



LFC Ikorodu Digest

DECEMBER 2023

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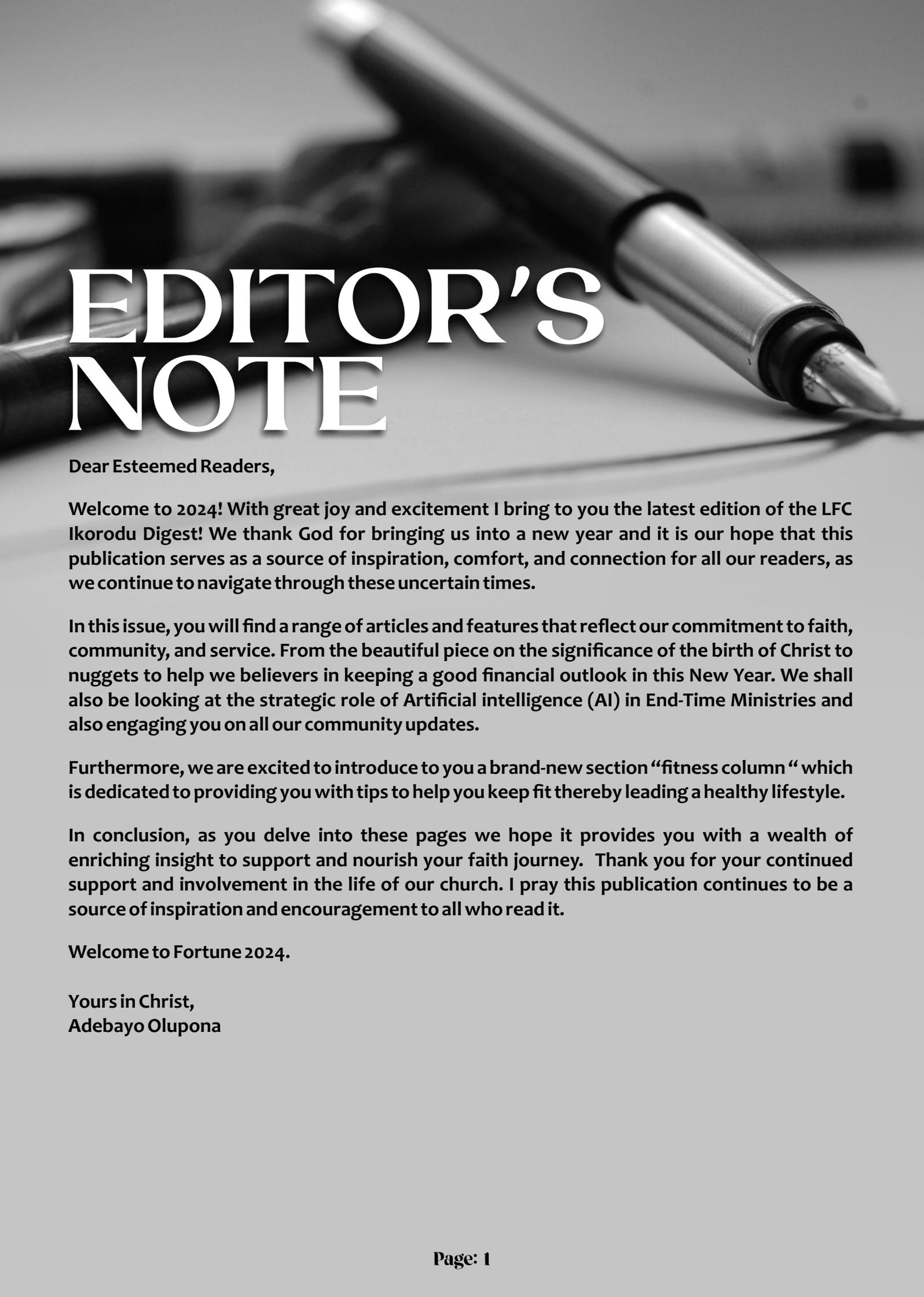
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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Esteemed Readers,

Welcome to 2024! With great joy and excitement I bring to you the latest edition of the LFC Ikorodu Digest! We thank God for bringing us into a new year and it is our hope that this publication serves as a source of inspiration, comfort, and connection for all our readers, as we continue to navigate through these uncertain times.

In this issue, you will find a range of articles and features that reflect our commitment to faith, community, and service. From the beautiful piece on the significance of the birth of Christ to nuggets to help we believers in keeping a good financial outlook in this New Year. We shall also be looking at the strategic role of Artificial intelligence (AI) in End-Time Ministries and also engaging you on all our community updates.

Furthermore, we are excited to introduce to you a brand-new section “fitness column “ which is dedicated to providing you with tips to help you keep fit thereby leading a healthy lifestyle.

In conclusion, as you delve into these pages we hope it provides you with a wealth of enriching insight to support and nourish your faith journey. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in the life of our church. I pray this publication continues to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to all who read it.

Welcome to Fortune 2024.

