

Another Look At Full Time Ministry

BY DR. TUNDE BAKARE

Editor's Corner

Happy New Year 2024 comes with a Happy New you.

As our Presiding Apostle, Dr Tunde Bakare, has declared and framed, 2024 is our year of Unusual and Uncommon Elevation. We will have step-up thinking, with foresight, and farsight for an oversight leading to our Elevation.

With the nature of the year, as a family and Network, we converged on January 24-26 to reflect, re-strategize, and drill down the dainties in the flinty Rock (Deuteronomy 32:13), in our GAIN Conference 2024.

Theme: What Do You See? Jeremiah 1:11, Hebrews 12:2, Revelation 4:1-4.

What do you see? Do we see as God sees, and as He sees us?

What we visualize is directly proportional to what we appropriate and become. We possess the future that we picture. God begins all things. God sees it all as everything existed in Him from the beginning. *Genesis 1.*

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Many might have searched through the Bible for expression or the scriptural position on part-time or full time ministry. While such term may not be found we cannot ignore the fact that there are those who believe that God called them into full-time ministry such that whatever they were doing before, they had to forsake as they stepped into ministry.

The calling of Simon, Andrew, James & John in *Luke 5:1-11* makes this matter very clear. Following Jesus's instruction, the four men caught so large a school of fish. The catch would have considerably boosted their income. The Bible states that "they forsook all and followed him". This was their way of expressing their commitment to Jesus. Levi the tax collector popularly known as Matthew also willingly left everything and followed Jesus. See *Luke 5:27-28*. Peter the apostle also alluded to this point in *Mark 10:28*

The question then arises as to how did the disciples survive especially when they were sent out without money - *Matthew 10:7-10, Mark 6:7-13 & Luke 9:3?* What is clear from the instructions given to the apostles of the Lamb sent out by the Lord is that the twelve were sent out as givers—for every part of ministry is a gift. By a divine decree and order, givers don't lack. Just as they had received from Jesus freely, so they were to give without charging others.

What then is the secret of the survival of those who

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The Conference afforded us the privilege of seasoned ministries from our Presiding Apostle, Pastors Simeon Afolabi, Sola Adesoye, Esther Ibang, Segun Oshinaga, Sam Otenaika, Dr Olowodola and more who brought the Words of His Grace for inspiration and accurate understanding; these intentionally provoked everyone to break off from latent potentials into an emergent dynamic and maximized achievers.

Our Chapter presentations at the Conference were spot on, and so was our Feedback on the Questionnaire served.

Following the steps of our Master Jesus, and Setman of the Network, who being inspired by the Holy Spirit began to do and to teach, we need to press in for greater enlightenment, great grace, and fresh thrust to align with divine strategic perspectives; engage, infiltrate, infuse and extend the Kingdom frontiers in our various Domains of Influence.

A whole lot is happening this year to equip, sharpen, instruct, and celebrate with one another. We must not miss out.

While Apostolic Summit is coming up in March/April; CLASSIC 2024 warms up for September 2 - 6. We gather again to celebrate our Presiding Apostle Dr. Tunde Bakare @70 on November 11.

As always, our Apostolic Construct reinvents itself, now coming with new packaging. A blend of incisive Information, Current Realities, Apostle's Diary, Community Reports, Chapter News, Transformation Initiatives, and much more to enrich.

We look forward to a year of greater bonding as we collaborate in building one another in our common cause, spreading the values and fragrance of His Kingdom with our endeavours, ministries, and establishments through Transformation Initiatives in our Domains and Mountains of Influence.

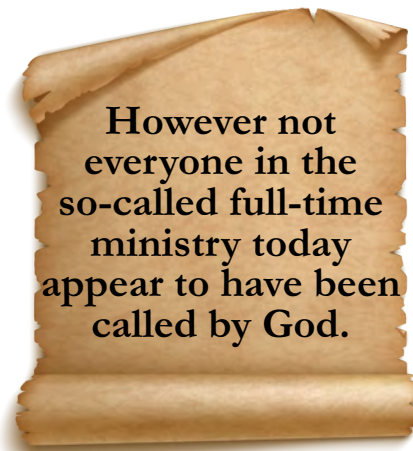
Please stay connected.

