

A PUBLICATION OF CHRISTIAN LAWYERS FELLOWSHIP OF NIGERIA (CLASFON) I VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 MARCH 2025

2025

THEME:

# Thine is the Kingdom

MATTHEW 6:13

**FEATURING** 

President's New Year's Message SPECIAL FEATURE

Christian Lawyers and the Call for Integrity **BOOK REVIEW** 

"CLASFON, I CAME, I SERVED AND I AM BLESSED."

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# THE MEDIA AND PUBLICITY UNIT:

Dear Esteemed Members and Friends of CLASFON

It is with great excitement that we present the first edition of the CLASFON National Newsletter for the year 2025!

This year, we are focusing on our theme: "Thine is the Kingdom" (Matthew 6:13), which calls us to live out our faith in the legal profession. As Christian lawyers and law students, we are called to reflect the image of Christ in everything we do, including our practice of law.

CRC ±25
THINE IS THE KINGDOM

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about our mission, upcoming

events, recent activities, and provide meaningful reflections on how we can all contribute to justice and righteousness in society.

I encourage you to explore the contents of this edition, and to share it with fellow members and friends. Let this newsletter inspire, encourage, and equip us all as we continue to serve God through the legal profession.

May God bless you and guide you as you read and reflect on His calling.

Yours sincerely, Livinus Nwadinigwe N. National Publicity Secretary, CLASFON



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# ■ PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE



Dear beloved members of CLASFON,

As we step into the year 2025, I am delighted to welcome you all to a new year of possibilities, oppor-

tunities, and blessings. The year 2024 was a remarkable year for our Fellowship, marked by numerous achievements, milestones, and testimonies.

It was a great confirmation of the theme: "The LORD is our King (Isaiah 33:22)". We give thanks to God for His faithfulness and goodness exhibition of sovereignty to us (Psalm 115:1). What then is the LORD saying for 2025?

As Christian lawyers, we recognize that our profession is not just about representing clients or making a living, but about advancing God's kingdom and promoting justice, righteousness, and morality in our society (Matthew 5:13-16). Our role is to be salt and light in the legal profession, upholding the values of integrity, honesty, and fairness that are essential to our calling (Proverbs 10:9).

All through this year, we will be organizing various programs and activities aimed at promoting our values and equipping us to fulfill our mandate as Christian lawyers. These will include training sessions, seminars, workshops, and outreach

programs, Fellowship Meetings, Regional Conferences among others. I encourage you all to participate actively in these programs and to get involved in the various activities and initiatives of our Fellowship.

And now, dear members, it is with great joy and expectation that I unveil our theme for the year 2025:

"Thine is the Kingdom (Matthew 6:13)"

This theme is a powerful reminder of God's sovereignty and dominion over all things, and it challenges us to prioritize His kingdom above all else (Matthew 6:33).

We are encouraged to take a clue from a verse in our Anthem:

\_"Our revealing is awaited, a world of difference to make.

Here we are LORD to advocate. May your will be done through us."\_

As Ambassadors of Christ, we have a responsibility of making sure God's will is done on Earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:10). We need to represent Him in every aspect we find ourselves because the Earth is the LORD's and its fullness thereof (Psalm 24:1).

As we begin this new year, I pray that God will bless and empower us to fulfill our vision of promoting justice, righteousness, and morality in our society. May we be faithful ambassadors

# ■ PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

of Christ in our profession, and may our work be a reflection of His love and glory (Colossians 3:23-24).

Once again, I wish you all a happy and blessed new year. May God bless CLASFON and may God bless Nigeria.

A New Legal Profession anchored on Christ.

Yours in Christ,



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## THEME EXPOSITION

# Thine is the Kingdom

**MATTHEW 6:13** 

s we begin the year 2025, we reflect on our theme: "Thine is the Kingdom". This verse, part of the Lord's Prayer, reminds us that God's Kingdom is both a present reality and a future promise. As Christian lawyers, we are called to embody this truth through our professional practice. In the legal profession, this means striving for justice, integrity, and righteousness in every aspect of our work. It is about being the light in the legal community and using our knowledge and skills to advocate for truth, fairness, and justice.

Throughout this year, we will continue to explore how to incorporate these principles into our day-to-day legal practices, from corporate law to criminal defense, ensuring that our work reflects the Kingdom of God and advances His purposes.

# ABOUT ® CLASFON

The Christian Lawyers Fellowship of Nigeria (CLASFON) is a vibrant fellowship of Christian lawyers and law students in Nigeria. Our mission is to uphold and project the image of Christ through the practice of law. We believe in the power of faith to transform the legal profession and society at large.

