

TRUST

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FEBRUARY 1979

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TRUST

Nigeria No.98
FEBRUARY 1979



Six months as a whore

Meet Funso — the girl who spent six months as a prostitute to pay for a course in computers in Britain. She bares her soul — and more — to Nelson Bankole — pages 6-9.



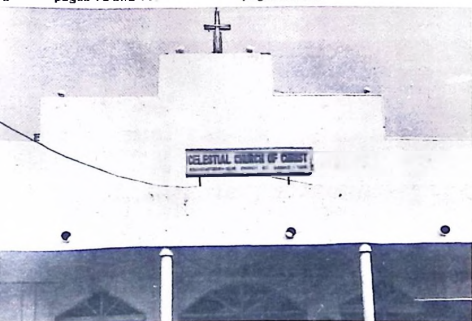
Viva Viv!

JUST talks to Viv Anderson, the best black footballer to play for England — pages 16 and 17



Fish facts

An eight-page special on Nigeria's fishing and agricultural industries — pages 25-34.



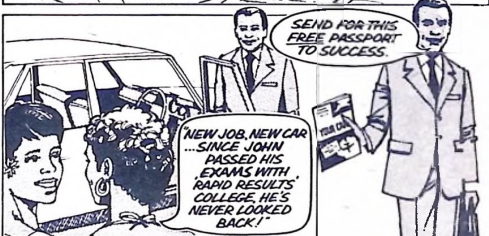
Meet the Celestians

There are many controversial religious sects in Nigeria, among them the Celestians. Nelson Bankole conducts an inquiry, and the people have their say — pages 19-22.

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TRUST LETTERS

This is what Nigeria lacks

FOR a country to be able to cater adequately for her people, there must be high level technological development. Lack of this is the cause of: (1) Famine in some West African countries, of which Nigeria is one; (2) Drought; (3) Poor communication; and (4) Poor health.

The following are some of the ways by which the standard of technology could be developed to a high level in Nigeria: (1) Conversion of some grammar schools into technical institutes; (2) Government support for the teaching of technical subjects is needed; (3) Building of special laboratories for researchers. F. E. Ukepar, Benin City Nigeria, like other developing countries, needs to intensify her technological development. — Editor.

Touts are still operating

I AM seizing this opportunity to congratulate TRUST on its untiring efforts in detecting the ills of society.

In one edition last year it made an unpleasant discovery of touts, and invited immediate action against them. We thought the touts were about to be banned from their notorious services, but they still operate here and there.

Don't people in the Government read newspapers and magazines? Otherwise, why haven't the touts been banned? Sunday Umah, Uburu

Some state governments have banned touts from operating in public places. But it seems the touts are a stubborn lot. A more constant swoop on them may, however, yield positive results. — Editor.

Annoyed with national flag

I HAVE observed, after going through the African countries' national flags, that the Nigerian flag has nothing to do with her cultural heritage. Our flag means much to the colonial masters, who imposed it on us on the attainment of independence in 1960.

I call on the Federal Military Government to look into our present flag and its cultural meanings, and see whether it actually suits our present socio-political structure. Since the present administration has suc-

ceeded in replacing the old national anthem with a more acceptable one, it would be very good if they could look at our flag.

M. J. Ibrahim, Kano
The present administration has a lot to grapple with before handing over power to the civilians in the next few months. Maybe the next civilian government will take up the issue of the flag, if it is considered necessary. — Editor.

Check their records

A STAGGERING number of failures was recorded in the West African School Certificate examination results. This was apparently due to strict marking methods applied as a reaction to rampant leakages of examination papers.

But rather than callously failing candidates, may I suggest that the board should start assessing students with their internal results, starting from class one to their mock WASC examination results before giving them their grades?

Though the WASC examinations should be conducted as before, the candidates' duplicate result sheets, which normally lie in the hands of principals, should be shown to the WASC board to assess candidates, academic records.

I believe that any blockhead who normally doesn't pass who examinations from class one to four could not pass at the 11th hour of the WASC examination, not to mention getting good grades.

By so doing, the "never-dowell" will stop depriving the brilliant candidates of their grades due to over-strict marking.

I hope this will help the students to bend down to their books and read without relying on the so-called "EXPO Business".

Dilys Utumma, Ikeja

Licence before driving test?

KINDLY allow me space in your popular magazine to congratulate Nelson Bankole for publishing his article on slaughter on our roads. Congratulations also go to you for the cartoon about Sam's friend, asking him how he managed to get his driving licence without going for a driving test, and the answer Sam gave to his friend.

Before I begin, let me bring in some questions. How do some people obtain their driving licences nowadays? Where are we heading to, and what will be the future of this great country?

To be frank, many people obtain their driving licences before learning how to drive. By so doing they cannot know the Highway Code nor the road signs. These people overtake in the wrong places, where they kill many innocent people. Anthony Otugamos, Warri

STOP THIS SLAUGHTER



ANOTHER body off to the mortuary. Many readers have written to praise TRUST's article on slaughter on the roads. Some of the letters are published on this page.

Sweet-talking politicians

PLEASE, could any reasonable person or group of people advise me, before I act? You can see that the present party leaders are trying to chew more than they can swallow.

Nobody on earth can make me convinced that in this country I will become rich tomorrow after remaining in poverty for many years. You can hear them campaign: "If I am voted into power, by 1979 I will bring water, light, roads, free education, food, health and the rest to everybody in this country."

Do they think we are still in the 60s when those antiquated, big-stomached politicians deceived us by making vain promises? Today, we must look before we leap. Chief Omanke Okwuli of Enuani

When women hit the bottle

IT HAS become the habit of some women to drink too much palm wine and other alcoholic drinks. Some of them, after taking such drinks, can't control themselves when they go to ceremonial parties they take too much palm wine, mixed with beer, and when going home they tend to stagger. Some fight their husbands and beat their children on getting home.

It is not good for a woman to over-saously herself with such drinks.

Benson O. Eze, Obololo-Eke
It is not good for anybody, male or female, to over-indulge in anything. Everyone should have self-control. — Editor.

Special school for drivers

REFERENCE to your magazine which contained horrible pictures of accidents. This

caused me to cry all day long, as I continually thought how many souls might have perished.

I call on the Federal Government, through your widely read magazine, to introduce schools for drivers to help reduce the death rate on our roads.

Such schools, in my humble opinion, should include some social subjects like moral instruction, to help control the drivers' moral attitudes. Ayang O. Ayang, Okuni-Ikom
There are some driving schools already in existence where driving etiquette is taught. But how many people afford themselves of the opportunity before taking to wheels? — Editor.

In order not to starve

SINCE Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) was launched by the present Head of State, what have we achieved? Prices of our local foodstuffs, such as yam, rice, garri and other food items, have been increasing.

Editor, kindly appeal to the Head of State and state administrations to handle Operation Feed the Nation seriously, otherwise we shall all starve. Rock Akore, Benin City

Well, your letter is part of the campaign to encourage everyone to grow more food. OFN is a continuous campaign. — Editor.

Check student disco cats

NOWADAYS, dances are held regularly in nearly every secondary school. I think they should be stopped, because the students are learning bad habits, especially from disco—even held under dim lights or even in utter darkness. They should concentrate more on their reading.

Ben Awah, Ughelli
Too much fun doesn't go well with learning. — Editor.

Can the Stars shoot again?

I WAS surprised that IICC Shooting Stars of Badagry could fall like a coconut in a Challenge Cup match — which they won last year — not to talk of the African Cup.

My question is: Who are we to blame, the players or the coach? Or could it be that the boys are getting too old?

Whatever the cause, I want the Stars back on the field without dying like that. But if they can no longer make Oyo State proud, they should allow younger blood to turn out. Ade Olarewaju, Kano

Wild animals on the cover

WITH reference to your letter "Try me on the cover," from Mr. Kenneth Oshomah, it is disheartening to note that all your magazine covers are made up of girls' pictures.

It would be of interest if you could use wild animals on the covers.

S. Balami, Kano
Are you serious? — Editor.

Unruly soccer fans

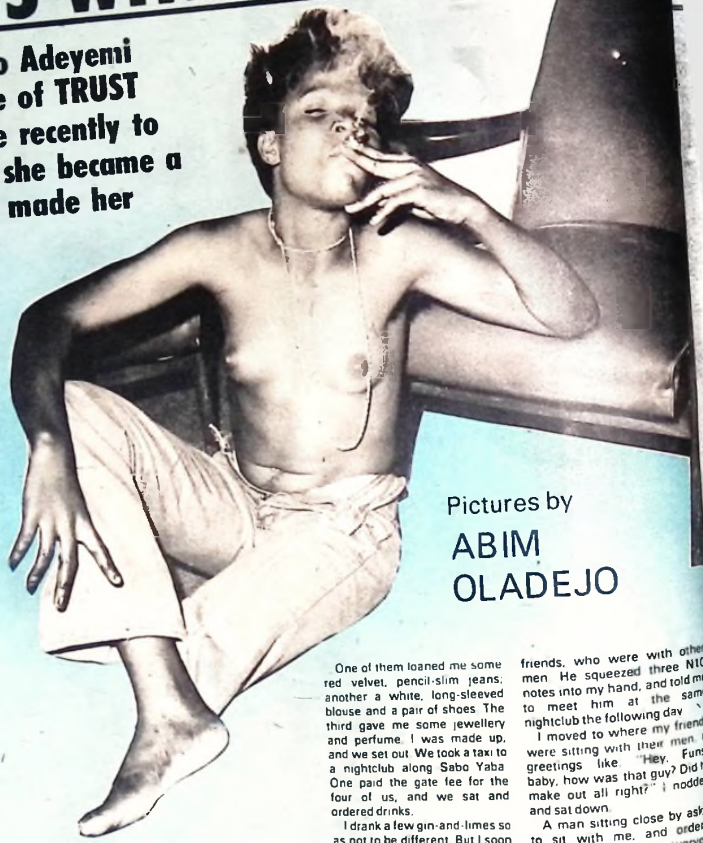
IT HAS become the habit of some football fans to run onto the field whenever their favourite team scores, especially during international matches.

This is a bad, primitive habit. It takes time to drive off these people when they rush onto the field, and this part of the match is wasted.

I advise the Nigerian Football Association to rule against this bad practice. Ademola Sodeinde, Ibadan

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS WHO

Twenty-year-old Funso Adeyemi walked into the office of TRUST Editor Nelson Bankole recently to tell the story of how she became a prostitute—and what made her quit the game—"for good", she says. Her account is stimulating—as well as revealing!



Pictures by
**ABIM
OLADEJO**

BY THE time you read this confession, I should be settled somewhere in London reading for a diploma in computer programming. And so, whatever comments you may make after reading it, will be your own business.

However, I felt should tell the world of the circumstances that led me to a six-month stint in the nightclubs as a trader in sex!

I was born to an average family in Ikerre Ekiti about 20 years ago. My father died when I was young. It was my mother who took over the responsibility of educating me and three other children. I read up to Form Five, and passed my West African School Certificate examination in Division Three.

Like most young school-leavers, I migrated to Lagos in search of a job. At first I lived with a married sister of mine. I later joined the Jehovah's Witness sect, and there I fell in love with Samuel, son of one of the elders of the assembly. According to the regulations of the Jehovah's Witnesses, a member should neither make love nor get pregnant before marriage.

I stuck to the rule for some time, but later Samuel and I started making love. He told me he didn't like that aspect of the assembly's regulation, and that, after all, many of the assembly's elders too were having all sorts of illicit affairs. He swore never to marry me unless I got pregnant first. And since I loved him and didn't want to lose him, I succumbed to his wills until I discovered that I had missed my period.

And this was the beginning of my sad experience. Samuel, who got me pregnant, was a junior worker in a firm earning about N100 a month. Rather than discuss marriage, he became elusive and quarrelsome. My sister threw me out, and I moved to his house. One day he came and

offered me some tablets to take with water, which I did without question. Four hours later I developed a terrible stomach ache, and became dizzy. He had left home, but I was in great pain. Luckily a close friend of his who knew about our secret affair came in. I told him to take me to the nearest hospital, and he agreed.

I had almost fainted by the time we got to a hospital on the Ikorodu Road, but luckily an elderly midwife was around to diagnose the ailment. The drug I took caused an abortion.

