



10 dead as church building collapses in Delta

• 35 rescued unhurt, 4 taken to hospital, many trapped

By Festus Ahon

TEN worshippers were reportedly killed yesterday with an unspecified number trapped when the building housing Salvation Ministry, Okpanam, Oshimili North Local Government Area, Delta State collapsed.

It was gathered that over 35 persons, including children, women and men were rescued unhurt, while four persons were rushed to the Asaba Specialist Hospital.

The building, which is being used for the first time reportedly collapsed at about 5:55 pm during Tuesday evening service.

It was also gathered that the building, which is over 10 years old, was initially designed as a plaza before the church bought it for N300 million and started reconstruction works on the one storey building.

A church member, who simply identified herself as Grace, said the service was ongoing when the building collapsed saying: "We were clapping and praying when suddenly we heard the cracking and the building



The collapsed building. Photo: Nathaniel Onojake.

swallowed the children section."

According to her, they came for evening service to break the day's fasting with a communion service when the building collapsed.

A woman, who was wailing at the scene, said her three children were among those trapped in the building.

At press time, Secretary to the State Government, SSG, Chief Patrick Ukah; state Commissioner for Health, Dr Ononye Mordi; team of Red Cross officers, firefighters, police officers and men of Delta State Emergency Management Agency were on ground for rescue operation.