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**Nigeria: Generator Fume Kills Five Family Members**

Steve Oko

5 July 2010

Lagos — Reverend Monday Jacobs (65) a Senior Pastor of the Assembles God Church, Laguru/Umuosu Ubakala had gone to bed last Friday with the family but was discovered unconscious on Sunday morning after worshippers had waited in vain to see him perform his priestly duties.

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However, his wife Mrs. Chinyere, his son Eze, a political Science 200 level student of Abia State University Uturu, Wisdom, second son and Uchechi, both of the Moore Christian Academy Ubakala were not lucky as they were found dead before help could reach them.

Only two female children of the family of seven escaped the tragedy as they were said to be away in school on the fateful day.

Deacon Christian C. Johnson a member of the late pastor's church, said members had gathered last Sunday for the usual Sunday worship when they noticed that neither the pastor nor any of his family members was in service.

Worried by their conspicuous and unannounced absence, the members went in search of the pastor only to discover that the door to his house was locked from behind.

When Daily Champion visited the scene, members of the church were found in a prayer session while sympathizers watched in great bewilderment.

A source told our correspondent that he tried in vain to reach the pastor through his cell phone on Saturday but was surprised when suddenly his phone rang him around 2 am on Sunday and went off again.

He said if rescue had come their way on time, they would have probably been saved.

Meanwhile, a team of medical experts led by Dr. Asinobi Kingsley is now battling to resuscitate the pastor whose condition was said to be very critical.

Dr. Kingsley told Daily Champion in an interview that the clergyman was unconscious when he was brought to the hospital but that he has been responding to treatment.

He said the man of God must have inhaled a large quantity of carbon monoxide which weakened his cells and made breathing very difficult for him.

However, he said the pastor had been supported with oxygen "and had 50-50 chances" of survival.

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He advised people to keep generating sets away from their living rooms especially at night because of the health implications of carbon monoxide inhalation.

Head of the Assemblies of God Church in the area, Rev. Daniel Amuga described the incident as a mystery and wondered how smoke from a generating set downstairs could have choked the family in their parlour upstairs.

He said it was only God that knows what transpired and prayed for the quick recovery of the pastor so that he could tell the story himself.

Contacted, Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO) Abia State Mr. Ali Okechukwu in a telephone interview said his office was yet to be briefed on the matter.

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