

**INTERNET POSITIVES
INTERNATIONAL**



**INTERNET
EVANGELISM
AFRICA SPECIAL
REPORT**

THE CHURCH, THE INTERNET AND SOUL WINNING



**Oluwasesan Johnson, The President, Internet Positives International
And
Coordinator, Institute of Internet Evangelism (Internet Christian Center,
Akobo, Ibadan, Nigeria)**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. Will Apostle Use The Internet? (A Great Question That Must Be Answered By All African & Nigerian Churches)
- II. Introduction To Internet Evangelism (IIE-IE 101)
- III. African Youths & Internet Tools (IIE-IE102)
- IV. Preparing For Internet Evangelism (IIE-IE 103)
 - 1: Spiritual Preparation
 - 2: Internet Training
- V. Note of Warning
- VI. Updates
- VII. Internet Evangelism Book & Resource Center
- VIII. About ‘The Internet Positives International’
- IX. Partnership/Collaboration

WILL APOSTLE PAUL USE THE INTERNET?

**- A Great Question That Must
Answered By All African and
Nigeria Churches**

Some would say that we should abandon the Internet because it is used for evil purposes but I'd like to suggest to you that we really couldn't do that. I believe the Internet presents the church with a historic opportunity.

Frank Johnson a licensed minister with the Northern California and Nevada District Council of the Assemblies of God who manages www.strategicdigitaloutreach.com, a website dedicated to exploring ways in which today's technology can be used to spread the gospel around the world gave us a look at the church history. He said the first-century church often used a particular strategy to spread the gospel.

That strategy took advantage of the circumstances and technology of the day. The Roman Empire had built a series of roads to enable them to quickly deploy their armies throughout the empire. Greek had become the common language throughout the empire.



The widespread use of writing had become the cutting-edge technology of the day. The church's strategy, then, was to use all those things to spread the gospel. Then the apostles employed written communication in the form of letters or epistles to encourage and teach existing believers. These letters were delivered to churches via the Roman system of roads.

The church had made use of various technological discoveries like the printing press, the telegraph, airplanes, telephones, television, video tapes, CDs, DVDs etc. and today; the church is faced with a similar historic opportunity. The cutting-edge technology of today, the Internet provides us with the means of communication to reach the entire world.

All mediums are not the same. Television is not just radio with pictures. Print is not just speech written down.

Continue on page 04

So too the Internet should not be seen as just another way of delivering tracts or sermons. It is a revolutionary medium, which can be used for evangelism if we understand its unique dynamic and strategies.

The Internet is a powerful and God-given medium to help us fulfill the Great Commission. Even its name reflects the nature of the fishing net which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13:47 and elsewhere.

Professor B Brasher, the author of 'Give me that Online Religion' says "Using a computer for online religious activity... could become the dominant form of religion and religious experience in the next century."

The Internet is cutting across Africa at large is cutting across every areas/spheres of life, be it education, religion, military, politics, governance, employment, research and what have you. Not only the youths are using the Internet, its usability cuts across all age groups, social status etc.

Africans are using the mobile phones to access the Internet. Africa had an estimated 192.5 million mobile phone users in 2006, up from just 25.3 million in 2001, according to figures from the U.N.'s International Telecommunication Union.

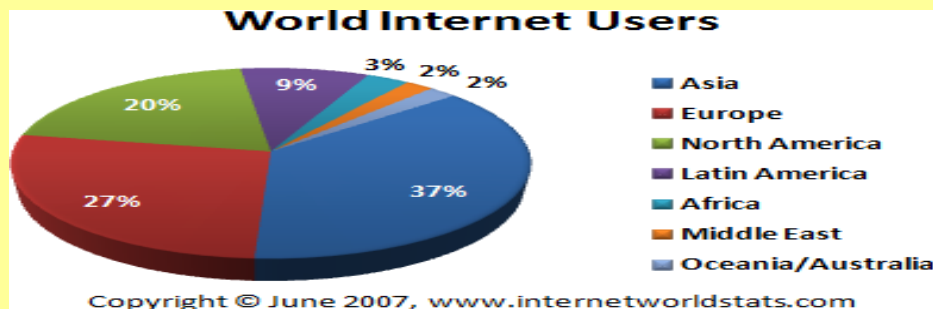
God is doing something big, and we had best be clearheaded about what is going on around us. The church is in the information business, and we should not be surprised that God has raised up information technology to communicate His Word to the entire world. Christians again must travel the network, only this time it is electronic. This time it is the information superhighway