Cheers.
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forsook all and followed God and Jesus, the Lord? The people who were called like Elijah and the apostles of the Lamb either had supernatural provision or they largely survived through the hospitality of their hosts or hostesses. They were not to charge but they could accept gifts which related to their immediate needs. See *1 Kings 17:1-16; Matthew 10:11. Cf. Luke 10:5-9. Luke 8:1-3.*

It was this type of call that I received on May the 3rd 1988, when I pioneered the first model parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God at #1, Ladipo Oluwole Street, Off Adeniyi Jones, Ikeja, Lagos. This happened to me at the peak of my flourishing legal career by the grace of God and I had to shut down my chambers and paid off all my staff including seven lawyers working full time with me at that time and left everything else to follow Jesus. I have proved the Lord in this area

and it is too late to doubt that the Lord will provide for those who are so called such that they will not need to put pressure on people or devise some stupid gimmicks to extort money from their congregation.



However not everyone in the so-called full-time ministry today appear to have been called by God. Some were called by their bellies and others just went on a frolic of their own. If you doubt that submission, please do the research and see how many churches close down almost on daily bases everywhere in the world especially in countries and regions where they have reliable statistics.

This is a wake-up call for the Fathers of Faith in our clime and every clime. We need to go back to the drawing board and let our members know that we can get so much more accomplished for God's kingdom by distinguishing ourselves in our occupation or profession rather than hiding our lethargy and laziness under the garb of "full-time ministry.



For those who think that ministry is easy, they should step in and find out that lazy people cannot survive in ministry. Such people need to profit from the counsel of the legendary Dr. Billy Graham of blessed memory who once said that an hour of preaching is much more strenuous than 8 hours of manual labour.

One vital subject that should be known and taught right from our children church to the adult church is that ministry is the business of heaven and business is the ministry of heaven.

Truth be told, being competent in different occupations will make Christians relevant wherever they are such that they will be forces to reckon with in the larger society. In the dying words of the first martyr, Stephen focused on three main characters. Abraham, Joseph and Moses.

Who were these three men?

Abraham is the father of faith both for the Jews and Gentiles - you don't get much more spiritual or significant than that. But he accomplished that role as a traveling farmer, a business man, a land owner, a cattle rancher and an investor in silver and gold.

As for Joseph the dreamer, his prophetic ministry began in animal husbandry and took him from there into service in prison management and finally into the highest government office - from where he managed global food supplies at a time of global shortage. His supernatural gifting in the workplace was a very key ingredient in the outcome.

Moses was an academic, one who was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was mighty in

words and deeds. See Acts 7:22. He subsequently became a nomadic farmer and managed his father-in-law's flocks before finally becoming a national political leader.

It should be noted that these three men mentioned by Stephen were not official priests and not paid by the church of their day. They were used by God to change the course of world history. In each case, God used their working environment to shape them, and through them - in their place of work - he opened up doors of function and destiny in the kingdom of God. That our occupation is important even in the New Testament Church is clear from the tent-making ministry of Paul, the apostle. Today, God still uses the world of work to extend his kingdom. See *Acts 18:1-16*.

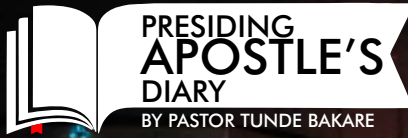
Ministers of the gospel should follow the example of our Savior who spent at least 18 years in the Carpenter's shed from age 12 to 30, learning and mastering the trade of Joseph his adopted father until he earned the name the Carpenter ever before he was called the Rabbi or Teacher. See *Mark 6:1-3*.

Moreover, it is also on record that the Levites who were once in "full-time ministry" also returned to their own fields when the resources were short

and they could not be sustained any longer by tithes and offerings of the people during the absence from Jerusalem of Nehemiah the Butler who became the Governor of Judah. See *Nehemiah 13:4-10*. You can see here that the Levites and the singers had their own fields which they returned to. I have no doubt that we will be able to shut the mouth of those who think that the church has become "In the Name of God PLC", when the 5-fold ministry can stand publicly and make such declarations that Samuel the Prophet and Paul the Apostle made to those who cared to listen. See *1 Samuel 12:1-5* & *Acts 20:26-35*.

