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PERSONAL

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ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE CHURCH

One principal aim of thechurch is to prepare people people to lay up their treasures in heaven. Heaven is therefore accepted among Christians as the ultimate reward for one's good activities on earth.

It is however ironical that while religious leaders in Nigeria prepare their converts and followers to lay in heaven, the followers' most valuable treasures, the church hierarchy lays its own treasures on earth!

In recent years in Nigeria, many church leaders have been found to be more corrupt than corruption itself. Church leaders have engaged in extreme extortion of their parishioners, to the extent of demanding from them poor and the wretched, even the dying, their last meals in raw cash, as contribution, all in the name of preparing them to go to heaven. In a serious attempt to lay their own treasures on earth, priests, pastors and church leaders force the wretched in their parishes, most of who can not afford three square meals a day,to contribute enermously to feed them, buy the most costly cars in the market for them, and build for them, a magnificient building, highly furnished. The humble parishioners are told by the church hierarchy that if they fail to pay, they will suffer in hell fire! It is interesting that while the wretched of the earth live in mud thatched houses, with perhaps the hope to enjoy better in heaven when they die, the ministers of God who swore the oath of poverty, humility and chastity, and consequently have been promised that their reward will be too great in heaven, extensively extort the masses in other to live like the bourgeoisie of pre-revolutionary France.

Worse still, accountability in most churches in Nigeria is nothing to write home about; it has completely become a none issue in many parishes.

Honestly we do not recommend that the priests and pastors should live like paupers, after all most of them are highly educated. What we are against is their extortion in other to live like the exploiters in the upper class.

It is note worthy that in some struggling countries of the third world [illegible], the church helps the wretched to find shelter; the thirsty to quench their thirst; and the oppressed to fight for their freedom; but the situation in Nigeria is different.

While in Latin America, for instance, progressive Reverend Fathers champion revolutionary movements aimed at liberating their poor masses from internal and external American engineered oppression and exploitation, for which some of them even lose their lives. In Nigeria most Reverend Fathers and Pastors are not only sheltering and praying for the indigenous oppressors and exploiters who also control politics, most of them are also head-long in exploitation and extortion of the masses. For instance, it was out of the revolutionary zeal of Rev. Fr. Paulo Ferire and his abhorence of the oppression of his people by indigenous and foreign exploiters that he wrote the book 'Pedagogy of the oppressed', one of the most reassuring books that can give hope to the oppressed on earth. In the same struggle for liberation on earth, in other to ensure freedom in heaven, Archbishop Oscar Romero, Reverend Sisters Ita Ford, Maura Clarke, to mention just a few, are among the numerous MEN OF GOD in Latin America who have lost their lives for identifying themselves with the oppressed masses, while striving to prepare them for heaven.

In Nigeria, the Reverend Fathers and Pastors sit back at the pulpit and watch the Nigerian exploiters, cheats, pen and armed robbers bring a part of their loot to the alter in the name of offering. The peasants clap and sing "were onyinye bia", as the exploiters and their families march with dignity to the high alter!

peculiar brand of politics TOUCHLINE never fails because it works on the principle that the Nigerian voter does not need to have a conscience since the politicians don't have any.

This tried and tested technique works like this: wait till your opponent has spent all that he has, but make sure that your estimation of his expences is right . If it is definite that he has spent ₦300, for example, on each voter, then at the last minute (good timing or TOUCHLINE) increase each voter's pay by only 10k to ₦300, 10k. If you do this, my friend, the election is yours.

WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO YOU

WE MEMBERS OF PGN WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK MR F. O. IHEGBU (KSM) FOR DONATING A PORTABLE TYPEWRITER MACHINE TO THE GROUP.

WE ARE INDEED VERY GRATEFUL

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