

2013 **Synod Theme**: 'Womanhood' Prov.31:10 – 31

The word womanhood is a compound word which comprises woman and hood. The word woman is described as an adult human being, one with experience of society not young and innocent. Womanhood is the state of being a woman. It refers to women in general term. It is talking about things which are more suitable for women than men. The other word that can be used for it is women folk.

The focus in this charge is to further look at Christian family as we have started at Synod 2011. In Synod 2011 our focus was on our youths. In Synod 2012 we focused on children. Our theme is the continuation of looking at what we can do as Christians to change this dying world to a better place and restore the world to the original plan of God. The CNN would say, change the lifestyle of a woman, and you change the world or train a woman then you train the world.

The book of Proverbs from where we took our theme begins with the command to fear the Lord (Proverbs 1:7) and ends with the picture of a woman who fulfills this command. Her qualities are mentioned throughout the book; hard work, fear of God, respect for spouse, foresight, encouragement, care for others, concern for the poor, wisdom in handling money, etc. These qualities, when coupled with fear of God, lead to enjoyment, success, honour, and worth.

Proverbs has a lot to say about women. How fitting that the book ends with a picture of a woman of strong character, great wisdom, many skills and great compassion. The woman described in this passage is an excellent wife and mother. She is also a manufacturer, importer, manager, reactor, former, seamstress,

upholsterer and merchant. Her strength and dignity do not come from her amazing achievements, however, they are a result of her reverence for God. In our society where physical appearance counts for so much, it may surprise us to realize that her appearance is never mentioned. Her attractiveness comes entirely from her character.

The writer of this chapter is Lemuel. He was a king who received wise teachings from his mother. His name means “devoted to God” some believe that Lemuel and Agur were both from the kingdom of Massa in northern Arabia.

The little background of Lemuel reveals what he learnt from his mother. Thus verse 10 reads, “A wife of noble character who can find”. This presumes that there are many wives of ignoble characters. Proverbs 27:15 among many others reads “A quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping on a raining day” and Proverbs 21:9 and 19 read respectively, “Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife” and “Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife”. In Proverbs 6:24-35 there is a warning that one must run away from immoral woman.

The theme of this Synod had some antecedents in earlier passages in Proverbs which talked about prudent wife. In Proverbs 14:1, we read, “The wise woman builds her house but with her own hands the foolish one tears her down”. In Proverbs 18:22, we read “He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favour from the Lord, and in Proverbs 19:14, we read “Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the Lord”, and

Proverbs 12:4 reads, “A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones”.

These last quotations lend credence to what King Lemuel learnt from her mother. We can confidently agree with the statement which says, “Behind a successful man there is a woman”. We can see this coming out in the 2nd letter to Timothy Chapter 1: verses 5 & 6, I quote,

“I have been reminded of your sincere faith which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands”.

Women have vantage points in the world and the community at large; this is why Paul told Titus in Titus 2:3-6 as follows:

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children to be self controlled and pure to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

We can see from the quotation above that women stand at vantage place in her responsibility to children, male and female as well to their husbands. The Bible makes it clear from Genesis and other

books that women are not inferior to men but women complement men. In 1 Corinthians 11:11 & 12, Paul says,

In the Lord, however, woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman. For as woman came from man so also man is born of woman. But everything comes from God.

We can see from above that the cry for women empowerment or women emancipation does not arise as God has endowed women from creation. Hence, a lot of attention must be given to women's training as said by Paul in his letter to Titus.

Womanhood in the Ancient World

In the ancient world no race gave any significance to the training of women. The Jews will not count women and children because they were regarded insignificant. At the miraculous feeding of the five thousand and four thousand respectively, we have this comment:

“And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children” (Matt.14:21). “And those who ate were four thousand men besides women and children” (Matt.15:38)

This is a testimony that in the ancient time, be it among the Greeks, Jews, Persians, Europeans, Americans and Africans to mention a few, women were regarded as carriers of woods and drawers of water. In those days, the people regarded men as very important

for the existence of a nation or community for security reasons; they were the ones that defended the nation or communities in the time of war. At that time war was common occurrences in all parts of the world. Then, survival of the fittest was the order of the day, the winners will take everything and all people in the domain would become subjects of the great King who won.

The reason why the Israelites demanded for a King after the Judges, in the Old Testament was that the King will be able to lead them to war. Hence, men were considered indispensable, as they were the ones who would stand against any war or threat to the survival of a nation, community or a family. This gives reason for the quest for male children in every family up till today particularly among African race, for the male children are considered as heir of the household inheritance. One wonders why women in most cases will yearn to bear male children rather than female children.

