


Police seal up CPA

LUKKEY ABAWURU and
KASIE ABONE

AN attempt by suspected arsonists to set ablaze Christian Praying Assembly (CPA) building in Ajao Estate, Lagos was foiled yesterday by

the police.

General Overseer of CPA, Rev. Emeka King was arrested Sunday night by detectives from State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Pantl, Yaba for allegedly torturing six members of his congregation. 

He was alleged to have set them ablaze after bathing them with fuel in a bid to compel them make confession of alleged sexual immorality.

Perhaps, angered by the news,

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Rev. Emeka King, Gen. Overseer CPA

King's church

suspected hoodlums yesterday stormed the church in an attempt to burn the church building. But they were prevented by policemen from Ajao Estate Police Station.

But the early morning face-off was not without incident as *Daily Champion* gathered that one man had his head smashed while several others sustained injuries in a fight between the church members and the miscreants popularly known as *Area Boys*.

When *Daily Champion* visited the church, members mostly men donning white baseball cap and white T-shirts with green inscriptions "CPA, I am the Lord" boldly written in green letters were seen loitering around in front of the church. Others were seen seated in an uncompleted house opposite the church and inside a Lagos State painted commercial bus chatting in low

tones.

However, when our correspondent approached a group of four men discussing in front of the church, for interview, the men suddenly became hostile. Despite heavy police presence one of them shouted "leave this place now or else you will see what will happen to you." Another one added: "Anybody who does not believe in His Holiness (referring to detained Rev King) will go to hell.

And the third man "Go ahead, continue writing that nonsense. Did you see any riot here? Go, and write what you see. But let me warn you, all of you writing that nonsense about His holiness must go to hell fire.

The interview suddenly came to an end as one of the devotees, tall, black, huge and spotting the characteristics beard menacingly

advanced towards one of the reporters who quickly retreated and took to her heels together with the photo journalist who accompanied her to the church.

→ At the private Faith Hospital where one of the victims, Miss Ann Chinenye Uzu is on admission, *Daily Champion* saw a burnt girl. Her hair, face hand and body were badly burnt.

At Ajao Estate Police station highly placed police source told *Daily Champion* that the faithful may have been about other business yesterday when they were attacked by suspected *Area Boys*. While at the station, information was received that the *Area Boys* were about attacking members houses which have posters by Rev. King pasted on their walls. But the Divisional Police Officer immediately despatched a patrol team to the place.