Apostle Paul in his sojourn on earth was fully involved in writing and traveling ministries, I hope you will agree with me that Apostle Paul would have made use of the internet if it was available in his time; do you know why I think so? Apostle made use of the cutting edge technology of his time. Therefore Christians of this generation cannot ignore this great technology that God has given us to achieve the Great Commission.



Since an increasing percentage of the world's population is "on" the internet and is using it for more and more of their communication, does it not make sense that it is becoming increasingly true that the church must have a "presence" throughout the internet? And having a "presence" throughout the Internet involves a lot more than putting up a website. A website is only one facet of a well-rounded Christian approach to the online world. Having a "presence" through the internet involves Christians spending time in chat rooms, on message boards, using chat room, participating on email communication strategy, blogging, webcasting, podcasting etc. Progress in information technology is exponential. Missions via the Internet has already begun

Friend, for you to read this far, you may have a passion for spreading the gospel through the net. Please, find a cool place to sit for full concentration and follow me through this e-magazine.



INTRODUCTION To INTERNET EVANGELISM (IIE-IE 101)



Simply the Internet is regarded as the network of computers around the globe providing information to users regardless of their location on global village. The Internet has been described as an incredible new technology that enables the transmission of text, pictures, video, music etc on a worldwide basis. It rapidly reduces production and distribution costs and for the first time allows large numbers of people to access text, pictures and videos in their own homes and offices.

According to Web Evangelism Guide (<http://guide.gospelcom.net>) the stages of the Internet are:

- Pre-1993 – Bulletin boards, email
- 1994-1997 Early HTML
- 1997-2002 HTML plus widgets
- 2002 - 2005 Web 2.0
- 2005 – 2007 Death of Web 2.0, emergence of the media driven web
- 2007 -2010 - The mobile Internet & the developing world Internet

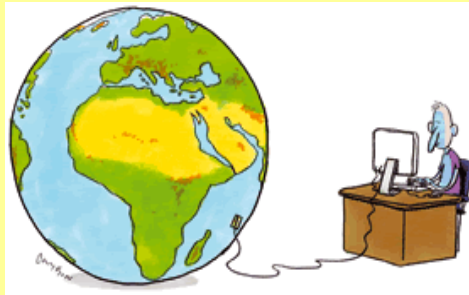
The Internet can also be described as a place where people come to search for information, buy, sell, seek for spiritual helps, make enquiry, do their thinking and make contributions.

Although the Internet first grew in United State America and northern Europe, it is now no longer a toy for the rich West. Users in China are expected to reach several hundreds of million soon. In Nigeria, the use of the Internet is increasing at a very alarming rate.

The usage of the Internet in Nigeria and Africa generally, cuts across every areas/spheres of life, be it education, religion, military, politics, governance, employment, research and so on. Not only the youth are using the Internet, its usability cuts across all age groups, social status etc. (I want you to keep in mind that statistics concerning the internet are out-of-date the moment they are released; therefore it may be difficult to give an accurate statistics but the fact remains that it is increasing at an alarming rate every day).

Print, video, radio and TV are mainly 'push' mediums. They communicate by sending out consecutive prepared messages. The Internet is however a 'pull' medium. It pulls in visitors. The Internet surfers/browsers usually go only to pages on subjects they are searching for. And of course, the incredible advantage of the Internet is that it is global: anyone, anywhere can find a page in seconds.

The other unique property of the Internet is 'interactivity'. Not only are users in control of which pages to visit, they can also send feedback. They can easily ask questions, receive help and advice, leave comments in a guestbook, or discuss issues on a Bulletin board or an email discussion group. This option to build 'community' around a website (that is available on the Internet) is very important. It helps people feel wanted and that their opinions are valued. It gives them a place where they can ask questions in a safe way, when perhaps they would not do that face-to-face.