In my own opinion, the contrary should be the case because female children are very important to every race, as every human being is born of a woman. Women are the ones who are closer to the children be they males or females. They are the ones who know the children more than the men. Women are architect of whatever happens in a nation, a community or even a family. You can never underestimate the influence of women in any given race or community. Whatever happens in any given community or family, women stand at the background of it all. If there is war, like it happens between Saul and David, women started it. Think of any good things or evil things that befall a community or a family, women will be at the background of them all. Hence, I regard women as the foundation layers of any society or community. The Bible says, "If the foundations are destroyed

what can the righteous do?” Prov.11:3. The adage also says, “Charity begins at home”.

The first man and woman both received the blessings of God as they were made in the image of God. Hence, there was no disparity between the man and the woman. One is not regarded as superior while the other is inferior. Even in the second creation story, the man (Adam) did not regard the woman (Eve) as inferior; rather, he said, “she will be called a Woman”. As far as we are concerned the two were humankind.

It is important to note that from the beginning of creation, God ordained that humankind would be born of woman. Hence, God caused Jesus our Lord to be born of Virgin Mary. Suffice it to say that without the creation of woman, Humankind would not have got the fulfillment of multiplying and filling the earth. Hence the place of women is very important, as we shall discover that without women there will be a vacuum, which nothing else can fill. Without women in the world, humanity is incomplete because there are a lot of endowments in womanhood.

It is sad that when women liberation started in the Western World, people believe that through changing the world view sanity would be restored. The cry for women liberation, emancipation or Women empowerment today further complicate the position of home and family life. For instance, we have a lot of single mothers, divorces, broken homes, homosexuals and lesbians. We even have human beings who make pets their partners.

In my own opinion, it is not changing roles of womanhood that we need but realizing and appreciating the position of honour God gave

womanhood at creation. In any given situation a woman will be a woman and a man will be a man. God gives them roles to complements each other. Where this fails you get pervasion. Our submission in this address will lend credence to the claims above.

The roles of a Woman at Home:

In the context of Proverbs 31:10-31, a Woman is the Manager of Home.

A woman can be a winsome representative of Jesus Christ by working with Him, walking with Him and talking with Him. The result is that the woman will become like Jesus in words and deeds, as Jesus will share with her His wonderful life. This becomes possible when a woman makes the words of Paul in Col.3:23 her watchword “whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord and not to men”. A woman is the Managing Director of home affairs.

In looking at a woman as a manager, we attempt to discuss her God’s giving endowments. The lot has fallen on Women to manage the affairs of the world. Going back to the command of God at creation, He said among other things:

‘Be fruitful, and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth’.
(Gen.1:28)

The five operative words are fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and dominion. I am going to use the last three in relation to the woman as a manager. She is to replenish the earth, she is to subdue the earth, and she is to have dominion over the earth. In other words a woman is to manage the affairs of the whole world. Like an adage says, 'Charity begins at home'. A woman manages the affairs of the world by being hard working at home. This will reflect in the lives of her husband and children in the society. In fact, what we see in the public life is a finished product of what women had done in their homes.

The book of Proverbs 31:10-31 said it all. We shall consider what the ideal woman does with herself, her environment, her children and husband. Here also we shall discover how she manages her time, talents, and treasures for the benefits of others in her home and her community.

The first thing we discover as the characteristic of a Virtuous woman or a worthy woman is that she is trustworthy, she is considered to be more precious than jewels. Trustworthiness is what is required of a Steward. Also in the matter of trustees, the first and the final requirement is that they should prove trustworthy. The woman is a manager that could be trusted. Hence, her husband trusts in her, as she will do him good always.

The Virtuous woman is industrious as she engages her hands to work willingly. She toils with her hands, she is like a merchant ship; she brings her food from afar. She rises also while it is yet night, and gives meat to her household and a portion to her maidens. This woman of excellence takes care of her home, her husband,

children and maiden. St. Paul made known to the Christians in Thessalonica to labour for their daily bread and to have enough to give to the poor. Christianity does not encourage busybodies (11Thess.3:6-end).

The woman of virtue considers field and buys it. She plants vineyards; she girds her loins with strength. She perceives that her business is good and her candle does not go out by night, her hands are always full for profitable ventures, she has no time for gossips or backbiting. For every ideal woman, the priority is to make every member of her household comfortable; she makes sure that there is food for her husband, children and maidens. The food is prepared to time and she prepares delicious food to the taste of her husband.

