

**APPARITIONS OF OUR LADY OF AOKPE**  
**THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACES**

I saw a really terrified, honest,  
innocent and timid child telling  
us about a divine reality<sup>(1)</sup>

**Rev. Fr. Sylveter Onmoke**

**October, 1992**

Above was part of an investigation report of Fr. Sylvester Onmoke, an Assistant Priest to his Parish Priest Fr John Beirne, concerning a 12 years old visionary of Saint Patrick's Catholic Church, in the village of Aokpe in Benue State, Nigeria.

Aokpe is a tiny remote village in the Idoma speaking territory of Nigeria. The remote village has no portable water, telephones or electricity and the access road connecting it to the nearest town of Ugbokolo, about six kilometers away, is untarred, narrow and rough.

About 99% of the people of Aokpe are Catholic and they usually recite the Rosary with great devotion. No other teaching has ever been allowed by the villagers to penetrate into their community. Whenever the priest comes from the parish to celebrate mass in the village's outstation church of Saint Patricks, the people would take the advantage to go for confession and receive the Holy Communion with the outmost reverence. The major feast days of the church were often celebrated with much joy and enthusiasm. The community is united in prayer and whenever a serious problem confronts them, everyone including the children would come together to fast and pray. So, devoted has been the

people that there is a saying among the neighbouring villages that God dwells in Aokpe.<sup>(2)</sup>

Christiana is the 9<sup>th</sup> child of the ten children her parents, Mr and Mrs Regina Agbo. Her mother Regina is a farmer and a petty business woman, a highly devoted Christian and a strong member of Christian Mothers Organization. She is well known for her generosity, especially in giving food to people. Christiana's father, Mr Christopher Agbo was a headmaster and a catechist and he earned high respect, especially from the early missionaries for his honesty and bluntness. He was a disciplinarian and could say all the liturgical prayers in Latin. In Agbo's family, God comes first in everything and no one was lazy about morning or evening prayers which they normally ended by saying the Ten Commandments.<sup>(3)</sup>

### **FLASH OF LIGHT, OCTOBER 1992**

In the month of October 1992, Christiana and her elder sister Felicia were assigned by their mother Regina, to weed a portion of the family farm. After weeding for some time, Christiana became tired and decided to take a rest. On standing up after the rest, she saw flashes of light which came with speed as that of lightening. She drew Felicia's attention to it but Felicia who could not see the light dismissed it as possibly being the rays of the sun, despite Christiana's insistence that the light was quite different and unique. On another occasion in the same month of October 1992 when her mother Regina sent Christiana to collect herbs from the farm, Christiana climbed a tree and was collecting some leaves when she saw the same flashes of light again. Then she saw a very beautiful lady. She was so beautiful and was radiating with so much light. She was standing in the air. The beautiful lady smiled at Christiana

without saying a word. Christiana was so frightened that the leaves she had cut fell from her hands. She came down from the tree and the beautiful lady disappeared. Christiana was stupefied as she kept looking around and wondering where the lady could have come from. On getting home, she wanted to tell her mother about the young lady but she could not even open her mouth to do so.

### **OUR LADY'S REQUEST TO CHRISTIANA, OCTOBER 1992**

On 15th October 1992, Christiana was sent by her mother to go and grind some millet. She was very reluctant to go but on eventually stepping out of their house, but still within the compound to undertake the assignment, she saw the same beautiful lady accompanied by some other people. They were all radiating light. They stayed for few minutes and then disappeared.

When Christiana recovered from this vision, she discovered that her parents and neighbours were staring at her in amazement. When her father told her that she almost died and inquired what happened to her, she said "You mean you did not see all the beautiful people"? She described the lady and the people but no one seemed to understand what she was trying to explain. Rather, her parents, especially the father attributed the mysterious phenomenon to evil spirits.

Within the same month of October when the Lady appeared to Christiana, she introduced herself to Christiana by saying, "See, I am the Holy Mother. Do not be afraid, I will come again to tell you more about myself, and what I want from you'. Still worried by the mysterious occurrences, Christiana's mother instructed her to ask the beautiful lady to pray the rosary with her when next she appears.

