

## Message from Roy Wanta

Our story for December is about what happened around 6-8 weeks ago. The Niger River overflowed and about 76,000 people near Onitsha were evacuated and lost everything they had. Of the victims, there are four widows who are part of Rev. John's church. We are asking for help for them.

Here is a quote from Rev. John: "This is a truelife situation report. When I visited the flood victims' camp where the four widows are staying, I saw their conditions are not so good. They needed urgent help in the areas of food, drugs,

clothing and sleeping materials, and shelter. They lost everything they had to the rampaging and ravaging flood. Please send this SOS for assistance to all lovers of mankind. No donation is too small or too big."

## Remember, who will deny that the Gospel of Christ was founded upon mercy?

One of the most heartwarming accounts recorded in the Holy Bible is that concerning the Good Samaritan. Countless sermons and parallels have been extracted from this classic example of mercy. Yet, often in our study for types and

shadows and symbolism, we are apt to overlook the magnitude of the simple act of compassion performed by this "minister of mercy," the Good Samaritan. Did I say, "Minister"? Yes indeed, he was a minister! For the word "minister" implies "one who renders service to, or performs in behalf of a cause." For instance, it is common knowledge that one who is a Minister of the Gospel stands in behalf of Christ and serves humanity in need of the Gospel. By the way of comparison, one who ministers to those in need of mercy is, in fact, a "minister of mercy."

No one, but Almighty God, knows the many who have walked the lonely road that "their unique personal calling" has charted before them.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12).



There is a place near the heart of God for the lonely and afflicted. For as the prophesied Lamb of God, Jesus, experienced Gethsemane and Calvary, He felt the heartache of abandonment and the sting of rejection by those whom He loved.

continued

## Message from Roy Wanta continued

At Calvary, I would have challenged the cruel Romans to put away their mallet and spikes! But really, would I have been merciful to Jesus? Would you? The surprising answer to this question is found in Jesus' own words, "*I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not...Inasmuch as ye did it not to the least of these, ye did it not to me.*" (*Matthew 25:43, 45*). One's relationship with his fellowman is an indication of his relationship with God. John, the beloved, explained: "...for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can *he love God whom he hath not seen*?" (John 4:20).

But, the "spirit of the age" is akin to that of the priest and Levite who neglected the wounded man by the wayside: DON'T GET INVOLVED! After all, neither the priest nor the Levite was guilty of the original attack. Yet, in the end, their neglect was just as responsible for the victim's critical condition as were the weapons of his assailants! "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy..." (James 2:13).

For this is the will of God: "...and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" (Micah 6:8). Solomon, endowed with divine wisdom, wrote, "Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So, shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man" (Proverbs 3:3-4).

Perhaps God has, or has not, called you to minister in sermon or in song. Nevertheless, there is an often neglected, yet so important, ministry that is open to ALL who will fill it, and the need has never been greater for a "Ministry of Mercy."

During this time that we remember the greatest gift we have ever received, let us also share what we are able to share with those less

> fortunate than us. From the Board of **"I Am" World Mission Outreach**, we would like to extend our heartfelt thank you and to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

from the desk of Reverend John

## Necessity, they

say, is the "Mother of Invention". The 2012 devastating and ravaging flood in Nigeria may have come and gone. The ugly effect, however, remains indelible in the hearts of the victims. The rebuilding process—for those who can afford it—is huge and tasking financially. There are those whose hope of having a roof over their heads is not feasible, unless provided by divine providence. The four widows I sent pictures of, who are in the heat of the flood, are in this hopeless category. There are many others in this group, too. The vision of I AM, inter alios, includes providing shelter for the poor, especially the widows and orphans. Therefore, the catastrophe of the flood makes a plea and a cry for help for these widows. Erecting a Hall of Residence to serve as a rescue center for these widows and others like them, now and in the future, will be a benefiting donation and legacy of hope to our generation. I am trusting and have faith that God can raise up men and women who will respond to this call. This will be a sacrifice to God, their Creator, and will surely earn them a service reward on the last day. Why not? Please send this message and call to as many as you can in the USA. God bless you all. Amen.

> Rev. John Ani "I AM" Nigeria Inc.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5:16