I was detained, and when Samuel finally showed up, he was threatened with legal action for causing a criminal abortion. We pleaded for him, and some elderly people intervened before he were allowed to go. The treatment cost us N95.

Rather than treat me gently, Samuel sent me out of his house that day. I wandered about, not knowing where to settle. In the evening I ended up appealing to

a family at Festac Town to let me sleep overnight with them, and they agreed. They heard my tale of woe, and were moved. They asked if I would serve as their maid, and I agreed to a salary of N40 a month.

I served as a maid for about two months — I had no choice, as I had to eat and sleep. Whenever my master and mistress were away at work, and the baby I was assigned to take care of was asleep, I would talk to girls living close by.

Some of them had no jobs, but they were always well dressed and had money to spend!

I was told that if I too went out with them for a night I would have no need to continue with my maid's job. But what excuse would I give my mistress? They told me not to worry, as there were a lot of houses in Lagos where landlords charged as little as N3 a day for a room — and that in any case, I could make as much as N20 to N30 a night. I agreed, and fixed the night I could no longer

One of them loaned me some red velvet, pencil-slim jeans; another a white, long-sleeved blouse and a pair of shoes. The third gave me some jewellery and perfume. I was made up, and we set out. We took a taxi to a nightclub along Sabo Yaba. One paid the gate fee for the four of us, and we sat and ordered drinks.

I drank a few gin-and-limes so as not to be different. But I soon felt tipsy. "Come on, babe, get on to the floor and dance it off," one girl said, patting me on the back. And, as if one man knew what was happening, he invited me to dance with him. I hesitated, but my friends pulled me up from my seat and passed me over to him.

It was a soul number, and the man clung to me, feeling and fondling me. I never experienced such a dance before, and in no time I felt sexy. The man noticed my emotional state, and took advantage of it. He hustled me to a settee in a dark corner of the club, where I rested my back and head on his lap. With one of his hands roving inside my breasts, the other and panting and shaking like a convulsive patient, we were both lost in a world of our own.

His friends later came along to tell him that it was time to move on. He asked me to

friends, who were with other men. He squeezed three N10 notes into my hand, and told me to meet him at the same nightclub the following day. I moved to where my friends were sitting with their men, to greetings like "Hey, Funsy baby, how was that guy? Did he make out all right?" I nodded, and sat down.

A man sitting close by asked to sit with me, and ordered drinks and chicken for everyone at our table. That night was the grooviest I have ever experienced.

Our men became friends that night. Later, one of them suggested that we could all retire to his house to continue the groove. No-one had cause to object. He lived in a four-bedroom bungalow, with two understanding houseboys. We later realised that he had gone to the club to cool off the tension of having just driven out his nagging wife. The houseboys served us drinks, and we danced until about 4:30 a.m. before each couple entered a room to test the climax of the night's festivities.

When it was morning, we showered and dressed, and each man set off to work. My own man gave me N40, making a total of N70 for the night. I felt I was on the right track.

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BECAME A CLUB GIRL RECALLS

MY SIX MONTHS AS A WHORE



settled the bill of N18

My friends took me to a house where they introduced me to the landlord as a prospective tenant. I later secured a room on a daily rental basis. Meanwhile, I planned another night's work and the girls came to knock me up at about 9 p.m.

It was a Saturday and the nightclub was packed. This time I didn't need to stick together, everyone went her own way, knowing where to meet later. There were rooms for short-term hire in some of the houses around the club. I went into a room with four different men before midnight. I charged each of them N10, and each of them had to pay for the room!

At about 1:30 a.m. a young man came to me to ask if I would like the night with his patriarchate boss. I told him I was ready if his boss paid me N100. I stepped out of the club and he said N70, and we settled that. The young man told me to insist on N100 before he expatriate, on the understanding that I gave him N10 for himself. I knew he was not for, because I had been told them by my friends. We went and I stayed by the gate.

A huge, pot-bellied white man hailed to me. I made sure I had my N100 and gave the tout N30. He then escorted me to a hotel on Oron Island, where he was going.

The following Monday I went to a bank to open a savings account. Thereafter I made a deposit of an average of N50. I earned an average of N50 a day, because many men called after me. They were shy to pay, perhaps because of my lack of education.

average of N20 from my daily income but it was no problem disposing N30 in my bank account. I didn't withdraw, and soon my account had well over N1,000 in it.

When the police raided prostitutes, and armed gangs also became a threat to our livelihood, we formed gangs. Three prostitutes would always be seen together with an equal number of men, who would pretend to be our husbands or boyfriends. These men served as middlemen between our customers and ourselves — but often they took their cuts as well!

There was one man in Yaba who ran a lucrative prostitute business. He owned a well-furnished flat and had three flashy cars. He ran a number of beautiful prostitutes of all shapes and complexions, and they reported to his house daily. In the mornings he would dress well and go to the international hotels seeking guests who might be interested in women after the day's business.

He would ask for their tastes, and would strike a bargain. On getting home he would assign girls to keep appointments with his clients. Later in the day he would take them to his car and deposit each of them to a client, waiting for his commission — often brought back by the girls in the spirit of co-operation. Of course, he always took money from the clients as well.

Many shy businessmen in Lagos who had a lust for women went to bed with prostitutes unknowingly. The sex contractor, who was as well-known to many people in all social quarters as any other

friends as his sisters or cousins. The so-called "big men" would have affairs with prostitutes, thinking they had made a "new catch". And the man would take his royalties both ways!

The man is living well, and in fairness, to him his business makes prostitution less hazardous. I operated under his umbrella for a good part of the time I was a prostitute.

All along I knew I wasn't going to be in the trade for long. Circumstances beyond my control forced me into it in the first instance. My original plan was to work to raise enough money to finance my post-secondary education. But since I found myself in the sex trade, I felt I had to put in more effort. After all, there was more than one path towards the realisation of my ambition.

I am talking to you now, and I can boast of nearly N5,000 in my bank account. This is enough to finance a two-year course in London.

I have been talking about the good side of the sex trade. I think I have to talk about the bad side a little. Once you are a prostitute, people have no respect for you. Even a boy not as old as your youngest brother can walk up to you with his money and ask you to take him to bed. If you were not a prostitute, you would regard that as an insult and ask him to go and try it with his mother. But as a sex trader, you are hooked.

PLEASE TURN OVER

FUNSO believes in feeling free — so at home she strips off and settles down for a quiet smoke and



PUFFING away at pipe tobacco wrapped in sheets of paper, Funso says: "It reminds me of when I smoked marijuana for that good feeling." Now she sticks to ordinary cigarettes.

FUNSO'S FRANTIC SIX MONTHS



CONTINUED

On one occasion Samuel's best friend, who took me to the hospital during the abortion episode, came to me to demand sex. Ordinarily that would never have happened, but he had the nerve simply because he knew that I was a prostitute. We operated with all sorts of men—robbers, drunkards, drug addicts, and swindlers.

Before I decided to retire, one terrible thing occurred. I was at a nightclub on Ikorodu Road doing the usual night hustling

asked if I would pass the night with him in his house. We struck a bargain and left.

The man drove me to somewhere off Badagry Road called Agodo Village. There I was forced into a hall built building. I wanted to shout, but I saw about ten hefty men holding dangerous weapons. They stripped me naked, and took all the money I had in my bag. I saw my bra, skirt and ear-rings all over the place. I knew I was in a robbers' den. But I gathered myself together by smiling instead of shivering. One of them slapped my face, but I was unflinched.

Later I asked to talk, and they let me say what I wanted. I

told them that I knew the man who had taken me there very well, and that I followed him so that I could get to know the other members of his gang so as to enlist for training. I told them of the need for women in their ring who could be used as bait. I told them I was the right type.

They took me to a man in the next room. I supposed he was their boss. The man had just finished raping a woman whom I saw being dragged out by two fierce-looking men. The boss asked me to repeat what I told his men, and I did. He asked his men to give me a wrap of Indian hemp, and I lit it and smoked it expertly. He was impressed.

men would take me to a beautician for skin bleaching, and on a shopping spree so that I would look more attractive. Then I would operate with his men. The idea would be for me to continue with my trade as a prostitute. But his men would always follow me.

According to the plan, whenever any man, especially one with lots of money or expensive property, invited me to his house or hotel room for a night, I would signal to the boys to hang around. Once the man slept I would unlock the door to allow the boys to

the boys were given N600 to take me to a beautician and fashion houses. They were called aside, and told some things which I didn't hear. I was later asked to swear on oath that I would never betray them. We left the den, but instead of driving towards Lagos Island the driver headed for somewhere along Oworonsoke on the outskirts of Lagos. He stopped, and the three of them walked into a house, leaving me alone in the car. I wanted to escape, but just as I was about to do so I

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Ex Jehovah's Witness turned prostitute tells all to TRUST Editor Nelson Bankole.

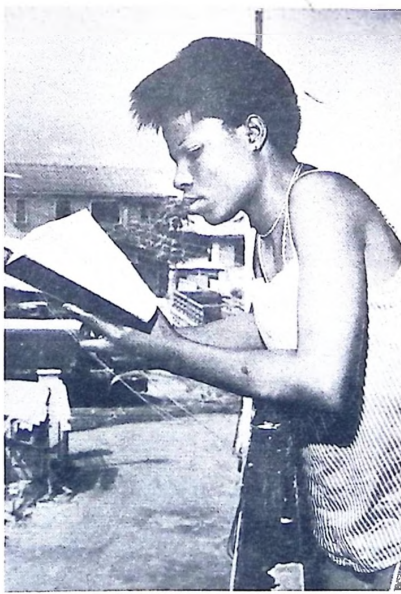
They later came back and freed that they were trying to get me. Robbers are terrible people. If I had shouted and the police had arrested those three, no others would know and they would be after me until I was got of. So I kept cool!

We drove towards the island, but at a point near Yaba someone waved at them, and the driver stopped. They all jumped out and went inside a taxi with the man I wanted in the car for about 20 minutes. When I noticed that they were not likely to come out on time, and that I was not being noticed, I waved down a taxi driver and asked him to drive me where he liked.

I jumped out of the robbers' hands quickly, and into the taxi — which zoomed off fast. That was when I escaped. I decided not to go to the nightclubs again, because if I did I might run into one of them some day — and it could cost me my life.

I even felt Lagos itself might not be safe for me for a while, so I decided to embark on my original plan for furthering my education. As I am talking to you, I have gained admission and paid my fees into a London Institute of computer studies. I got my passport, and I am waiting only for my visa.

I have sworn never to be a prostitute again. Good luck to whoever marries me, for he will also have not forgotten from the time when she was a



FUNSO still finds time to read from the Bible — a habit she has not forgotten from the time when she was a

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Yet another baby by me

I AM 26 and my girl is 25. I call her P.H. We've been in love for six years. Before her, her 2 girl had a baby to me. While she was in school, got another girl to love her. This girl got pregnant too. I love P.H., who decided to forgive my mistake, but warned me not to do that again. A year ago, when P.H. was away, I went to a party where my friend pushed a girl on me. At first we made love while under contraception, but a few months later we went to another party. We came back drunk and forgot to use any contraceptive. This girl got pregnant, and had given birth to a baby. Now how can I give this child a name without P.H.'s knowledge? And can I have another P.H. Please, what should I do? *Phan*

I: Amen, Okwala

You are asking how can you do such a thing to your girl. Now you have three kids, what do you want P.H. to do? To give you a job on the back and ask some "back home" for matter how drunk you may be, you ought to have P.H. in mind. You'd better have the mother of your child and let P.H. get a warning sign to your mom. You are now laden with three kids. That's the result of your lack of self-control. Go on, and give your child a name. I don't think it will make any difference to P.H.

I love a nine-year-old

I AM in love with a nine-year-old girl, I am 18. Her parents have betrothed her to another man, whom she does not love. I am a student. What can I do? *Abdul Karim, Bello*

You are dealing with a jail sentence. How can you profess love for a nine-year-old? If you are caught, you'll be charged with rape. It, however, is the custom in your place until she is old enough to protest against her betrothal.

Tribalism is affecting us

SHE IS 20, while I'm 23. She is from the Cross Rivers State while I am from School State. She keeps telling me not to forget her, but the difference in tribe is affecting my decision.

