

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



DESIRE OF NATIONS NEW YORK

HITHERTO CHRONICLES

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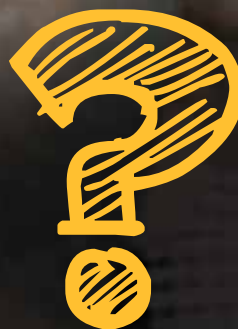


PASTOR NIYI
and other RCCG
Ministers are disrupting
New York City

**PRAYING
OUT LOUD
SIGHT VS VISION
5 STEPS TOWARDS
BUILDING WEALTH
MEET DON MUSIC'S
INSTRUMENTALISTS**

IS JESUS

REALLY COMING BACK





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70 BALANCING MY CRATE OF EGGS

Imagine you being nice, showing love, trying to be like Jesus and so on but some peeps just think being unappreciative, nasty, haughty and rude is the necessary response to your acts of kindness.

LEVITICS

26 DON Exclusive GOD, FAITH, SPIRIT AND FAMILY WITH PASTOR NIYI OJUOLAPE

Pastor Niyi shared all the core values of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. The Vision, Mission, Beliefs, Persuasions etc. And how DON is trying to present itself in a very nice beautiful and inviting package such that people can be attracted to it.

60 WHAT IS GOD CALLING US TO DO

... I think that DON came out of a very clear call to do this, and I think we have to honor that call and adhere to it

56 PRAYING OUT LOUD

Keep praying. Being uncomfortable with praying out loud is no excuse not to pray at all. Bible says "...when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door; pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." *Matthew 6:6 KJV.*

NUMBERS

48

CALLED TO SERVE

My last words - if you are called to lead a unit, heed; if you are called to lead a department, heed; if you are called to lead a youth ministry by all means HEED!! God wants you.

62 FIVE STEPS TOWARDS WEALTH

Wealth is defined as an abundance of valuable resources and material possessions. That immediately tells us that there's an accumulation that needs to take place to reach the level of abundance. Intuitively, we can also agree that the more effectively one can reduce areas of waste or eliminate things that expend our resources unnecessarily, the faster we can accumulate wealth.



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EDITOR'S NOTE



HITHERTO CHRONICLES

A few months ago, the DON Media Group received a clear mandate from God to begin to consciously document His move in the Desire of Nations NYC. It was out of this mandate that the Hitherto Chronicles was birthed.

Hitherto simply means "up until now" or "up until this point" or "thus far". Chronicles means "a well documented historical account of facts and events that occurred over a specific time period". So, like the name suggests, this publication exists for the sole purpose of documenting and showcasing the move of God in the Desire of Nations over the past year. This vision is very much in line with the Scriptures as we are encouraged to publish the Good News of Jesus Christ through every available media.

A few years ago, I got into the habit of documenting God's works in my own personal life, and over the years, I have come to realize that my personal chronicles have become useful weapons of hope and praise whenever the enemy tries to bring me down. They say he who can think can thank. Well, I say he who can chronicle can think. According to basic laws of mathematics, if $A = B$ and $B = C$, then $A = C$. Therefore, I deduce from this logic that he who can chronicle can thank for such as been my personal experience.

At DON Media Group, we continue to firmly believe that all that is documented herein this magazine is only but a tip of the iceberg of what God has planned for the Desire of Nations NYC family. We remain fully persuaded that the years ahead will be even greater and better than the past year. Our future is bright and our hope is in the Almighty God.

So, we would like to encourage you as well to document the moves of God and to develop your own "personal hitherto chronicles". It won't be long before you discover that God has been incredibly good to you.

To my precious DON NYC Family, I say happy 1st year anniversary!

Shalom!

Damilola Olu-Ayeni

DEUTERONOMY

Taking Steps towards Building Wealth

BY: STACY CHINEME ESIMAI, CPA, CFE

I should have titled this article "10 quick ways to build wealth" to get your attention. On second thought, I realized that I, too, had browsed through more 'wealth' articles in the past than I

care to admit and they all left me with an unrealistic pie-in-the-sky hope that only got worse over time. Well, I'm not here to dangle a make-belief carrot in front of you, but point out areas that you might have, unbeknownst to you, been walking in the opposite direction of wealth.