It is therefore clear from the passages just read, that those who hide under the guise of full-time ministry and constantly put pressure on members of their congregation to meet their needs have not mastered what Jesus meant by





Church Campus Dedication

The City of Refuge (TCR), Melbourne Australia

Testimony

The journey of purchasing our own church building began in 2017. In 2022 a building we had thought was the “one” did not go through. It was a big disappointment. Instead of lamenting the situation, we turned to God, in praise and worship.

Then the word of the Lord came to us in a prophecy that he would be giving us six years of harvest in six months and that He would be giving us a campus, i.e., not just a building but

multiplicity of buildings.

We found the place - the Campus God has set apart for us in May 2023 (6 years). From May when we located until November when it was the dedicated, is exactly 6 months. God brought His word to pass just as He had spoken. He gave us a harvest of six years in six months.

Glory be to God. Hallelujah!

Voice of the CHAPTERS

OGUN STATE

CHAPTER

BELART INSTITUTE OF FASHION & TEXTILES. (BIFT)



Pastor Olorunsola Osasona is the Director of marketing and sales of Belart Textiles. He is a nation builder. An advocate for sustainable agriculture as a tool to combat poverty and hunger in Africa with a special interest in African cotton. GAO had approached him to share his transformation initiative experience.

GAO: What motivated Belart Cotton Initiative?

Belart: As a result of the gap we saw in employment we were motivated to raise a community where through our engagement and interplay of skills and value orientation, young people, out of school youths, and graduates will be inspired to apply themselves creatively. So we decided to innovate fashion education. Also we have a goal of working with relevant stakeholders to stimulate the growth of the Cotton Textiles and Garment sector hence the creation of a subsidiary platform called Belart Cotton Africa with a PART (Production, Advocacy, Research and Training) mandate.

GAO: What initial challenges did you face and how did you overcome them?

Belart: Initially, we didn't have the capital to start the institute so we had to engage first as fashion and textiles designers producing custom tailored garments and producing hand dyed fabrics and customized tops for individuals as well as corporate clients to raise funds. We converted our house to factory and started with one old manual machine but grew organically until we raised enough capital to get the Institute started.

In 2015, the institute was incorporated and it has been a huge blessing in training young people in skills and human capital development. The goal is to raise fully developed and innovative 'fashionpreneurs' who will carry forward the same purpose of developing others too.

GAO: Who are the target audience for your program and the eligibility criteria?

Belart: Our target audience are young people considering a career in fashion design. They may be graduates, undergraduate, out-of-school youths, as well as students who just completed their Secondary School education. Adults who seek to expand their career options are also targeted.

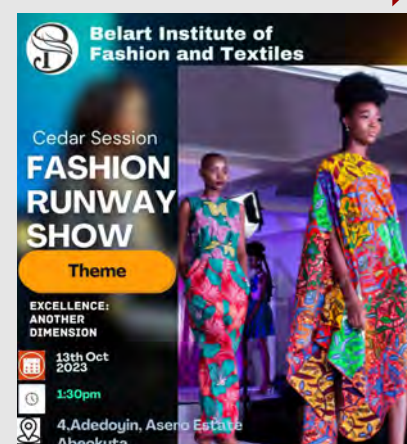


GAO: briefly tell us about the runway program you recently had and the objective?

Belart: Our Runway Shows comes up at the completion of the student programs. It is designed as a platform to help the students create concepts, create products and launch them for the market. It is also a platform to help them showcase their products to potential investors, clients and relevant stakeholders who forms the bulk of our guests at the event.

GAO: What similar program have you run in the past?

Belart: Undergraduate Fashion and Capacity Development Program (UFCDP). This is a transition and life preparatory program that



5 introduces young secondary school leavers to vocational, entrepreneurial soft skills and capacity development.

The short period of time before students gain admission into higher Institution of learning has become increasingly critical in the life of the students. Some get into trouble and distractions at this point, but we see it as an opportunity to engage them with skills set that will prepare them for an outstanding advantage in life, even beyond School.



GAO: Can you outline the impact of you initiatives in terms of number of people, demographics and how can these sustained?