When the beautiful lady appeared to Christiana again, she remembered what her mother asked her to do. But before she could ask, the beautiful lady asked, "Where is your rosary"? They said the rosary together. The beautiful lady was only saying the Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. She said it with the whole of her being as if God was before her. The Lady told Christiana that she comes from heaven to win souls for Christ and to hide her children in her immaculate heart. She said, 'What I want you to do is to pray for the souls in purgatory, to pray for the world and to pray to console Jesus. Will you accept'? To this request Christiana answered, 'Yes'.<sup>(4)</sup>

### **CHRISTIANA'S TRAVAILS**

Christiana suffered a lot of humiliations and threats within her community as a result of Our Lady's visits to her. Such humiliations were also extended to any person associating with her in terms of her visions. The local Bishop tried to arraign her for psychiatric tests while her church leaders officially banned parishioners from visiting the apparition site or believing Christiana's stories. The community threatened to evict the Agbo's family from Aokpe village, stating that their daughter Christiana was being visited by an evil spirit, possibly a water spirit. Christiana's mother lost all her friends and she was stripped of all her roles in the church. The visit of the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. John Beirne [Irish nationality] to Aokpe's Saint Patricks Church worsened the parishioners' humiliation against Christiana. Fr Beirne's whole sermon was all about Christiana. He told parishioners that the vision was the handiwork of an evil spirit. His statements were received with shouts of cheers by the parishes, all fully agreeing with him. In addition, he banned everyone from visiting the apparition area. After mass, the community treated Christiana and her mother

with unbelievable scorn. One of Christiana's prayer mates, a mother of two children, was physically beaten up by her relative for daring to join Christiana in prayers.

Christiana begged Our Lady to show a sign to the community so that they will believe her. Our lady agreed and gave a date for the sign. When Christiana passed this information to the community, they vowed to kill Christiana if the sign failed to materialize. Christiana's father and some of Christiana's siblings were so scared that they left home; only her prayer mates and two of her sisters stayed to wait for the Blessed Lady.

The Blessed Lady appeared as she promised. During her appearance, the sun spurn so violently as if it was going to fall. Everyone become frightened and people saw different things such as a little child, in the sun. From then onwards, the community stopped disbelieving Christiana<sup>(5)</sup>

### **OUR LADY'S NUMEROUS VISITS AND MESSAGES**

Our Lady appeared numerous times to Christiana, well over 106 times as could be recorded and as at time of writing this piece in February 2014. Initially, the various appearances were not recorded partly because no one, including the visionary herself, knew that what started as a flash of light was only the beginning of a rich divine revelation. Moreover, the visionary was only a primary school pupil at the time and her English literacy level, both oral and written was low. Following the instructions of Fr Beirne and Rv Fr Samuel Ehatikpo, the dates and record keeping were eventually kick started by Mrs Grace Afikwu who was a strong believer of Christiana's stories, even at her time of persecution. Christiana herself used the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1992 as a

reference point to remember the months of initial visions, though not the days, being the date specially noted by her father as the day on which Christina was feared dead in his compound, when she had a vision of Our Lady and some other people.

In another vision Our Lady told Christiana “See I am the Immaculate Conception, I want to be known here as the Mediatrix of All Graces”. She further stated the reason behind her numerous visits, “I am coming down from heaven to remind you of what to do and what not to do; I have told you again and again to avoid sin, my children, pray, pray and pray, do lots of penance, remove the thorns surrounding the sacred heart of Jesus. Pray most especially for those the devil has captured.<sup>(6)</sup> I want to draw souls to myself so that many souls will be saved.”<sup>(7)</sup>

The encounters mentions in this site are only a selected few from the numerous apparitions of Our Lady to Christiana. More details are provided in films, journals and in books such as Aokpe Message Journals; Am I Going To Heaven Or Not by Fr. John Beirne; The Messages Of Our Lady Of Aokpe by Engr Michael Audu Oteikwu; Apparition Of The Virgin Mary At Aokpe by Christiana Agbo, the visionary. Christiana later pursued university education, after which she wrote her own accounts so that all may hear from 'the horse's mouth'.

### **HEALING SPRING**

Still within the month of October 1992, Christiana saw a cloud and in the cloud was the beautiful Holy Mother. She said “I am the hiding place for sinners. Collect a bucket of water, say the rosary and put it into the water, leave it in the

room till the following morning. I will come and bless the water. Some people who will accept and drink the water will have their sickness cured, especially those who have faith". She then touched Christiana's rosary. Christina asked if she could fetch the water from the stream. The holy mother replied, "Do not worry, the water will come from the Father. By six o'clock collect a bucket of rain water and do as I have asked you to do". When it was six o'clock, it rained so heavily and Christiana did as she was instructed. The next day, people came and used the water and some of them were healed.<sup>(8)</sup> On 24<sup>th</sup> May 1994, the Blessed Lady appeared and said "You will have to dig a well that will bring water. You will use an axe. The angel will come to point out where you are to dig. Always wait for me to give you instructions when the water starts flowing." The following day an Angel appeared to draw a line on the floor, with light shining brightly, which everybody in the room could see.

Christiana complained to the Angel that it was their room and where would they be sleeping. The Angel replied, "Do not worry, this is what the Blessed Lady asked of you".<sup>(9)</sup>

Contrary to our Holy Mother's instructions, Christiana could not wait for her instructions before giving the water to a sick person. The Holy mother was unhappy with her and the supposed purpose of the well in the room was aborted.

