

**For Such A Time As This. A Paper Presented at the 2017 FIDUO
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Olufemi Olajide**

Wherever we find ourselves as human beings there is always a divine purpose. Our place of birth is not by accident it is for a purpose and our relocation from our original place of birth to our present location has a divine purpose. No wonder the Bible says in Matthew 10:29 thus “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will.” One of the Ayah in Islam stated thus “For, with Him are the keys to the things that are beyond the reach of a created being's perception: none knows them but He. And He knows all that is on land and in the sea; and not a leaf falls but He knows it; and neither is there a grain in the earth's deep darkness, nor anything: living or dead, but is recorded in [His] clear decree” (AYAH al-An`am 6:59).

Esther, a slave was promoted to a position of Queen by divine arrangement for her to be able to liberate her people from bondage in Babylon. Realizing the grave danger which loomed over his people, Mordecai pled with Esther to seek help from the king: “For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father’s house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esth. 4:14).

Have you ever wondered why you were born in Ikun-Ekiti at the particular time you were born; when billions of people were born throughout the history of the world? Despite the great challenges we individually and collectively face today, I am sure you will agree, this is a wonderful time to be alive. In the context of world history, there has never been a more exciting time to sojourn on earth. Do you suppose that you were chosen to be born in Ikun-Ekiti for such

a time as this when our dear town is crying for its desired development and our youth engages in various antisocial activities!

My people, just like Esther, we must prepare to do our best to rise up for the development of our dear community Ikun-Ekiti because our time has come. We must possess the spiritual strength to overcome our challenges, laying our faults on the altar and giving our lives to the Lord and collectively we would be able to achieve our common goals. We must focus our priorities on contributing, as we are able, to the building of our community by cooperating with our His Royal Majesty, Oba Olusola David Olatunde, Akorewolu I, The Onikun of Ikun Ekiti on his vision of making Ikun the “Eko Kekere” of our time.

We can only achieve this noble vision of community development through the following:

1. Engaging on genuine and sincere reconciliation, by putting aside all grievances and hurts that might have happened in the past as the Word of God implores us in 1 Peter 1:2 “Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.” For us to be able to achieve the desired development we must unite together to fight our common enemy which is the devil. The Bible states that if a house is divided against itself such house will fall apart (Mark 3:25).
2. Acknowledging the divine worth of the individual in our community and respect the opinion of others knowing fully well that no one is an island of knowledge. Awoon Yoruba soro won bo, won ni “Agbajo owo lafi nso aya.” One Tree cannot make a forest. The Word of the Lord admonishes us to treat others the way we want them to treat us “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matthew 7:12).

3. Showing love to one another which is the main key to great development. I appeal to us that we show unconditional love towards one another. We can only demonstrate divine love by; loving the unlovable, loving people who do not love us, loving people who irritate us, loving people who stab us in the back or gossip about us and loving people who are different or demanding. The Word of God says; “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for “God is love” (1 John 4:7-8 NASB). Without divine love, the love of God and ourselves, we cannot achieve the desired development in our dear community.

In closing, our Father in Heaven has given us a perfect direction. We have a divine destiny to be fulfilled concerning our dear community and now is the time to rise up against our challenges in order to move our community forward. Let us put our differences aside and work toward a common goal as commanded by God. May we have the faith and foresight to receive the blessings that will lighten our burdens in the name of Jesus Christ.