Yours in Christ,
Adebayo Olupona



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KINGDOM STARS SPOTLIGHT

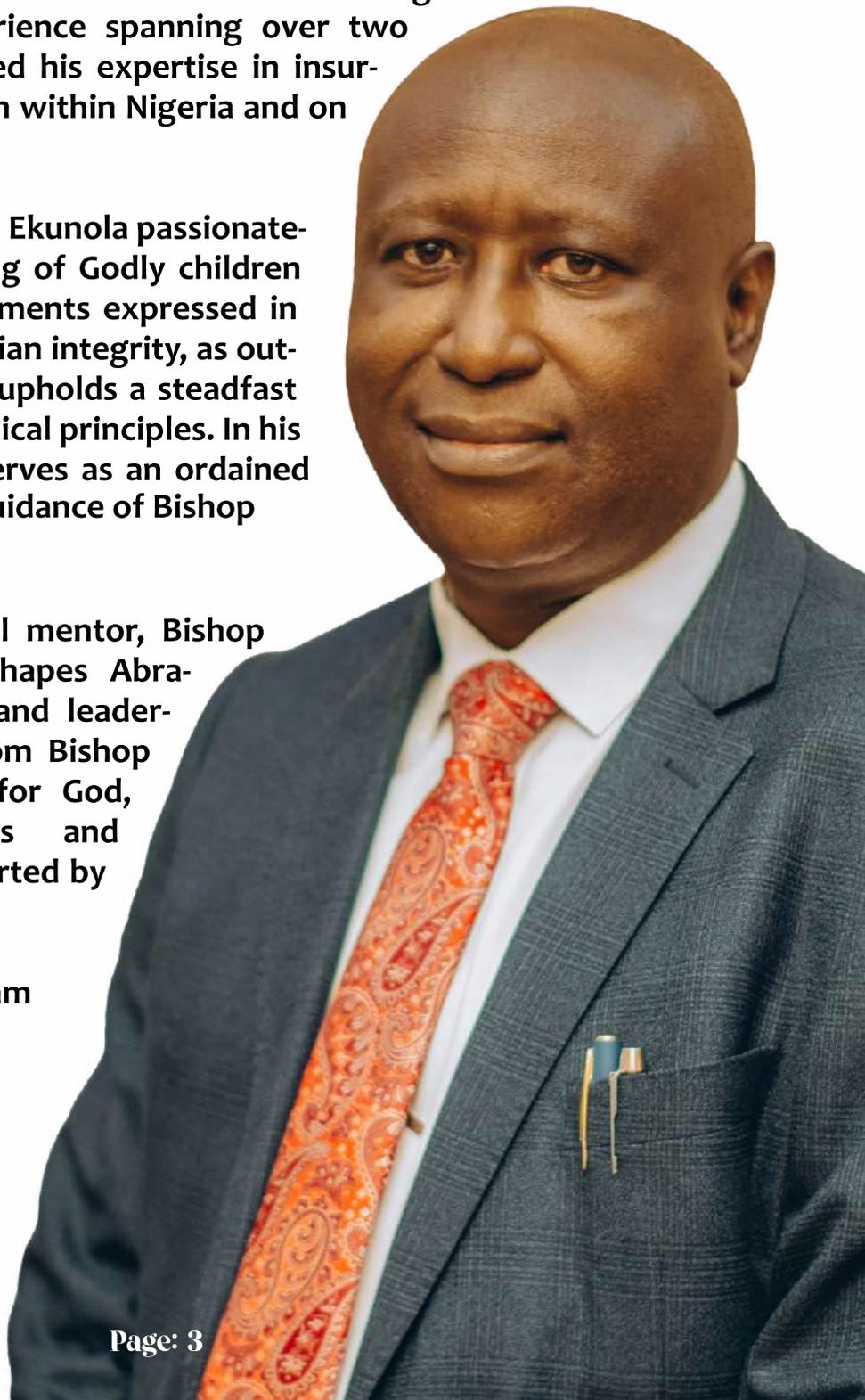
WHO IS PASTOR ABRAHAM EKUNOLA?

Abraham Kolawole Ekunola, a distinguished professional, holds the esteemed titles of Fellow of Enterprise Risk Management and Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute of the UK and Nigeria. With a wealth of experience spanning over two decades, he has demonstrated his expertise in insurance and risk management both within Nigeria and on the international stage.

Devoted to his faith, Abraham Ekunola passionately advocates for the nurturing of Godly children and youth, echoing the sentiments expressed in Psalm 11:3. Grounded in Christian integrity, as outlined in Zachariah 8:16-17, he upholds a steadfast commitment to moral and ethical principles. In his spiritual journey, Abraham serves as an ordained part-time pastor under the guidance of Bishop David Oyedepo.

The influence of his spiritual mentor, Bishop David Abioye, profoundly shapes Abraham's perspective on faith and leadership. Drawing inspiration from Bishop Abioye's passion and love for God, Abraham actively follows and embraces the teachings imparted by his revered mentor.

On the personal front, Abraham Kolawole Ekunola is happily married and blessed with two children, completing the portrait of a man whose professional achievements are harmoniously intertwined with his deep-rooted faith and family values.





A PRUDENT FAMILY LIFE

2024 FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

Pastor Abraham Kolawole .

- * The financial outlook for 2024 forecast that Nigeria's real growth will increase modestly to 2.9% in 2024 up from 2.4% in 2023
- * The operational start of the Port Harcourt and Dangote refinery in Q1, 2024 will lead to a sharp reduction on imports and increase the country's trade surplus, providing tailwinds to economic growth.
- * However, domestic demand will remain weak in 2024 due to high inflation, tight financial conditions and fiscal constraints will continue to weigh on consumption and fixed investment.

In view of the above anticipated economy challenges ahead as Christians we need to be financially prudent in our family life in order to flourish in the hard time

The word Prudence is the ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason. It is a virtue, which all Christian families must possess. It also means to exercise good judgment or wisdom in matters of life. We must understand that prudence is not about worldly calculations; but, rather about humility, discipline, and Godly reasoning. The scripture says: For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him (Luke 14:28-29). I want us to know that enjoying a blissful family life in the year ahead is as important to God as it is to each one of us..

To have homes, where financial stress is absent, we must be financially prudent. This is one vital area, neglected by most families, and yet expect to enjoy financial prosperity. "If we can think enough, what we have is enough. "Life is in phases and men are in sizes". We must understand that our present financial position is not our ultimate. The Scripture says: But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day (Proverbs 4:18). However, the truth is that what we have is enough for now. The problem with many people is that they do not agree with the phase by phase lifting and provisions of God in their lives. As a prudent Christian, we must know our financial level per time and be determined to eat, wear, sleep and live in a house of our size. According to Billy Graham: If a person gets his attitude toward money straight, it will help straighten out almost every other area in his or her life. ~ The Scripture says in Hebrews 6:14: Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. Also, in Proverbs 27:27, the Bible says: And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance of thy maidens. If these promises are to be fulfilled in our home, we must learn how to make the most of the money God has provided for our family.

