

How girl, 17, escaped from ritualists' den two days after



Chinaeherem

By GILBERT EKEZIE

THE story of 17-year old Miss Chinaeherem Emmanuel is enthralling due to its uniqueness. Chinaeherem had literally gone on a journey of no-return to the den of ritualists. Surprisingly, she came out of ritualists' den unhurt, two days after.

After returning from the Lord's Chosen Charismatic Revival Ministries annual international crusade held at Mgbidi, Imo State from 2nd to 4th January, 2016, to Port Harcourt, decided to attend the Thursday, programme of the church at the local branch in Port Harcourt. But as she set out for the church, located at Rumuokoro, little did she know that ritualists were waiting for her. Actually, they succeeded in taking her to their slaughter ground, but miraculously, she escaped and returned to her parents after two days in captivity.

Narrating her story, Chinaeherem said her freedom was made possible by her strong belief in God. In her words, "We returned from Chosen, Mgbidi International crusade on Tuesday, January 5, 2016 and on Thursday January 7, I told my parents that I was going to church, and they told me to go. I collected N100 from my mother for transportation and left. Inside the taxi that I boarded, there were three men and a pregnant woman. I observed that the glass windows

of the vehicle were closed. So, I asked the driver to bring the glasses down. The pregnant woman complained that she was feeling cold, that I should not bring the window glass down completely."

According to Chinaeherem, after winding the window glass down, she started singing a song, but was told by one of the men in the taxi to stop singing, and that he wanted to receive a phone call.

"When I stopped, the guy pretended that he was bringing something out of a white handkerchief. He quickly waved the handkerchief, and shortly, the pregnant woman slept off. I was watching, but could not understand what was going on. After some time, something like fly wanted to enter my eyes and I attempted to remove it, I did not know when I slept off also. When I woke up, I found myself in an uncompleted building that looked abandoned. By then, they had collected everybody's phones, but did not remember to take mine. When I realised that they had seized everybody's phones, I put mine in silent mode and hid it in my brazier. When they asked for it, I pretended as if I had no phone at all. In the uncompleted building, we met many people that were already held, waiting to be killed. While all these were going on, I kept on singing, praying to God of Chosen to come to my rescue. I also managed to send a text mes-



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sage to my father telling him about what was going on."

She also told *Saturday Sun* that as she and other new captives waited outside, killings and cooking of dismembered bodies were going on inside the building. "We saw them killing those already in their captivity one after the other. They killed them like cows, cook them and put them inside buckets. Thereafter, one man drove in and took them away. I was slated to slaughter on Thursday January 7. When I was called inside, I refused to go in. On the following day, being a Friday, January 8, 2016, they also brought us out to be killed. When they called me, I still resisted them. As they made efforts to kill me, I asked God to prove Himself by saving me. They hit me with a machete but the machete broke on my body.

Yet, I did not shake. As that was going on, their leader became interested in the drama. He asked to know who was proving stubborn in their territory. When they told him that I am a member of Chosen church, he became disappointed. Thereafter, we did not know what touched them and they abandoned me and the pregnant woman there and went inside."

Chinaeherem further narrated that when the ritualists were arrested by divine power, she and the pregnant woman took to their heels and escaped from the scene. "We started running to an unknown destination out of the bush. On our way, we saw a strange man at inside the bush, who led us to the main road. As we were left stranded on the road, we saw someone and asked to know where we were and he told us that we were in

Bayelsa State. So, we begged him to take us to a nearby Lord's Chosen church and he did. One getting to the church, we narrated our story to the Pastor in-charge. He prayed for us and gave us some money for transportation. That was how I was able to make it home to meet my parents."

Her father, Mr Emmanuel Aloke expressed gratitude to God for the miracle and favour God for his family. "In fact, I do not know how to explain the wonders of God in all its ramifications. When I could not find my daughter, I rushed to my state pastor of the Chosen church in Port Harcourt with Chinaeherem's picture for intervention prayers.

When I got there, the Pastor was busy attending to someone else. So, I went to the altar with the picture and dropped some money there and told the God of Chosen on the spot that wherever my daughter was, He should release her to me unhurt. After my prayers on the altar, I later met the Pastor and explained the whole story to him. Thereafter, he placed the picture on the table and prayed on it. He told me authoritatively not to exercise fears, that my daughter would return to me safely."

Aloke, thereafter, believed the declaration of the Pastor and returned home expecting God to do the rest. "Before I arrived home, my wife had cried so much that her eyes had become red and swollen. I encouraged her not to cry anymore. We also entered into another prayer, using the picture. We finished the prayer and decided to be on the look out. Shortly, our daughter returned home."