its disguise—is vanishing away in the quest that we might be "perfected into ONE." I am now, as it were, in the third phase of His Holy Temple. Allow me to put it in this metaphorical way:

- a) First, I have passed through the outer court (I am genuinely Born Again).
- b) Secondly, I have passed through the holy place (discipleship—where the cross has dealt with the flesh and selfish ambition); and yes, it's ongoing.
- c) Thirdly and lastly, I am now in the Holy of Holies. Here is where the issues relating to God's heart's desire, the pattern and practicality in building up the Lord's Ekklesia, takes place. I humbly confess to you; I believe it takes maturity to enter this wondrous place of abundant blessing. Even those who are in the Holy Place (in the discipleship realm, still working on their Master's Degree, will have to empty their cups, to receive the abundance of this refreshing stream . . . this standard can only be by PEACE and MERCY (Gal. 6:16) for it is the fullness of His New Creation! I wish to give all the glory to the Lord and to the leading of the Holy Spirit Who brought, and continues to bring me, through this journey into the Holiest of All!

THIRD DEGREE CURRICULUM; SUBJECT MATTER IN THE HOLY OF HOLIES.

In the Holy of Holies, the things we are learning now have to do with

1. ONE EKKLESIA: This is the real purpose of God and the reason for all anointings and callings. This is the OCEAN where all streams

and rivers ought to flow into. This is the 'BIG HOUSE' we all are supposed to build—viz HIS EKKLESIA. In this, it is no more about 'me' serving the Lord doing 'my ministry' and seeking to be known or be heard. These are those base desires which have ruined most servants of God today. In point of fact, these are the reasons they cannot see nor build the Lord's Body, His Ekklesia. Cluttering their view is their desire to build their own personal ministries, great and mighty towers, whose tops must reach the Heavens! It is also the error of the men in the days of Haggai . . . "Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" (Hag. 1:5-NKJV).

2. ONE TRUTH: Here in the Holy of Holies, we are also learning 'One Truth'—Where every doctrine is NOT subjected to one man's anointed interpretation or understanding. Where all denominational doctrines which separate God's people collapse before the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus and Him alone. What has divided the Body of Christ are the many understandings wrought by various practices and "pet doctrines" emphasized by denominational leadership designed to draw God's people to themselves rather than to Christ—as Paul said: "Whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame . . . who set their mind on earthly things" (Phil. 3:19). Submitting to leadership that "denominates" and not to the Head, even Christ. But in this, when we enter into the 'Holy of Holies' seeking God's eternal purpose, we all have come to the point where we submit our knowledge, understanding, and interpretation of Scriptures to His Glory, not our own.

3. ONE LIFE AND GLORY: And finally, here, in the Holy of Holies, we are learning 'One life and Glory'—dealing with 'how' to serve all believers just as the Lord Jesus served us by laying down His own glory which He received from Heaven to take upon Himself the glory of a servant. Only those who have gone through the cross of Christ—through the riven veil—whose hearts have been broken, can see the same "joy that was set before Him" and endure the suffering to produce the Lord's Ekklesia. This is a most solemn truth.

MY SUGGESTIONS TO OTHER BELIEVERS ON THE JOURNEY

I believe that everyone who is acknowledging this vision of building the Lord's Ekklesia must have gone through their journey in a similar, but unique, way. There is the preliminary stage; then the semi-final stage; and then the final stage. We here in this labor have come to this stage by the grace of God alone. I speak the truth in Christ, I lie not. I therefore suggest that whoever is coming to labor in this—to earnestly pursue this—must check and presently know in which stage they find themselves. It is never too late to go get whatever is omitted in your documents because you need it for admission. Only those who have passed well in their previous degrees will acknowledge and appreciate what we are talking about here.

Moreover, I believe there are many among God's children throughout His Kingdom who find themselves in my shoes. Some are totally uncomfortable with the systems and practices in the "denominational" or "institutional" system, but they do not know the way forward. Many are presently stranded. They are 'done' (The dones) with institutional churches and systems because they have waited for a credible alternative for too long, yet they still love the Lord and desire to please Him but know not the way. Ekklesia is the way forward. Indeed, you have paid your quota in denominational isolation and inter-denominational fratricide. It is time to 'GO FORWARD'.

Check your heart; are you truly and genuinely Born Again (BA)? You are fit for the building. If you have gotten (or undergoing) your second degree (MA), it means you are qualified for this next stage which I called third degree (PhD). You need to expose your heart now to this labor to build the Lord's Ekklesia which the "Gates of Hades" cannot prevail against. It is written: . . . "I will build my EKKLESIA and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it . . . Unto Him be GLORY in the Ekklesia in Christ Jesus" (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:20-21).