Saw: Kevy, Ugehi

In the world of civilization, and at the time when we are pleading for unity, tribalism shouldn't affect our relationship. You really love her, her tribe shouldn't matter.

I can't afford to leave her

I LOVE a 15-year-old girl who helped me when I was in school. Now that I have finished schooling, she has decided to stop our association. Please, I don't want to lose her.

N. Amadi, Rumuosa

She might have lost interest. You may try to find out what is wrong, and settle the matter. If she insists, then let her go.

I can't approach her friend

I AM in love with my sister's friend, whom I saw only once. But I find it hard to approach her. Do I invite her through my sister, or let my sister express my feelings to her? *Charity?*

Worried Boy, Mbaise

You can do either of the two, but I advise you to pluck up the courage to talk to her yourself.

I love you, Charity!

CHARITY, I'm writing to inform you that I have fallen in love with you. I want to marry you. Please don't reject me, or I'll kill myself. *Tayo, Yimka*

Don't kill yourself! I am married — and quite happily too! Look out for another girl, and the best of luck.

Has she got married?

I'VE BEEN moving around with a girl of 17 in 16. We are both in school. Our love started casually, and we wrote letters to each other. Some time ago she wrote me for money, which I sent to her. I was later told by my brother that she is engaged to someone, and almost getting married. I asked her but she denied it. Do you think it is true? *Agricious, Ere, Lagos*

If she is still in school, doubt if she'll be married, since I don't think her parents would allow it. Don't listen to rumours; they'll only break up your affair.

We are in trouble

I LOVE a girl of 20. I am 25. Unfortunately, she was unwillingly married to another man. Despite that she still loves me, though my parents prohibit our relationship. Is this girl

now pregnant by her husband. We still love each other, so what can we do, Charity?

Benji, Ilorin

I advise you to let her go. If you stop seeing her she'll learn to live with her husband. Both sets of parents are right. Go ahead and look for another woman.

I can't talk to her

I AM 17, while the girl I love is 15. My problem is that I cannot explain my feelings to her. I want to write to her but I'm afraid. Please tell me what to do.

Worried Boy, OTC Bukuru

I think writing will be the easiest way out. Her reply will show you how much interest she has in you.

She keeps coming to my house

I AM 15 years old and in love with a girl of 12 in the same school. She is in class four. We make love every day but she says that if she gets pregnant she will commit suicide, as she does not want to stop her education at this stage. She keeps coming to my house though I have told her many times that I don't want this kind of thing going on. Now I need your help on how to avoid it.

Hassan, Lagos

In the first place you are both much too young for this kind of game. And secondly you have your education to consider. If you don't want to indulge in this kind of game why go all the way? Stop this kind of thing immediately and concentrate on your studies. You don't seem to know what you are doing.

He is trying to persuade me

I AM a girl aged 19 years and I am a student in form four. I am in love with a boy who is younger than me in the same class but in different schools. Our love started when we were in standard seven in 1974. Although we have stayed together for that long we have never made love because I fear my parents might not like it. But my telling me that since he loves me then refuse. So what am I doing? I am in time I him and find another man to do! Should I leave go with what he wants?

Jesid, Toluca, Kenya

Just stick to your guns and don't let him persuade you. If he loves you as he claims then he can wait until you've finished your education. By the way,

"you would be in a position to know what's best for you"

She wants us to keep waiting

I AM a young, handsome, black boy, aged 19 years and doing my fourth form. I am interested in a charming young lady aged 20 years. I really love this girl with all my heart and I can hardly sleep each time I think about her. Since we made love in 1976 I have never been with her again. During my holidays from school, I always spend nights with her but whenever I ask her for sex she tells me that I should not worry since I am her handsome man and we only have to wait until we are married. Charity, is love not the only thing that really gives sex a satisfactory meaning and one of the things that put a bond to marriage? I am very much worried about her and I feel she is breaking my heart deliberately.

Whenever I ask her to visit me so that she can be introduced to my parents she always says no. You really think that this lady loves me at all? Could I make a choice from my own tribe? *Kluger, Bungoma*

Maybe the girl is right. As I see it, love plays an important part in one's life, and if the girl loves you, what have you got to worry about? You have only to be patient and the rest can wait for the right time.

My letters go unanswered

I AM 25 years old and she is 20 years old. We love each other and our love started in 1974 when she was in standard seven and I was her teacher. I helped her to pass her exams and at last she secured a place in high school. She was very grateful for the help I offered and she even promised to marry me after finishing her studies. Later on I left teaching and joined the armed forces and moved to another town. I wrote to her and she replied with no interest. After that I wrote her three letters with no reply. After six months I wrote her the fourth letter reminding her of my promise and also asking her to come back and she replied saying why she should come back. She said the check to come back to send her some money, which I did, and no reply came. Not even to thank me. It is now over nine months. I keep writing but no reply from her. Charity, do you think this girl loves me?

Moses, Ibadan

No, I think this girl just wants to use you, and you would be doing yourself a disservice by trying to please her and get yourself

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Akanbi Ojo was sure that his lovely wife, Aduke, was sharing her love with other men. So he was persuaded to enchant her with a deadly charm — with disastrous results, but not for her!

VILLAGE OF POSSESSIVENESS

IN THE village of Iyide, women came first in the hearts of men. There was nothing the men wouldn't do to ensure that nobody tampered with their wives. A number of notable men at Iyide had died — or become insane — as a result of their illicit association with other men's wives.

So there wasn't a trace of aversion on the broad, wrinkled face of Ibi-kunle, a well-known cocoa farmer, as he listened attentively to the story of his friend, Akanbi Ojo, the carpenter, about his wife, Aduke. "I've warned John Olayemi for the last time to stop sharing my wife with me," Akanbi Ojo said as he furiously smoothed the surface of a plank with his plane.

Tall and dark-skinned, Ibi-kunle looked calm as he replied: "You've given him the last warning, and that's that. If you aren't sure he will stop, the next step is obvious, though I am not forcing ideas into your head." Ibi-kunle rose from the divan and leaned his tall figure on the edge of the bench at which his friend was working.

"You don't expect me to enchant Aduke?" Akanbi Ojo asked breathlessly, a look of alarm flashing across his small, handsome face.

"Is there any other means of checking an adulterer, if you won't sue him in court? More so your charge is questionable," Ibi-kunle remarked indifferently.

In the end, after a long debate, Akanbi Ojo agreed to enchant his wife with a killer charm, locally called "magun".

All the natives of Iyide and its neighbouring villages were notorious for using "magun" charms to kill men having a good time with their wives. And sadly enough, the victims of "magun" have always been distinguished men, leaving behind them large families without bread-winners.

Iyide itself was becoming more and more desolate with the untimely death of young, virile men and the gradual exodus of the natives into distant, peaceful towns. But in spite of this fact, the men of Iyide would not desist from taking lives with charms.

The day after the discussion with his friend, Akanbi Ojo went to consult an aged witchdoctor, Eweje.

"Are you sure your wife is having an affair with the man in question?" Eweje asked, removing a soiled black cap from his bald head.

"I'm cocksure about it," retorted Akanbi Ojo. "I've personally warned him to stop on three occasions."

"It's important you fight a just fight," Eweje went on. "Like all potent charms, 'magun' should only be used as a means of vengeance against an enemy who has wronged us beyond measure. Which type do you want?"

"Any that will act quickly," Akanbi Ojo replied.

"All 'magun' charms kill swiftly, depending on how soon the victim breaks one or two specific taboos," Eweje explained, his solemn, sunken face brightening up. Akanbi Ojo was silent.

"Listen to me now," Eweje broke the silence. "All 'magun' charms are prepared in different ways and therefore produce different results. For instance, there's the brand which makes man turn a somersault into ultimate death as soon as he has had sex with the enchanted woman." He said he could also make a type which would yield results on the seventh day after the victim had last met the woman. According to him, the man would drink water and die.

The two men soon agreed the kind of killer charm Akanbi wanted he returned home with

the heart of a man acquitted of manslaughter in the courts.

Akanbi Ojo had a sleepless night that night. All his thoughts focussed on his wife, Aduke, who snored peacefully beside him. She had been married to him over two years but, unhappily, no child had come and Akanbi had grown crestfallen.

But he was still passionately in love with Aduke, a fact which could be attributed mainly to her physical qualities. Slim, she was nature's gem, and never failed to stir up lust in the villagers.

As a dealer in textile goods, Aduke enjoyed tremendous popularity among the people of Iyide and the neighbouring villages where she sold her goods on market days. The fact Bosede, who was a close friend of hers, was in the same business, accounted for her being suspected of an illicit affair with Bosede's husband, John Olayemi, a well-known barber at Iyide.

On three occasions, Akanbi Ojo had bickered angrily with his wife, accusing her of having an affair with her friend's husband.

"Suspicion often misleads," Aduke retorted calmly. "The fact that I move with Bosede doesn't justify your suspicion. Am I so idiotic that I would share a bed with my friend's husband? I'm self-respecting, you know."

"I'm not taken in with this glib innuendo," he said, a faint indignation on his face. "Time will prove your double dealings. My informants are trustworthy, that I'm sure of."

Three days later, Akanbi Ojo called on the witchdoctor and "magun" itself had been done. The up in a simple manner; black, wadded and white threads entwined round three sticks of galvanised with some crimson substance.

"Place this with your left hand under the doorstep when it's dark," Eweje the witchdoctor instructed him. "As soon as she walks across it, she will become enchanted."

According to Eweje, Akanbi Ojo should avoid playing love with his wife as long as he was sure that she was going to bed with the other man.

Quite unaware that she had been put under a spell, Aduke continued visiting her friend Bosede as usual. But two things began to puzzle her considerably. Of late, Akanbi Ojo had gradually become self-possessed and had refrained from ridiculing her as a usurper of Bosede's husband. And for the past two months he hadn't gone to bed with her, under the pretext of tiredness.

Akanbi Ojo marked time for three months before he resumed love-making with his enchanted wife. He felt certain that John Olayemi must have gone to bed with Aduke a number of times in the past three months and he had reasons to anticipate the death of his rival the moment he broke the taboo of the charm put on his wife.

Then suddenly one morning, Akanbi Ojo fell ill. In fact, seriously ill. He remembered that this was the seventh day love with his wife. He felt excruciating pains along his backbone, and gulped down water continually.

Aduke was alarmed. She knew as well as everyone that who had fallen victim of an enchanted woman. There was no point in taking him to the hospital for such an illness.

"Which woman have you met with that we can go and plead roared at her husband." Aduke

"Be ashamed of yourself! Akanbi Haven't you always accused me of cuckolding you? Aren't you guilty of the very offence you accused me of? Be sorry for yourself, hypocrite."

"O... Eweje, send for Eweje the witchdoctor. He'll understand the situation well. Water... water... give me more water," Akanbi groaned out a wooden look on his face. He hadn't the courage to own up to his present plight and he could only curse himself for being too hasty in his attempt to kill John Olayemi, who was supposedly hopping into bed with his wife.

It now dawned on him that Aduke hadn't played love with a man since she had been enchanted.

The news of his illness had quickly reached the ears of the villages and Aduke was astonished to see Ibi-kunle, her husband's friend, and a couple of neighbours, troop in with all sorts of charms for the afflicted man.

Ibi-kunle said very little. He shivered to believe that his friend must have misjudged the relationship between a man and John Olayemi. A man, mustn't be too possessive, he thought. All the same, he regretted goading Akanbi into putting his wife under a magical spell.

Meanwhile, the condition of Akanbi Ojo worsened considerably and, by the time Eweje arrived, Akanbi was dead.

When Eweje arrived, he took in the whole situation calmly and there was a knowing look on his sunken face. He felt sorry for Aduke and even told her so, but deep within him he blamed Akanbi Ojo for his own tragic end. He blamed him for having



KATIE bickered angrily

TRUST has followed the progress of black footballers making a name for themselves in the game in Britain — among them John

Chidoze, a Nigerian who is coming good again after breaking a leg!

It was inevitable that a black player would eventually play for England — and Nottingham Forest's full-back, Viv Anderson, was first through the barrier recently. Alistair Abrahams traces his career.

VIV IS FIRST THROUGH THE BARRIER

VIV ANDERSON, a Nottingham-born footballer of Jamaican parentage, made football history when he became the first black to represent England at full international level against Czechoslovakia at Wembley Stadium, London, recently.

