

prudence calls

'reduce wastage' and 'invest smartly'

by Ibukun Adebayo

Okay, so as the world settles down to a new era of living 'within' ones' means and, in some cases, living 'beneath' the means previously accustomed to, the phrase 'cut your cloth according to your size' in my mind has been replaced with the phrase 'cut your coat according to your VISION', following the recent series on 'Vision', delivered at House of Praise, by Pastor Andrew Adeleke.

A visionary is described as a 'far-sighted' person; i.e. someone who can see beyond the recession and who's thinking of what to do to reduce the impact of the recession now and also planning for life after the recession.

Two prudent things to do during these unprecedented lean times towards achieving your vision are 'reduce wastage' and 'invest smartly'.

Reducing wastage is as easy as eliminating luxuries, including £5 a day lunches, and other unnecessary spend such as 'spraying', described below, and other cultural practices not fit for the current season.

What's spraying? It's a practice of sticking wads of money onto dancers' foreheads at parties. When my brother got married, my daughter returned home from the after-party with over \$100 in cash that had been given to her for dancing for 2 hours – not bad eh? Err, before you all rush out and 'invest' in new dancing shoes, I'm hoping professional 'sprayers' will be keeping their money in their pockets in this season as they realise this practice is not likely to attract an 'investor of the year' accolade in this new era of prudence.

Admittedly, the Principle of Prudence is sometimes hard to adhere to.

At a recent event, everyone was given a token gift of fabric. Prudence screamed at me 'make a wrapper and top for £10'; sentiments, however, reminded me I tend to look like a skinny tree with a towel wrapped round my head when I wear a wrapper, top and headtie – alas, sentiments prevailed and I was left with an unbudgeted £50 hole in my purse after making a dress instead.

Talking about headties, nothing wrong with inviting ladies to buy a headtie for your celebrations, but prudence may suggest you cut one headtie into three – pioneering a new 'crisp and

short' style for this season. How come men get away with popping the same handkerchief in their suit pockets or wearing the same tie or hat at events to demonstrate solidarity whilst we ladies have to dole up a fortune to do the same? Come on ladies, and gents alike – prudence is calling!

Okay, enough on the savings side, what about wise investment tips?

At all times, but particularly at a time of recession, we need to invest not only in our families and friends, but the 'love thy neighbour' command is more important now than ever.

What about buying groceries for your neighbours, or sharing your skills with them? Yes, the voice of sentiment might whisper 'if I teach them, they may get a better job than me'; never mind, if your neighbour gets that better job, there's a greater reward for you out there.

Finally, the last investment you cannot afford to omit is investing in upskilling yourself for the future.

This recession shall pass away, and one aim of the prudent should be to emerge with new skills and qualifications to place you in a position of competitive advantage, i.e. when the recession passes away, we'll all be older and hopefully wiser, not vying with new school-leavers for low-skilled jobs requiring no experience or professional qualifications.

Conclusion? Eliminating wastage and investing wisely will empower you to emerge from this recession with your vision intact, if not already fulfilled



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