A FINAL WORD

Be it understood, this is my personal journey. Howbeit, this does not mean someone must wait until he has gotten his MA before he can start practicing Ekklesia. As a matter of fact, believers were immediately brought into "their Ekklesia experience" as soon as they came to know the Lord—this was their experience in the book of the Acts of the Apostles. Yes, they daily were under the sound teaching of what is called the "Apostles' doctrine" and were being "perfected into ONE" from the very beginning of their relationship with Christ. It means therefore that anyone can and should be in Ekklesia once you come to Jesus—the sooner the better!

Simply, this is my testimony which, under Christian discipleship and mature hands, has enhanced my immediate vision and experience of His Ekklesia today!



FEMI ADEBAYO
ILESA, NIGERIA

TESTIMONY BY ROB DIRSKE



The Sacramento, California region of Northern California is filled with believers seen here--"Megachurches" abound--but who's enjoying Ekklesia--each one has?

Eventually, the Upper Room stopped meeting and a leading I felt to start something smaller grew until I asked a friend about hosting a gathering at his house. Little did I know, he and Doug Krieger had already been talking about this. So, it was on!

I would soon find out that what was happening there was not "church at a house" but Ekklesia. We all share Testimonies, prayer needs are offered, and we're learning from The Word. People prophesy, give a word of Encouragement or Exhortation, and, the Worship is extemporaneous as well. God shows up week after week, and all this without planning it!

This reflects Jesus' description of His Ekklesia in Matthew 16:18 and is the expression of Paul's blueprint for Ekklesia in 1 Corinthians 14:26: "How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification."

Over the past 2 1/2 years, we have continued to learn and understand more of what the full expression of Ekklesia is as we unleash Abba's Design that "each one has" individually and corporately. For such a time as this!

Rob Dirkske

"How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification." 1 Corinthians 14:26

My mentor, Pastor Dave Harrison, also attended both churches. I distinctly remember thinking: "They don't even know what Dave could do here with 50+ years of ministry experience and a clear Calling!"

How many more have much more to offer, yet are not activated. Churches seem content with "spiritual gifts" assessment, but have no idea the wealth of expertise, time, talent, etc., that is right before them. As a leader, our job is to STEWARD the wealth inside people, not USE them for our preconceived agendas.

After 7 years there and leading outreach ministries, I remembered hearing of a Thursday morning ministry called The Upper Room and so I visited the fellowship.

WOW! These folks prayed over one another, worshiped for an hour or more—it was clear that the difference here was a focus on Intimacy with the Father and one another.

I LOVED it and invited others. After a year or so, we left the megachurch.

"For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged . . . For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the Ekklesia of the saints." 1 Corinthians 14:31, 33



DISCOVERING EKKLESIA

Most people would say we were so fortunate...

blazers in the Body, but as both grew numerically, we felt less and less connected and able to engage the full expression of our Callings.

We watched as a half dozen people on stage used their gifts, talents and callings. Yes, we sat next to our Brothers and Sisters – rarely the same ones – each week, with very little "Body Life" taking place. Even small groups were content-based and "controlled." "Deep Connection" was lacking.

At both churches I felt like it didn't matter if I came on any given Sunday. I felt guilty that I felt that way, but didn't know how to change that. I felt like a consumer, not a participant. Something was missing...

My wife and I were asked by a well-known pastor to help start what would later become the largest church in the Sacramento Valley.

After 10 years there and another 2 at a church plant, we moved on to another church where our learning-disabled, college-age son said, he really felt connected. Both of these churches later became megachurches and were trail-

CHRIST EKKLESIA INSTITUTE



By Temidayo Adeyemo
ing the building up of the Lord's Ekklesia.

In 2019, a few brethren in Nigeria decided to make use of Henry Hon's ONE Trilogy: *One Ekklesia, One Truth, and One Life & Glory . . .* by turning it into a two-year training course for believers desiring to go deeper into God's Word. Their goal was for believers in Nigeria and throughout Africa to receive the vision of God's eternal plan and purpose for His People to start practicing

vers responded and participated in February 2020 for the first 1 week and weekend for CEI's course commencement.

It was amazing that more than half of the participants were Christian workers (leaders, pastors, ministers, evangelists, missionaries). What is even more surprising: they were from more than 70 different churches. This is truly of the Lord since believers in Nigeria are greatly divided by sectarianism or denominational affiliations.

Henry was able to participate in person for teaching/presentations in February. Both Henry and Doug Krieger were able to do so remotely by video conference in August. Even though they still had Covid-19 issues (not as bad as many in the West), yet, more than 80 students returned in person for the second full week (CEI's 4 full weeks/2-year course every 6 mos.).