Anderson's triumph came in a week that saw a black bomb blast with devastating effect upon the English soccer international scene, as three other black footballers represented the England 'B' side against the Czechs on the previous night.

The three, Laurie Cunningham and Cyril Regis, of West Bromwich Albion, and defender Bob Hazell, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, were part of an England side that outclassed the Czechs, and fully deserved their 1-0 victory.

The following night Anderson fitted in well in a game that saw the full England side steal another 1-0 victory — but this time they were second best to the Czechs. He constantly chased and worried the opposition, and one of his attacking moves resulted in the goal that gave England victory.

It is hard to reconcile Anderson's present success with the fact that less than two years ago he was playing in a Second Division side, and an England cap must have been far from his mind.

He owes much of his success to his Nottingham Forest team manager, Brian Clough who

guided both him and Forest into the First Division and to League Cup-winners' medals.

Clough, who is an enigma in managerial circles, is rated by many as the best football manager in the business, and is widely tipped to succeed the present England manager, Ron Greenwood.

If Clough does take over as England supremo, it will ensure many more caps for the black Nottingham defender, for it was Clough who recognised talent and has brought out the best in his defender.

"He once fined me for being late for tea. I told him that the coach had not told me what time to report, so he said, 'Then he will have to pay for you. I couldn't let him do that, so I paid up,'" confessed Anderson.

It is a similar, unrelenting manner to Clough and hard work which have moulded Anderson into an international star.

Anderson, who is slim and the back into attacking positions, lending to his team's offensive. Apart from helping out in attack, he has the knack of scoring vital goals.

Anderson accepts his success modestly, and is inclined to play it down. In Nottingham he has giant in the local black community, and he is mobbed wherever he goes.

His attitude to his colour is similar to his attitude to his

black, he has been brought up in a Western way of life and is perhaps not so aware of his colour as one might expect.

There was, at one time, a feeling in English football managerial circles that black footballers, although extremely talented, lacked guts. Anderson, Cunningham, Regis, Hazell and others have totally shattered that myth.

Hazell has already been sent off once this season for showing perhaps too much guts, while Regis dives in head first where many other players would think twice about putting even their feet!

Cunningham, on the other hand, has had to withstand brutal treatment by defenders who would make better executioners. Anderson, who is a delightful player, has never been known to shirk a tackle.

It is interesting to draw an analogy between the emergence of black players in the top flight of sport in England with their black American counterparts. The British sporting revolution is way behind, but is not born of the same parents. In America it was a necessity, in Britain, an inevitability.

There is not the same "get out of the ghetto" motivation in the sports field; does not herald the salvation of the blacks as it did in America, where it was the difference between making baskets on the basketball court

and success of Anderson and the rest out of context. It is significant that they are the first of what should already have been commonplace, but their selections do not represent the salvation of the English blacks, and are notable only for the colour of their skins.

Strangely, the player who could well have been the first to wear the full England colours, Cunningham, came second best in the race to the standard-bearer at a time when his silky English by European crowds.

His side, West Brom, is challenging for the First Division championship, and is well poised to carry off the UEFA Cup, one of Europe's premier trophies. Team-mate Regis has scored some vital goals, while Cunningham has been the light that has shone brightest for Albion.

All four black players gave an indication of what was to come when they went with the England 'B' team on a pre-season tour of South-East Asia earlier this year.

Ron Greenwood has indicated that Anderson will win many more caps. He was full of praise for his young defender after his debut. But whether he wins further caps or not, Anderson has written his name in the history books.

But he wants to be remembered

The man they call Spider

A YOUNG Nottingham-born player who has been a member of the Nottingham Forest playing staff since his apprentice days in 1972, Anderson, or "Spider," as he's fondly known at the



Sheffield Wednesday in September, 1974, shortly after signing professional forms.

He did not fully establish himself in the side until the promotion-winning season of 1976/77. He is now a regular member of the First Division team.

An extremely talented right-back he has improved rapidly and his exciting attacking play, allied to his sound defensive work, has been rewarded with selection for the England Under-21

and 'B' sides, and finally the full England team.

Viv missed only five league matches last term — through suspension and injury — and netted a pair of blistering goals against Middlesbrough which manager Brian Clough described as the "two best goals I've ever seen scored by one player in a match."

And Clough should know — for in his playing days he was a centre-forward who knew how to find the net!

11

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WHO ARE THE



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CELESTIANS?

THE CELESTIAL CHURCH of Christ, founded by Pastor S. B. J. Oschoffa, an ex-carpenter from the Republic of Benin, is probably the most controversial religious sect in Nigeria today.

Members of this sect have a peculiar way of going about their business, irrespective of weather or road conditions, whenever they put on their white robes, which they call "sutane." They are not supposed to take any form of alcohol, nor smoke tobacco of any sort.

Celestians are not supposed to have any amorous dealings with men or women other than their husbands and wives. But their men are encouraged to have more than one wife if they so wish. As a rule, members avoid anything that is coloured black or red.

Whatever their professional or occupational commitments, members of the Celestial Church must attend unlimited hours of service three times in a week on Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. This routine is apart from the occasional "spiritual confinement" — *aba* — often prescribed for individual members for specified periods in the instruction of the "holy spirit." A member so confined must stay around the church day and night until the specified

A religious sect with strict rules of DO and DON'T is fast gaining ground in Nigeria. It is the Celestial Church of Christ. Who are these Celestians and what makes them different from other Christians?

Report by NELSON BANKOLE

Pictures by ABIM OLADEJO

the Celestial Church that anyone told to stay in such confinement but who refuses to do so is bound to meet with a mishap. A fenced lawn called the "Lawn of Mercy" is provided for purposes of confinement.

Despite all the strict rules, the sect has kept on attracting a large number of members. Branches of the Celestial Church of Christ spring up in every nook and corner of urban and rural areas almost every day. Membership ranges from professionals, university dons, well-to-do businessmen, housewives, to struggling men and women, eligible bachelors and spinsters, even erstwhile well-known promiscuous men and women of all ages.

The reason the Celestial Church is gaining such sweep-

ing positions in both government and private establishments. No sooner do some people enrol as members than their jobs seem to improve. Members who once lived in rented houses are seen building houses of their own and buying fantastic new cars. Those of them in business tend to get more prosperous.

Besides this apparently encouraging phenomenon, members of the Celestial Church claim that their leader, Pastor S. B. J. Oschoffa, has the power to solve all human problems — whether they be illness of any kind, or joblessness, lack of progress, barrenness, spells of witchcraft, or marital and romantic frustrations. They even claim for him the ability to raise the dead. Brophery, is another aspect

Church an all-converting sect. Apart from Pastor Oschoffa himself, the church has scores of "annointed" and ordained evangelists who are believed to possess some spiritual power which, after prayer, can tell of someone's just future or impending doom or fortune.

In a society where everyone is desperately in search of wealth, a society full of physically and psychologically sick people, a society where a person's faith is bound to some religion, whether

ancient or modern, foreign or local, it is not surprising that the Celestial Church has, on its ostal membership scales, of top men who are afraid of being pulled down by their real or imagined enemies. Nor is it surprising that the deaf, the lame, the barren, the blind, the jilted, the frustrated and others troop in large numbers to the Celestial Church.

Once someone is converted, he or she has to undergo a couple of "purification" processes, which include a special bathing, baptism and confession of his or her secret dealings. He or she is then told of all the "do's and don'ts" of the Church. After all these, he or she can start wearing the "sutane."

Depending on the prophecy, if the new convert has any internal ailment he or she is given a dose of specially prepared solution called "green water". After taking this solution, a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22

**THE
DISCIPLES
TESTIFY**

See over the page for the first-hand testimonies of members of the Celestial Church.



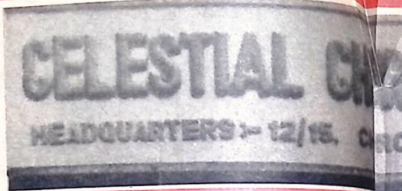
Mr. DELE HUSSAIN,
cinematographer
My life was static before I joined the Celestial Church. I never saw a reward for any effort I put into anything. If I made any money, whether in the form of salary or business, I never knew how I spent it until I became broke again.
When I prayed, it never seemed my prayers ever got beyond where I said it. I knew something was spiritually wrong with me.
Then a female confidante of mine, who had been attending the Celestial Church, told me of the path to progress and salvation that is the Celestial way. I came along with her and since then my ways have been open.
Halleluyah!



Mrs. BRIGITTE ABIODUN,
housewife
I left the Cherubim and Seraphim Church for the Celestial Church when I learnt of all the wonderful things happening there. I even lured my husband to join.
But for over two years our domestic problems, which took us there, still remained with us. Our economic position was worsened by frequent contributions which we were paying.
I later grew to hate the church because its leaders are too money-conscious. I wonder if God tells them all the things they tell their gullible members.
I have since refused to be fooled any longer. I am now back with my former church.



Mr. KASH JUNAID,
management accountant
The Federal Government should investigate the activities of members of the Celestial Church because some of the things we hear about the church call for such action.
How can a married woman leave her matrimonial home to pass some nights in a church premises in the name of "spiritual confinement"? Who has tested the safety of the "green water" which members take?
Much as I believe in freedom of worship, I can't see any reason for everything revolving around one man as is the case with the founder of the Celestial Church.



Mr. Z. A. BANJO,
trader
I came into the Celestial Church in search of progress and peace of mind. Before then it seemed I had been going through life unguided. Terrible things, for which I couldn't find explanations, had happened to me on a number of occasions.
But now such things are matters of the past.
If you are a member of the Celestial Church and you keep to the rules and tenets laid down, everything else will come your way just for the asking.
I have tried this in many ways and I am convinced that Christ is directing his Church.

WHAT PEOPLE

HERE ARE the testimony of the Celestial Church opinions from people members.



Pa RICHARD ODOUYOMI,
pensioner
I had a stroke a few years ago and was bed-ridden for several years. I received all sorts of medical treatment but each time I tried to walk, I fell down. My case became a hopeless one and everyone left me alone. I lost hope of recovery and woke up every day expecting death to come.
I had heard a lot about the Celestial Church and one day I asked a relation to arrange to carry me there as a last trial. That was how I came to Mwakulu where I was prayed for and urged to have faith in God for recovery. I was given a place within the church premises where I slept and woke up every day and night praying.
Each time the founder, Pastor Oschoffa, came I was told to concentrate on him. As there were always too many people seeking his blessing, it wasn't easy for me to reach him but I kept concentrating on him.
One day, during a revival service, as I concentrated on him, he announced that everyone should ask for whatever he or she wanted, so I said that I wanted to recover from my ailment.
After the prayer, I tried to stand up and for the first time in several years, I was able to stand on my feet. Since then, I



Mr. SAMSON KEJAWA,
ex-teacher
I cannot tell you how I became a Celestian because I just found myself on the church premises one afternoon. I can, however, remember that it was once a teacher at Ika Oto near Egba Owode before I lost consciousness. People told me I had a mental problem before some people rushed me down here.
Whatever that means, I know that something serious must have happened to me because it seems I am not feeling as I used to feel in those days.
I know Christ and I can shout Halleluyah! Halleluyah! Halleluyah!



Mr. LABI ISHOLA-LEMOMU,
advertising director
Most young men and women who join the Celestial Church are not after salvation as much as they seek spiritual guidance in life. This to me negates the essence of religion. Such people might as well go to native doctors for some money making juju.
Judging by what I hear about the goings-on in the church and the conduct of some members outside, I have a strong feeling which members wear are mere camouflage.
As for me, nothing can take me to the Celestial Church. It is a church for the marines.



Mr. ISIAKA ADEJOBI,
tailor
Many of those who rush to the Celestial Church do so because they think they can become wealthy. There is nothing bad in aspiring to be wealthy, but I would rather work hard to make money than subject myself to all those restrictive rules like don't do this, don't eat that in the name of church-going.
I hate those who go to the Celestial Church because they are all timid and pretentious people.



Mr. ISIAKA AKINTUNDE,
company director
The Celestial Church seems more of a cult house than a church. I have never believed in a church which has nothing to offer its members other than the so-called "vision." The church has ruined many homes through its so-called "spiritual revelation."
All those who attend the Celestial Church are either weak-minded or pretenders. They tell you it is forbidden to do one thing, but they themselves do worse things secretly.
If I had my way, I would disperse all the members.