She makes her environment clean because cleanliness is next to Godliness. She looks well to the ways of her household, and eats not the bread of idleness. She does not eat just anything; she eats to her satisfaction for she works hard. She is hospitable; she welcomes guests into her household. A lazy woman will not like visitors, as she will regard it as an added responsibility. She teaches her children and maidens how to apply their hands to profitable ventures.

The woman of virtue also provides clothing of various designs to take care of every kind of weather for her husband, children and maidens. She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothes with scarlet. Strength and honour are her clothing and she shall rejoice in time to come. Her husband is known in the gate when he sits among the elders of the land. This woman is known by her contributions to the home and society.

The woman of virtue is charitable. She takes care of the poor and needy, she provides for their needs. Her managerial task does not give room for self-centeredness. She is Christ centered. The management is that of the creation of God. She stretches out her hands to the poor; yea she reaches forth her hands to the needy. She is full of compassion; she is generous with God's endowments.

This ideal woman does not open her mouth without deep thought, she is not a talkative or parrot, she opens her mouth with wisdom and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She is loving and caring. Peter said:

“Likewise you wives, be in subjection to your husbands that if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; while they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear, whose adorning let it not be that of outward adorning...But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (1 Peter 3:1-4)

Note: The management of home, children, husband and maidens by every woman is the management of the nation and the world at large. The result of how a woman manages her household is

what we see in the public life. Thus every Christian woman must provide for her house. Paul said to Timothy; 'But if any provide not for his house, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel' (1 Tim.5:8). I want to submit with Peter when he said to Christian of his time thus:

...."And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue, knowledge, and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, and to patience, godliness, and to godliness, brotherly kindness and charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful" (11 Pet.1:3-8).

Every Christian woman is a manager. Therefore she must strive for daily fellowship with Christ in order to become woman of virtue. No woman could do anything worthy of praise without Jesus. It is with Christ in us that we can do all things. The virtuous woman witnesses with her life of services and she is an effective witness. You also can be effective witness if you strive to know love and walk daily with Jesus. We do the above having in mind the saying of the wise:

The game of life is the game of boomerangs; our thoughts, deeds and words return to us sooner or later. Be kind to get kindness in return.

Women Education:

The Western world discovered the importance of women to the national survival; therefore they placed importance on the training of women. For many years now, the head of England who was the Queen is a woman. The Americans started Women Liberation in order to remove the impression that women cannot operate at other areas except the Kitchen. Women of good reputes are found in the position of honour in various professions, government and community in Nigeria and throughout the nook and cranny of the world today. The Bible demands that women must be trained in order to pass the same to their children. Here the priority is to train them in good character first. In Titus 2:3ff, we have the following;

“Bid the older women likewise to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slave to drink; they are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children...”

Here, Paul emphasizes the importance of training for the women in particular. For through them we build up the community. The training in this passage is directed to good character and behavior. The informal training is very important for the children, as this is the bedrock of all that happens in later lives. The Jews will have a Rabbi for every child to train and teach them the fear of God through the knowledge of the Torah (Deut.6:4ff). In Deut.6:6ff, I quote;

And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk

of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

For the first twelve years, the Jewish child will learn all these and after, be presented at the temple. This was what happened to Jesus. Luke 2 revealed that Jesus went through the training as a Jew before his presentation at the Temple where he was discovered to be full of wisdom. Prov.1:7 says, 'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction'. And Hosea 4:6 says,

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge, because you rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Women are the greatest teachers in the community. They occupy an opportune position to train the child right from the childhood because they are the one who bring up children; they are closer to nature than men. Hence, our nation, community and the society must refocus and give preference to the training of women. The importance of home training is to be recognized by various communities, as the community is made up of every home.

The evil that pervades the community and the whole world today; threats of Terrorist, Boko Haram, Bombing, Kidnapping, Armed Robbery, Prostitution, Rapist and Money-Laundering and likely chemical weapons could be avoided if homes are alive to their responsibilities of training. A lot can be achieved through organized formal trainings; like environmental sanitation, health care, sex education and career training, capacity building, wealth creation, parenting, home management, etc. The reason our children throughout the world are becoming lazy and unruly is the fact that things are not alright at home. Women who are properly trained make a properly organized society. When you train a woman, you train a nation. Children learn fast through examples. "Example the adage says is better than precept". Moulding the character of female children from cradle to adulthood will have a desired result, as it will bring to light a peaceful community where justice and righteousness exist. Training therefore, especially, in the fear of the Lord is essential for the existence of a peaceful world.