WHAT TO DO TO BE FREE FROM FINANCIAL STRESS OR HARDSHIP IN 2024

1. Planning:

Planning is thinking before taking actions. it is a vital requirement for financial sufficiency. As the popular saying goes “If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail” As a family, it is important that we have a laid down rule for spending money. So, have a budget/plan for your family/Business/organization, have a weekly and or monthly expenditure plan. God's word clearly says that you must first sit down and count the cost if you intend to build a tower (Luke 14:28-29) Observe that he said, “... sitteth down first,” meaning, “sit down and map out a plan.” If you don't, you will spend money impulsively and suffer financial embarrassment.

No impulse buying, don't buy things because others are buying, nor spend because others are spending. Its not everything you should buy nor all family/social engagement you should attend, prioritize your spending and outing.

Use a scale of preference in your spending

2. Accountability:

To be accountable means to be able to give account of one's performance, to accept responsibility. You need to be accountable, first to God, who is your source and then to your husband or wife. Also, it is necessary for the children and other people in the home to emulate you, so they can learn the act of accountability and prudent spending. For instance, list out your income, expenses and review them from time to time to assess whether your financial budget/plan is prudent or it requires adjustments. Make yearly, monthly, weekly and daily budgets so as to record your expenses. Have a little diary to record any money you spend. That way, at the end of the month, you can easily recollect all that you spent during the month. Accountability pays! The Lord said: His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord (Matthew 25:21). Financial faithfulness qualifies you to receive more money from the Lord and from men too! Develop an habit of always submitting a breakdown of your expenses to your spouse whether he or she asks for it or not. Proper documentation of financial transactions, helps you to know exactly where your money is going and whether you need to change your spending pattern or not. Remember, what you have is enough. Many financial problems in the home may not require asking God for more money, but additional wisdom in handling money.

Bishop David Abioye once told us the way he submits his expenses to his accountant for scrutiny or auditing. He kept record of every spending to the last kobo, nothing like miscellaneous in his spending

3. Give Him His Share:

Remember God in your finances, by committing to the kingdom investment plan e.g in tithing, offering etc

4. Embrace the 50/30/20 rule:

Consider adopting the 50/30/20 budgeting rule; allocating 50% of your income to necessities, 30% to wants, and 20% to savings and debt repayment (if any). This balanced approach fosters financial stability while accommodating personal desires.

Watch carrying a lot of cash about. Law of spending says the more money you have in your hand (pocket/purse/wallet) the more you spend. Its natural.

5. Set realistic goals:

Define clear and attainable financial goals for 2024. Whether it's building an emergency fund, saving for a specific purchase, or investing, setting tangible goals motivates consistent budgeting efforts.

6. Practice mindful spending:

Before making purchases, especially substantial ones, practice mindful spending. Ask yourself if the expense you're about to make aligns with your priorities and whether the item you're considering buying is a necessity or a fleeting desire.

Watch your spending on outings - donating to charity, at occasions, eating out, emotional/Situational purchases i.e buying goods and services because they are on sales, your fuelling cost, T-fare, airtime/data, cable subscriptions, blind purchase (tokunbo), buying designer things (wears, shoes) etc

7. Review and adjust regularly:

Revisit your budget regularly to assess its efficacy. Life changes, and so should your budget. Adjust allocations based on evolving needs or unexpected circumstances.

May God grant us wisdom in managing our finances In Jesus Mighty Name.



FESTIVE HAIR STYLING:

IS HAIR RELAXER SAFE TO USE ON YOUR CHILD'S HAIR?

Mercy Akinbinu

Festivities are soon upon us and now would be a good time to think about cute hairstyle ideas for your female child or children.

If you are considering using hair relaxers on your child's hair to give that neat and cute look, pause to check this out.

A child's hair at birth is soft and smooth because the scalp and follicles are not fully developed but as they age it becomes coarse. The coarseness and difficulty of combing can be stressful.

Going for hair relaxers may feel tempting as they can help soften your child's hair and give a straight, soft, and supple look but are they safe? Read on.

What is in Hair Relaxers?

The components in the hair relaxer contain chemicals capable of causing harm than good to your child, some of which include:

1. Sodium Hydroxide (Lye)

This is responsible for softening hair as it instantly penetrates the cortical layer of the scalp. This is why when hair is tangled and you apply relaxer, it loosens but It also causes chemical burns, scarring, very fatal if swallowed, and blindness when it comes in contact with the eye.

2. Guanidine Hydroxide

This helps to relax curls and is considered to be a lot safer than Sodium Hydroxide, but it has been studied to reduce fat under the scalp which is essential in keeping the hair healthy, causing early baldness.

3. High pH

Chemical relaxers with high pH concentrations make the scalp very dry, causing hair loss and a scanty hairline often seen in front of the hair.

Why are Hair Relaxers unsafe for Children?

Hair relaxers are not considered safe to use on children's hair below age 12.

Although the recommended period of use by adults is 3 - 4 times a year, it has been studied to increase the risk of cancer.

Using relaxers on your child's hair is unsafe for their health in many ways some of which are;

1. Inhaling the relaxer can irritate the airway as it is toxic.
2. The skin of a child is delicate and cannot handle the toxins in relaxers as their skin will absorb it, hence leading to health problems like endocrine dysfunction.
3. It damages the follicles of the hair and burns the scalp leading to balding.
4. It weakens the hair and makes it fall off easily which is termed as breakage.
5. Allergic reactions to the chemical are fatal.
6. It can cause sight and hearing problems in children as a result of the relaxer running into their eyes or ears while washing it away from the hair.

How can you take care of your child's hair?

1. Massage the scalp with coconut or olive oil to soften the hair regularly, this enhances the strength of the hair follicles.
2. Use a kid-friendly shampoo on your child's hair once per week: Consider your child's hair type and avoid heavily scented ones.

If your child has dry hair, use a moisturizing shampoo. If your child has dandruff or wounds on the scalp, do not shampoo, see a dermatologist for an accurate prescription.

3. Plait hair into braids or twists per week: Ensure that they are not too tight and painful. It can be very tempting to want to flaunt your baby's hair by wearing it down but plaiting it will guard the hair against breakage.