Since our inception, CLASFON has been at the forefront of advocating for justice, promoting Christian values in the legal profession, and serving society through various legal initiatives. We aim to foster an environment where faith and law are not mutually exclusive, but where they intersect to bring about positive change in the legal system and beyond. Our members are dedicated to promoting justice, upholding the rule of law, and serving the society. especially those who are marginalized and underserved

#### OUR VISION AND MISSION



#### Vision:

To project the image of Christ through the practice of law, ensuring that justice, integrity, and righteousness are embodied in every legal matter we engage in.

#### Mission:

Our mission is to serve both God and society through the legal profession by engaging in mission activities such as:

- Providing pro bono legal services to the indigent.
- Distributing relief materials to marginalized communities.
- Offering Bible devotionals to prisoners.
- Advocating for the protection of religious freedom and good governance.

By serving in these ways, we aim to contribute to a more just, peaceful, and righteous society, reflecting Christ's love and grace in all our actions.

#### **CLASFON ANTHEM**



" KEEP YE JUDGMENT AND DO JUSTICE GOD'S SALVATION NOW HAS COME PEOPLE FALL PREY TO INJUSTICE RISE TO GIVE THEM ALL SUCCOUR

OUR REVEALING IS AWAITED A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE TO MAKE HERE WE ARE LORD. TO ADVOCATE MAY YOUR WILL BE DONE THROUGH US "

#### **CLASFON DIRECTORATES**





At CLASFON, we operate through nine key directorates, each focused on a specific area of our mission. These directorates are vital in helping us to fulfill our vision and provide structure to our work.

- 1. Church Collaboration and Counseling: Partnering with churches and providing legal counseling.
- 2. Religious Freedom: Advocating for the protection of religious liberties.
- 3. Legal Aid and Humanitarian Service: Offering pro bono legal defense and humanitarian aid to those in need.
- 4. Legislative Monitoring: Monitoring laws and policies to ensure they align with Christian values
- 5. Advancement of Legal Education and Research: Promoting ethical legal education and encouraging research.
- 6. Judicial Administration: Engaging with the judicial system to promote fair practices.
- 7. Trial Law and Advocacy: Supporting litigation efforts based on Christian principles.
- 8. Alternative Dispute Resolution and Reconciliation: Promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts and disputes.
- 9. Rule of Law, Anti-Corruption, and Good Governance: Advocating for justice and good governance.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

CLASFON remains committed to providing opportunities for learning, growth, and fellowship. Below are some upcoming events for 2025:

#### PIC MEETING (PRESIDENTS IN COUNCIL MEETING) MARCH 2025

The PIC Meeting is held quarterly in different cities across Nigeria and is a platform for national and regional leadership to meet, discuss, and strategize on the future direction of CLASFON. The next PIC Meeting which will be held this Month will be on 6th to 8th March 2025 at Ecwa Guest House, Kano, Kano State.



#### **REGIONAL CONFERENCES (AUGUST 2025)**



We are organizing conferences in each of Nigeria's regions. These conferences will promote unity, justice, and Christian ethical values in the legal profession.

- · South South: Uyo
- · South West: Abeokuta
- South East: Abakaliki
- North East: Yola
- · North Central: Makurdi
- North West: Kaduna

#### STUDENTS' CONFERENCE 2025 (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED)

A special event for Christian Law students across the nation. Date and location to be announced soon.



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#### Special Feature:

# Christian Tayvyers and the call for Integrity

As Christian lawyers, we are faced with numerous challenges that test our commitment to uphold Christian ethics in the workplace. From the temptation to cut corners to the pressure to compromise on integrity, the legal profession can sometimes present a tough battleground for believers.

However, the call to righteousness and integrity is clear. Christ's teachings guide us to stand firm in our convictions, no matter the cost. In this special feature, we reflect on how we can hold on to our values and integrity while practicing law. We also explore the role of prayer, mentorship, and accountability in maintaining a high standard of ethical practice.





1. THE FIRST QUESTION HERE IS BALANCING FAITH AND THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND HOW DO I NAVIGATE INTERSECTION BETWEEN THE LEGAL PRACTICE AND CHRISTIAN FAITH, ESPECIALLY WHEN LEGAL ETHICS AND JUDICIAL DECISIONS APPEAR TO CONFLICT WITH BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES.