Just as said earlier in this special report, all mediums are not the same. TV is not just radio with pictures. Print is not just speech written down. So too the Internet/web should not be seen as just another way of delivering tracts or sermons. It is a revolutionary medium, which can be used for evangelism if we understand its unique dynamic and strategies.

The Internet is a powerful and God-given medium to help us fulfill the Great Commission. Even its name reflects the nature of the fishing net which Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13:47

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish"

AFRICAN YOUTHS & INTERNET TOOLS **(IIE-IE 102)**

In fact to make positive impacts Christians or Christian ministries can make use of the following Internet tools to spread the gospel of Lord, Jesus Christ on the Internet. These tools are endless....in fact more tools are being developed or discovered day by day.

I urge brethren and Christian leaders in Nigeria and Africa at large to explore these e-tools of the Internet. Most of them if properly used could be used to effectively spread the gospel of our Lord, Jesus.

Most of these e-tools are use by our teeming youths but most of the time they are used to commit atrocities and anomalies on the Internet. However, if the Christians and church leaders in Nigeria and other African countries can learn how to use these tools and also begin to teach the youths of our dearly countries on how to use them positively to add values to their lives and the societies at large then our Nations will be better for it.

We all know that because of some activities of our few youths on the Internet our Nation (and the continent) had been labeled the bad eggs on the Internet.

It's a known fact that the Internet can be used to do genuine and legal business and to make genuine income. As a person, I make my income by doing my businesses via the Internet and you can please, if you don't mind, ask Pastor Sunny Ojeagbese of Success Digest Extra, Lagos, Nigeria.

e-Tools

- Website
- Blogs/Weblog
- e-newsletters/e-zines
- Digttract
- Podcast (audio/video)
- Webcast (audio/video)
- Internet radio/TV
- Email
- Chat room
- Newsgroup
- YouTube
- Facebooks
- Wiki/RSS
- Forum/discussion platform
- Godtube
- Etc.



How to use some of these e-tools will be dealt with in some of the subsequent editions of this e-magazine, however, in the main time you can visit [INTERNET POSITIVES INT'L'S BLOG](#) or [WEB EVANGELISM GUIDE](#) to learn more.

PREPARING FOR INTERNET EVANGELISM **(IIE-IE 103)**

The Internet context requires culturally trained and intentional evangelists. Christians should learn as much about the people and groups online as possible. Christians need to remove hindrances that prevent people from hearing the gospel and meeting Jesus. It is our responsibility to cross barriers to bring people to Jesus. We too often expect the lost person to cross every barrier.

I personally believe almost everybody, if not all, can be involved in Internet evangelism. As you are reading this book, and you feel GOD is calling you into this, please, there is a great need for you to prepare very well. Remember, if you fail to plan, you are planning to fail. The points highlighted below describes some of the ways you can get prepared for effective Internet Christian Ministries.



1. Spiritual Preparation.

To be effective in spreading the good news through the Internet, each person:

- **Must Be Connected To GOD.**

Any Christian going into Internet evangelism or Internet Christian Ministry must have a personal relationship with Jesus. (Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.")

He/She must be a true worshiper. He/She must always have daily personal and corporate worship that includes adoration, confession, thanksgiving and supplication. (Heb 10:25, ". . . not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.")

- **Must Be Prayerful.**

The person must be give himself/herself to a life of prayer. Jesus said we must pray without ceasing. He/she can belong to a prayer group and have others committed to pray for him/her while on the Internet (1 Thess. 5:17, "Pray unceasingly.")

By praying you are asking GOD to come and take full control. Just like any other form of evangelism, it is the Holy Spirit that will touch the people and bring them into repentance. You must always rely on 'The Creator' in the power of The Holy Spirit.

We cannot do anything on our own. Salvation is not by work; it is by the grace of GOD. A Christian in Internet evangelism must not rely on his/her intellect and ability. Remember Zech 4:6

"Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit says the Lord."

2. Internet Training.

To really be effective, there is a great need to seek for more knowledge about how you can evangelize on the Internet. It is entirely a new ball game. It requires new skills, dedication and commitment. Although, you do not need to be an Information Communication Technology expert before you can be an effective Internet evangelist. Yet, you must learn to understand the etiquette and cultures of the Internet.