If you still choose to relax your child's hair:

1. Consider Texlaxing: This refers to adding olive oil into the relaxer to weaken it or not leaving the relaxer for the recommended period. This means if the recommended time to leave it in your child's hair is 20 minutes, you let it stay for 10 minutes or less and wash it off afterward.
2. Stretch the time between relaxer time for about 4 months to minimize hair damage.
3. Be watchful of the hairstylist relaxing your child's hair to keep them from using harsh techniques.
4. Ensure the hair is completely free from the relaxer by washing thoroughly with a shampoo.
5. Avoid combing the hair when it is wet, dry thoroughly before combing.
6. Do not make or plait your child's hair immediately after washing. Wait 2-3 days before styling.

In conclusion

According to a study conducted in 2019 on hair relaxers by Sishi VNB, Van Wyk JC, and Khumalo NP, it was found that hair relaxers, including those advertised for children, contain chemicals at levels that are corrosive to the skin.

As a result, the application of hair relaxers on a child should be avoided. If this is impossible, limit using it to the barest minimum.

Remember, the earlier you apply the relaxer, the more your child is exposed to these toxic chemicals as they grow older.



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FABRICS & COUTURE

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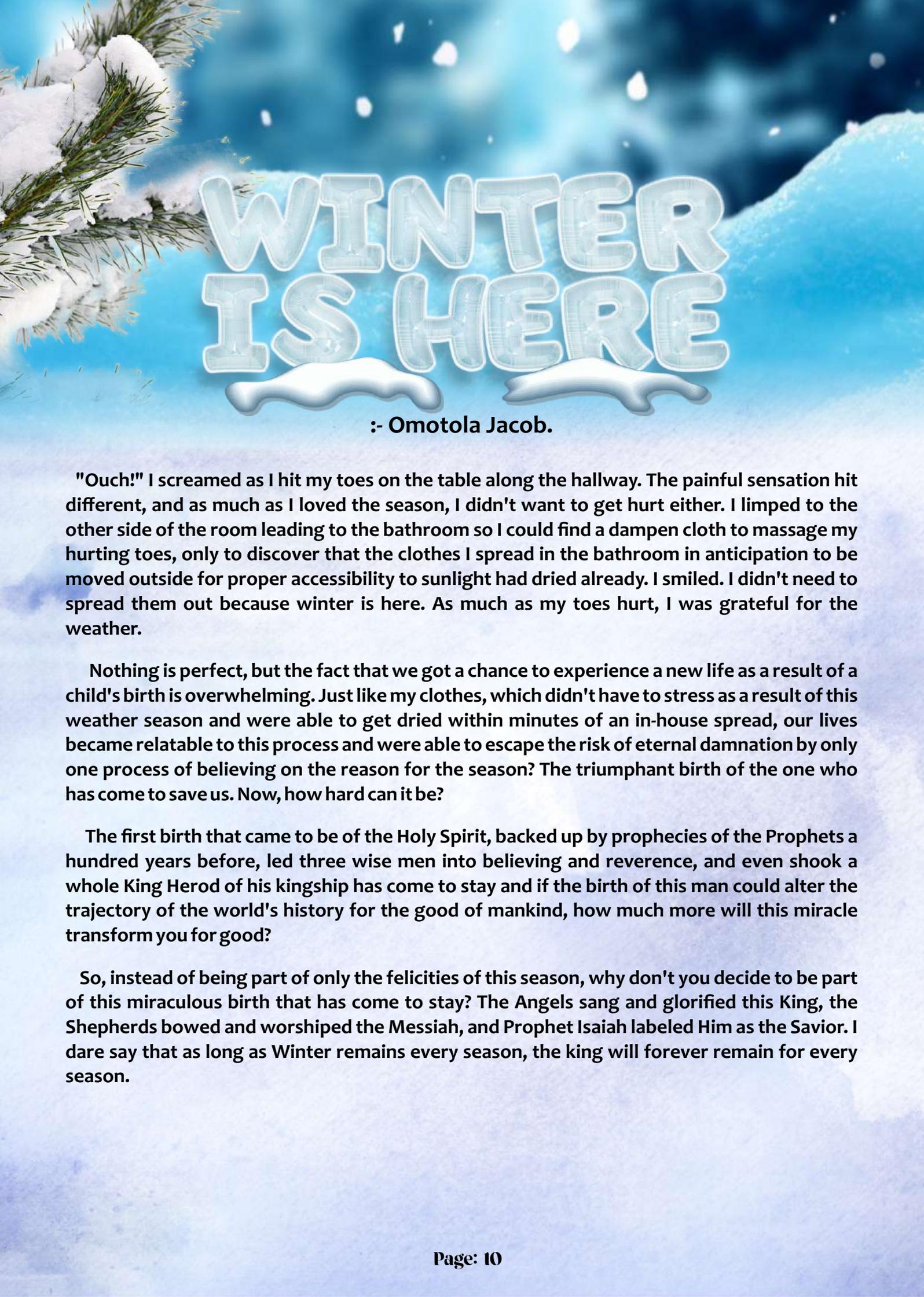
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WINTER IS HERE

:- Omotola Jacob.

"Ouch!" I screamed as I hit my toes on the table along the hallway. The painful sensation hit different, and as much as I loved the season, I didn't want to get hurt either. I limped to the other side of the room leading to the bathroom so I could find a dampen cloth to massage my hurting toes, only to discover that the clothes I spread in the bathroom in anticipation to be moved outside for proper accessibility to sunlight had dried already. I smiled. I didn't need to spread them out because winter is here. As much as my toes hurt, I was grateful for the weather.

Nothing is perfect, but the fact that we got a chance to experience a new life as a result of a child's birth is overwhelming. Just like my clothes, which didn't have to stress as a result of this weather season and were able to get dried within minutes of an in-house spread, our lives became relatable to this process and were able to escape the risk of eternal damnation by only one process of believing on the reason for the season? The triumphant birth of the one who has come to save us. Now, how hard can it be?

The first birth that came to be of the Holy Spirit, backed up by prophecies of the Prophets a hundred years before, led three wise men into believing and reverence, and even shook a whole King Herod of his kingship has come to stay and if the birth of this man could alter the trajectory of the world's history for the good of mankind, how much more will this miracle transform you for good?

