

Holy murder

■ General Overseer in police net for allegedly killing his brother over food

FROM NGOZI UWUJARE

Imo State police command has commenced investigation into the murder of a 25-year-old, Chinonso John who was alleged to have been killed by his elder brother, Pastor Nwabueze John.

Pastor John, who is the General Overseer of Throne of Mercy Ministry, was alleged to have clubbed his brother to death over food during a burial ceremony at Itu Ezinihitte in Mbaise Local Government Area, Imo State.

On his arrest, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Taiwo Lakanu told *Saturday Sun* that the matter is being investigated by crack detectives at the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to ascertain what actually led to the death of Chinonso. "Pastor John is currently in our custody while the weapon suspected to have been used has been recovered", the police boss stated.

On the outcome of police investigation, the officer in-charge of the homicide section said that the pastor, who ran into the bush after the incident, was fished out three days later. His wife, Prophetess Onyinyechi John, who was alleged to have played a role in the incident, is currently at large.

Insisting that he mistakenly killed his brother in self-defence, Pastor John, 39, told *Saturday Sun* that his brother, who was a heavy smoker and a drunkard, had been at loggerheads with him for several years. "I am the General Overseer of Throne of Mercy Ministry which I started about five years ago. My late brother, Chinonso takes delight in looking for my trouble and the elders of the community had tried severally to make peace between us. Although he is a troublemaker, I did my best as a pastor to love him unconditionally.

"On November 10, 2015 during a burial ceremony in the community, the elders invited the youths to clear the grass. The entire youth came out but my late brother preferred to stay at the beer parlour drinking. As soon as he learnt that it was time to share food, he re-surfaced. He asked for his own share but the community refused,



Pastor John

insisting that he did not participate in cutting of the grass.

"In order to avoid any scene, I gave him part of my food. Surprisingly, he also wanted to collect my drink, accusing me of not sharing my food equally with him. Naturally, I was angry and rebuked him. He insulted me and threatened to deal with me while the youths who heard our voice waded into the matter," he narrated.

Pastor John further said that when his late brother realized that the entire community was against him, he went home and picked his cutlass. "He went home and attacked my wife and children with the cutlass. Because I am a law-abiding citizen, I quickly reported the matter to the police but they said that they were tired of our matter.

Since I could not convince the police to arrest him, I went home only to discover that he had stabbed my little boy, Goodluck with a fragment of a broken bottle. While I was battling to save his life, my late brother and his friends returned and descended on me with sticks. Suddenly, he picked up his cutlass and attempted to kill me, I was able to overpower him and hit him with the cutlass before running away into the nearest bush.

I was surprised when I learnt that he died as a result of that fight. Heaven knows that I had no choice at that moment. He was my brother and despite all his atrocities, I still loved him."

Asking for mercy, Pastor John said that it was the gods that his late father served that have refused to allow them progress in life. "My late father was a respected and powerful native doctor. As soon as he died, every member of my family decided to serve God. This devil refused to accept it and had been attacking us since then. My wife even dreamt that this calamity will