I must first begin by saying a man is first and foremost A Christian, and then a Lawver. It is who you are as a Christian that affects the way you practice the law. The law is a good instrument for maintaining order and Justice in society and the best people to really uphold the law and Justice are the Christians who know the essence of Justice. I think when you have the right view of the Christian faith, you can always administer the law effectively and productively. The law is not against the faith and the faith is not against the law. However, it is in human nature to misuse everything. The law can be abused, that is, used abnormally, but ordinarily, the law is a weapon in the hands of God to administer the affairs of men, particularly between men and men. Of course, faith basically, had to do with

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH:

### Meet The President of CLASFON

PASTOR FEMI DAVID IKOTUN.

the Man and his God, the Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God. However, in ordering the affairs of men, in ordering how transactions are going to be held, in ordering relationship between individuals, entities and nations, there must be a law to guide these various transactions. There must be a law to guide, because human beings are not perfect. There's also the issue of personal interest and selfishness. These tends to affect the administration of the law, because diverse interests are involved. When such happens, there are procedures for ventilation of grievances. So, you go from the High Court to the Court of Appeal and to the Supreme Court and if it's still not right you let it be as the Supreme Court will say "They're not final because there are infallible but there are infallible because they are final"

2. THE SECOND QUESTION HERE IS LEADERSHIP AND CHALLENGE. YOUR QUESTION IS THAT I WEAR MULTIPLE HATS AS A PRINCIPAL OF A THRIVING LAW FIRM, A PASTOR, AND THE PRESIDENT OF CLASFON; WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES I FACE IN THESE ROLES, AND HOW DO I MANAGE THEM EFFECTIVELY?

Now in each of this role the greatest challenge is getting things done.
Delivering on the expectations of the

#### **Meet The President of CLASFON**

( CONTINUED

offices. It is important to me that I must be a jack of the all the trade and the masters of all. I don't like giving excuses. I like getting things done. I just want to make sure that the set objectives are achieved. And it is not always easy because a lot of time you put in so much effort and you get very little results and that is usually the challenges, getting things done and realizing the goal or vision for the things you want to achieve.

#### SO HOW I DO MANAGE THE CHALLENGES?

Well as a Christian, first and foremost, I believe that I am not fighting a physical battle, the Bible says I'm not wrestling against flesh and blood but against principalities and power, against the rulers of darkness in spiritual high places. In the light of this the Word of God admonished us to put on the whole armor of God and fight the fight with the right weapon. which I do, and these weapons are not carnal but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Consequently, I take up most of the challenges in the place of prayers. With God all things are possible. Many time that we are doing things in the realm of man and in the realm of the earth, with a little bit of effort or serious personal efforts and hard work are good and some things can be done. But when it comes to the guestion of being a pastor and Christian you must understand that the battle has moved to the spiritual realm and you must address the challenges at that realm in order for it to works. Of course, I put in hard work, time, effort, and money.

sufficient energy as required. But all of this works when soaked with prayers. the Bible says the horse is prepared for battle but victory is of the Lord. So as a Christian, I always insist on taking my battle to the spiritual realm, by trusting in the Lord to fight my battle.



3. THE THIRD QUESTION DEALS WITH LEADERSHIP AND CHALLENGES AND IT TALKS ABOUT "HOW DO I BALANCE MY RESPONSIBILITIES AS A HUSBAND A FATHER WITH THE DEMANDS OF PASTORAL WORK AND PRACTICE AND WHAT ADVICE WILL I GIVE TO OTHER LEGAL PRACTITIONERS STRIVING FOR THIS BALANCE".

The inspiration to put my hands in all these things came from my study of David in the Bible. I saw that David was a man, then he was a warrior, he was a priest, a husband and father, and he was a king and a Psalmist and I said, if God can do it for him, God can do it for me. So that is how I'm able to take up the responsibilities.

#### **Meet The President of CLASFON**

( CONTINUED )

need to do. When God at first created man it was God who said that it's not good for man to be alone and man needs help and the first thing for anybody to really be a man is to realize that he really needs help. Although some people like to do everything themselves and achieve everything themselves so that probably they can take all the glory. I've tried and I've learned that the best way to have success in whatever you're doing is to rely on people around you. Of course, you may be disappointed but sometimes you need them. It's the same man that will disappoint you that will help vou. So, vou must learn to rely on men. As a husband in running the home, I rely heavily on my wife to make sure things in the Homefront are in place. I mean in the house you need children to be taken care of, feeding and all of that, and my wife is heavily relied on to do that and I then have time to attend to pastoral work. Even in the church, I make sure that I get enough assistance. I get people to do things along with me, if I'm not available I train people who can run the service in my absence. encourage them, give them assignments while I'm there, see them and observe. I utilize supervisory delegation; I delegate and make sure the person I delegate to is doing the right thing. Same thing in my office I rely on my colleagues in the office to get things done. I rely heavily on them and you won't know the kind of help you can get by relying on people around you. At times you will even be amazed that somebody can do it in a better way than

Secondly and most importantly. I rely on

available hands around me to do what I

the way you are doing it. And so far, I have always been blessed by God with capable hands to assist in all my enterprise.