So, instead of being part of only the felicities of this season, why don't you decide to be part of this miraculous birth that has come to stay? The Angels sang and glorified this King, the Shepherds bowed and worshiped the Messiah, and Prophet Isaiah labeled Him as the Savior. I dare say that as long as Winter remains every season, the king will forever remain for every season.

WINNERS FAMILY HANGOUT: A CELEBRATION OF TOGETHERNESS

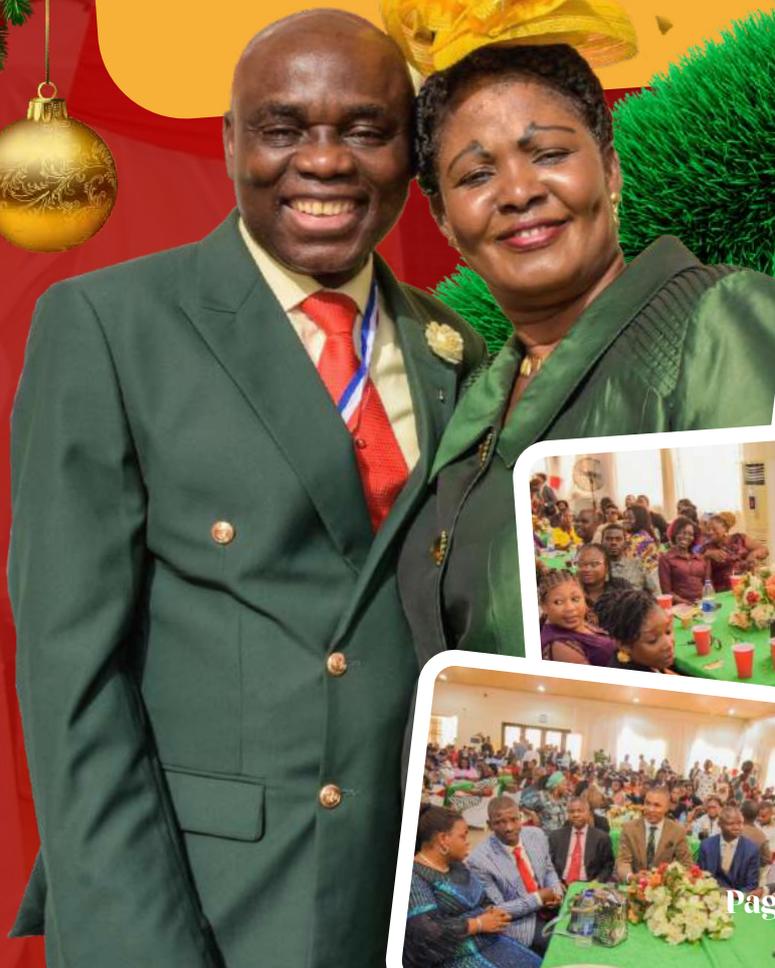
Janet Akinwale.

Amidst our close-knit family, where roots and bonds grow strong, we joyously gathered for a festive family hangout event alongside our esteemed Father, Pastor & Deaconess Emmanuel Ojo on December 17th, 2023. It was a day woven with laughter and cherished moments, much like the vibrant foliage of a deeply rooted tree.

The day activities brimmed the bridge between generations. The Couples selected engaged in spirited games, cherishing moments that affirmed their intimacy and connection.

Beyond these heartwarming moments, the day went on with delightful happenings. Medal decorations added a touch of sparkle to the day while our children were delighted with their presentations. Not to be overlooked, our teenagers carved out their space within the church grounds, reveling in vibrant activities.

Our gathering deepens our family roots, reinforcing our unity and shared values. Let us carry forth this spirit, nurturing our bonds and radiating the warmth of our family's love.





EASIEST WAYS TO KEEP FIT

Abraham Chidinma David.

New year resolutions!

We make them every year, but how many of us really do stick to them till they are actualized? Very few, if we're being honest.

Top amongst the list of resolutions a lot of people tend to give up on early is their desire to keep fit. Keeping fit and leading a healthy lifestyle have been the dreams of many people for a long time now. And the older you get, the more important it becomes that you stay fit and healthy. But with each passing year, this dream seems to become more and more elusive, largely because we think it is a difficult one to achieve.

The simple truth however is that, with the right amount of intentionality, achieving a fit physique and leading a healthy lifestyle is very simple. You most likely just don't know how to go about it but not to worry. This year, I've got you covered.

Here are 7 simple steps you can commit to, to achieve a fit body and lead a healthy lifestyle.

1. EAT RIGHT.

Ever heard the saying, "You are what you eat"? That's right, you ARE what you eat! Fitness experts have proven that 70% of your success in achieving a fit physique owes largely to the food you eat.

It all boils down to maintaining a balanced diet. A good blend of all the classes of food is sure to work wonders in giving you that dream physique. And the good part about this is, you really don't need to break the bank to maintain a balanced diet (as I would be explaining in a subsequent column).

Junk foods, on the other hand, are the greatest enemies of a fit body. Avoid them at all costs. Rather, develop the habit of snacking on fruits and vegetables. These natural snacks go a long way in keeping your body trim as they burn off excess fat and fill you up with the necessary nutrients your body needs to stay healthy.

2. SLEEP WELL.

The power of sleep has been greatly underestimated by a lot of people today. Granted, our busy schedule day-in day-out leaves us with very little time to sleep but if we knew the power it holds, I guarantee we would create time to get enough of it.

According to various researches carried out by medical experts, a minimum of 6 hours of sleep daily helps reduce bloated belly and burn off excess fat. The longer you sleep, the

more fat your body is able to burn off. Cultivating the habit of getting enough sleep everyday can therefore be a great asset for you in your bid to keep a fit physique.

3. EXERCISE DAILY.

Let me guess, you just sighed, rolled your eyes and shook your head? It's alright, I understand. A lot of people cringe at the mere mention of exercise. Of course it can be a bit tedious and tiring sometimes, but the truth is, you can't avoid exercises if you really do want to get fit.

