

African Baptists, Uniting to fulfil the Great Commission

All Africa Baptist Fellowship

Fraternité Baptiste De Toute L'Afrique

Regional Office Of Baptist World Alliance (BWA)



Elias Apetogbo

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Naira Account:

Bank: Zenith Bank Plc
All Africa Baptist Fellowship
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6th September, 2023

Arise Congress; The Path to a New Today and Greater Tomorrow

To God be the Glory, the entire All Africa Baptist Fellowship congratulates the Nigerian Baptist Convention today, 6th September, 2023 on the epoch-making gathering of over 20,000 young people between the ages of 17-50. This is a landmark in this Convention and the continental Baptist family. We specially thank the Lord for the vision of the Convener, Rev. Dr. Israel Akanji, President Nigerian Baptist Convention. To everyone who has played and still playing one role or another, we say, thank you for yielding to this great Call in this Season, your reward shall be great in Jesus name.

The AABF theme for this year is "From Seir Toward Canaan" (Deut. 2:1-3), to get to our Canaan, young people need to champion the mandate most especially for their strength, creativity, team building, flexibility and dynamism. So, Arise Congress, the gathering of thousands of young people in-person and online championed by the Nigerian Baptist Convention is very dear to the heart of God and His People in the continent and across the Baptist World Alliance.

According to the Convener, this gathering is serving different yet inter-connected purposes. It is a Revival Programme, a call to wake up, call to Service, statement of encouragement. To Arise is to seek God's intervention and to also charge ourselves on the need to arise and be the Light in this

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The time to arise and shine (Isaiah 60;1) is now. As a young person myself, becoming the General Secretary and CEO of the All Africa Baptist Fellowship at the age of 43 tells you that, you are not just the tomorrow, you are also leaders of today. So, this Baptist family in Nigeria and across Africa and why not, till the Baptist World Alliance belong to you. Enough of going out and leaving your precious Baptist heritage to suffer, if you do not stay to build this family that has given you so much from childbirth, God will not be happy.

This is also a Call to those who are outside and unfulfilled to return home. Your return shall be celebrated much more than the Prodigal Son. Church Leaders listening to this, we must be intentional about making these our starlight stay, serve, be supported more, and see them shine in their generation.

As I close, young people, I charge you to see yourself as not just part of the Nigerian Baptist Convention, you are also part of the over 22 million Baptist family members under the All Africa Baptist Fellowship. I look forward to seeing you in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo for the AABF General Gathering taking place in the month of November. God has prepared his Servants, Pastor Rick Warren, Dr, Elijah Brown, Dr. Elijah Wanje and other ministers to bless you specially and launch us into the new realm of manifestations in Africa.

We pray this Gathering shall live up to expectations and the fruits shall transform lives from our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. Congratulations again, the God of Peace shall cause everyone to arise, shine for him and our gathering and return to our destinations shall be smooth in Jesus name. (Amen).

Elias Apetogbo

General Secretary & CEO, AABF
Regional Secretary, BWA

Jonas Kakenge Mbwenga »
President, AABYF.

Together, best results!

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