

ChurchLife Monthly

Growing in Grace, Serving in Love



Difference, Not Disadvantage

Every now and then, a simple phrase captures a deep truth. In February, that phrase was *"Difference, Not Disadvantage."* Drawn from a recent sermon about the left-handed Benjamite in Scripture, it reminds us that what may appear unusual, limited, or different can still be fully used by God for His purpose.

Throughout the Bible, God consistently works through people whose circumstances or characteristics might have seemed like disadvantages. Yet in His hands, those very differences become instruments for His glory. What others might overlook or misunderstand, God often chooses to use.

This message was also beautifully reflected in the Sisters' Lectureship held earlier in the month. As the sisters gathered to reflect on God's Design for Women, the lessons and discussions highlighted both the unique responsibilities women carry and the strength God provides to meet them. The reminder was clear: the distinct roles, challenges, and perspectives that women bring are not disadvantages, but meaningful parts of God's design.

As you read through this edition of the *ChurchLife Monthly*, we hope the stories, recaps, and updates encourage you to see your life through that same lens. Each member of the body of Christ brings something different, and those differences are not obstacles in God's plan, they are often the very tools He uses.

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.
- Psalms 139:14

In this edition

Edification Corner

Highlights from February's teachings, including the sermon from which this edition's tagline was taken

Spotlight: Brother Ekenemchukwu

Highlighting our brother's journey in shoe making, his craft, and insights on pursuing passion with purpose.

Sisters' Lectureship Recap

A look back at the day's teaching on resilience and faith, plus the talk show on stress, nutrition, and health.



Edification Corner

Month Overview

Throughout the month of February, our lessons reminded us that the foundation of the Christian life is God Himself. Faith begins with knowing who God is, revealed in creation, in His Word, and most clearly in Jesus Christ. As we reflect on Christ and keep our focus on Him, our faith grows stronger and moves us from simply knowing about Him to truly knowing Him.

We were also challenged to live out this faith. As children of God, Christians are called to reflect His character in their daily lives. Our differences are not disadvantages but part of God's design, and as we walk in the Spirit, our lives will naturally show the fruit that sets us apart for Him.

1st February

Teaching: Reflections on God

Bro. Oluwafemi Emmanuel (Min.)

We were reminded that the foundation of faith is God Himself. The Bible shows that He is the Creator, all-knowing, all-powerful, and always there. You can see His glory in creation, His will in His Word, and His love in Jesus Christ. Thinking about God reminds us that He is both great and close to us. It calls us to look for Him, trust Him, and live by what the Bible says is His will.

Sermon: The Strength of your Faith

Hebrew 11:1-3 | Bro. James Elochukwu
Faith starts with believing in God's character and grows by trusting His promises, even when things don't seem clear. Faith stays strong when we focus on Christ, just like Peter walking on water. But it weakens when we focus on the problems around us. We renew our faith and get stronger when we keep our eyes



"Each person is crafted with purpose, and when we acknowledge our differences, we unlock potential that serves the greater good" – Bro Izzi Boye

on Jesus. This helps us get through every season.

8th February

Teaching: Reflections on Jesus Christ

Bro. James Isaac

We learnt about how Jesus Christ is the centre of the Bible and the best way to know God. He shows us that He is the source of life, truth, and salvation through what He teaches. We grow spiritually as we go from just knowing about Him to really knowing Him. Thinking about Christ makes our faith stronger and reminds us that we can have a relationship with God.

Sermon: Being Therefore the Children of God

Ephesians 5:1-2 | Bro. Dayo Bello
It is a privilege and a duty to be called God's children. Believers are to reflect His character by being holy, loving, obedient, and trusting, and we should let the Spirit shape our lives. We were taught to keep going and live in ways that point others to God, with the hope of our inheritance in Christ.

15th February

Sermon: Difference, not Disadvantage

1 Corinthians 1:26-28 | Bro. Izzi Boye

God often works through things that people think are weak or abnormal. Our differences are not bad things; they are part of His plan. We don't find true value in being perfect; we find it in being who God made us to be. When we accept who we are in Him, we realise that God can use us in powerful ways.

22nd February

Sermon: How Are You Different?