However, on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1996 Christiana went to the site of a spring which is near the apparition site, saying the rosary and the Blessed Lady appeared as she had previously promised her. She asked Christiana to take some of the mud from the water and rub it on her (Christiana's) arms and then use the water to

wash it off. She did as instructed. She further asked Christiana to take some mud and mold it and then drop it in the spring water.

The Blessed Lady bent down and touched the water. Her lips moved but Christiana did not hear what she said. Then the Blessed Lady said it should no longer be called just a spring but a Holy Spring; it is for the sick, it will cure some diseases. 'Jesus my Divine son has sent me here today to help the sick and to purify you my children. From this Holy Spring, many will be purified. Through this Holy Spring, many will amend their ways. The penance which you will undertake before taking the Holy Spring water will bring about the purification of your souls. There should be a path made and you are to crawl on your knees till you get to the crucifix which should be mounted and supported with stones. When you get to the crucifix, bow your head and kiss it and then go to the Holy Spring and wash yourself.<sup>(10)</sup> When Christiana asked her what then becomes of the well in her room which no longer had water in it, she responded, "I asked you to dig, you did. I asked you to wait for my instruction you did not listen to me. Thank you for having dug the well". When Christiana asked if she should fill it up, the Holy Mother said "Do not close it, it is a Holy well".

### **PRAYER TO OUR LADY THE MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACES**

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1994, our Blessed Lady gave to Christiana the following prayers which should be recited nine days before the 4<sup>th</sup> of August, a date she set aside to dispense Graces to those who ask for it. She further told Christiana that whatever we ask with open hearts will be granted to us.

Lady of purity of heart,

Lady of good heart that humbles herself



Sweetness of Angels

Your heavenly wisdom and your patience surprise all others.

The whole of your life is a purity of heart that has no stain

Lady the Mediatrix of all Graces

Help us to do without delay the will of Jesus

Make us worthy to receive the gift that has been given to us so that we will be holy

Give us the Grace to go and greet our Lord Jesus

Help us to be pure so that we can see heaven

Help us to always do the will of Jesus so that we can share in His glory.

Father, fill us with the Grace of the Holy Spirit.<sup>(11)</sup>

The above prayer which was given to Christiana by Our Lady in the Idoma Language, was translated to English in year 2000 by Bishop Fidelis Orgah of Otukpo Diocese.

### **VISIT TO HELL, PURGATORY AND HEAVEN**

On 30<sup>th</sup> May 1995, the Blessed Lady took Christiana to hell, purgatory and also showed her a little of heaven. This vision was in response to Our Lady's promise to Christiana when in the course of their earlier dialogue at the Apparition Site, she asked the Holy Mother, "Mother, where is hell"? The Holy Mother's response was "Hell is beneath where you are kneeling. When next I come, I will show you hell, purgatory and heaven". In hell, Christiana saw thousands and thousands and thousands of souls writhing in pains and some were stumbling into a fierce burning fire. It was most horrifying. Another creature that is half human would bring a similar creature into the fire. When these half human creatures saw the rosary of the Blessed Lady, they started

running away. The indescribable groaning of the creatures in hell never stops. When Christiana asked the Blessed Lady if the creatures will ever leave the place, she replied, “This is the fire that they built for themselves while on earth which they are warming their bodies with. They will remain here forever”.

Christiana saw another vision where the human beings were in pains too. They were all naked but you could not tell who was a man or woman. They were floating, covered thinly with cloud. The groaning was also very horrifying. The Blessed Lady told Christiana that these ones have the hope of seeing God someday. She said "You have to pray for them. If you pray for them you will be rewarded”.

The Blessed Lady showed Christiana yet another vision; she saw steps exceedingly beautiful, shining so bright that she could not look at them. Then she saw a gate, and light from it was like the sun. She saw the crucifix; it was filled with blood and rugged. According to Christiana, “Then I saw beautiful people, light was coming out of their body. They all looked so young and exceedingly peaceful in every way. Then I saw a tree that I had never seen before; it gave joy when looked upon. I will die if I am able to describe what I saw; everything is incompressible”.<sup>(12)</sup> Christiana’s journey to hell, purgatory and heaven lasted a total of six hours.

### **SEVENTYTWO HOURS DARKNESS**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 1995, while Christiana and her prayer mates were reciting the rosary, Our Lady appeared and said,” My children, I have come to warn you again to amend your ways; the chastisement will be great. God is going to chastise the world and it will be terrible, the anger of God will be felt. There

will be a great darkness; this will be for seventy two hours; the world will be shaken".<sup>(13)</sup> Christiana was frightened and she asked the Blessed lady, "What are we to do?" To this question she responded, "Amend your ways and pray, pray earnestly. Have your crucifix close by at all time, fix your eyes on Jesus. Nothing can give you light, but the children of God will be given light."<sup>(14)</sup> Our lady also promised to hide her children in her immaculate heart especially during the great darkness. After the darkness, according to her, the devil will be chained for many years. The people that will remain will come back to the one church.