For starters, wealth is defined as an abundance of valuable resources and material possessions. That immediately tells me that there's an accumulation that needs to take place to reach the level of abundance. Intuitively, we can also agree that the more effectively one can reduce areas of waste or eliminate things that expend our resources unnecessarily, the faster we can accumulate wealth.



I come from an immigrant family and while I am a US citizen and have called the US home for about two decades, I will never forget my initial observations in the first neighborhood my family moved into. In the affluent Highland Park enclave in Dallas, it was clear to me that even the so-called old money used wisdom to retain their wealth and keep it in the family. They kept up with laws that could affect their wealth accumulation, talked of future deals that would ensure continued wealth, and took losses in stride by learning from, not dwelling on them. In sharp contrast, my teenage friends lived in excess and I told myself repeatedly that I must not get used to those luxuries. In counterpoint to the excesses I and my friends enjoyed, I could clearly see the sacrifices and wise choices the parents and grand-parents of the rich had made and were still making regularly.

We've all heard that building wealth takes time but I don't want you to miss the wisdom nugget here. Become intentional with your actions and choices, even small ones, as they form steps in the right direction. A wise man leaves an inheritance and a great legacy for his children's children. Think long term. Make right choices daily. Practice delayed gratification...no one has ever died of it. Remember, you don't deserve it NOW...you don't deserve to continue like this.

1 BUILDING WEALTH TAKES TIME

Not to sound too cliché, but I must remind you that the journey of 1000 steps starts with the first step. Some might step faster than others by figuring out efficiencies hidden in taking those steps while others may just focus on eliminating running aimlessly in one spot or around in circles. How many times have you held your breath for a too-good-to-be-true offer? Or intensified your focus on playing the lottery while neglecting other responsibilities? Or even indulged in a few luxuries because you're expecting your tax refund or just your paycheck? You tell yourself that you 'deserve' it. Either way, nothing beats moving in the right direction on a daily basis.

ZECHARIAH



DILIGENCE IS KEY

Excuse me for yet another cliché. Anything worth doing is worth doing well. It goes without saying or so we say but do we really practice this? Diligence is simply careful and consistent work. In other words, do things conscientiously and in excellence. Let's face it; to be consistent in anything you need a clear vision and a sense of purpose as to why you are involved in that work or effort. I think I can help crystalize our formula for building wealth (implied from our wealth definition stated above). Building wealth = Increased Income + Decreased expenses.

I will focus on increasing income in this wisdom nugget. In a nutshell, increasing income comes from providing a solution to problems around us. We get paid to think and to do...to add value. All things equal, increasing your education helps you increase your income. Also, valuing and nurturing relationships can yield dividends when increasing your income. When I speak at seminars, several people ask me what investments or real estate would make them the most money, the fastest. And my response to residual income questions is always so disappointing to them.

You need diligence to keep at any of the ingredients listed above to actually see significant successes. You also need to accumulate disposable income (can we dare to use the S word here? Save!) in order to invest for residual income to materialize. Go for substance. Enjoy the journey as you grow in diligence. I meet folks with multiple advanced degrees and when I try to get them to discuss or show off their acquired knowledge, they go flat on me. Upon probing, they tell me they barely made it through their degrees and that they are excited they at least have those certificates. What good is a piece of paper if you cannot contribute to a conversation on topics related to your field of study?

increasing income comes from providing a solution to problems around us. We get paid to think and to do...to add value. All things equal, increasing your education helps you increase your income.

MALACHI



LEARN A THING OR TWO FROM THE ANT

Ants plan ahead. Period. And they are better for it. I promised previously to touch upon decreasing expenses. Well, here it is: Planning costs less...way less in most situations. I know you've heard it before but just in case you've had an excuse for every time prior to now, this one's for you! I cannot stress the importance of budgeting. Yep, I said it. A budget is simply a spending plan.