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Thus was formed the CHRIST EKKLESIA INSTITUTE (CEI). The CEI course in Nigeria is broken up into 2 streams: one week full-time every six months for two years (4 weeks - total), or one weekend a month for 2 years. After announcing this course in November 2019, in just 2 months-time, 95 belie-

CHRIST EKKLESIA INSTITUTE - By Temidayo Adeyemo - Continued

We at OBL are committed to supporting their endeavor by expanding the three “textbooks” with additional material such as: a study guide, an evaluation test for each chapter, a 40-minute video synopsis of each chapter with various lectures. We sincerely pray that the Lord will use Nigeria for a pattern of oneness among God’s people. That It will not just be a doctrinal or theoretical oneness, but one that is manifested and seen, so that the world may believe in the reality of Jesus Christ.

A systematic theology with a focus on God's Ekklesia--having to do with the Gospel of Peace between peoples--has been sorely overlooked. Yes, we preach the Gospel of the Grace of God unto personal salvation--yet, the Person and Work of Christ extends unto the Oneness of His People and the answer to His prayer in John 17: *"That they all may be ONE."*

As we survey theological seminaries today, the course work is focused on ministries with a message of personal salvation and a goal of building up denominational or independent churches/ministries. There is little focus upon the oneness of His Body or the building up of God’s Ekklesia. God’s eternal purpose is woefully missing, underrepresented, or avoided due to so many compromises of the One Faith demonstrated in endless ecumenical attempts at oneness among God’s people.

Additionally, what is known as systematic theology over the centuries has focused on the work of Jesus Christ in respect to one’s personal salvation, which is revealed in Paul’s epistle to believers in Rome: Romans Chapters 1-8. We have not found a presentation of systematic theology with God’s eternal purpose in view insofar as His Ekklesia concerns—we stopped at Romans 8 - satisfied with personal glorification (Romans 1-8 - from sin to justification, sanctification and ultimate glorification).



When we got to Romans 9-16, we’ve viewed it as a hodgepodge of miscellaneous doctrines—everything from God’s dealings with the Jews, His sovereignty, predestination and various Christian “practices” - rather than as a cohesive whole dealing with the Oneness of God’s people: The Gospel of Peace!

OBL’s goal with the Christ Ekklesia Institute is to provide an understanding of systematic theology with the focus on the building up of God’s Ekklesia. It will methodically and logically present:

1. God’s eternal purpose from eternity past to eternity future is His Ekklesia
2. The person and work of Christ, as the anointed One, has a mission which is to build up His Ekklesia, His one Body – for without Christ’s salvation and Life—God cannot have His Ekklesia!
3. Man’s (viz., male and female) redemption and salvation is an integral part of this process advancing toward Ekklesia.
4. The practical way for man’s spiritual growth toward becoming one with all believers as His Body – exploring and putting into practice those biblical injunctions issuing forth into oneness among God’s People.
5. Itemizing spiritual and practical services for each and every participating believer - resulting in the building up of His Ekklesia, which is God’s Kingdom on earth.



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CHRIST EKKLESIA INSTITUTE - By Temidayo Adeyemo - Conclusion

A mainstream conversation translating to genuine oneness among believers . . .

Finally, we at OBL are in the process of developing an entire course of instruction which will be made available Online while partnering our curriculum with a reputable seminary or seminaries which will in turn generate greater interest and commitment to God's Ekklesia as His eternal purpose; thereby, making it a mainstream conversation among Christians. We cannot give up on the Lord's prayer for His people to be ONE (John 17)—this is not an ethereal proposition nor an abstract spiritual concept . . . we affirm our Lord's prayer is fulfilled in the "here and now"—not in the "sweet by and by." We can no longer relegate this matter of unity to the unseen spiritual realm, nor wait until the future advent of Jesus Christ.

We believe the manifested testimony of the oneness of God's people is the preparation of the Bride of Christ. The preparation of the Bride is not exclusive to any one particular group of Christians or "remnant" of "overcomers."



Alpha Ekklesia By Scott Hunnicutt of OBL

We would like to briefly introduce you to ALPHA EKKLESIA--an eight-part video course designed to help a group of believers from differing perspectives, churches, or the "Nones/Dones" to gather in order to initiate dynamic Ekklesia. Ekklesia is not starting another group to compete with churches; rather, it is a place for diverse believers to fellowship in love and oneness for encouragement and building up without any pressure to conform.

Alpha Ekklesia is an eight-part video series created to kick-start the Lord's Ekklesia among believers who may be in differing churches/groups. Watch these short videos with a group of diverse believers and enjoy open discussion together concerning God's eternal purpose for His people to be one in Him. God is waiting to command His blessings on those in unity.