Now don't get me wrong. You don't necessarily have to pick up a gym membership form or lift heavy weights to exercise. A simple home workout routine can work wonders. It could be jogging for half an hour everyday, a fast to medium-paced stroll around the neighborhood, a few sets of push ups and sit ups, skipping ropes for 20 minutes and the likes.

The internet has even simplified things these days. Now, there are virtual classes that help people exercise effectively from the comfort of their homes. The bottom line is, do something everyday that makes your heart pump faster than usual.

4. STAY POSITIVE.

Having a positive and optimistic mentality is very crucial for anybody who wants to keep fit. As a matter of fact, there's really not much you could achieve in life without a positive mindset. To begin with, if your spirit is down, you can't exercise! You wouldn't even care about what you eat, if it's balanced or not, and you would have a hard time sleeping well.

To be honest, achieving that dream physique you desire is NOT going to happen overnight. Sometimes, you might catch yourself deviating from eating the right food, or exercising or even other healthy lifestyle habits you need to imbibe to maintain your fitness, and this could cause you to start feeling discouraged. But that's the exact time you need to keep your spirits up and stay positive. Remind yourself that it is okay to fail or feel downtrodden. What is not okay is giving up. A winner is a loser who picked himself up and gave it one more shot. Consistency is key! In no time, you will achieve your desired results.

5. MONITOR YOUR PROGRESS.

Keeping track of your progress can be very helpful. It enables you to know how much success you've achieved, where you're lagging, and how much more effort you need to put in to perfect and keep that fit body. It all depends on what you want to achieve.

If it's weight you're trying to lose, you could purchase a bathroom scale with which you check your weight daily or weekly. This gives you a sense of focus and fuels your determination to see that you achieve your desired results.

6. USE DETOXIFIERS.

This is one of my personal favourites. Detoxifiers help in cleansing your system and

ridding your body of harmful and excess fat. An example of this is lemonade. Squeeze the juice of a fresh, ripe lemon into a cup of warm water and drink it. When taken first thing in the morning, it cleanses your body and speeds up your metabolism for the day. This is one drink I take everyday and I must tell you, the results are amazing!

7. DRINK LOTS OF WATER.

That's right, drink lots and lots and lots of water. Nature has blessed us with a magical liquid called water, but sadly, a lot of people take it for granted. Water cleanses the skin of germs and impurities, improves eyesight, increases height, boosts metabolism and burns fat, among many other benefits. You just can't do without this magical drink!

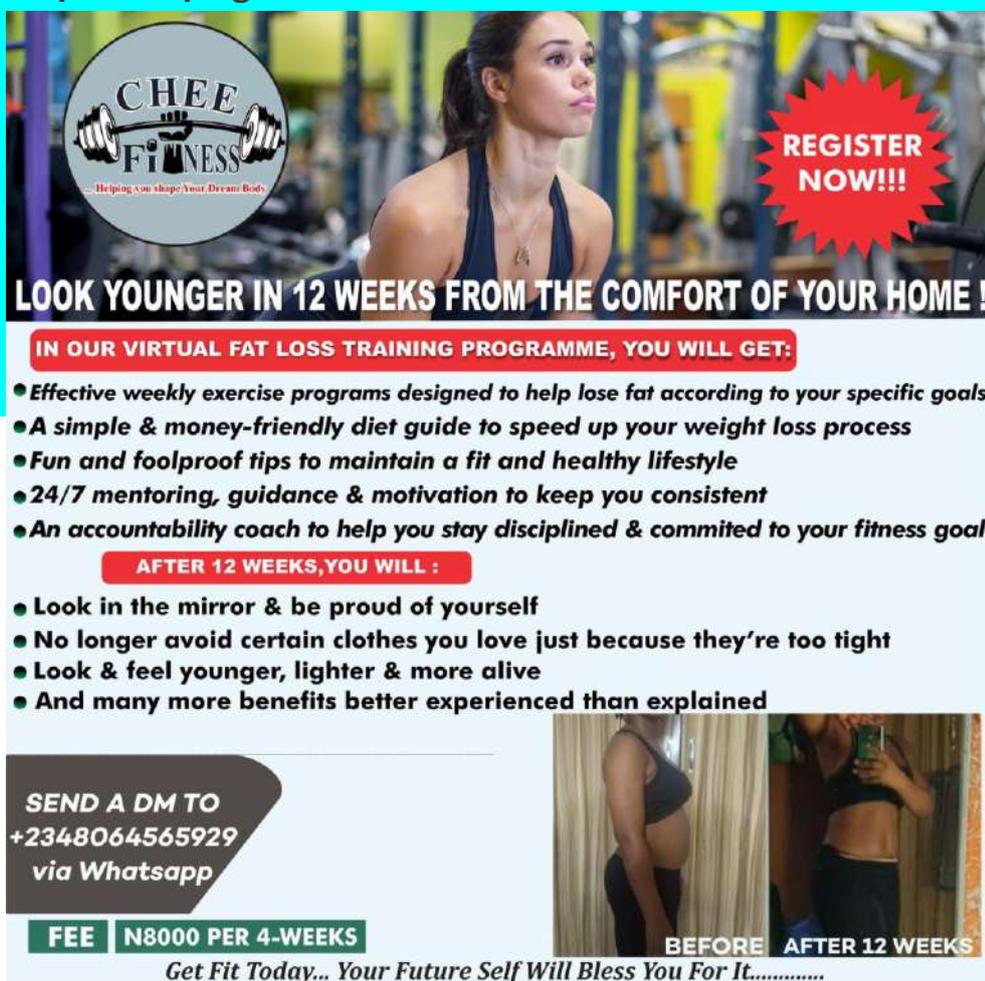
Medical experts have advised taking a minimum of 8 glasses of water per day. It works wonders for the body and overall helps to keep your body fit.

And there you have it! Easy right? But it is your commitment to making these simple steps a lifestyle that would yield the results you desire. You don't need to wait for another year to make the same fitness resolutions you could have easily achieved this year.

2024 is your year. Start now and you will be thanking yourself at the end of the year and in years to come.

I remain your favorite fitness coach, Chee Fitness.