THE SAY
 es of members
 — and some
 who are not



Superior Senior Evangelist, S. O. AJANLEKOKO, retired sales manager with Nigerian Breweries

There is no secret whatsoever in what we do in the Celestial Church. Those who say all sorts of rubbish about our church are ignorant of the truth and they have refused to find out the truth before they go about running down our church.

Who says adultery is good? Our church is against it because it can affect concentration in prayers. Besides, God's laws also against it. They are amazed by the healing wonders of our famous "green water." They say it is juju. That is not true. "Green water" is only a solution of green sulphur kept in front of the altar for seven days blessing. Once anybody takes it, he or she vomits any poison or other earthly charms he or she might have taken, either voluntarily or through the evil machination of wicked people. Celestial Church members don't eat snails and kola nuts because they are mostly used by evil people to poison human beings.

The Bible forbids the eating of pigs, and so do the Celestians. People who abstain from alcohol are less prone to dangers than those who take it. Smoking is injurious to man and so are all the things we forbid our members to take or do. Above all, ability to keep away from "don'ts" means self-discipline. Anybody who can discipline himself or herself is likely to be closer to God and will invariably have steady progress. That is the secret of the Celestial Church.

Senior Evangelist ISIAH A. SALAKO, Celestial representative in Oyo State
 I was born into the Anglican denomination and I attended the church until I became an adult. It occurred to me at some stage that the concept of being a Christian should go deeper than merely attending church on Sundays and doing whatever you like on other days. I wanted some spiritual strength and so tried some other churches, but it was always the same story.

In 1954, when the founder of the Celestial Church visited Ibadan, I attended his service and there I saw what I wanted in Christianity, so I joined. I have since developed in spiritual strength, having seen angels and received instructions from them on a number of occasions. It was during one such contact with angels that the reason why our members should go about barefoot was explained to me. If your feet interact with the soil and your head is raised up against the sky which God created, you are closer to Him. Being



Mr. FERDINAND CHINAKPU, advertising practitioner
 Before I joined the Celestial Church, I had every hope that all my problems were on their way to being solved. But after attending the church devotedly for two years, I realised that it was all a waste of time, energy and money. I stopped attending the church because I found it difficult to reconcile how I should continue with a church where you are forced to accept whatever you are told by illiterates and semi-illiterates. They preach against adultery but most of the members are offenders. One of the so-called leaders of the church once attempted to have sex with me through the anus during one of my stays in "spiritual confinement." I disagreed and that was the last the church saw of me. The Celestial Church has all sorts of ways of collecting money from members. They do this in the name of "tiiteh," "building fund," "thanksgiving," etc. Such money is usually converted to personal use by a caucus comprising a few leaders who pretend to have spiritual power.



Mrs. ADEBISI OGUNSANWO, widow
 Domestic crisis, which I faced after the death of my husband over his assets and liabilities, drove me into the Celestial Church. If I had not come under the Celestial umbrella at that time, perhaps I would have been forgotten about by now. A lot of people had their eyes on my late husband's assets, not caring about his liabilities. They set everything in motion to have me destroyed, but God proved greater than them. Since I joined the Celestial Church, I have stopped having frightening dreams, strange happenings have become things of the past for me, and I have always had victories over my enemies. I now have peace of mind. Halleluyah!



Mr. and Mrs. MICHAEL SALAKO, farmer and housewife
 Our first child died of convulsions and since then we had found it difficult to give birth to another one. Because we were pagans, we consulted several oracles several times but without positive results. All we were told was to make rituals with goats, cocks and others, because of which we

sold the little property we had to raise funds. Some people later told us of the Celestial Church and since we joined we have had two children and our lives have improved a great deal. No church can compare with the Celestial Church. Anybody who wants salvation should come over.



Mr. OREGAB-OKPAKO, colour separation technician
 I was born into a pagan family but became a Christian while in school. In my search of salvation through Christ, I tried nearly all the Christian denominations but I discovered that instead of paying much, if not total, attention to how man could see salvation, all the churches were too materialistic in their rules and mode of worship. I joined the Celestial Church of Christ when I fell into a very serious problem, but instead of my problem being solved it was becoming worse. I have since stopped going to the church because I doesn't appear to have anything to offer me.



Miss ESTHER OSINEYE, telex operator
 I had no problems before I joined the Celestial Church. I belonged to the Methodist Church but I had a few friends who were members of the Celestial Church. They used to talk about wonderful things that happened in their church. And, being someone who often expressed some anxiety over the future, I felt I needed some protection. I didn't like the idea of going to herbless and other fetich houses so I decided to join the Celestial Church, which has since been assuring me of spiritual protection. Glory be to God! Halleluyah!

Miss OLIVIA WILLIAMS, sewing mistress
 I have always observed that those who joined the Celestial Church as rich men and women have always grown richer, but those who were poor always remained poor. This provides food for thought. Those of them who are wealthy often adorn themselves with heavy and expensive jewellery but they go about bare-footed. Even Jesus went about in shoes, according to what we read in the Bible. From where then did they get their idea of going about bare-footed? To me the whole thing looks like nothing but religious eccentricity.



PLEASE TURN OVER



MEN, women and children in "spiritual confinement" at the Church's "Lawn of Mercy."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

person is likely to vomit. According to members of the Church, the source of the ailment automatically comes up with the vomit. There have been reported cases of people who have vomited strange objects like snakes, cockroaches, hooks, amulets and so on after taking the "green water."

The Celestians also believe in the use of "blessed" candles, ointments, water, perfumes, and toilet soaps for curing ailments and for protection against supposed evil forces

They do not fast like other religious sects because according to them, fasting is a form of self-denial, and the fact that they go about barefoot is self-denial enough.

Generally, members of the Celestial Church tend to favour one another. But because branches of the Church are springing up here and there, it is not always easy to know one another. Yet members always identify fellow-members by raising the right hand and chanting "Hallelujah" if you are a member, once you hear that, you too will do the same and whoever wants a favour should

THE CELESTIANS

get it, just by asking.

Such traits, coupled with the fact that people who join the Celestial Church tend to progress, have led some people who are non-members to suggest that the Church might be a kind of secret cult. They often wonder if members have some sort of secret power, other than the often professed name of Jesus Christ.

In some cases where either party of a marriage belongs to the sect and the other doesn't, one tends to frown at his or her partner's devotion to the Church at the expense of his or her matrimonial responsibilities. The man complains of his wife staying out too late and frowns at the usual excuse that the service has taken too long or "I am in spiritual confinement."

Being in spiritual confinement sounds offensive to many husbands of female members of the Celestial Church. Some of them don't see any reason why their wives should leave their matrimonial homes to pass three to seven nights outside under the name of "spiritual confinement."

Another source of argument between female members of the Celestial Church and their non-member husbands is "spiritual revelation." How can a man agree that his own mother is responsible for his wife's inability to become pregnant? Or that his relative is responsible for his misfortunes? Such are the things people are told in the name of "spiritual revelation."

On the other hand, the non-member wife of a male member of the Celestial Church thinks her home is not secure, as it is possible that her husband may contract another marriage with a female member of the Church, since the Celestial Church permits polygamy.

Another controversial aspect of the Celestial Church is that it is against the rules for members to have anything to do with

distributors and dealers! There was even a case of a member who was jailed in England for smuggling Indian hemp into that country. It is against the rules of the Church to commit adultery and fornication, but some of them are known to break that rule too!

All these, coupled with frequent rows among members of some of the branches of the Church over money or Church properties, tend to expose it to criticisms from non-members, as well as those who have left the Church.

TRUST had a face-to-face interview with the founder of the Church, Pastor S. B. J. Oschoffa.

TRUST Your church seems to be spreading widely. What is the total population of the Church?

PASTOR The correct figure is difficult to tell, because people join the Church every day. Even now, as you are talking, new people may be joining all over the world — 300 branches in Nigeria, four in the United Kingdom, four in the USA, two in Germany, one in France, and the rest in the Republic of Benin and the Republic of Togo.

TRUST Why does your Church forbid the eating of snails and the chewing of kola nuts?

PASTOR The Church does not forbid the eating of these foods. For a long time, when I received the holy spirit, I fed on roasted snails. And I still eat them. Kolanuts are sometimes used to poison human beings by evil people, but we members are very sure of their kolanuts, that they can chew. It is unfortunate that some of the rules of the Celestial Church are confused by over-the-zealous leaders of branches of the Church.

TRUST What

secret of wealth and progress?

PASTOR We have no secrets whatsoever. Our power to heal and to peer into the future comes from God through Jesus Christ. We do not forbid anybody from getting into any place, provided he or she keeps to the rules of the Church. People who say all sorts of bad things about us haven't seen the light. They are free to come and find out. Imagine a list of our "don'ts." If anyone keeps to them, he or she is likely to save a lot of money which otherwise would have been wasted. Besides, we help one another in all ways possible, and that is why many of our members seem to prosper and progress.

TRUST What about your "green water"?

PASTOR I got the formula for preparing the solution from the holy spirit when I was receiving instructions from God in Wedo Forest. I was told to apply it to cure any kind of internal ailment.

TRUST What is its composition?

PASTOR Water, green alum and lime — plus prayer.

TRUST Why is it that many of the members of the Celestial Church preach so much but hardly put any of their preachings into practice?

PASTOR That is the irony of life. It is good and rewarding to practise whatever one preaches. But some people find it difficult to part with their old ways. Any member of the Celestial Church who violates any of the rules is punished publicly by the holy spirit. Ask anybody who has attended any of our services, and he or she will tell you how offenders sprawl on the ground when the holy spirit descends on them.



PASTOR S. B. J. OSCHOFFA, founder of the Celestial Church

I don't need a wife ... I need a SLAVE!



SAYS BACHELOR BOY

WHO NEEDS a wife these days? Definitely not me! I feel like jumping out of my skin any time I think of the possibility of being chained to a woman for life. Even if hell is as dreadful as our preachers doomsday say it is, it can hardly be a terrible place as a house here the laws of matrimony give supreme!

No matter what euphemistic names you shower on a mistress, a brute is a brute — any day of the week! Whether you call her "madam," "lady" or "wife," a woman is a woman. Period. Don't be misled into thinking that all the gall in a woman would melt away because some funny priest happened to bless your association with her.

Truly, truly I say unto you, your tomorrow is just around the corner.

PRESSURE

None of my younger brothers got married two years ago. Another followed his example just last year. Now people are giving me their vain tongues the trouble of teaching marriage to me. Who am I to prevent their unnecessary ranting? I crave only the humble indulgence of being allowed to live my life as I think fit.

My friend's mother would not leave out of the debate. Just a couple of weeks ago she announced her intention of presenting my further association with her 35-year-old son. As far as her dull brain could fashion it, I am the source of her son's tragic views about women and hence his consequent

I made it plain to the old woman that life is boring enough without a bloody woman staring down her nose. She ought to have been congratulating her bachelorette son for being so reasonable, I said.

Then two weeks ago an old uncle decided to add his bit to the pressure by asking me to attend an important party he was throwing — with my woman! "But uncle, I don't have a woman," I protested. "You mean you don't want to be responsible? Can't you outgrow all this bachelor nonsense?" he yelled.

SLAVE

I MADE it clear to my uncle that I did not need a wife, what I need is a SLAVE! If everybody who matters insists that I just have to get hooked, then let them start looking out for a slave.

A woman who would stay with me would have to live in the servant's quarters for a start. I can't stand the presence of a daughter of Eve under the same roof as me for long. It gives me nightmares.

She would be responsible for preparing my meals (which would have to be of fine quality), and my laundry. I've heard that women are gifted cooks and washers. I could employ their services for just that.

A woman who would live with me should be ready to succumb to my whims, because it seems I am a peculiar blend of man.

Quarrels would have to be settled by physical means — by the fighting game. I happen to know that I am a fine boxer. No nagging bitch offends me and

My slave would, of course, satisfy my emotional needs, if and when they arise. After all, there has to be a toilet in the house when a man wants to ease himself.

And she would have to spare me the embarrassment of changing her surname, as most married women do. You see, it's no use allowing a slave to deceive people into believing that she is a wife. No way!