Belart: The Impact has been very encouraging. Through our training, we have helped young people establish themselves in the Industry and some others have gone ahead to establish Fashion Institute where they are also training others. This fits perfectly into our goals of influencing fashion culture. We have trained over 150 people till date, and we have several testimonies of our students being self reliant providing notable solutions through their unique brands.

GAO: Can you advise how the GAIN community can benefit from your initiatives

Belart: The GAIN Network can benefit from this through strategic partnership with our organization to train young secondary school leavers in our next UFCDP program coming up in July 2024. The goal is to catch them young and strategically prepare them for self reliance such that they don't go into higher Institution and come back to be a burden on the system.

Voice of the CHAPTERS NEW ZEALAND CHAPTER



Auckland Charity Event

New Zealand chapter organized a charity event in South Auckland.

The event was titled Labour of Love Outreach. It was inspired by the dire need for accessible healthcare in low-income communities. Many were in need of quality healthcare but government provisions were not enough to cater for them. The event was held on the 21st October 2023.

Interestingly, the event revealed that those who thought they were healthy realised that they had to make new lifestyle choices.



Testimony

A man came to the event with his family and was deeply moved by what we were doing. He insisted on making a donation before leaving. He donated \$5



The Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCT)/ Microsoft Most Valuable Person (MVP)

MCT/MVP is a group of professionals, educators and industrial experts dedicated to advancing knowledge and skills in Microsoft technologies.

Pastor Sola Adesoye the Serving Overseer of the Lighthouse Ministries International Abuja doubles as the CEO of iLab Fulcrum is an eminent member of the group. He spoke with GAO on the benefits of MCT/MVP project to GAIN.

GAO: as the CEO of fulcrum iLAB, how will your categories MCT/MVP activities as transformation initiative within GAIN framework?

PASTOR ADESOYE: Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCTs) are the premier technical and instructional experts in Microsoft technologies.

MCTs and MVPs can be valuable transformative assets to an organization within the GAIN framework by aligning their activities with organizational goals, fostering networks, making strategic investments in learning, and contributing to a culture of innovation and continuous improvement. The benefits are enormous such as skills enhancement, knowledge transfer, community advocacy innovation, best practices and technology adoption.

GAO: How can an interested member of gain become an MCT and what are the eligibility criteria?

PASTOR ADESOYE: To become a Microsoft Certified Trainer, you'll need to earn an approved Microsoft Certification validating your experience and knowledge for each course you deliver. The Microsoft Certified Trainer program is an annual

membership program. You must meet program requirements, complete an online application, and pay an annual fee to renew your training certification for the coming year.

GAO: What is the mode, duration of training and how many people have been trained since inception?

PASTOR ADESOYE: Candidates must progress through three distinct training stages: Fundamental, Associate and Experts. Upon completing the intermediate training, individuals become eligible to take an associate examination, qualifying them to enroll in the annual Microsoft Certified Training. At Fulcrum iLab, we have successfully trained over a thousand individuals in the past year through our collaborative efforts with Microsoft, Microsoft Certified Trainers and Microsoft Most Valuable Professional. The duration of each training stage is as follows:

- Fundamental: One Month
- Associate: One Month
- Experts: Three Days annually.

A recent milestone was achieved at the Microsoft Certified Train the Trainer and the Microsoft Certified Trainers/ Microsoft Most Valuable Professional

Summit 2023. This hybrid event, held in West Africa, attracted participants from Africa, Australia, and Europe. During the summit, we proudly graduated twenty-two participants and facilitated beginner-level training for approximately two hundred students.

GAO: What opportunities are there for people that passed through your training program?

PASTOR ADESOYE: You have to plan for success, and you can do that by following the path to certification. Whichever certification level you choose - fundamental, associate, or expert - and whichever role you want to become certified in, by verifying your skills, you'll unlock opportunities. Get hired faster. Get recognized. Get rewarded. Get promoted.

GAO: This initiative would be a wonderful opportunity for the GAIN community. how do you think that can be made possible?

PASTOR ADESOYE: We can collaborate and plan towards hosting MCT online training sessions for interested GAIN members whenever there time is allocated.



