

Rev. Bitrus Chayi Bagos



Rev. Bitrus Chayi Bagos' home office was the place for the interview. Behind him was a book shelf. The *Africa Study Bible* (ASB) was among the books on the shelf. "In the seminary, we were taught sermon preparation and delivery. Getting illustrations was difficult. Sometimes I searched for illustrations for one or two months," he said.

The availability of ASB is indeed a wonderful resource to him. "It has taken away the burden of hard sermon preparations. I always use it. It is handy. I used five or six books in the past in sermon preparation, but now this Bible has simplified the process for me," he emphasized.

Bagos is a minister with Church of Christ in Nations. He is the leading pastor of COCIN Utan, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. He pastors over three hundred children, and over four hundred adults. He is married to Esther, and they have two boys and a girl.

"The ASB is really, really significant to me in pastoring the Church."

"It has exposed me to what others are thinking and doing. It has broadened my understanding. The examples are happening in our cultures. It widens our scope of understanding the Bible." Bagos did not waste time in mentioning his main area of interest when he was asked. "Explanation is my main area of interest."

He was one of the participants at the Biblical Preaching and Teaching For African Cultures program in Jos, organized by Oasis International LTD, for the pastors of Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN), on 9th November 2017. The training also got his interest. "It was very helpful. It has guided me in understanding. It deals with many things we can understand and topical issues well known to us in Africa."

Bagos identified three main areas of the training that were helpful to him:

1. Simplicity of the Bible.
2. Availability of good examples. "Stories that happened in different African settings," he said.
3. Proverbs for guidance.

"It will be good if the conference is held yearly so that many people could be reached. Other pastors also need to participate."

He thought for a moment for the right metaphor to describe the ASB then he excitedly said, "It is like the sweetest food my wife prepares. It is sweet, lovely, and good. Something you cannot do away with."

"I appreciate Oasis from the depth of my heart for organizing and preparing this. It will go a long way in helping and saving people." He also appreciated the donors who supported the project.