Training and retraining are very important in rendering our services in the Church of God. Paul said 'The Bishop must be able to teach'. All ministers in God's vineyard must be able to teach. However, whoever will teach must have self reverence; self discipline and must be able to master self. The fear of the Lord must dominate the life of a teacher, as he must teach by his life example in following the steps of Jesus the Great Teacher. Hence, what the writer of Hebrews said is important to us as recorded in Hebrews 12:7ff;

"Endure hardship as discipline, God is treating you
as sons, for what son is not disciplined by his

father? If you are not disciplined and everyone undergoes discipline, then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the father of our spirits and live. Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful, later on however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it”.

The way to subject ourselves to God’s discipline is to be guided by the scripture; we must be Bible reading; Bible believing and Bible living Christians. Daily we must devote time to meditate in the Holy Scripture and praying through to Victory by the strength we derive from the Bible. Our meditation in the scripture must be regular, we must pray constantly. We must submit ourselves to the Father of Spirit in order to share in his holiness. When we are Bible living and constant in prayer and we do these regularly, our lives will reflect the ministry of Jesus Christ. These exercises will transform our lives from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light; those who see us will discover Jesus in us. Our transformation will be so real that it will bring the world of difference to every aspect of our lives. We will be morally, financially and socially sound, we will live a life of moderation, which will attract others to Christianity.

The Christian life must necessarily have a multiplying effect. This is so because whatever appears in the physical world has already first been completed in the spiritual world. When the inner man is sound, the physical aspect will also be sound. This is what transforms us from natural world to supernatural world; it will then be possible to attempt great things for the Lord. The multiplying effect of this transformed life will be evident in the training of the children. The Bible says; 'fathers do not exasperate your children, instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord'. (Eph.6:4). Thus, we must make concerted efforts and divert all efforts to education of Nigerian children, especially, our female children, we will then be a pacesetter to the world. Proverbs 27:17a says, "Discipline your son and he will give you peace"

Training of Children:

The training of children is more of the responsibility of women; it is more of the ministry of women as they are closer to the children. Children are to be brought up in the nurture and instructions of the Lord. Proverbs 22:6 says, 'Train a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it'. Proverbs 29:17 also says, 'Discipline your son and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul'.

In the perverse society in which we live, parents must influence their children by training them the good culture of our race. No training is minute, it starts from how to greet, sweeping of the environment, preparing various dishes, eating habit, sex education, honesty as the best policy and using ones resources to benefit and profit others. Girls and boys should be taught to take care of their bodies, knowing that God owns our bodies as well.

The word of God says,

“flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually, sin against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you are bought at a price, therefore honour God with your body”. (1 Cor.6:18-20).

Today, there is so much immorality e.g. Prostitution, Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Infidelity of all kinds. Hence, it is very important to train our children by words and examples. We must let them know the sorrows immorality bring to the society. There are deadly diseases which immorality brings into the society, like HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

There is a lot of extravagant spending today. Our children should be taught in the way of the Lord so as to spend wisely. Human wants are insatiable; one should teach them to buy what they need for the moment. For love of money today, some youths chose ‘God fathers’ who sponsored them overseas and used them to carry heroin and other drugs that landed some in overseas prisons. Some are drawn into secret societies where they kill themselves at will. Paul said in 1 Tim.6:9-11;

“People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap, and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is the root

of all kinds of evil. Some people eager for money have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness”.

Our faith must reflect in all spheres of our lives. Our social and political lives must be guided by the tenets of our faith. Thus, every woman in the service of Christ must give herself to continuing education.

Womanhood as Agent of Evangelism:

Women are called to the ministries of loving, caring and sharing of God’s resources in the home, community, church and nation. Women are to use the resources of life for the extension of God’s kingdom. The vantage position women occupy affords them the opportunity to spread the gospel to their immediate relations at home, market places, their places of work and the community.

Women take their share in visiting the sick, caring for the poor and needy, providing for widows and desolates and preaching the word to all. The teaching ministry of Jesus as delivered to his disciples should be taken seriously. Women are to teach by exemplary lives what they have learnt in the scriptures. Women are good at counseling, as intercessors, in administration, visitation, teaching, preaching of the word, Health care, etc. They are good as ushers and as choristers in the Church. However, as trustees of God’s mystery, women are expected to be trustworthy and faithful.

Like those who are specially called to the Ordained ministry, the wives of the priests and deacons are expected to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers, but temperate and trustworthy in everything, (1 Tim.3:11). They are expected to be faithful to Jesus and be loyal members of the Church; their contributions to Church can either mar or help the church's ministry. The wives of priests are leaders by right in the Church of God; they are to do the work in accordance to the directive of the Master. They are to encourage young ones to be diligent in God's service.