GAIN Reunion Conference 2024

Theme **WHAT DO YOU SEE?**

When leaders see well:

- They give opportunity to God to readily perform His word
- They give opportunity to God to fortify them so that their enemy will not prevail against them.
- They do not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon
- They know how to separate themselves from Juices
- Unusual and uncommon elevation become their portion
- They earn the right to give directives to men in authority.
- They receive spiritual authority to determine what happens in their territory of influence.



Watch Out !



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NAVIGATING THE MOUNTAINS

Transformative Power of Edifying Media Content

ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT

FAMILY

RELIGION

MEDIA

EDUCATION

ARTS

INTRODUCTION

In today's rapidly evolving media landscape, the influence of media on our beliefs, values, and moral compass has never been more profound. While media can sometimes be a source of sensationalism, negativity, and moral erosion, it also possesses the potential to be a force for good, guiding society toward greater understanding, compassion, and ethical conduct.

This article explores the transformative power of edifying media content in recalibrating our religious, social, and moral compasses. It delves into the role

of media in shaping our perspectives and behaviors, while highlighting the importance of fostering a media environment that uplifts, inspires, and aligns with the timeless principles of faith, morality, and community.

By examining the impact of edifying media and the strategies to promote it, we aim to understand how media can be a catalyst for positive change in an ever connected world.

IDENTIFIED PROBLEMS ON THE MOUNTAIN OF MEDIA

The media can oppose a morally strong world by promoting

sensationalism, fostering a culture of instant gratification, normalizing unethical behavior, objectifying individuals, sensationalizing violence and conflict, and perpetuating harmful stereotypes.

Additionally, excessive exposure to explicit or violent content can desensitize individuals and erode moral sensitivity, which can have detrimental effects on society's moral fabric.

Sensationalizing violence and conflicts.

Media sensationalizes violence and conflicts by presenting them in an exaggerated, attention-grabbing, and emotionally charged manner. This approach often prioritizes attracting viewership and maximizing profits over providing a nuanced, balanced, and informative portrayal of events.

Here's how media achieves this sensationalization:

- **Dramatic imagery and Language:**

Media outlets frequently use vivid, dramatic imagery and language to convey the intensity of violence and conflict. Headlines,



photos, and video clips that emphasize gore, destruction, or suffering are more likely to capture the audience's attention.

- **Repetition and Looping of Events:**

Media often replays violent and conflict-related footage repeatedly, creating a sense of ongoing crisis or urgency. This constant exposure can heighten anxiety and fear among viewers.

- **Simplification and Polarization:**

Complex conflicts are often oversimplified or presented as black and white issues, reducing them to good-versus evil narratives. This can exacerbate divisions and misunderstandings among the public.

- **The Rush of Breaking News & live Coverage:**

The practice of breaking news and live coverage can lead to sensationalism as media outlets rush to report unverified or incomplete information. This can result in inaccuracies and the spread of rumors.

- **Selective Reporting:**

Media may selectively cover certain violent incidents or conflicts while ignoring others, creating a distorted perception of the prevalence and significance of these events.

The sensationalization of violence and conflicts can have several negative consequences, including desensitizing the audience, fostering fear and anxiety, promoting the idea that violence is a norm, and oversimplifying complex

geopolitical issues. It's important for media consumers to critically assess the information they receive and seek balanced, accurate reporting that provides a deeper understanding of the context and consequences of violence and conflicts.

Promotion of Immoral & Sensitive Contents That Gradually Erode Moral Sensitivity:

The gradual erosion of moral sensitivity through media exposure can have far-reaching consequences, including diminished empathy, increased tolerance for unethical conduct, and the breakdown of social cohesion. Media can promote immoral and sensitive content that gradually erodes moral sensitivity through various mechanisms and practices:

- **Normalization of immorality:** Media often portrays immoral behavior as common, acceptable, or even glamorous. When characters or public figures engage in unethical actions without facing consequences, it can lead to the normalization of such behavior in society.

- **Exposure to Graphic Content:** The exposure to explicit or graphic content can desensitize individuals to violence, immorality, or sensitive issues. Over time, repeated exposure may reduce the emotional response to such content, making it seem less objectionable

- **Emphasis on Materialism & superficiality:**

Media often places a high value on material possessions, physical appearance, and superficial characteristics. This can lead to a

culture where moral and ethical qualities are overshadowed, contributing to a decline in moral sensitivity.

