

BOOK REVIEW

TITLE: SEARCH FOR SECURITY.
AUTHOR: REV. DR. NATHANIEL NDIOKWERE.
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As one goes through the pages of Father Ndiokwere's book "Search For Security", one of the first things that strikes one is the fact that the simplicity of the book's title belies the profundity of its content. He begins by exposing the global dimension of the problem of insecurity and the resultant quest for security by all and sundry. According to him:

Forces that threaten human existence everywhere are many. There are both seen and unseen forces as well as natural and supernatural.... There is anxiety every-where as men faint with fear of what is coming upon the world.

There are social, economic and political dimensions to the problem; in fact, in our present world, there is no sphere of human existence that can truly claim immunity from insecurity. However, Dr. Ndiokwere's handling of the religious aspect as it concerns Africans in general, and Nigerians in particular, is our main preoccupation at present.

The proliferation of 'born-again' churches, spiritual churches, 'healing and miracle' centres is attributed by the author chiefly to the feeling of insecurity by our people. There exists an overwhelming sense of helplessness in the face of forces over which they have no control, but which threaten to annihilate them.

The writer did well to bring to the fore the basic difference in attitude to life's problems between Africans and their European evangelizers. Many issues which the latter neglected or even outrightly refused to address have surfaced once more and are even threatening to demolish a good number of significant evangelical gains of the missionaries.

The phenomena of poisoning (Nsi), Ogbanje, Agwu Nsi, Mammy

water, Igba Njo Ahu (Igba ndu/Inu iyi), Witchcraft, the Devil and possession are x-rayed by the author. Both collectively and individually, these phenomena are believed by our people to be real and to constitute threats to their existence in varying degrees. Since the whiteman's panaceas, social and scientific have failed to remove these threats, people resort to seeking the succour of higher powers for protection - the search for security.

Furthermore, misfortune in business, childlessness, lack of promotions, unemployment and allied 'misfortunes' are major contributors to our people's uncontrollable rush to prayer houses and healing centers to seek for solutions through divine intervention.

Dr. Ndiokwere exposes some subtle truths which must not escape the minds of our people concerning the search for security. He cautions on the dangers of a crossless christianity and emphasizes the pre-eminence of reconciliation with God and neighbour together with a true conversion, over the reception of external 'miraculous' bonuses. He considers the former as constitutive of sine-qua-non conditions for a more fruitful reception of the latter.

In sum, the book "Search For Security" makes an interesting reading, and is very educative. One can only hope that the message contained therein may not suffer the fate of many other timely messages - public apathy - meant for our people. Security is certainly not found in apathy, but as the author says, in complete trust in God.