Also on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May 1999 during a night vigil at the Novitiate at Utonkon, Our Lord Jesus Christ told Christiana in a vision, " My daughter, yes , be sure the sun will go dark, only the faithful will be given light, and my Dear Mother was so kind to tell you the hours it's going to last".<sup>(15)</sup>

### **CHRISTIANA GIVEN HOLY COMMUNION BY AN ANGEL**

Prior to 4<sup>th</sup> of August 1994, Our lady had told Christiana that she was going to receive Holy Communion from the hands of an Angel and that Christiana should prepare for it. She was asked to inform the Bishop to come or send his priests. Bishop Usuh sent Fr Emmanuel Ojaje Idoko with cameras and audio recorders. Fr Idoko came and stayed closely by Christiana, recorded all the events of August 4<sup>th</sup> 1994 and submitted his report to the Bishop".<sup>(16)</sup> According to Fr Idoko, "Christiana at the Apparition Ground suddenly bent down and said "Here Our Lady comes. This was around 11.50am. She was steadily looking up with her two hands in prayerful position in front of her. She was not talking any more. I was by her watching her when, looking into her mouth which was open, there was a host on her tongue and I photographed it. Then I asked her to bring

out her tongue with the host on it and I photographed it again. I also called the commercial photographer brought in by Fr Samuel Ehatikpo and he photographed it also."<sup>(17)</sup> Our Lady requested through Christiana that those present should sing 'Ave Maria Oh Maiden Oh Mother' for her and they did. When asked later, Christiana explained that it was an Angel followed by the shadow of our Lady that brought the Holy Communion and not Our Lady herself. According to her, she saw the Angel bringing the Host and the Host was bigger than the one they normally receive in the church. "The more the Host came closer to me the smaller it become. When I received it, it was the normal size".<sup>(18)</sup> "The communion taste like the one Fr gives us when he comes for mass".<sup>(19)</sup> Our lady requested through Christiana that those present should sing 'Ave Maria Oh Maiden Oh Mother' for her and they did.

### **MESSAGES OF OUR LADY**

The encounters mentioned in this site are only a selected few from the numerous apparitions of Our Lady to Christiana. More details are provided in films, journals and in books such as Aokpe Message Journals; Am I Going To Heaven Or Not by Fr John Beirne; The Messages Of Our Lady Of Aokpe by Engr Michael Audu Oteikwu; Apparition Of The Virgin Mary At Aokpe by Christiana Agbo, the visionary. Christiana later pursued university education, after which she wrote her own accounts so that all may hear from 'the horse's mouth'. In all the messages of the Holy Lady to the people of the world, her pre-occupation is the goal of life, that is, Heaven. In order for humans to attain Heaven, she persistently asked for constant prayer of the Rosary, Penance, Repentance, Reparation, Regular attendance at mass and living the virtues & faith, hope and charity.<sup>(20)</sup> According to her, " Those who refuse to say the rosary will one day be sorry about it." She also said, "Whenever you say the

rosary you will receive many Graces from me. Those who say the rosary will never be damned. Blessed are those who want to be holy. Say your rosary without ceasing to make sacrifices for Christ." And she insists, "You should say the rosary with such concentration as one who has been told would die the next minute and is preparing for this. If you only knew the importance of the rosary".<sup>(21)</sup>

## NOTES

1. Beirne John Rv. Fr. Am I Going To Heaven or Not (Onaiwi Printing & Publishing Co Ltd) p8
2. Agbo Christiana , Apparition of The Virgin Mary At Aokpe (Prints & Publishers Ltd, 2010) P 24
3. Ibid, p26.
4. Beirne John Rv. Fr. Op Cit, p12.
5. Agbo Christiana Op Cit, p33.
6. Ibid p11.
7. Beirne John Rv. Fr. Op Cit, p111
8. Agbo Christiana, Op Cit, p39.
9. Ibid, p 52.
10. Ibid p 88.
11. Ibid, p 53.
12. Ibid, P67.
13. Ibid , P 63.
14. Ibid, p63.
15. Beirne John Rv. Fr. Op Cit, p87.
16. Oteikwu Michael, The Messages Of Our Lady Of Aokpe(Giwa Printers) p16.
17. Ibid, p17.
18. Ibid, p 18.
19. Agbo Christiana, Op Cit, p 55.
20. Ibid, p18.
21. Agbo Christiana, Op Cit, p95.