- **Celebrity & Role Model Influence:**

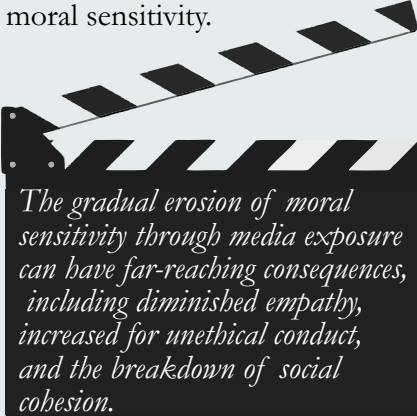
Media coverage of celebrities and public figures who engage in immoral or unethical behavior can have a significant impact on their followers. The idolization of such individuals can lead to a lower threshold for what is considered morally acceptable.

- **Degrading Languages & Communication:**

The use of derogatory language, hate speech, or disrespectful communication in media content can desensitize individuals to the harm caused by such behavior, contributing to a coarser and less empathetic society.

- **Online & Social Media Culture:**

Social media platforms can sometimes promote a culture of anonymity and insensitivity, where people engage in cyberbullying, harassment, or trolling. This online behavior can spill over into real-life interactions, eroding moral sensitivity.



The gradual erosion of moral sensitivity through media exposure can have far-reaching consequences, including diminished empathy, increased for unethical conduct, and the breakdown of social cohesion.

It is essential for individuals to critically assess the media they consume, and for society to promote media literacy, ethical journalism, and responsible content creation to counter these negative effects.

SOLUTION AND APPROACH

From a biblical perspective, addressing the negative influence of media can involve adhering to principles found in the Bible. Encouraging discernment and wisdom (Proverbs 2:6), promoting truth and accuracy (Proverbs 12:22), fostering love and understanding (John 13:34-35), and cultivating self-control (Galatians 5:22-23) are essential. Encouraging media consumption that aligns with these principles and actively engaging in critical evaluation of content can help counter the negative impact of media on a morally strong world.

Additionally, promoting wholesome and edifying media content that uplifts and inspires (Philippians 4:8) can contribute to a more positive and morally grounded society.

This Solution can be implemented as follows:

- Promoting Media Literacy Education:
- Establishment & Support for Ethical Media Outlets:
- Engagement In Constructive Dialogue:
- Upholding Love & Edification (*John 13:34-35, Philippians 4:8*)
- Creation of Positive Media content:
- Community Involvement:
- Mentorship & Guidance:

Ultimately, implementing these solutions requires a conscious effort to align media consumption with biblical principles, fostering a society that embodies truth, love, and moral strength as envisioned in the Kingdom of God. It involves promoting responsible media practices, engaging in constructive

dialogues, and actively participating in creating a media environment that reflects Christian values.

CHALLENGES & HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

Resistance to Change: Some individuals may resist the call to authenticity and inner transformation. To address this, we will emphasize the biblical teaching in Romans 12:2, encouraging believers to be open to transformation by the Spirit.



...addressing the negative influence of media can involve adhering to principles found in the Bible.

that align with biblical values. Furthermore, Establish grants, scholarships, or subsidies to encourage the production of truth-driven and edifying media.

2. Digital & technological platforms: Leverage technology to disseminate positive and Informative content through digital platforms, websites, social media, and mobile applications that align with biblical principles.



Media Industry Profit: Media in itself is just a channel and the sponsors of this channel can be profit oriented. Therefore it can be biased to show positive contents also with the availability of resources to fund the positivity required.

Cultural & Societal Influence: Overtime, negative Culture has been formed in the media space. To tackle this, it will require effort and consistency overtime to implement the positivity we wish to see.

3. Legal and Advocacy Support: Engage legal professionals and advocacy groups to navigate regulatory challenges, propose changes to media regulations, and ensure that legal frameworks align with ethical media practices

4. People: for public awareness campaigns that emphasize responsible media consumption, highlight the impact of media on society, and advocate for the adoption of positive media practices.

NEEDED RESOURCES

1. Financial support & funding: Secure funding to support the creation of positive media content and ethical media outlets

An excerpt of the project work by Eloyi Martins Joseph CGCC Apostolic Training School (ATS) Proclaimers

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