

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Rev. Mark Stahl, FCCI President*

As this Christmas season is upon us, I will ask that you slowdown in the stress of your responsibilities and remember exactly how much God really loves you and the amazing miracle of His love that He gave through the birth of his son, Christ, our Savior (John 3:16).

While it is so easy to become hurried and stressed in an attempt to ensure everything is perfect for the Christmas programs, special dinners and all the gift giving celebrations, geared toward the birth of our Savior; be careful and watchful so you do not forget the real love He manifested through Christ.....**JUST FOR YOU!**

While Luke 2:1-18 is repeatably read during the Christmas season, it is often only read as if it were just another novel or story; whereby, the Holy Spirit, our Teacher wasn't included and so just like a story we have read so many times before, the POWER of God's Word doesn't penetrate into our spirits to transform us, unable to fully understand the depth of His love and what He did to reveal that love to us. It is in His Spirit of Truth that I would like to point out a few important aspects from this passage.

Luke 2 begins, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (This taxing was the first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the City of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child."

At the time of Jesus' birth, there were approximately 170,000,000 people living in the Roman Empire, this decree affected all of them. You might ask what does this have to do with the birth of Christ? Everything! God gave an idea to Caesar. This was a miracle. God was willing to move up to 170,000,000 people all around the Roman Empire to make sure His word was fulfilled; **Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.**

This season, quiet yourself and commune with the Father, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal in you, **"Before I knit you in your mother's womb, I created a plan and purpose for your life and just as I moved heaven and earth to fulfill the plan and purpose for Christ, I will also do more than you can ask or imagine in fulfilling all that I have for you. Trust me, you are my child and I love you."**

Rest in Him and then go joyously forth proclaiming the Good News of our Savior and His love for all. May God bless you all abundantly! May the Prince of Peace be with you and yours as you celebrate His Birthday this Christmas!

May the Prince of Hope be with you and yours as you enter a New Year in prosperity and hope!

## SWEET FELLOWSHIP

While in the United States for his son's university graduation, **FCCI Elder Bishop Kingsley Ohnagbon** took time to visit Dr. Carl and Ellene in California. Bishop Kingsley leads a ministry to African immigrants in Spain and England as well as a church in Nigeria.



## GODFIDENCE

**Eljiro Omobude**, wife of FCCI Pastor Ebenezer Omobude, was a featured speaker at the Godfidence Campaign, an outreach to women through Made of Honour.



## THOUGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDER

*Carl Conley*

As we prepare to enter the new year, we face a fast-changing world. The level of education is far greater than it was ten years ago. The economic situation is unstable. The political climate is volatile. Wars and rumors of wars are all around us. It is vital that we hear the voice of the Spirit and stay focused on our calling to reach the world with the Gospel. **As we live in expectation of the miraculous, we will see it in our ministries.**

## EUROPE

**Pastor Ken Adhego** works in Roene, **France**. The church there is progressing and marching on well to the glory of God. His mission is to spread the gospel through street evangelism, seminars, and mini conferences.

In **Verona, Italy**, **Pastor George Osaghae's** work has expanded. The Lord has been faithful to open the hearts of the people to support the work financially. For the past two years, the Lord has commissioned him to reach the Italian people with the Word through *Facebook*.



## Reduce your tax burden by making a donation by December 31!

We encourage you to sow your best seed into FCCI at this last month of the year, either as a family or a ministry.

Please use the enclosed envelope for your prayer requests and donations. Checks must be dated 2023.

Alternately, you can donate on our website: <https://www.fccichurches.com/donate>

## Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

## ZIMBABWE



**Pastor Tatenda Gunguwo** pastors the main church and leads a ministry with over 585 churches, in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Mozambique. In August they had a conference of eight hundred leaders from across Zimbabwe, and in November had training for the key seventy senior pastors. Church planting is their heartbeat, mostly in rural areas among marginalized and impoverished city communities.



In addition, they care for orphans, widows, and vulnerable groups, with five orphan homes and successful placement of over two thousand children in foster homes. Education for the orphans is key, and Tatenda has purchased six properties for schools, with two already operational and one in construction. Caring for medical needs is important in poor communities, so Tatenda has created a medical clinic for medical outreach to these areas.