The kind of basic training required for effective Internet evangelism can be provided by individuals or organizations like Internet Positives International or get trained online by visiting some of the websites and blogs that listed at the Resource Center page of this e-magazine.



NOTE OF WARNING & CAUTION

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish" - Matt 13:47



"And then he told them, "You are to go into the entire world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere" - Mark 16:15



**"Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"
- Matt 28:19**

We are to act to act on the commands of our Lord, Jesus Christ. In fact we are to act very fast because the rates at which the devil and its cohorts are perpetrating evil on the earth is very alarming. The numbers of negative things being posted on the Internet is exponentially greater than that of positive (or Godly) things. Internet users have the tendency of viewing more ungodly sites than godly sites and to say the truth, Christians and Church leaders are not left out. What made this possible is that the numbers of good (Godly or gospel evangelism) sites are very minute.



Nigerian and African Churches Must Arise



It's not an overstatement to say that most African churches has been sleeping and snoring as far as Internet evangelism is concern. The churches in Nigeria and Africa must arise this time. If the church must make a difference at this time, we have to arise. A church that is lying down, sleeping and snoring can not rescue the world from the prevalent darkness. The end-time church is an **ARISING CHURCH**.



There's a great need for Christians and church leaders in Nigeria and Africa in general to cultivate the attitude of making effective use of the Internet to accomplish the great commission as commanded and established in Matthew 28:19 and Mark 16:15 by our Saviour, Jesus. The Internet will help us reach the un-reached people and 'un-churched' people.

In Nigeria, Africa and the world at large, we have seen and witnessed how millions of people have been converted to follow Jesus by listening to Christian programs on the Television, Radio, CD, VCD, DVD, ipod, MP3, & Tapes and just by reading Christian publications in literary works, newspapers, newsletters, magazines and the likes. The Internet had also been used to achieve the same purpose, however, its use for evangelism in Nigeria and Africa at large is not encouraging at all.

"Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish"
- Matt 13:47

Devil and its cohorts are seriously making use of the Internet to destroy the souls of our youths. Many of our teeming youths are into lots of anomalies like pornography, same sex, internet frauds, and a host of others. Most of these youths get involved in these acts via the Internet, for your information, Church goers are sometimes involved. We can not say because of these acts (taking place on the Internet) we should stop the use of the Internet in Africa (or in the world), however, what we need to do as Christians is to storm the Internet with the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We need to collaborate and partner together to go to the net reaching out to all the people of the earth.



The wicked ones are trading with their souls. The main aim of the devil is to lure them into hell. Please, read below and see what Revelation 18:9-13 (NKJ) says.



"The kings of the earth who committed fornication and lived luxuriously with her will weep and lament for her, when they see the smoke of her burning"

"standing at a distance for fear of her torment, saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! For in one hour your judgment has come"

"And the merchants of the earth will weep and mourn over her, for no one buys their merchandise anymore"

"merchandise of gold and silver, precious stones and pearls, fine linen and purple, silk and scarlet, every kind of citron wood, every kind of object of ivory, every kind of object of most precious wood, bronze, iron, and marble;

"and cinnamon and incense, fragrant oil and frankincense, wine and oil, fine flour and wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, AND BODIES AND SOULS OF MEN" (Emphasis mine)

Brethren, this is what will happen to satan when we preach the gospel to all the people of all Nations and snatch back their souls from the kingdom of the dark and take them to the kingdom of God. So, I urge all Christians and Christian leaders in Nigeria and Africa to take up the challenge of making effective use of the Internet to spread the gospel.

John 15:16(NKJ)

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

The Lord had chosen us to bear fruits –abiding fruits- for him. Winning souls for Christ is the highest degree of fruitfulness a Christian can possess. God does not like a life that is not bearing fruits, let's go out on the Internet and present the good-news to the dying souls. It's not the will of God for them to perish but He wants all to have everlasting lives. Do the good work, many souls are being enlisted into hell every minutes and seconds, try it, do it, it is possible to use the Internet to wins souls, even the ardent critics of the gospel of our Lord, Jesus. Remember, someone preach to you before you came into the knowledge of the mysteries of our Lord, Jesus....you too need to preach to others.

