

# Kingdom Report

Week of 27 October 2018

## The Kingdom Community Solution for Africa

The large mega-churches of Lagos Nigeria have had enough of dysfunctional and corrupt government. They have come up with a novel solution...their own cities. Here is a report from The Economist magazine that asks a question I would like to answer:



**One of Africa's oddest places**

## Redemption city is the anti-Lagos

What happens when Pentecostal churches become urban planners?

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*THE NEW church in Redemption City is only half-built. Already this great aeroplane hangar of a building measures 1.5km by 1km. Compared with it, Tesla's "gigafactory" is a poky warehouse and St Peter's Basilica is a quaint parish church. Yet the church is not the most extraordinary thing about Redemption City.*

*In 1983 Enoch Adejare Adeboye, a former maths professor who had become General Overseer of the Redeemed Christian Church of God, acquired a small patch of land north of Lagos, Nigeria's biggest city. At first it was used for occasional prayer meetings. But as the church grew into one of the world's largest under Mr Adeboye's charismatic leadership, the prayer camp turned into a permanent settlement. Today about 12,000 people live in Redemption City, which sprawls over at least 2,500 hectares. The population is expected to double by 2036.*

*Most African cities are messy, especially around the edges. Suburban roads are invariably crooked, unpaved and unsigned. Houses are plonked down wherever people can acquire land. Many homes are half-built, because their owners have no land titles and so cannot take out mortgages. To deter scammers, some of them are spray-painted with messages like: "This property is not for sale. Beware fraud".*

*In Redemption City the streets form a grid. The roads are signed, with names like Hallelujah Close and Praise Close. Some have speed bumps—things that would be wholly redundant on a normal African road. Every plot is the same size: 21.3 metres by 21.3 metres. There are few half-built houses, because the church checks that*

*families have enough money to complete them, and sets a strict time limit. All the homes are in gated communities, numbering 15 so far.*

*Everything tends to work. Whereas Lagos hums with diesel generators, Redemption City has a steady electricity supply from a small gas-fired power station. It also has its own water supply. "We make life easy," says Pastor Fola Sanusi, the man in charge of Redemption City's growth. The city also makes rules, of the kind that could never be enforced in the hurly-burly of Lagos. "No parking, no waiting, no trading, no hawking", reads one sign.*

*In theory, Redemption City is for members of the Redeemed Christian Church of God. When a family wants to move away, it is supposed to sell its house to the church, which will sell it on to a suitably pious person. Each house is supposed to have a "mission room" for the use of a church worker. In practice, however, the properties seem to be finding their way onto commercial estate agents' websites.*

*It is an odd place but not entirely exceptional. On the road between Redemption City and Lagos, other Pentecostal churches, such as the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, are building godly cities of their own. In Lagos, the large Deeper Life Bible Church has constructed traffic lights and a bridge, and has turned some parishioners into traffic wardens. Pentecostal Christianity has already remade many Africans' spiritual lives. Now it is remaking their cities.*

*This article appeared in the Middle East and Africa section of the print edition under the headline "The anti-Lagos"*

**The Economist Magazine asks the question "What happens when Pentecostal churches become urban planners?"**

What happens? Well lots of interesting things happen when Pentecostals start creating their own communities:

- They find out that they can do things better, at lower cost, better planned, higher quality and no corruption.
- They begin to ask the question that politicians dread....Who needs politicians?
- They begin to realize that crime has disappeared because Christians tend to love one another and help each other... and the community of believers begin to realize it is wonderful living with fellow children of God...a little bit of heaven on earth!

But there is another growing realization that comes with a network of emerging Christian cities and which politicians and business and banking fear:

We can do so many more things for ourselves with the tools of technology that are now available if we have a growing critical mass of communities that are working together!

So lets explore a bit further....

What if other big churches in Nigeria sees Redemption City is a the next great move of God....going beyond mega-meetings once a week on Sunday...to mega

communities? And what if 'Redemption City' copycats start springing up all over Nigeria where there are at least 40-50 million Christians?

Now there is a new dynamic that starts to happen. Leaders do not see another Christian city as a threat, but as an opportunity. A tremendous economic opportunity because the more we connect with each other, the greater projects we can tackle.

