



HOPE

No: 4

April 6, 2020

FIGURE

365

Number of times the Holy Bible says, **“FEAR NOT”**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed”

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

LOCKDOWN BUT NOT KNOCKED OUT

Dear Students, Staff and Faculty,

My thoughts go out to every one of you as we commence the second week of abrupt lockdown, occasioned by the spread of the dreaded Coronavirus in Nigeria.

To our students, staying at home has become an emergency national duty. Today your classrooms and halls of residence are empty because you are home with your families. How terribly we miss you! You had toiled since the beginning of the academic year, and just as you thought you were cruising towards the finishing point, the unpleasant news of suspension of academic activities was announced. It was like smashing earthenware on a rocky surface. Everything seemed shattered! God is assuring you today that: “For I the Lord your God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee”- Isaiah 41: 13.7

To our staff, we had always spent this period of our academic calendar together in the office, inspiring one another and working for the collective good of all. But this is not the case today. We are not in our offices holding meetings, poring through files, sending memos and signing MoUs. We are in our homes, not by choice but by circumstance dictated by a disease that has taken over the continents. COVID-19 has changed the nature and colour of things, at least for the time being.

As the number of infected persons spikes in our country, the thoughts of you at this moment - your fears, anxieties and how you are coping with each single day prick my heart like a needle. Yet, in times like these, God shows up bigger and mightier.

Though fear and anxiety may seem deep-seated in some people, and overwhelm others with a shadow of darkness, God’s words give us unfailing security: “ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcend all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”- Philippians 4: 6-7.

To our faculty, I recall the beehive of academic activities before the school locked down – the diligence exercised to complete your scheme of work, clear students for project defense, prepare examination questions, and schedule examination dates and venues. You did this with a high sense of responsibility. Suddenly came the directive by the government for schools to close down. It was like throwing a spanner in the rotating wheel. Everything stopped.

As I think about your sacrifices, I imagine how sour you might have felt. I assure you that God who rewards the diligent will find you wherever you are and reward you: “Tell everyone who is discouraged, be strong and don’t be afraid! God is coming to your rescue” Isaiah 35:4.

We need to be there for each other to pull through to light.

We may not know the future and what it holds for everyone, but we can trust the God who knows tomorrow. May the God of peace, keep you reassured and hopeful in the midst of these unprecedented global happenings.

Stay Safe! Stay Home!! Stay Healthy!!!

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