As usual I would attend my parties without female company, because when I attend parties I booze, and when I booze I like to talk with someone who has some intelligence. Women are not cut out for brain-cracking. All they think about is their jewellery.

I think I would foot all the necessary bills as often as they come. A slave should never be given the opportunity of adding an extra kobo to the upkeep of the house.

With her position as I have defined, no slave could be swollen-headed; and I would have avoided at least one sure cause of hypertension.

And, of course, I don't need to drive home the fact that with this sort of woman in the house no man needs a house servant. She would be all in one: a cook, laundry woman, house-servant, bed mate, punching bag ... all rolled into one. Cheers!

PRIDE

BUT because of their unnecessary pride, I know very well that there is no daughter of Eve who would like to see herself in the position of Bachelor Boy's slave.

Women seem to think that we

them that at school needs a general overhaul of his thinking faculty. From the beginning of time, man has always been at the top. The story is there in the Bible.

Ours is a world pregnant with conflicting situations. Here am I, Bachelor Boy, unyielding in my holy belief in man's supremacy over woman. But breathing the same air with me are the daughters of Eve, who think otherwise. How then can I possibly get hooked?

It is a case of an irresistible force coming into contact with an immovable object.

So you see why I cannot possibly think of marriage. The contemporary concept of marriage holds that man and woman should be partners in progress. But are they? These human parasites called women only know how to grab, and grab

and grab ... until there is no more left. Then they flee like a tribe of mosquitoes hurrying away after sucking human blood.

If I carry on as I do and I cannot find a woman who will fit into my defined role, then maybe in the next world I will see a rosier day.

God knows I cannot stand the sight of a human tigress who is tied to my neck by means of a matrimonial cord. I can't deceive myself any longer; I know I wasn't created to be somebody's husband. What I need is a slave, not a wife!

● Oh yea, Adam, did I hear you whisper that you need a slave too? Well, that makes two of us. So, till we meet again to hurl brimstone at the daughters of Eve, it's Goodnight.

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FISHING AND LIVESTOCK SPECIAL



Government boost to fish production

SINCE the launching of Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) the Federal Military Government has taken measures to ensure that while the country produces enough food crops, she should also intensify fish and livestock production sufficiently to break her reliance on importation completely. Although this cannot be achieved overnight, a complete break is foreseeable if the same tempo of encouragement is maintained after the exit of the military.

So far OFN has been described in some quarters as an unsuccessful venture. This assessment is based on the production of food crops alone. To pass any real judgment on the scheme, all of its facets since the "agricultural renaissance" began three years ago must be taken into consideration. As the available data shows at the moment, one of the aspects of OFN has recorded a modest success that should not go unnoticed.

In the Third National Develop-

ment Plan, the Federal Military Government has provided over N100 million for fisheries alone. This is to go to the provision of infrastructures and aids to fishermen. Most important, however, is the emphasis laid on mechanised fishing, the encouragement of co-operative societies for fishermen, and the disbursement of equipment to individual farmers and small-scale fishing companies.

To show its commitment to the importance of self-sufficiency in fish production, the Federal Military Government also set up a venture — the Nigerian National Fishing Company — to engage in deep sea

agriculture generally, the Federal Government has issued directives to all banks to grant loans to farmers. According to the Federal Commissioner for Finance, Major General James Oluwele, beneficiaries of this loan scheme include fishermen. The emphasis is, however, on individuals and co-operative societies that already have or are willing to establish fish farms (artificial lakes) in their localities. An individual is entitled to as much as N50,000, while co-operative societies can borrow up to N1 million.

Furthermore, research bodies have been set up to breed fish seeds for distribution to fish

produced to augment natural food in the artificial lakes in addition to the Government's efforts, all state governments have clear directives to make their own contribution to this important aspect of agricultural self-reliance.

RESPONSE

Response by fishermen to the Government's efforts has so far been enthusiastic, as they see this as an opportunity of increasing their earnings, thereby raising their standards of living. From reports of the Fisheries Division of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and

In this eight-page supplement, TRUST takes a close look at Nigeria's fishing and agricultural industries — both vital to

FISHING AND LIVESTOCK SPECIAL

CONTINUED

Natural Resources, as at the first quarter of last year 85 fishermen's co-operative societies had been registered in the country. Most of them, understandably, are in Niger, Kwara, Lagos, Ondo, Bendel, Benue, Ogun, Rivers, Cross River and Imo States.

However, there are still in these states diehard traditional fishermen, and according to the report these are mainly the old men who find it hard to absorb the idea of co-operative societies. Too far remote from areas where they can easily be affected by Government activities, they regard occasional fisheries officials' enlightenment visits with suspicions. According to the report, such suspicion is usually linked with taxation. These traditional fishermen seem to be content with their subsistence level of fishing.

Generally, however, the response is positive, especially in areas near the local government council headquarters, and this has been borne out by the ever-increasing growth in co-operative societies and applications for and in the form of outboard engines, nets and other modern fishing equipment.

An aspect of the Government's encouragement that has not been utilised at all by fishermen is the bank loan scheme. This is, however, understandable, because it is still new and the actual conditions for securing the loans as demanded by the banks are not as easy as they seem on paper. Furthermore, the outlay involved in the building of artificial lakes for fish farms of any economic worth is enormous.

Maybe that is why as at the first quarter of 1978 no individual or co-operative societies had been able to build any fish farm at a viable commercial level. Apart from this initial outlay there have been fears expressed about poachers. This is the problem of night fish-

TO BOOST FISH PRODUCTION

catching thieves that has already been bedeviling some private fish ponds, and already the poachers have scared away tycoons who have the means and are interested in fish farming.

IMPLEMENTATION

As said earlier, over N100 million has been earmarked for fisheries in the Third National Development Plan for research, provision of infrastructure and equipment to fishermen. However, the research funds and the building of infrastructure are not within the powers of the Fisheries Division of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. As a matter of fact, some of the infrastructures planned are not too relevant at this period for achieving self-reliance. Their necessity will be more pronounced where the country reaches the stage of exportation of fish, which the experts predict might not be within a decade.

Part of the infrastructure that at the moment is superfluous as the fisheries harbour complex planned for Tin Can Island. The argument against it is that it will benefit only the large privately-owned and Government-sponsored fishing and shrimp companies engaging in deep sea activities.

Provision of facilities within

the competence of the Fisheries Division had in the period earlier mentioned proceeded satisfactorily. During the period about 400 outboard engines had been given out to the co-operative fishing societies. Individual fishermen had accounted for over 5,000 fishing nets. Figures for refrigerated trucks provided were not immediately available, as these were purchased mainly for the fishing and shrimp companies owned by the Federal Government.

The provision of refrigerators for fishermen and co-operatives at this time, it was learnt, was not of high priority, since the daily local consumption has not even been met. It has been tacitly agreed upon that the large private fishing companies have these facilities all over the country and it is they that still account for the sale of fish on a large scale.

Another area of Government effort where data could not be readily available was research. At the time of writing, the exact number of fish farmers to have benefited from the multiplication and distribution of fish seedlings was not available. However, the Federal Fisheries Department is convinced that "many" must have benefited.

Within 30 months of the launching of the Accelerated Fish Production Programme, about N20 million had been expended on infrastructures,

training and aids to fishermen. This amount, it must be understood, is a very rough estimate.

RESULTS

Within the OFN scheme, fishing has been a rather quiet aspect that has not caught the attention of the people. This can be attributed to two reasons: (1) There are more farmers than fishermen in the country, so the campaign for production of food crops has to be louder; (2) The Fisheries departments seem to shun publicity and antagonise inquisitive journalists through over zealous red tape.

However, if statistics are to be believed, fishing generally has been the most successful of the OFN schemes. This does not mean that the country is already self-sufficient in protein-yielding fish. She is not even halfway through yet. But the fact that for the past 12 months goat-skin or the smoked skin of cow has no longer constituted the main "meat" in the low income group is testimony enough.

Prices of fish may still be high in the markets, but it is readily available. The high price at the moment is being attributed to the activities of middlemen and traders. Also, as an example, the "importation" of fish into the Federal capital from a place like Okitipupa, in Ondo State has stopped. Three years ago fish was being brought into Lagos by fishermen from Ondo and Ogun States because of higher prices. In these states, frozen fish could not even be seen in the markets except in the bigger towns where Ibru Sea Foods have major depots.

With the encouragement of the Government, however, there has been a reversal of this. Fishermen in the Lagos area are now fully awakened, and the sky-rocketing prices of fresh fish have come down. Frozen fish continues to flood the market from both the private fishing companies and the Federal Government's National Fishing Company. The result is that more fish is available to the local people in the states.

As at last April, an approximate increase of 25 per cent in fish production in the country has been recorded over the 650,000 tonnes of about two years ago. This modest increase is a testimony to the quiet activities in this area of "Operation Self-Sufficiency and Self-Reliance" in balanced nutrition executed by the Fisheries Department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

CONCLUSION

Talking about the modest success so far of the Accelerated Fish Production Programme, it is

fishing ventures. This accounts for all the frozen fish distributed throughout the army. Here there is little that the Federal Government could do to help, because it is the prerogative of enterprising businessmen like Ibru Sea Foods, who have the means and resources. The only part the Government has played successfully here is the floating of the National Fishing Company to augment the efforts of the private firms.

However, if plans for the exportation of fish in the near future are to be realised, this is the area where there should be utmost concentration. Countries such as Spain and Morocco made names in the fishing industry from the canning and exportation of offshore and deep sea fish.

As of now, frozen fish from the deep seas really contribute the bulk of what is consumed in the country. This is normal as far as self-sufficiency is the immediate goal. In the long run, however, fresh fish production and inland fish farms need more encouragement. The emphasis should be placed on fish farming, as riverine fishing's importance is already recognised and has had a sufficient boost.

Fish farming is a novelty especially on a large scale. Apart from dams occasioned by agricultural, electric and pipe-borne water purposes, the idea has been unpopular.

For biological and adventurous purposes, schools and private fish ponds came into existence within the last 15 years or so. Eventually, with surplus fish in the ponds, some were caught for sale, but not on a general commercial basis.

However, the idea of large-scale private fish farms is one that has not caught on. As at April last year, no record of such is available. This is disheartening. As earlier mentioned, the fear of poachers is a factor militating against such ventures by individuals or co-operative societies.

The major problem, it is understood, was the land tenure system. Just as major mechanised farming was almost impossible in some areas, so has been the possibility of building large artificial lakes for fish farms.

Now that the Land Use Decree has vested all land in the state governments, there are rays of hope for commercial fish farms. Co-operative societies and individuals who could not before the decree muster enough initial funds to purchase land, or were refused land, can now apply to the local government councils.

With the country's eyes on not only self-sufficiency

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FISHING AND LIVESTOCK SPECIAL

IBRU'S ROLE IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

THE IBRU organisation, which has a staff of well over 8,000, was established in 1956 as a small trading company called Laibru Limited. Over the years the organisation has expanded to become one of the largest indigenous business operations on the West Coast of Africa.

The activities of the company include breeding, processing, the marketing of frozen fish, frozen beef, prawns, poultry farming, and the distributive trade.

At the apex of the organisation's pyramid is the Chief Executive, Chief Michael C. O. Ibru, who is ably supported by his brothers. They are fondly called the Ibru Brothers. It should be on record that when the history of the fishing industry is written in this country, the name of Chief Ibru will be in letters of gold, because he single-handedly pioneered the frozen fish industry.

It looked like a shot in the dark when Michael Ibru started. The Chief was known to have personally ascribed frozen fish — a rich protein food — by cartons to the markets, commencing at 5 a.m. This was at a time when consumers had an aversion for frozen fish. With the tenacity of an astute businessman, the Chief pressed on. He was determined to provide for the ordinary man, with the satisfaction that he had contributed to the progress of the

society in which he lives.

Frozen fish is now an essential protein item in an average Nigerian's soup. Hence the advertisement slogan Shokoyoko Eja Ibru — Delicious Ibru Fish — a common cliché among consumers.

SEA FOODS

The story of industrial fishing would be incomplete without making mention of Ibru Sea Foods Limited, which specialises in deep sea fishing.

Formed on September 21, 1963, the company has since then remained the leader in the field of frozen fish marketing in West Africa.

