



## A Ministry of Arise and Shine Evangelistic Association

October 2016

### "I felt my heart hardening again.... and then tears started falling from my eyes"

We have been updating you periodically on many different people and their lives, which God has enabled us to be involved in over the years. One of those young men has been Uche. He is now over six feet tall and still a sixteen year old, but we have seen him grow more and more toward the Lord, as the Word of God has softened his heart. Uche has been coming to the Bible Pub Club now for more than four years and it has always been easy enough to have a sincere and rich conversation with him about God's ways. He is a leader among all the young people that come in and they follow his instructions and listen to his concerns. A year and a half ago I took Uche aside and invited him to a young men's Bible study. I told him that it would be strength in his difficulties and that he would be encouraged in the ways God has planned for him. He never came, but remained open to our frequent discussions. Then a few months later I felt deeply urged in my Spirit to warn Uche. I took him aside one Saturday and sat him down. **"Uche, I said, "God has a plan for your life...do you want what God has for you?"** He looked at me with a serious face and replied, **"Yes I do."** I gave him a Bible and told him, **"Start reading in the book of John and we can discuss the things you read when you come in each week."** Although Uche agreed with a strong head wave and **"OK!"** he never followed through with his commitment. When we arrived back from the United States after our bi-annual iteration a few months ago, Uche walked through the doors of the Outreach Centre and immediately wrapped his big arms around me as he hugged tightly and said, **"You and Tina can't go to the United States any more, we missed you here!"** A few weeks later, while Uche was in the Christian Pub Club, he discussed some personal difficulties and struggles he had in his life with Tina. **"It has been very difficult in our neighborhood in the last few weeks. In just two days two guys were murdered! One was stabbed and the other was beaten and died in a gang related fight. What is wrong with people?"** Tina replied, **"Uche I believe God has prepared a scripture that I read this morning just for you... Can I read it to you?"** Uche gladly replied, **"Yes, of course."** Tina and Uche read together Proverbs 1:8-19. As Uche read aloud through the second half of the scripture, **"my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood. How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it! These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves! Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it,"** he found himself struck with awe. **"Oh my!... this is just what has happened."** He blurted out. For the next half hour we talked with Uche as we have many times before, about the plans of God upon his life, yet this time his heart was wide open. Afterward he shared with us about a four day Christian camping retreat that he was invited to. **"I would like to go but I don't have all the money."** He said. Before he left the Outreach Centre Tina and I told him, **"Uche if you decide to go to the Christian camp we will be glad to help you out with the money you lack."** He looked at us and smiled say-

ing, **"Really!"** After a hug he took off. A few days later, Uche sent a text to us asking for the money and was at the door with a smile and then off to go to the Christian camp...just at the last possible moment. Four days later, as Tina and I walked home from exercising at the nearby park we heard a shout from across the street.

**"Hey Steve, hey Tina!"** It was Uche and he made his way across the busy street and immediately gave

us a big hug. **"I'm born again!"** he cried out as he hugged us. We stood there on the sidewalk as Uche described the four nights of camping. **"It was a lot of fun,"** he said, **"We did a lot of different sports during the day and then every night there was a rally in a big tent. There were about three thousand of us. The preacher had a Bible message each night and asked anyone who felt God calling them to come forward to pray. I hardened my heart the first three nights. Then on the last night I felt my heart hardening again as usual, then I started crying...and I couldn't stop. I went up and received Jesus as my Saviour!"**

Tina and I just stood there on the sidewalk in awe of our Mighty God and Saviour. We couldn't help but loudly rejoice and thank God openly with him right there. **"Uche,"** we reminded him, **"It is now time to read the Bible we gave you and let God strengthen your heart and mind every day. We look forward to all that God has planned for you and want to be part of that!"**

Please be in prayer with us for Uche. He is a leader in this community among kids of his age group and the Lord has a wonderful plan for his future life.

*Rejoicing in God's great grace and mercy,  
Steve and Tina*

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