The goal of Alpha Ekklesia--using the 8-Alpha Ekklesia video course--is to build up the Lord's one Body so that His diverse believers will be encouraged to utilize their God-given gifts; come to the unity of the faith; and to maturity in Christ. Coming together in oneness with diverse and sometimes contrary believers will cause God to command blessings into your lives; the unbelieving to receive faith in Jesus Christ; and will crush Satan's head while giving glory to God. Those who have the revelation and conviction concerning the building up of the Lord's Ekklesia will want to take action.

What Does Alpha-Ekklesia Look Like?

1. Gather 8-12 believers from diverse backgrounds with a majority who are not normally in fellowship with each other. To receive the full benefit of the course, each one should commit to going through all 8 sessions together.
2. The best environment is to gather once a week for eight weeks for about 90 minutes per session.

Rather, there will be individuals, no matter which church with whom they may associate; yet they live and practice love and oneness between all other believers who name the Name of Christ. Simultaneously, they would assemble with all different kinds of believers as the Lord's Ekklesia on earth to lift up Jesus Christ . . . "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me" (John 12:32).

It is unto the Person and Work of our Lord Jesus Christ Who constitutes our oneness and the building up of His Ekklesia thereby prevailing against the Gates of Hades . . . the very "crushing of Satan's head" via the God of Peace under the feet of His united people (Romans 16:17) who freely "meet and greet" all the brethren in the Household of Faith (Romans 16).

For more information regarding the Christ Ekklesia Institute, please visit or communicate with us at: www.onebody.life



3. Begin with a pot-luck meal, hors d'oeuvres, or snacks. This should take about 30-40 minutes.
4. Watch one of the 20-minute videos sequentially.
5. Have an open and respectful discussion over a few key verses or questions from the video (see below questions and verses). This should take the balance of 30-40 minutes.

How Is Alpha Ekklesia Structured?

1. Someone gathers a group together to go through this series.
2. Locate a hosting place: preferably in a home.
3. A facilitator may be needed; however, the facilitator is not in "leadership" as such; rather, he or she encourages everyone to participate with no one monopolizing the discussion. Focus the discussions around the session questions, and managing the time schedule.
4. Make sure that the home used for hosting is cleaned up afterward.
5. Encourage participants to register to become members of www.onebody.life so they will have access to the pages with discussion questions and support materials.

Content of Alpha Ekklesia Course

1. Eight 20 minute videos
2. Discussion verses and questions for each session/video
3. Study guide for those desiring to study each sessions' topic with Scriptural references.
4. Reference material for further reading.
5. FAQ (in progress)

Finally, we call it "Alpha" because it's the first letter of the Greek alphabet. The Alpha Ekklesia course helps start an Ekklesia by providing the vision and the practice according to God's eternal purpose. This series is designed for the Lord's Ekklesia to become organically viral where no one person, church, or ministry can control.



Jesus said . . . "I will build My Ekklesia and the Gates of Hades will not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18)

SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR 2021

We are asking you, our dear friends and co-workers, in the building up of the Lord's Ekklesia, to partake in special projects, that we are able to accomplish with your help. Some \$100,000 has been contributed during the past four years.

Teaming up for the Faith of the Gospel



The Christ Ekklesia Institute's (CEI) has now completed 3 semesters (2021 - summer). Several hundred students are provided curriculum and instruction free of charge for the furtherance of the Gospel of the Grace of God with the Gospel of Peace reconciling His People.



Printing and supplies for CEI and for One Body Life's ongoing efforts to distribute both the curriculum and instruction for the students enrolled at CEI and other literature distribution around the world.



OBL supports full and part-time co-workers in both Nigeria and in the Philippines--as well as here in the USA. These efforts for 2021 are ongoing--your support is greatly needed - in the past 4 years over \$100,000 has been raised in missionary support.



Sharing the message of God's grace and mercy through Christ in Nigeria, West Africa and in the Philippines demands a great deal of local transportation. The purchase of a van and its upkeep was secured for our brethren in Nigeria. Continuing maintenance & petrol is needed as well as air transportation.



A two+ mile gravel road is desperately needed in order to reach the conference center near Ibadan, Nigeria. The road repeatedly washes out and becomes virtually impassable. A gravel road needs to be built for the thousands who travel to these grounds yearly.



There is a growing need to accommodate the growing number of students now attending CEI at the "Bethlehem Resort" near Ibadan, Nigeria. Teaming up with Pilgrim House--a Nigerian Ministry--has led to the establishment of CEI and much needed dorm and misc. facilities.

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