As a result of the company's pioneering efforts, it has made an immense contribution to the health of the nation by helping to minimise cases of scurvy, kuashioko, and angular stomatitis caused mainly by

lack of protein food. The company's marketing network is country-wide, providing, directly and indirectly, employment to thousands of Nigerians.

But the company is not resting on its laurels and has set up an associate company called Granimac Foods Limited, which specialises in the distribution of frozen beef and poultry.

OSADJERE

The Osadjere Fishing Company Limited (OFCL) was established in 1962 to supplement the efforts of Ibru Sea Foods Ltd. in the marketing of wet fish. OFCL specialises in coastal fishing and shrimping. Thus, commercial quantities of shrimps are caught, processed and exported to Japan while growing tonnages of wet fish are on sale for local consumption.

All the same, there are sizeable quantities of shrimps supplied to hotels, supermarkets and individual buyers.

The shrimps processing factory has devised a method whereby shrimps are processed according to international requirements and the Nigerian Standard Organisation's quality control and regulations.

Osadjere Fishing Company Ltd. has come of age. Shrimps, which used to be a luxury in Nigeria, are now a seasoned additive to an average Nigerian meal, while to the big hotels they are served as dishes. Nine hundred metric tonnes of shrimps are exported to Japan annually, while 300 are sold locally. Also, 2,000 metric tonnes of fish are sold annually.

Having been in the fishing business for years, Chief Michael Ibru once suggested four proposals which could help in the growth of the industry. They are:

● The Federal Government should move quickly to provide and encourage the setting up of the necessary infrastructural facilities required by the industry. These include good jetties, slipways, wharf and dock facilities. At present these are totally lacking, and so



example, dry dock trawler trips have to be made to the Ivory Coast, Senegal and even Spain. "In this connection," the Chief had said, "we welcome the recent announcement of the Government plan to develop a modern dockyard at Burutu, and hope that this project will be executed with the utmost urgency."

● Secondly, the Federal Government should establish a marine training school and a department of marine fisheries studies in at least one of our universities. "We are aware that an Institute of Oceanography has been set up, and we hope that this will prove to be the first stepping-stone towards overcoming the shortage of skilled manpower — at the moment a serious problem for the industry."

● Thirdly, the Federal Government should follow the practice of every other substantial fishing nation, whereby fiscal benefits flow to those companies which increase their investment in the industry, by way of ploughed-back profit tax relief, accelerated depreciation allowances, reduction or removal of import duties on equipment and gear, ship mortgage finance facilities, grants and the like.

● Fourthly, the Federal Government should note the fact that many countries in the world have imposed a 200-mile territorial limit. "We assume that Nigeria will follow suit. As a natural consequence, Govern-

BREEDER birds at Mitchell Farms (Food and Commodities Production Group Ltd.) at Agege.

ment should then, and as a matter of urgency, enter into bilateral agreements with at least our neighbours, to ensure catchment areas adequate to cope with the trading capacity of the vessels which Nigerian companies are acquiring. We have had to suspend our plans for the purchase of flatlla recently, owing to lack of guaranteed fishing grounds. These four areas, in fact, embrace most of the problems faced in the fishing industry."

MITCHELL FARMS

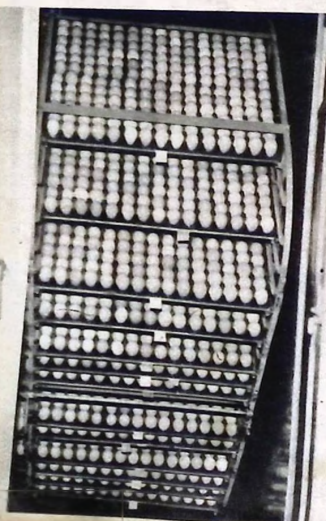
Mitchell Farms came into existence in 1962 as the first established poultry processing industry in the country. The industry, which is one of the Ibru Organisation's poultry concerns, operates, in the main, on a consultancy basis, with experimental farms.

The company has imparted to the Nigerian poultry farmers the technical knowhow involved in modern poultry farming, and the standards obtained equal others elsewhere in the world.

That, by good hatchery management, they count their chicks before they are hatched is a great feat indeed!

The Food and Commodities

PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 31





PEOPLE LOVE BEETLES



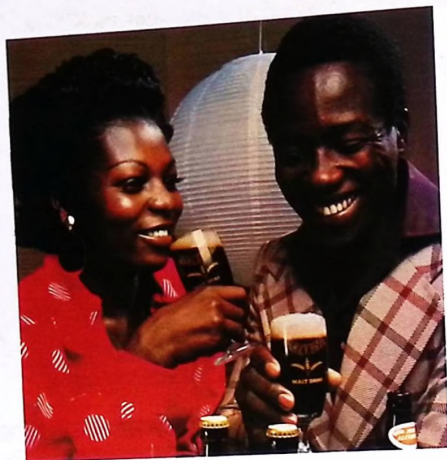
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FISHING AND LIVESTOCK SPECIAL

IBRU plays a major role

CONTINUED

Production Group Ltd. (Mitchell Farms) produces dressed chickens, eggs and day-old chicks at Iju Road, Agege.

Although the fishing industry constitutes the bedrock of the Ibru Organisation, it has expanded beyond the frontiers of boats, nets and hooks. IBRU, "the fish people" as they are popularly known, are no longer confining themselves to the waves. They are now diversifying into different sectors of the economy.

"IBRU is a big fish in a big pond," said an article in an issue of a foreign magazine some time ago. The article continued: "Chief Mike Ibru, the humble fisherman, symbol of a new breed Nigerian, and the Ibru Group, still remain the big fish in the big pond. Like the Ford who is America's big fish, Ibru is Nigeria's — and it seems so for a long time to come."

PLEASE TURN OVER



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FISHING AND LIVESTOCK SPECIAL

Keeping poultry in the yard

BY
FEMI
OYAWALE

MORE and more people are cutting down on their expenses these days as inflation bites harder everywhere. Food costs are not spared, and yet a good, balanced diet is imperative if body and soul are to be kept firmly together.

The body needs the right amount of such substances as protein, energy, fat, minerals (iron, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sodium and sulphur) and vitamins A, B, D, E — all of which are found in a hen's egg.

Which is why the hobby of poultry-keeping is fast catching on everywhere.

In order to derive maximum advantage from poultry-keeping, however, it is necessary to master the right way to it. Full mastery will not only yield a regular supply of fresh eggs and meat for the family's dinner table, but will also raise extra cash in addition to the personal satisfaction of making something out of nothing, as it were.

First it is pertinent to point out that keeping any livestock does demand an amount of daily attention which sufficient interest will naturally generate. The Operation Feed the

Nation campaign by the Federal Military Government urges everyone to do a bit of farming and livestock-keeping, but land is a constraint to many people.

Happily enough, a little space in the backyard, a comparatively small outlay and a few minutes every day is all it takes to keep poultry.

FEEDS

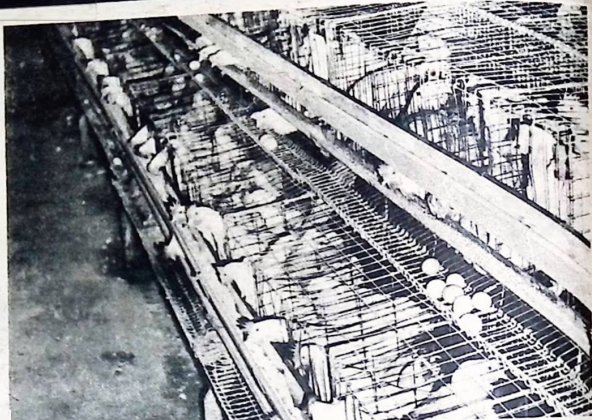
Flocks do not have to roam the compound and mess up everywhere with litter, as battery cages provide the ideal permanent housing.

These cages contain between six and 24 hens, with each one having 2,787 square centimetres (3 square feet) of space.

The unit also contains separate space for eggs, feeds, water, perching, and artificial lighting. It is, therefore, possible to keep about 24 hens in roughly 4 x 1.8 metres (about 12 x 6 feet) of land. Good cages of wire mesh are roofed, and guarantee healthy hens and clean eggs. Droppings fall down through the wire and can be turned into compost for gardening purposes.

It is important to note that hens lay the highest number of eggs when they are 20 to 40 weeks old. After 40 weeks there is a decline in daily egg output. Good breeds produce an average of 21 — 24 dozen eggs in a year, which is quite rewarding.

There is a wide variety of poultry breeds, but the best bet



COMMERCIAL layers in their cages.

is to obtain a hybrid strain of layer which has been proved to be highly productive. Although there are no nutritional differences between brown and white eggs, most people prefer brown to white because they are usually bigger. Also, brown egg layers are heavier and more delicious at the end of their productive period. The White Leghorn (white egg layers) and the Rhode Island Red (brown layers) have been found to be highly productive breeds.

For egg production purposes and quick turnover, it is not advisable to buy day-old chicks or six to 12 weeks old Point-of-lay hens, that is 18 — 20 weeks old, commonly referred to as POL, are the answer, as they start laying eggs within a few weeks of purchase.

It is important to note that hens lay the highest number of eggs when they are 20 to 40 weeks old. After 40 weeks there is a decline in daily egg output. Good breeds produce an average of 21 — 24 dozen eggs in a year, which is quite rewarding.

BATTERY CAGES

Adequate feeding is essential to good egg production and, therefore, good quality feeds should be bought, preferably in quantity, from recognised manufacturers and dealers. Good feeds contain the right proportion of energy, protein, vitamins and minerals. Feeds of coarse, dry, powdered meal and clean water must be available round the clock, as layers feed in small quantities 24 hours a day. Hens deprived of water for long periods automatically react by ceasing to lay!

Although healthy birds bought from reputable breeders rarely suffer from ailments and diseases, infections should not be ruled out. Hens also die of reproductive system disorders. Layers have a habit of bullying and pecking sick birds, and hens should be removed if there are signs of illness such as sleepiness or drowsiness.

Those which fail to respond to careful nurturing in isolated cages or compartments should not be eaten or sold, but killed and buried or burnt.

DISEASES

If two or more hens fall ill, it is wise to call in a vet for diagnosis and treatment. A killer disease is called fowl pest, against which a flock should be protected by vaccination when a few weeks old, and when layers are kept for over a year. Vaccine can be given in drinking water. Infectious bronchitis should also be prevented by vaccination.

There are several other common disorders that could afflict a flock, ranging from prolapse (protrusion of internal organs), egg peritonitis (solidified yolk accumulating in the body cavity instead of entering the oviduct), nerve

should be called in whenever necessary. A good policy is to suspect disease whenever hens do not feed well, do not produce eggs regularly, or when they are huddled in their cages.

EGGS

Healthy and well-fed hens start laying when they are about 20 weeks old, and can lay up to 20 dozen eggs in 12 months. Some are capable of laying eggs for upwards of five years, but then it is uneatable if the much higher costs of feeding justifies long periods of poultry output. It is best to keep layers for two years, after which they can be sold or killed for meat.

Eggs are necessarily small in size when layers first start producing, but they become much bigger later.

It is advisable to remove eggs from nests as soon as they are laid in order to encourage hens to lay more. Poultry keepers using battery cages can make once a day collection rounds. Dirty eggs should be dry cleaned quickly with small face cloths, while very dirty ones should be left to cool before being washed with warm water and detergent.

Eggs should be properly stored so that they do not go bad. They should not be kept longer than six weeks.

To show the high nutritional value of eggs, it is interesting to note that a hen's egg contains 13 per cent of protein, 9 per cent fat, 75 — 95 calories for energy and a balanced proportion of minerals — calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, phosphorus, sulphur and iron. It also contains all the vital vitamins.

Eggs are, therefore, essential to healthy living, and especially for the growth of young children. Which is why it is good



FISHING AND LIVESTOCK SPECIAL

NIGERIA is a nation of farmers. Over 75 per cent of the working population engaged in agriculture which, before the discovery of oil, was the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, accounting for about 2 per cent of the country's exports.

Because of the exhaustible nature of oil, great importance is still attached to agriculture, and this is evident in official efforts to boost it in every facet.

Farming in Nigeria, compared to, say, Canada or Australia, is largely peasant. The farmer cultivates an area between two to five acres which is usually divided into several plots. Such elementary implements as hand hoes and



Life on the farm is becoming cosmopolitan as farmers now tend to live in villages and small towns where schools, hospitals, good roads, community centres and other amenities are

only his surplus food crops. He also does some animal husbandry, keeping fowls, goats, sheep and sometimes pigs.