Remember, whatever you do, keep on keeping on.



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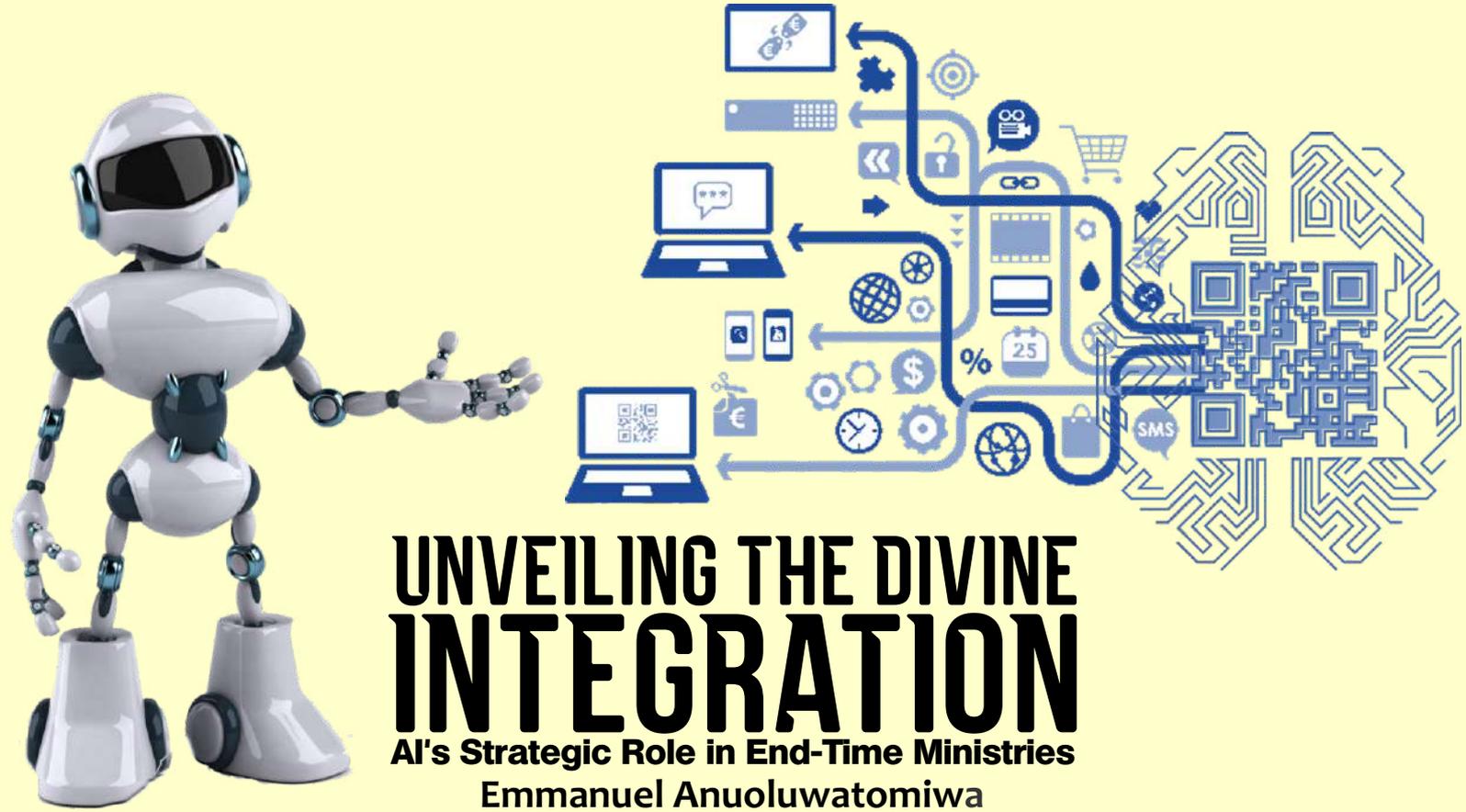
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UNVEILING THE DIVINE INTEGRATION

AI's Strategic Role in End-Time Ministries
Emmanuel Anuoluwatomiwa

In the ever-evolving landscape of technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force with profound implications across various sectors. Beyond its applications in business, healthcare, and education, AI's role is now being recognized as strategically significant in God's divine plan for the end-time. In this article, I will briefly explain how this is a driving force in this age, and how we can utilize it to our advantage.

What is Artificial Intelligence?

According to Britannica, Artificial intelligence (AI) is the ability of a computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent human beings.

Imagine Artificial Intelligence (AI) like a very smart robot friend. This robot friend can learn things, talk to you, and even do some tasks on its own. It's like having a buddy who can figure out new things and help you with fun stuff! AI is training computer programs to think and act like humans on behalf of humans. But, you know, not everyone is jumping on the AI train with excitement. Some people feel a bit scared because they worry that AI might do things on its own or maybe take over some jobs that people do. It's like having a super-smart friend, but also wondering if the friend might be a bit too smart sometimes. As believers, we must see AI as a paradigm shift, and not just a result of technological advancements but increasingly perceived as a strategic element in God's divine plan.

Here are some ways that AI is being used in the church:

1. Speaking Everyone's Language:

Imagine sitting in church and hearing the sermon in your language, even if the preacher doesn't speak it. AI is making this happen by using cool voice technology to translate

sermons on the spot. This way, everyone, no matter where they're from, can connect with the message. Pastor Poju Oyemade, one of the spiritual sons of Papa, at the just concluded WOFBEC announced that all the messages are available in French in the voices of each speaker. What it means is that AI cloned their voices and rendered them in the French language. Can you imagine that in our services, people of different dialects could hear our Pastor's sermon in their own languages in his own very tone immediately after the services?

2. It's making learning smart for All Ages:

AI is a helpful friend in our learning journey. It's making education more personalized and fun. When you're studying the Bible, AI can customize lessons to suit your style of learning. It's like having a study buddy who knows exactly what you need.

3. Making Church Services Shine:

Have you noticed how the lights and music just feel right during church services? Well, AI is helping with that too. Smart technology is making sure our worship experiences are immersive and inspiring, adapting to the atmosphere of the moment.