The leadership role has its reward. The Bible says, 'To whom much is given, much is required'. As such, they must be honest, hospitable, accessible, cheerful, resourceful, accommodating, humble, faithful, approachable respectful dutiful and highly responsible. Most of these qualities are natural to women. These qualities listed can be achieved through her closeness to Christ. Jesus Christ (as described by the servant songs) works under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus was led by the spirit into the desert, it was by the spirit that he spoke God's words with power, it was by the Spirit that he cast out demons, and it was because the Spirit filled his heart that he overflowed with joy. It was by the Holy Spirit's strength that he was eventually enabled to offer himself through the eternal spirit as a sacrifice to God. These show that not much can be accomplished without the work of the Holy Spirit.

I like to borrow from 'Every Day With Jesus' of March 11, 2003, to encourage and challenge all in the ministry of the church, men and women, young and old, to imitate Jesus in our services to His Church. In Matthew's eyes, Jesus reticence was remarkable. When Jesus healed some people, he told them not to tell anyone

who he is (Matt.12:16). Surely this was not how the messiah was supposed to behave. Wouldn't it have been natural to expect the messiah to publicize His cause and to take advantage of every opportunity to make His message known?

Contrary to what we often imagine, Jesus did not go around trying to prove that He is God, He was not a pushy salesman selling a product. He used His God-given credentials, but he never flaunted them, not even in front of His fiercest critics, and not once did He exploit the spirit's anointing to promote Himself ... Jesus could fiercely denounce the Pharisees but He was not a fanatic. He pitied the crowd, but He was not a rabble-rouser. He was, in the words of theologian Dale Brunner, 'a modest messiah'.

How wonderful it would be if this moving image of the reticent Redeemer could grip the imagination of all God's servants in the services of God in the Church worldwide. Therefore let us question ourselves whether or not we are imitating Jesus in all our methods of Evangelism and mission, and converts us to our Lord's way of doing God's work.

In the Church, Women are to witness as Evangelists and that is to be done the way Jesus Christ Himself commanded. In all things we all must imitate Jesus.

Womanhood and Modern Day Problems:

In the world today we discover so many things that have been a deterrent to the ideal woman of our view in this address. Problems that beset womanhood in our world are numerous. For

instance, a huge percentage of women are sexually and physically abused. As a result of this, a huge percentage of girls become pregnant in their teenages. Some give birth to babies between the age of 13 and 15. Some girls are abused as early as the age of 8 years. Some girls or women out of poverty engage in prostitution. Some found their ways into other countries in order to sell their bodies for money, e.t.c. Some girls and women in their early age found themselves married to old men. You can imagine a young girl of age 20 – 30 getting married to an old man of age 60 – 70. In all communities around the world we have a lot of single mothers. In our world today, there are too many widows. Cases of divorces are becoming alarming. The problem that arise from the above have to do with children who have no home training or who are already wayward.

You can then see why we have children who have given themselves to drugs. We have those who join cults and those who join bad companies like armed robbers. In our country Nigeria, for about three years now we have been experiencing killing of innocent souls in the Northern part of our country. This is the activities of Islamic Sect, called Boko Haram. Churches and other building had been bombed. Many people have been killed. Bombing has been a current phenomenon in other parts of the world. In Boston U.S.A on Monday, April 15, many people were injured and some were killed by those who planted bombs in a dustbin on the route of those participating in marathon race. In our country, we are faced with the threats of kidnappers, terrorist, robbers and night marauders. Above all, there are corruptions of all forms. Unemployment can be linked to be the cause of some of the problems listed above. However, all the problems above have to

do with the sort of homes the people who do these wicked acts come from.

We appeal to all the 3-tiers of government in Nigeria to make the education of Nigerian children, especially, girls compulsory. In addition to this, there should be a Women Training Centres in each Local Government which will promote parenting. The Government should as a matter of urgency promote Comprehensive Schools instead of promoting Science Schools alone. All our children should know certain work or trade before leaving Secondary School. There should be a conscious effort to returning all children to technical knowledge and farming; to be precise mechanized farming, sponsored by government. If this is done in large scale it will reduce unemployment in our country. We appeal to our State Governor to be a pace setter on calling attention to the unique place women occupy. We appreciate the construction of roads, food security and of recent employment to many youths in this State by the Government.

The good virtues of the woman in our theme are hard to come by in our modern day but with women following the example of Lemuel's mother and the mother and grandmother of Timothy who are filled with the fear of God, there will be a radical change to a peaceful atmosphere where dignity of labour, hard work, true love, passion for all, and care and concern for others are the hallmark. All these are achievable when a concerted effort is made to ensure that education and training of girls and women become compulsory for all in our Country.

Your friend & Bishop.

+ *Olubayo Ilesa.*