



A LIFE OF PRAISE

...A LOOK AT LIFE IN THE HOUSE OF PRAISE

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In the last edition of Praisereel, we had a look at the story behind the RCCG House of Praise (HOP). In this edition, Praisereel is taking you on a short journey into life at House of Praise.

HOP is a family church, a church completely dedicated to the development of its members and its community. The church on a typical Sunday is a beehive of activities, "church workers" arrive earlier than everyone else to prepare the grounds for the day's services usually before 8.am (when some of us are still struggling to let go of our much anticipated Sunday morning sleep), cleaning, praying, arranging, practicing songs etcetera... ensuring the machinery of the church is well oiled and prepared for the day's services, anticipating a fresh move of the Holy Spirit.

Behind the scenes, a lot of work is being done; relentless service and rugged determination being applied to ensure the regular Sunday attendees do not notice a flaw. The Multi media department has been busy all week meticulously preparing their presentation for Sunday. The Church office would have been opened all week attending to several queries, providing support ensuring the church is kept ticking.

In Charlton, a typical Sunday starts with the leaders' meeting/ training at 8.am. The other workers join in at 8.30am. This is followed by the first service which starts at 9.am with Praise and worship led by the church worship team. The second service begins at 11.30am, and at 2.30pm the Yoruba service begins. This was birthed based on the need for prayer and worship in the African language. House of Praise is privileged to be one of the few churches in the city of London where a church service is being held in the Yoruba Language. The inauguration was an answered prayer for those who were normally not enthusiastic about church due to the language barrier, especially, the old folks who came to the city from Africa.

This very peculiar service has turned out to be a success with attendance in Peckham and Charlton reaching great heights

subsequently leading to the inauguration of the monthly Yoruba prayer meeting; "O To Gee!", translated "Enough is Enough!"

The Youth are not left out as 'Keepin it Real', which is the 4th and last service on Sunday gives answers to their many unanswered questions, as well as help meet needs identified in every area of their lives. The service starts at 6.30pm. It is always being looked forward to by Youths as they are also given opportunity to express themselves.

The week begins in the House of Praise with the Early Morning Prayer. 'Morning Glory' as it's called in Charlton starts every Monday at 6am, while 'Divine Encounter' holds at Peckham, same time. Believers gather at these meetings to worship and pray to God earnestly, believing that by seeking God early in the morning and early in the week, He will direct their paths.

A First timer to HOP is likely to be greeted by a member of the 'Meeters & Greeters' team, arguably one of the most important departments in the church, staffed by members of the fairly large volunteer workforce in the church. These people ensure everyone attending service on a typical Sunday morning are welcomed and greeted appropriately making them feel at home. They can be seen at the reception saying the welcomes, maintaining a smiling face and putting something in the hands of church attendees.

Many Christian parents look for churches that will take care of the needs of their children, from toddlers to teenagers. They look for a church where they can be comfortable and safe in the knowledge that their wards are in good hands. HOP has proved to be excellent in creating great atmospheres where these children can be taken care of whilst their parents are busy worshipping God.

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