4. Support Whenever You Need It:

Need someone to talk to or seek guidance outside of regular church hours? AI is there for you. Virtual assistants can provide support and resources whenever you need a listening ear, working alongside our amazing pastoral care teams.

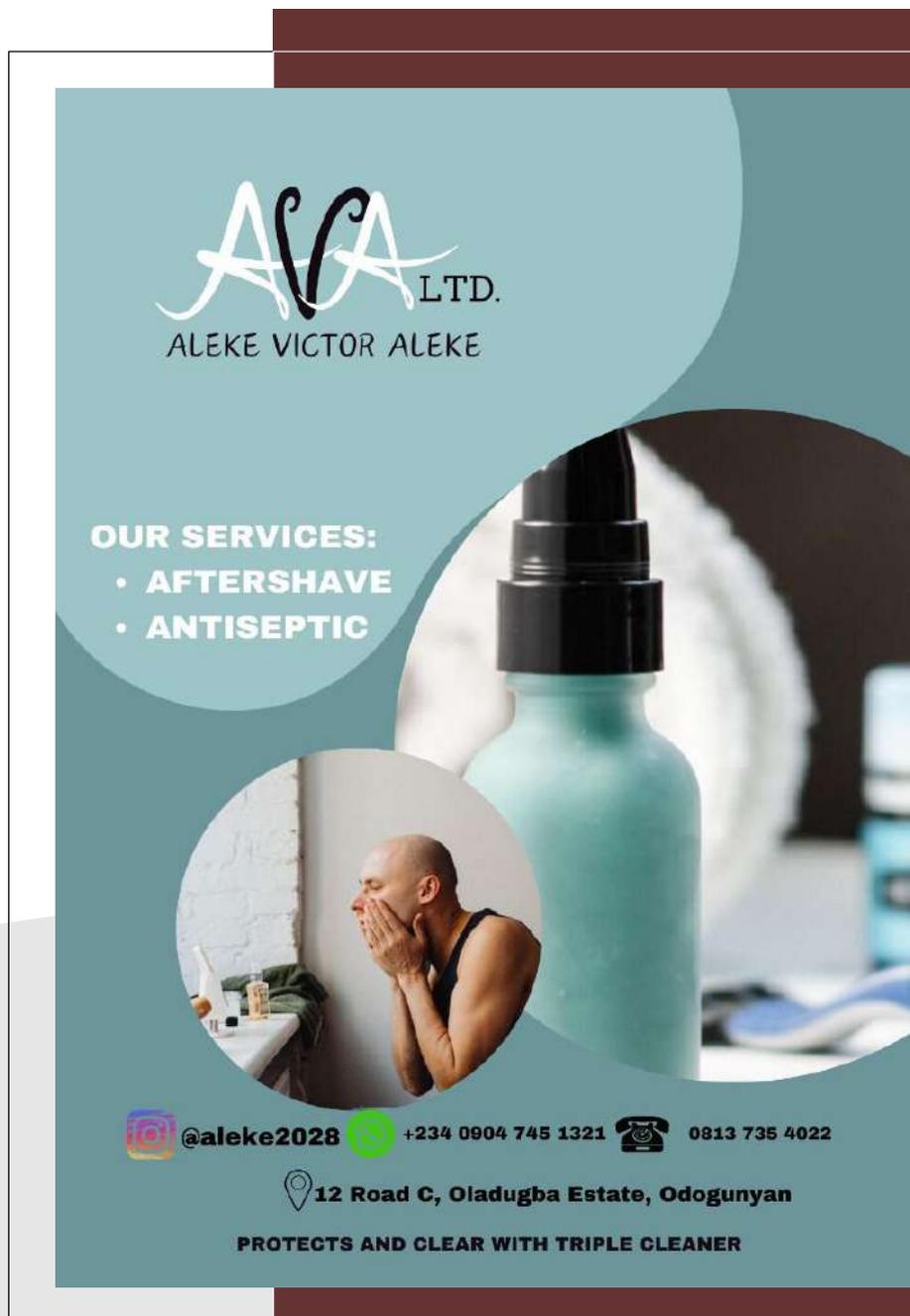
5. Data Analysis for Growth:

AI analyzes data about church attendance, community engagement, and more. This helps church leaders make informed decisions about where to focus efforts for growth and improvement.

The future of our churches is unfolding with AI playing a special role in making things better for everyone. In navigating the intersection of faith and technology, several popular AI tools are making a significant impact on how churches operate and connect with their congregations. One such tool is Google Translate, an AI language translation tool that breaks down language barriers during sermons and events, ensuring that the divine message resonates with diverse audiences. SMART Learning Suite, an AI educational platform, personalizes Bible study lessons, making learning accessible and engaging for everyone. ChatGPT, a popular AI chatbot, acts as a virtual assistant, answering questions and fostering discussions to deepen understanding. L-Acoustics L-ISA, an AI sound and lighting system, dynamically adapts to the worship atmosphere, creating an immersive auditory experience. Replika, an AI pastoral care application, provides instant support and resources, complementing traditional pastoral care efforts. Additionally, tools like Tableau and QuickBooks use AI for data analysis, offering insights into attendance, community engagement, and financial data, empowering church leaders

to make informed decisions for growth and responsible budgeting. These tools collectively demonstrate the diverse applications of AI in enhancing various aspects of the church experience, from language inclusivity to personalized education and informed decision-making.

The future of our churches is unfolding with AI playing a special role in making things better for everyone. As we welcome these changes, we're not just adapting; we're moving forward with faith and innovation, knowing that this integration of AI is part of a bigger plan that connects us all.



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H	E	R	T	A	R	S	I	K	T	R	I	R	F
H	S	N	A	I	H	T	N	I	R	O	C	I	E
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K	O	T	L	S	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	T	T
M	K	I	A	H	G	K	S	C	C	C	A	E	I
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Appreciation

The editorial team appreciates the support of every member of the Media & Publicity Unit that contributed to the success of this edition.

We appreciate our unit pastor, Pastor Kolawole Abraham and all past and present leaders & executives of the unit.

May God bless you all.



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