

Choose revival, not survival. Time to move forward!

Sounds of rejoicing, of expectation and of hope reverberated through all time zones around the world, at 00:00 on January 1st, 2020,

Those expectations did not include the sudden onslaught of loss that would quickly navigate its way through every part of our lives.

The start of a new year always brings new hope and revives our dreams and goals that the previous year may have not have been realised during the previous year.

It is safe to say that 2020 has demanded more out of us than most of us knew we had to offer. Never did we expect that in a time of crises, when our very make up demands that we huddle together for comfort and support, we would instead be locked down and isolated from our families, other loved ones and community.

This pandemic has challenged everything we have known to be true of our societal and familial structures.

It has forced us to see the rot in society that we had become accustomed and resigned to.

We then had to do some soul searching and ask ourselves the hard questions: Would we carry on the way we always had?

Or would we choose to do the work and fix the chaos we created so that after Covid-19 our communities would be a safe place for our kids, our schools would provide quality spaces for teaching and learning and our homes would be refuge for our woman and children.

As with every situation that changes the course of our lives, how you come out on the other side is solely dependent on the choices you make while in the thick of ensuing chaos.

Everything about this pandemic demands that you shrink back, that you consolidate and shift into survival mode.

Its voice insists that you prioritise survival and self-preservation.

That is why we saw crowds rushing to stores and panic buying when it had already been announced that essential items would remain on sale.

It seems ridiculous when we look back now. That may be simple example, but that same mentality influences every other life decision.

Survival mode threatens and exposes your convictions.

If you have ever watched shows like Survivor or any other documentary that tells stories of how people survived disasters, you would have seen how people in desperate situations will adopt survival mode and end up doing and eating things that they would otherwise never dare to, just for them to survive.

Many have fallen into the same mindset and the same do anything, eat anything compromise, during this season.

They have fallen away from the principles and ideals they professed to live by.

Survival betrays conviction.

Much like the Israelites desired Egypt whenever things got tough on their 40-year journey through the desert, some of us chose to look back at the life we had left behind and saw the pigsty as a rosy haven.

You must then ask yourself whether you had truly lived out of conviction or was it merely a routine or lifestyle you had grown used to.

As we draw to the end of the year and the promise of the new draws closer, the question presented is: “What perspective will you step into 2021 with?”

Will you choose survival, or will you choose revival?

Where survival sees all things diminished, revival sets you up for extension.

It speaks to an awakening, a quickening of thought, spirit, and action.

Revival calls you to rebuild.

Champions are made by challenges and the life we envision, after this, demands that we stand toe to toe with this devil and its offspring and take back what it thinks it has stripped us of.

Life, post COVID-19, depends on us closing the gap lockdown created.

The Church must work together with the community and community members work together. We have had privilege and we have had the positions but now it is time to function.

The Bible says that if they speak one language, as one people, nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them.

Restoration will happen if you do the right thing, not the comfortable thing.

Be generous in your thinking, in your dreaming, in your hoping and in your sharing.

When storms stalk us, we become weary, scared, anxious, frustrated, and downcast.

Refuse this!

Let us dare to challenge the status quo, push on, fight on dream on.

The threat of a second wave and rumours of a possible lockdown level increase may have us groaning now but we will grow out of this.

It is time for the people of God to make an impact.

It is time to rebuild the ruins, to move on into 2021 with renewed vigour.

Revive, the future demands it of you.

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