Farming for cash is not widespread, but Nigeria grows such

of the arable land is being cultivated, and it is paradoxical that the country does not grow enough food to feed its teeming millions. Prices of foodstuffs have risen so astronomically in

DEMAND for beef rises daily. More effort is needed in the raising of cattle.

crops, livestock, forestry and fishery, and progress so far is impressive.

Attention has been focussed on improving farmers' capacity to produce more food through a package of measures including relatively cheap credit, provision of improved seeds, fertilisers and agro-chemicals, good storage and better marketing facilities, good prices for farm products and machinery hiring services.

OFN

Not long ago the Government launched Operation Feed the Nation in a blaze of pub-

SURVEY OF AGRICULTURE

illages are used, and he interplants yams, maize, cassava, pinea corn, rice, beans, peas, pepper, onion, vegetables and nuts.

The richer farmer cultivates rubber, cocoa, coffee, kolanut, okonut, orange, plantain and banana plantations. The farmer and his family live permanently on the farm, going into nearby towns only at Christmas, Easter or during important local and other religious festivals.

becoming increasingly available. Rather than move away from their farm houses, farmers cultivate fresh farms in the forest some kilometres away and still return to base. They farm for periods of three to five years on a site, and then leave it to lie fallow for a couple of years for fertilisation.

SUBSISTENCE

The average Nigerian farmer works for subsistence, selling

cash crops as cocoa, groundnuts, oil palm produce, rubber, benniseed, coffee, timber, cotton and sugar-cane, which form our second major exports.

These are grown mainly on large estates by rich individual farmers and farmers' co-operatives. Relatively new crops like cashew nuts and tobacco are being cultivated on a fairly large scale too.

Although Nigeria has a vast acreage of fertile land, only half

the past few years that some food items have had to be imported. Which is why the Federal Government has made bold plans to feed the populace and chart the course of a "Green Revolution" aimed at guaranteeing a buoyant economy.

Government earmarked over two billion naira to agriculture during the 1975-80 National Development Plan to cater for all-round developments in

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WOMAN'S ANGLE

Add flavour to your marriage...

SAYS BIOLA FAPETU



HOW long is it since you said or did anything nice to your partner? I think certain things can make some people happy, no matter how insignificant they seem. For instance, from time to time you can tell your wife you love her. Usually it is women who are more sentimental.

So to make us happy, our men can try these: Pamper your wife by telling her you love her as often as possible. Try cooking her something — just anything you know how to cook. Even when she is all muddled in the kitchen, and baby has just spilt milk on her dress, or she has sticky fingers or soot on the tip of her nose, tell her she is beautiful. When she looks troubled, ask her what's wrong and listen to her.

Occasionally, try to make her laugh. And another very important thing, try to remember some of the dates that matter to her. I have noticed one thing, and that is the fact that when you go to certain shops you will find a card's section with cards reading "To my dear wife on her birthday," or "To my wife

on our anniversary". Which simply means men don't usually remember!

So to make your wife happy, try to remember when it is her birthday, or when her parents are visiting, and remember when it is your wedding anniversary.

Put up that shelf she's been asking for. Tell her women are meant to be her shape. Massage her shoulders and feet for her. Notice when she's had her hair done, and take her flowers from time to time. Leave silly notes in unexpected places. I'm sure a quick tonic will make the sun shine again in your life.

There are lots of things women can do to make the home brighter too. Like telling your man you love him. When he comes back from work, meet him at the door with a kiss. Find his other green socks! If he has a cold, remember to tell him his are rare, and eat the first sneeze urge him to bed, and tip toe away to give him a light meal.

Bring it to him on a tray with a box of tissues, the newspaper, aspirin and a

novel.

Tell him you want the children to grow up to be just like him.

In front of his male friends, hint at his abandoned sensuality. Flattery will get you everywhere! Cook him his favourite meal and suggest you play his favourite music. Sew on those shirt buttons. If his parting is getting wider, mention how much more virile bald men are supposed to be!

Let him catch you reading old love letters of his, and occasionally help him polish his shoes. Tickle and seduce him from time to time.

I think these things are necessary, because when some people consider the problems one encounters in marriage they tend to back away from it. One thing I know

there is no perfect relationship. You can't be happy for the whole of your life; neither should you be sad for the whole of your life.

I believe there is no relationship without its pitfalls. One only has to learn how to cope. Even without telling anyone, it is not

respectable for a woman to stay single for long without good reason. And for anyone to stay single for the fun of it is usually frowned upon. You may argue women's lib, but I don't think women's lib is liberty for nonsense. I still believe marriage is noble, and with determination anyone should be able to manage it.

I had a discussion with a young man in a taxi some time ago. He was wondering why women run away from marriage. According to him, it's nice to have somebody to share things with, and if you face marriage with the right attitude you are bound to make headway.

The man told me that he had been married for three years, and his wife was expecting their second child. To him, it seemed he was married only yesterday.

For a man to tell a stranger such a thing, he must feel contented. He said that it is not unusual for a man to be "diverted" once in a while but they normally went back home. One thing I was happy to hear from him was that when a woman is determined to be straight she stays that way.

It is evident that marriage involves staying together, but how can you stay together day in day out without feeling stifled?

A partner in a happy relationship feels confirmed as a loving, worthwhile and valued person. As a couple, we strive for the ideal of two thinking, self-reliant and clear-headed people, sharing a life contribution by each person's contribution. We want to believe we are two independent people forming an inter-dependent unit. But alongside this hope is a fear — a fear that the other person will siphon off our life energies and stifle our nature. So how do we do it...

The only time a mutual relationship can cause us to lose our individuality is when we blame our partners for our own internal prohibitions, that is, when we begin to believe our partners could make us feel more confident as lovers, parents, or social beings, but instead refuse to give us this confidence. Once that mistake has been made, we feel trapped and controlled by our partners. In other words, the fears underlying our particular lack of confidence tempt us to believe that only a special loved one is able to remedy our inadequacy.

All of us occasionally feel inadequate in some areas of our life. "I have no talent," or "I'm not strong enough, loving enough, smart enough," feminine enough" are typical feelings we all share. These feelings of self-doubt are what can be termed internal prohibitions.

We are divided against ourselves and are afraid to acknowledge our capacities and talents. Having lived together is not a reliable guide to future behaviour, because that kind of life has differing effects on people. It makes some of us miserable.

We can't enjoy the relationship, even when it's good, because we are worrying about when and how it will end. We are afraid to put much into it, for fear we'll end up with nothing. On the other hand, the same situation allows others to enjoy the relationship fully, for there is an easy escape route.

The partner who is most pained by the impermanence is more likely to flourish in marriage. If, however, we can make up our minds and sort things out constructively without being imposed on, we are likely to end up not being stifled.

PEN PALS



David Munkie, Box 743, Mt. Abu, Uganda, wants pen pals from all over the world. Interests: general. Age 19.



Awanji Wa Koon, Box 1000, Kampala, Uganda, wants pen pals from all over the world. Interests: general. Age 18.



Mervyn Myles, Box 10171, Mombasa, Kenya, wants pen pals from all over the world. Interests: general. Age 17.



Tom Abasi, Box 611, Karlsruhe, Germany, wants pen pals from USA, UK, W. Germany. Interests: general. Age 19.



Joseph Ombaksha, Box 46, Nairobi, Kenya, wants pen pals from Britain. Interests: general. Age 16.



Jarkko Anne, Box 325, Lammi, Kenya, wants pen pals from everywhere. General. Age 24.



Steven Samson, At-Envy, ETC, Rt 3, Sec 10, Box 300, Abu Dhabi, UAE, wants pen pals from all parts of the world.



Olenka Guma Osman, Box 9113, Nairobi, Kenya, wants pen pals from Japan, USA, Nigeria. Interests: general.



Henry Kungu, Box 30, Mombasa, Kenya, wants pen pals from all over the world. Interests: general.



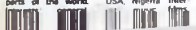
Michael O. Olorun, S/G.M.D. Box 162, Karamoja, Kenya, wants pen pals from all over the world.



Stephen M. Mvondo, Box 57091, Mombasa, Kenya, wants pen pals from all over the world. Interests: general.



Jovana B. Vuoght, Box 24, Rivers State, Nigeria, wants pen pals from everywhere.



ANY a time I have come across people with problems. So have we all. We have tried to listen or help solve whatever their worries were, even though we have our (ing deep into us. One time or the other we have been faced with the problem of a gradually falling home or love affair. We tend to thank our lucky stars after listening to the more adding experiences of our friends.

I spent the last Christmas holidays with a couple of friends. I noticed that one of them was always edgy when my man talked or asked a question. I didn't know what reason she had for putting on such an unfriendly attitude, considering her usual jovial and welcoming attitude, even to strangers. I questioned her, and she recalled her sad experience with a man she had known at a very tender age.

"Don't blow your top! I know you will say it's immoral for a young girl to have a husband, but do you realise there is still a Nigerian custom which permits that? If you don't know, then you are not a fully fledged Nigerian," she said.

"My first boyfriend, who was supposed to be my husband, seemed the nicest man on earth until a few days before our marriage I called on him to finalise arrangements, and found him in the arms of another girl. I couldn't believe it, but I received the most killing blow when some other girls grouped in as if a beauty contest was going on.

"His parents talked to him about his attitude, and he seemed to be good. But I made up my mind I wouldn't go back to him.

I felt pity for her and considering her age now although she is much younger than most of you out there! I advised her not to be so aggressive to all men just because of what one stupid son of a fun did come to her. Life, they say, must go on.

Bola's story was pathetic too. She had known Tunji from when she was in the third form at school. They had all along nursed the hope that one day they would be together, "never apart". Then came the blow. Tunji had been with his new girlfriend for dinner, and had asked to go to the campus, as he was in his final year at university, to get things from his dorm, she said.

I innocently agreed to his request and waited anxiously for him to return, but that was the first I saw of him. News had it that he had connived with a fake doctor to commit an abortion on his girlfriend of his, and she had asked as a result. In short, he was a serious trouble. I still believe that it was the shame and scandal that drove him out of my life. I still love him, though."

The pity of it all is that this

WHEN YOUR LOVE TURNS SOUR!

by **OMONE AUDA**

extends to married women. For one reason or another marriages have ground to a halt.

Do you need to be reminded of the word "divorce," even though it strikes panic into many of our weak minds? Some men say "What do I care if my wife wants a divorce?" But heed this, they care a lot by knocking at odd hours on their in-laws' door, pleading for family intervention.

I sometimes wish I could give these men a proper thrashing before handing them back to their wives. Don't you think some men deserve it?

Now, back to the main point. The burden of a soured love is one that can be really heavy for married people. First, there is the question of children and their welfare. In cases where there are no children, there is the problem of fitting into society again without being embarrassed by accusing fingers and rumours.

Recently I was the guest of a divorced lady whose only son is an undergraduate at university in the United States. She had this to say of her broken marriage. "I don't really feel too bad about being divorced, it was because it came when it was necessary." Moreover, with Cleve around I feel like any other woman whose main ambition in life is to have a child to look up to. I have my Masters Degree, and a lot of plans crept up between my leisure time. These afford me more

Although Cleve used to ask questions about his father, I had to let him into the secret - and now he understands.

I weighed these words of an enlightened woman who is boss to some men in her department and asked a last question. Did she hope to get married again? She replied bluntly: "If it means getting in and out of it again, count me out. But it would be welcome if my kind of man comes along."

I share the same view as her, and to many who have asked for my opinion on their love affairs I say frankly that marriage should be based on love - and I don't mean the kind of "love for sale" on the market these days. Love should not be bought, it must take its natural course. It should not be like an electric switch which you turn on and off at will.

If you're sure your love for your partner is sincere, and you feel he or she is good for you, then you are on your way to having a really sweet love. Remember, that partner of yours should be someone you feel pretty good and free with. Remember, honey is sweet - but getting it is not easy work.

There has to be mutual co-ordination and co-operation from both parties concerned in a love deal.

It is bad to be pessimistic about ever getting on with a partner. You may not know it, but your own preconceived ideas may be responsible for your own unstable affairs. So



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