

June 27, 2026 by [Precious Igbonwelundu, Asst. News Editor](#)

How pastor killed teenager over N30,000



The last morning of Nancy Peter's life began the way many troubled mornings in her 13 years had: her mother's anger, a missing sum of money, and a journey to the pastor's house.

Agnes Peter had grown weary. By her own account, her daughter had stolen from her repeatedly, and every complaint to her pastor, Roman Samson, the General Overseer of Goodness of Jesus Ministry in Wula, Boki Local Government Area of **Cross River State**, had ended the same way.

The pastor would summon Nancy, scold her, and send her home. More than 20 times, Agnes said, this had happened. But on the morning of June 1, she decided it was not enough. She wanted the pastor to beat her daughter.

What happened next would leave Nancy dead, Agnes in police custody, and a community grappling with questions about faith, discipline, and the invisible line between correction and killing.

Samson, 45, cuts a figure that many in his congregation would have found reassuring before that Sunday. A veteran of several Pentecostal ministries, he had established his own church and, by his account, extended unusual generosity to Agnes and her children after her husband drove her from their home.

"When the woman came, she had nothing. She was rejected by her husband with two children. I began to fund their schools and their upkeep. God answered her prayers through me," Samson told newsmen after his arrest.

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It was a relationship built on dependency and trust, the kind that forms quietly in Nigerian Pentecostal communities where pastors often become surrogate fathers, counsellors, and arbiters of domestic disputes. For Agnes, Samson was all of these things. So when Nancy stole again, it was to Samson she turned.

Agnes's account and Samson's account agree on the broad outline of that morning and diverge sharply at the point that matters most.

Both confirm that Agnes brought Nancy to the pastor's house on June 1, accusing her daughter of stealing N30,000. Both confirm that Agnes left the house at some point, and that when she returned, Nancy was already being rushed to the hospital. Both confirm the girl died on arrival.

What Agnes denies, firmly, is that she asked the pastor to beat her daughter.

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"I only wanted him to help scold and counsel her. I was not there when he beat my daughter to death," she stated.

Her account contains a detail that complicates her claim of innocence: she left a 13-year-old girl alone with a man she had specifically brought to discipline the child, then went to search for stolen money. Nancy, it turned out, had already confessed and told her mother exactly where the N30,000 was hidden in a trouser pocket. The money was recovered. Agnes was on her way back when she met Samson on the road, carrying her daughter to a hospital that would be too late.

Samson insists Agnes not only permitted the beating but demanded it.

"She told me that the girl stole her N30,000 and asked that I should beat her. She also stated that she had already beaten her, but wanted me to also beat her. I went for my horsewhip and gave her about 13 to 15 strokes, when I discovered she had become very weak," admitted Samson.

In the language of the pastor's testimony, the strokes were offered almost as mitigation and were just enough to ensure she didn't repeat the act again, but Nancy did not survive to tell how they felt on her skin and soul.

Child rights advocates and medical professionals have long warned that corporal punishment, particularly when administered with objects such as canes, belts, or horsewhips, carries a serious risk of injury and death in children. Repeated blows to the torso can cause internal bleeding, organ damage, and cardiac arrest, none of which are visible until a child collapses.

Nigerian law is unambiguous. Section 11 of the Child Rights Act 2003 prohibits all forms of torture, inhuman, or degrading treatment of children. Section 221 of the Criminal Code provides for liability where bodily harm results in death. The fact that a parent requested or consented to the punishment of her own child does not, in law, absolve the person who inflicted it.

Both Samson and Agnes Peter have since been arrested and are in the custody of the Homicide Section, State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Cross River.

Police spokesman, ASP Sunday Eitokpah, confirmed the arrests and said the investigation was continuing.