



My wife and I send greetings. We thank God for all the "I Am" partners in the USA and for your ceaseless love, compassion and concern towards all the widows and orphans in our care. May the Lord continue to replenish your pockets and give you even what money cannot buy in the form of good health, comfort and family peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

"I Am" World Outreach Mission Nigeria Inc., as we know, is in the vanguard of protecting and providing for widows, orphans and others less privileged in society. We see this commission as a great call to duty. We, therefore, wish to inform you all that we are still on course with our desire to build a Widows' Home and a Skill Acquisition Center to train the younger widows and make them productive individually and in society. We hereby appeal for your help to keep on with this project until it becomes a service to these women and our entire generation.

On February 11th, I had a welfare meeting with the four most elderly widows, who are also victims of last year's flood disaster. A sum of \$50 USD was given to each of them for food, drugs and general upkeep. After receiving the money, one of them, who is also childless, started crying. I asked her what was the matter. She told me that she wept throughout the



Chineze Oputa

previous night because of her condition of childlessness and her poverty, which was to the point of not having food to eat, only to come here to receive the miracle of this amount of money.

This particular widow, Chineze Oputa by name, has been going through persecution, not only by the husband's family, but also by traditional members of her community. This is because married women that have not given birth to children are seen as witches who ate up their children in the spiritual kingdom. This makes the traditional population see them as wicked women who deserve no mercy, but death. Such was to be the fate of Widow Chineze Oputa.

People are afraid of associating with or giving any help to this type of women for fear of being banished by the traditional community. "I Am" Nigeria Inc. is fighting this devilish and obnoxious tradition. Please help us fight this condition by making a generous donation. No sacrifice is too much or too small.

Finally, the future of any society depends on the education of the young ones. We seriously appeal for donations toward the salaries of the teachers in our school, Eagles Nursery and Primary School. This school is founded on mercy and compassion. Once again, many thanks and God's abundant blessings, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev John Ani

*Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me!  
For my soul trusts in You;  
And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge,  
Until these calamities have passed by.  
I will cry out to God Most High,  
To God who performs all things for me.*

—Psalm 57:1-2

[www.missionprojectafrica.com](http://www.missionprojectafrica.com)

Our mission is to reach the world for God and point them to Jesus



"I Am" hath sent me unto you.

Ex.3:14

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## Message from Roy Wanta

In March, 2013, I will be going to the warm climate of Nigeria for about three weeks. What we want to do is start to build a shelter for widows. This building would have several rooms for those who have no place stay, and also a room in which they would grind their cassava and corn, making it more stable to sell. Therefore, when a disaster or financial impact—such as that which just occurred—is upon the widows, they will have a place to go.

I believe God has put on my heart something which can be a key to release the people of God to have a greater outreach than many of them have at this time. Many people speak about *widows and orphans*, but the Bible always puts the order the other way around—*orphans and widows*, because orphans are totally helpless and widows are only partially helpless. The Bible has much more to say about this than most of us have been aware of. I really have

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## Message from Roy Wanta *continued*

never seen this theme as I've been seeing it in the last few months. I want to look at our responsibility for orphans, widows, the poor and oppressed in a systematic way.

I studied about the nature of God, along with some requirements for righteousness and how that relates to God's dealings. The nature of God is revealed in Psalm 68:5 where it says, "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation." Some of the characteristics of God are being a father of the fatherless and a defender of the widows. Then in Psalm 103:6, we read, "The Lord executes righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed." God passionately cares for those who are oppressed, and He wants to help them—and He's also very, very angry with those who oppress them.



One book that unfolds God's standard of righteousness is the book of Job, a fascinating, stimulating and challenging book. In Job 29, we see a picture of righteousness. I found it extremely challenging to consider the way Job treated people. Job 29:11-13 says, "When the ear heard, then it blessed me, and when the eye saw, then it approved me." [In other words, I had favor with people. Why?] "Because I delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and him who had no helper. The blessing of a perishing man came upon me, and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy."

So many times, when we meet the widows in the villages on our travel, they do not expect anything, but when we give them something, their hearts fill with joy. Again I say, we "caused the widow's heart to sing for joy."

Who is Job speaking about? He's referring to the fatherless, the widow, the poor and the oppressed. Then Job makes this remarkable statement in verse 14, "I put on righteousness and it clothed me. My justice was like a robe and a diadem or turban." None of us has righteousness of our own. Every one who is counted righteous before God, in any age throughout time, is clothed with a righteousness which is not their own. Even way back in patriarchal times, Job said, "I put on righteousness, and it clothed me." This is how his righteousness was expressed in verses 15-17, "I was eyes to the blind, and I was feet to the lame. I was a father to the poor, and I searched out the case that I did not know."

Let's look at ourselves and examine how often we do these things, not for our glory or for showing off. In Job 31:16-17, Job considered it to be sinful "if I have kept the poor from their desire, or caused the eyes of the widows to fail, [Yes, fail] or eaten my morsel by myself, so that the fatherless could not eat of it" [to have eaten his food by himself when there were hungry people around]. Job said he had never been guilty of that. Could you say the same thing?

When Job saw a man who needed clothing, he took his own sheep, sheared them and gave him the wool. He said if he wouldn't have done this, it would have been sinful. Job had a standard of righteousness that we don't even think of today, and he was affirming his righteousness before God.

**We really need people to help us provide for the widows. Can you help?**

## Penny War for Widows in Nigeria

To creatively raise money in order to help the plight of the widows in Nigeria, two churches are having fun with a Penny War! It's a competition to see who can raise the most money—the competitors are the folks at Shepherd of the Lakes of Waupaca and St. Peter's/St. Paul's in Marion.

### How the Penny War works

Each church team has its own container and tries to fill it with as much change as they can. Team members also can (and are encouraged to) make contributions of paper money and checks (made out to their own church and marked *Penny War/Nigeria*) and—this is the challenge—paper money and checks count against the other church's total.

**All money collected will go to the widows**, but the winning team will be determined by *crediting* each team for however much is collected in change and *subtracting* the amount collected in paper money and checks from the opposing team's total. A church team is helped by the change put in the team's container while the contribution of paper money and checks slows down the opposing team's progress. The result is lots of funds to help the plight of the Nigerian widows.

The Penny War is being conducted each Sunday in February and the running totals are posted weekly so the teams know how they are doing. The winners will present the total amount of funds collected to Roy Wanta of "I Am" World Mission in early March.



## About the Widow's Plight



Last year in November, the Niger River overflowed. About 76,000 people near Onitsha, Nigeria were evacuated and lost everything they had. Four of the victims are widows who are part of Rev. John's church. "I Am" World Mission is asking for help for them.

Remember that the Gospel of Christ was founded upon mercy. Imagine being a widow in Africa. With the death of a husband, life almost ceases to exist. A majority of these ladies, without anyone representing them, lose everything. A widow is forced into a life of poverty with no home for her and her children. In Maria's case, with her husband (the breadwinner) dead, her children are dying because she can't afford medicine and they have no roof over their heads.