1 Corinthians 9:27 | Bro. S.B Abolarin

In this lesson, we were called to live in ways that show who we are in Christ. The fruits of the Spirit sets a Christian's life apart by changing how they act and how they get along with others. The Bible teaches us that we grow in faith and live in ways that please God when we walk in the Spirit and let His Word stay active in us.

Member Spotlight

Meet the family...



Bro Ekenemchukwu Nwaodor

This month, we feature Bro. Ekenem, a skilled shoemaker, dedicated to growing his craft and business.

In this feature, he shares a bit about his shoemaking journey and some personal reflections.

Q: When did you start making shoes, and what inspired you to pursue this craft?

A: I started in August 2023 and I was drawn to it because shoemaking brings many skills together; you sew like a tailor, hammer nails like a carpenter, and draw patterns like an artist. It's truly a craft of many crafts.

Q: Are you open to mentoring or teaching anyone interested in shoemaking?

A: Yes, I am, but not just yet. Hopefully sometime in the future.

Q: Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

A: I see myself still pursuing my passion for shoemaking, growing in skill, mentoring the next generation of shoemakers, and using my work to make a positive mark in the industry.

Q: Will you advise people to go into the shoemaking business?

A: Absolutely. It's a rewarding and fulfilling craft, especially when you create something beautiful, and it's a field where dedication can lead to meaningful growth and opportunities.



Sanctified Laughs



Standing at the Gates of Heaven

At the end of time, when all the believers were lined up waiting to enter heaven, the angel Gabriel appeared and said, "Let all the men form two lines. One line will be for the men who truly led their homes. The other line will be for the men who allowed their wives to control everything."

Then Gabriel added, "All the women should please go to the other side of the gate where Mary and Martha will attend to you."

So the women left, and the men quickly began to arrange themselves. Before long, one line became very long; the line for the men who were controlled by their wives. It kept stretching as more men joined it.

But the line for the men who truly led their homes had only one man standing there. Gabriel looked at the long line and said, "You men should be ashamed. God gave you the responsibility to lead your homes, but you did not live up to it. Out of all of you here, only one man stood where he was supposed to stand."

Then Gabriel turned to the only man in the second line and asked, "My friend, how did you manage to stand in this line?" The man looked down shyly and said, "My wife told me to stand here."



Sisters' Lectureship Recap

On February 14th, the congregation held the Sisters' Lectureship themed "God's Design for Women." The event was a refreshing time of teaching, discussion, songs, and prayers that encouraged the sisters in their faith and daily lives.

The teaching session focused on building resilience as a Christian woman, acknowledging the many responsibilities women carry in the church, family, and society. Sisters were reminded that strength and endurance come through prayer, daily dependence on God, and supportive relationships within the church. Examples from the lives of Deborah, Esther, and Ruth highlighted how godly women overcame fear and challenges through faith.

The program also included a talk show session addressing stress, nutrition, and women's health. Panelists emphasized the importance of rest, healthy eating, and maintaining overall well-being while managing life's many responsibilities.

Overall, it was an uplifting and impactful gathering that strengthened fellowship among the sisters and encouraged them to continue trusting God in every season of life.




Closing Thoughts

As we move into a new month, may we continue to appreciate the value God places in every member of His church. Our differences, whether in ability, experience, responsibility, or perspective, are not disadvantages when they are surrendered to Him.

May we keep encouraging one another, strengthening our fellowship, and serving faithfully, remembering that in God's kingdom, what makes us different can also make us useful.



Media Team February Birthdays
We took a brief break from cameras and edits to celebrate some February birthdays... cake included! 

We'd love to keep the conversation going beyond the newsletter. Follow the church's social media platforms for updates, uplifting content, and glimpses into our activities throughout the month. Your engagement helps us grow and reach more souls – so don't just read along, connect with us!

 @cocegbeda  @cocegbeda  The Church of Christ, Egbeda

Join us for Sunday (9AM-12PM), Thursday (7PM), and Friday (6PM) services and be part of our worship and fellowship.

 11/12, Mufutau Adeyemi street, Egbeda, Lagos.



Join Our Sunday Worship!
Scan to watch live, 9 AM-12 PM. 