All research has shown that when you plan your spending and try as much as possible to keep to it, you almost always spend less. Conversely, when you don't keep track of your spending, you end up feeling as though you've been a victim of identity theft. This would be a good place to mention that our spending habits have a lot to do with our emotional attachments and past experiences on money and finances. So I usually take more time to cover this area as it is easier said than done. However, with determination and addressing underlying emotions, I have seen the worst money managers turn into prudent spenders.

I have seen planning pay off in small, unexpected ways. When I travel with friends for conferences, vacations, etc. I fly in on a direct flight and pay tens and sometimes hundreds of dollars less than I would have by saving and buying early. I qualify for higher loan or credit card amounts, with less finance charges and reduced monthly payments just by maintaining a good credit history. Not having a spending plan is costly and it translates to not being able to reach your full potential because of temporary whims. So what is the wisdom nugget here? On your journey to building wealth, focus on needs and not wants so that others don't take advantage of you. Don't help others build their wealth by paying more...plan ahead!

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Start somewhere, no matter how small that step is, take it today!

WHAT ATMOSPHERE ARE YOU OPERATING IN?

We all feel inadequate and insecure from time to time. We also have had terrible things come up unexpectedly and we've had to think through those situations and problem-solve quickly. It's perfectly normal to hope for the best in horrible situations, making lemonade when life deals us a hand of lemons. However, I've come to realize that I pile on unnecessary worrying whenever I've not made right choices or I've neglected responsibilities due to laziness, procrastination and lack of prioritization. My dad used to tell me as a child that anything I left undone is twice as difficult to complete when I finally get to it. Boy, do I now understand what he meant!

I've watched several clients come in to talk to me and they are literally in crisis mode. From an initial phone call to our first in person consultation, their worry levels keep their entire bodies in a constant state of shock. At all costs, we must avoid walking away from our sanity camps and into the woods where fear, worry, and doubt reign supreme. I have a news flash for all of us: Penny Wise, Pound Foolish! What does that mean? Let's not deceive ourselves into thinking that we're having fun on the front end and then grateful on the back end that it could have been worse. In the long run, I've seen lives on hold due to financial issues with bad credit, IRS liens, etc. while we spend more on medical bills and poor productivity. Have some order in all the chaos. Start somewhere, no matter how small that step is, take it today!

About the author: Stacy Chineme Esimai, CPA, CFE, is a small business owner in New York City where she holds financial responsibility seminars among other service offerings. She started her career in Tax & Audit, and has spent several years in forensic accounting. Stacy is a featured speaker on the adult programs and speaker series at the New York Public Libraries. Stacy can be reached at www.elimmile.com.

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WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR OPPORTUNITY....

Believe me when I say I still speak to myself on this one. I often catch myself in dreamland. While we are all encouraged to dream, if we are truly honest, a significant portion of our dreams don't have tangible or realistic steps in them. We sort of find ourselves in this awesome lucky situation to the envy of everyone else around. Someone wise once said that luck is when preparation meets with opportunity. That is so true!

What will you need to have, learn, and plan when you are in your dream situation? That's what you need to start preparing for right now. There are no short cuts. Even lottery winners who had not taken the time to master these wisdom nuggets end up broke in just a few short years. You have to be poised for when opportunity comes knocking. In fact, I maintain that without preparation we often can't recognize an opportunity. We would not even be able to apply wisdom and flex our creativity muscles if we are not prepared, if we are lost in a sea of worry, if we try to cut corners or fail to plan ahead.

I know this article is not typical. There are no magical 10 steps. But think about it: we've been inundated with these same articles over and over. In order to prompt lasting change, we need to start the personal process of financial responsibility for ourselves. Decide on one step you will take towards accumulating more wealth. Identify one area in your life in which to cut spending. For this new month, review your budget and plan your financial resources. Incorporating these small steps month-to-month will set you on the right path to financial success.



Ounje dun ju oyin lo
(Food is sweeter than honey)

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Serving and delivering Authentic African cuisine

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