I know the use of the Internet for evangelism can not take the role of the local church and her members going out to face the non believers, however the Internet can be used to compliments the efforts of the local church.

**“and then he told them, "You are to go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, EVERYWHERE (plus on the Internet” (Emphasis mine).
- Mark 16:15 (TLB)**

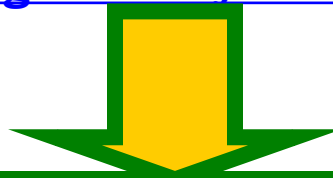
Let's get trained, let's get involved. It's not a Christian exercise for only Pastors, Evangelists, Apostles, Bishops, and church leaders. All Christians must do it. We can all use it to spread the gospel and win souls for Christ, remember the Bible says 'he that wins souls is a wise man'

***"Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle."
- (Psalm 144:1) NIV***

UP-COMING EVENT

Internet Evangelism Day

www.internetevangelismday.com/planning.php



The last Sunday of each April has been designated *Internet Evangelism Day*. This is offered as a focus day in your church or Christian organization. It enables you to showcase to your members the potential of the Web for effective evangelism.

We encourage churches and other Christian groups to consider the possibility of adding a special web outreach focus to their programs on or around this date. (Of course, if this date does not suit your schedule, you can choose an alternate date at any time that is convenient.) You might even wish to make all of April 'Internet Evangelism Month' with a range of activities during the period. We encourage churches and other Christian groups to build a short 'web evangelism awareness' program about within services or other activities.

This focus day material is designed particularly for individual churches. However, we also encourage other Christian groups and organizations to hold an *Internet Evangelism Day*.

Christians, Churches and Christian organizations in Africa are encourage to mark the Internet Evangelism Day this year, which is expected to take place last Sunday of April 2009. Details of how to go about this can be found

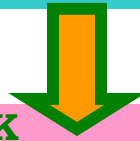
@

<http://www.internetevangelismday.com/>

Internet Evangelism Book & Resource Center

Internet Positives International is glad to present to the public a book on Internet Evangelism. It's a book that highlights some of the ways to effectively go about spreading the good news through the net. The book will be published first quarter of the year 2009. You will be fully informed of how and where you can get the book immediately it is published.

Excerpt from the book



ABOUT THE BOOK

This is not some 1000-page book excerpt with a lot of stuff that takes forever to read. It is very brief and clear. It is short and to the point and lets you know exactly what you need to do to reach around the world with the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

- Would you like to invite more people in your town, city, and nation to your church?
- Would you like to reach around the world and help people come to know Christ better?
- Have you been called or feeling the urge to be an Internet evangelist?
- Do you have Internet connection or have access to the net and want to know how to maximize its uses by using it for GOD?
- Are you an old man/woman but still want to be involved in evangelism?
- Are you a busy Christian professional and (out of tight schedule) you are looking for ways to spread the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ? Remember, even with your black berry and laptop you can reach millions of people for Christ.
- Are you a youth and you want to be useful for Christ? There are billions of youths on the Internet every single day looking for spiritual and religious information. Remember to be youthful is to be useful for GOD.
- Do you want to join in the fight against the various atrocities and anomalies (pornography, 'yahoo-yahoo' business, same sex etc) being perpetrated and spread on the Internet?

'Christians, The Internet And Evangelism' is the book that will tell you how to tap into the power of the Internet and use it for God's glory.

With the help of this book, you can learn how to reach the world For Christ via the Internet. A professional with over seven years passionate Internet Evangelism experience walks you through the process and clears up the fog for you by showing you how to do it effectively. His blog is number two on www.google.com and www.yahoo.com, when you search for the key words: 'Internet Evangelism in Nigeria and Africa'. If you had a powerful tool in your hands that could actually reach the world for Christ, would you not like to know and understand how it works?

Even if you do not have the time or desire to learn this information, you can buy this book and give it to some IT complaint friends, colleagues, children, staff or members of your ministry who are good with computers and let them begin to spread the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ on the Internet.