Lets explore some:

### The Spiritual Internet Network

When all the Christian communities start to connect with each other then the dynamics of creative wealth creation from collaboration and cooperation start to happen. Other church communities are not competitors for tithes and members...they are collaborators in wealth creating enterprises.

We do our own Amazon. Meaning that we form an online shopping network among all the community members where when we buy goods like shoes or clothes or food or a myriad of products...we know and we give preference to craft shops and industries located in other communities.

This where the power of the division of labour comes in...the more people are connected the more the diversity of goods and services we can produce.

We do our own Facebook...this should be obvious! We need to have a closed spiritual community network where people can meet online.

We do our own education. Within the next 5-7 years people like Elon Musk's Space X group and other space pioneers are going to put up hundreds of internet satellites in space with very high bandwidth capability. And it will cover the earth and it will be cheap. And governments cannot control it or stop it.

That is going to have huge implications for things like "home schooling". It means we can download the best tutorials of the best teachers who will teach our children maths, science, technology, ecology, history etc. It means very cheap quality education suited to individual needs and individual learning rates. It means downloading free text books from the internet. It means no more 40-50 kids in a class room with them wondering if the teacher is going to turn up.

Education is also going to be greatly revolutionized with free "how to" modules on how things work and how to make things. Practical stuff that will lead to real jobs!

In banking and money the revolution as already happening. Here across Africa we are sick and tired of politicians and their cronies destroying our currencies, banks and economic systems through corruption, theft and incompetence.

We now have a wonderful opportunity for our own banking and our savings to be used for productive investments instead of useless speculation. We have opportunity for the lowest insurance and medical aid rates because we live right (and because we believe in divine healing!)

But the age of universal digital currencies and cashless payments are here. In Kenya already most payments are being made through cell phones. No cash to steal. No cash in transit heists in the future. A large network of connected Christian communities can create their own e-currency like "Bitcoin".

And with a community wide electronic distributed ledger system using "Blockchain" technology there are endless possibilities for bypassing the current corrupt systems:

- you cannot hide the flow of money when it is recorded on the blockchain, each move of money from place to place, person to person is recorded in the distributed electronic ledger system.

- You can record throughout the community through blockchain the entire asset register of who own what. It cannot be legally stolen. Once on the blockchain it is a matter of public record who own what...such as housing and property titles or cars.

- The blockchain allows for electronic contracts that will only pay out when certain conditions are fulfilled.

Then there is the coming era of 3D printing that will allow for any part of a machine that needs replacement to be made in a garage.

Then there is Energy, Food and Chemicals.

The whole world is totally dependent on oil for its civilization to work. Yes I know the electric car revolution is here. But let me tell you this...the world for a long time is going to have to run on the "HYDROCARBON ECONOMY". And I do not have room here in this blog to explain the incredible danger ahead as the easy sources of oil have dried up...only the very difficult sources of deep sea oil and expensive shale oil is left. And they are depleting fast.

Africa is going to skip the Hydrocarbon Economy...we are going to develop the Carbohydrate Economy. This what it means:

All the energy and chemicals that currently get from oil (which is made of the hydrocarbons of oxygen, carbon, hydrogen) we can get from a very abundant and easily produced carbohydrate in Africa called Cassava. And yes carbohydrates are also made of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon...its just that oil is so much easier to work with than cassava. But here is the kicker....the oil will run out...the cassava will never run out.

That is why Africa will one day feed the world and supply the world with the chemicals and energy it needs and used to get from oil, but now will get from carbohydrates...from cassava grown and processed by our Christian farmers of Africa and processed into food, energy and chemical products by our Christian communities.

The coming great mega-communities of Christians in Africa will fulfil the prophecy of Micah 4:1-4 and be a beacon of hope to the world. Because we will be the first to ditch useless politics and create a new world order based on the Word of God and the fellowship of the saints....and that is my answer to The Economist magazine to the question "What happens when Pentecostal Churches become Urban Planners?"....

What happens? The fulfil Biblical prophecy of Micah 4:1-4...

**Mic 4:1** *But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.*

**Mic 4:2** *And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

**Mic 4:3** *And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

**Mic 4:4** *But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken i*