RESOURCE CENTER

For further equipping, education and training on Internet evangelism, please, the under-listed websites and blogs are helpful and resourceful.

BLOG ROLL

- www.web-evangelism.com
- <http://guide.gospelcom.net>
- www.visionsynergy.net
- www.powerofconnecting.net
- www.cybermissions.org
- www.strategiedigitaloutreach.com
- www.lausanne.org
- www.amosadeniyi.blogspot.com
- www.billygrahamcenter.org/ise
- <http://us.god.tv/>
- www.blogministry.com
- <http://www.thewordthruthenet.org/>
- www.getzapp.com
- www.tatumweb.com/blog
- www.islameyat.com/hymns/video_clips/video_clips.htm
- www.gobible.jolon.org
- www.GlobalChristianity.net
- www.boyank.com
- www.videochurch.org
- <http://dreamsandvisions.com>
- <http://blog.ourchurch.com>
- www.webevangelism.com
- <http://christianmobiletech.net/>
- www.churchcommunicationspro.com
- www.bebalash.com
- www.churchmarketingcruke.com

**Some of the
websites and
blogs I read**

INTERNET POSITIVES INTERNATIONAL

Internet Positives International is an affiliate of Kings & Priests Christian Ministries and it comprises of two major arms. These are namely:

A. THE INTERNET POSITIVES CENTER

This center is to be equipped with at least 20 laptops, PCs, VSAT, power generating plants, projectors, printers, Air Conditioners and other electronic gadgets.

The center is to be used to train and equip the youths of our society on how to use the computer and the internet and using it to positively affect their lives and the society at large. We will use the center to organize seminars and conferences to equip our youths with skills and information so that they can stop all the anomalies ('yahoo-yahoo' business, pornography, hacking, spamming, etc.) being perpetrated by our teeming youths in Nigeria.

Kings & Priests Christian Ministries is also determined to use the Internet Positive Center to offer Computer Training for the less-privileged youths in our society. By less-privileged, we mean those that cannot afford to go to formal schools because of their poor family background. We will use the center to train them in the use of Information Technology like computer appreciation, internet marketing, web developments, graphics design etc. We will also give certificate to qualified graduate of the center, so as to enable him/her use it for employment in case he or she is not interested in using the IT skills as an entrepreneur.

We are highly determined to offer all these services FREE. We, however, believe GOD will supply the provisions and resources for this noble cause by raising covenant financial partners to provide the necessary funding and equipments for the center. If you are interested in partnering with GOD, please, you can contact us.

**B. INSTITUTE OF INTERNET EVANGELISM
(INTERNET CHRISTIAN CENTER)**

Internet Christian Center (a not-for-profit organization) is passionately determined and committed to Internet Evangelism. God has commissioned us to educate, train, teach, and equip Christians, church leaders and all the body of Christ with skills and information needed to effectively make use of the Internet to spread the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We organize and participate in seminars and conferences with high emphasis on Internet Evangelism.

We also organize training for individuals, pastors, ministries and churches on how to go about effective evangelism on the Internet.



**This is how we want the Internet Positives (Training)
Center to look like**

TO PARTNER WITH THE INTERNET POSITIVES INTERNATIONAL

PARTNERSHIP FORM

*But though I appreciate your gifts, what makes me happiest is the well-earned reward
you will have because of your kindness.*

- Phil 4:17 (TLB)

TITLE:

NAMES:

COMPANY/ORGANISATION/MINISTRIES:

.....

ADDRESS:

GSM NUMBER(S):

EMAIL ADDRESS:

THE THINGS THE CENTER NEEDS INCLUDE:

**CASH-DONATION, LAPTOPS, PCs, VSAT, GENERATING SET,
PROJECTORS, PRINTERS, CAM CODERS, HEAD PHONES/SETS**

COMMENTS

.....

.....

For enquiries, collaboration and partnership:

Web: www.icc.cfsites.org

Blog: www.apostle-smb.blogspot.com

Email: apostlesmb@yahoo.fr

Office: 110 Akobo Ojurin Road, opposite Popo Bus Stop, Akobo Ojurin, Ibadan,
Nigeria.

Phones: +234 (0) 805-507-6378, (02)-8712251