So that is how I have met the demands of my pastoral work and practice and I will advise all Christians to follow the same steps, all professionals to follow the same steps, you must learn to rely on people you must train people you can rely on, you must learn to trust, you must learn to delegate, you must let them make one or two mistakes and with time they'll master it and it will make the work easier for you.

4. THE ROLE OF CLASFON IN THE LEGAL PROFESSION AND AS PRESIDENT WHAT IS MY VISION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP AND HOW DO I SEE THE FELLOWSHIP INFLUENCING THE LEGAL PROFESSION IN NIGERIA AND BEYOND?

Our motto is a "Legal profession anchored on Christ" and we encourage each other and our brethren to practice our profession both at the Bar and on the Bench, as a ministry not just as a vocation or business, of course, it is a business but it should be like a ministry. Ministry is help, assisting people in solving their problems.

My vision for CLASFON is what is stated in our Constitution which is to empower our members to practice their profession as a ministry. If the number of Christian lawyers we have are doing that what they should be doing both at the Bar and on the Bench, we shall see a manifest

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#### **Meet The President of CLASFON**

( CONCLUSION )

change in the legal profession. If the few remnants. I'll say. (God's operations in every generation and at every land and clime is always carried on by the few remnants.): if they're doing what they're doing and doing it the way it should be done, we'll see the changes. From the Biblical perspective, we're not going to see perfection in the Legal Profession in this present evil world, because the devil is still at work and his work will continue till the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who will come and put an end to all evil. The role of Christianity in the world is a remedial one. The world cannot be changed or improved in a spiritual sense. until the eternal reign of Christ. But until then, each and every one of us must practice our profession as Lawyers. Judges, Lecturers, etc. as a minister in the temple of justice, by being the light in this very dark world.

#### 5. ADVISE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIAN LAWYERS.

There is a case that young Christian lawyers suffer with integrity competitive legal environment and what practical advice will I give them to remain steadfast in their faith while excelling professionally?

My advice is that they should be a Christian. Christianity is not what a man does, but what God does to a man. A lot of people may think that they are Christians but they are not Christians but church goes because if somebody is a Christian, if

if he is spirit-filled and spirit-controlled he wouldn't have issues with integrity. He'll be able to Stand his ground. temporary loss of things, because the major temptation to not having and maintaining our integrity is to get worldly gains, when someone thinks of or holds the view that gains is godliness. such a person is in trouble because the Bible says "godliness with contentment is great gain" The principle of the world is that gain is godliness. Your godliness is measured by what you possess and what you achieved irrespective of how it was achieved: but Jesus Christ said it clearly that "the life of a man does not consist of the abundance of things he possesses." Being a young lawyer, you may need to struggle, you may need to suffer initially, but with God on your side, you will succeed and excel in due time there is no magic to it, it's not a sudden flight. The height attained by great men is not by sudden flight, you just have to trust God and do what is right in the circumstances

Thank you



## "CLASFON, I CAME, I SERVED AND I AM BLESSED" DR. CHUKWUMAA J. CHINWO

For this month's book review, we take a closer look at "CLASFON, I Came, I Served and I Am Blessed", written by Dr.

Chukwuma A. J. Chinwo, who served as the President of CLASFON from 2008 to 2011. The book provides a powerful reflection on the journey of CLASFON, its past achievements, its present impact, and its anticipated future.

We will focus particularly on Chapter 1, titled "I Magnify My Office." In this chapter, Dr. Chinwo delves into the significance of leadership within CLASFON and reflects on his own experiences, challenges, and the blessings he encountered while serving as president.

#### Chapter 1: "I Magnify My Office"

In the opening chapter, Dr. Chinwo emphasizes the crucial role of leadership and the importance of "magnifying" one's office. As the leader of a national fellowship like CLASFON, he explains, the office of president is not just a position of authority but a platform for serving God and the broader legal community.

#### **Key Insights from the Chapter:**

• The Magnitude of Leadership: Dr. Chinwo shares that leadership within CLASFON, especially as president, requires a sense of responsibility that goes beyond administrative tasks. It involves actively inspiring and empowering others to live out their Christian faith through their professional and personal lives.

- Experiences and Challenges: Drawing from his tenure as president, Dr. Chinwo recounts several challenges he faced. These ranged from navigating organizational complexities to balancing the demands of leadership with his personal life and professional commitments. However, he also shares the spiritual growth and personal testimonies that emerged from these challenges.
- Personal Testimonies and Lessons
  Learned: One of the most powerful
  aspects of this chapter is Dr. Chinwo's
  sharing of the testimonies from his time
  as president. He recounts instances
  where he witnessed the transformative
  power of CLASFON in both individual
  lives and in the wider legal community.
  He also reflects on how God's guidance
  and the fellowship of fellow members
  helped him to overcome obstacles and
  achieve the organization's goals during
  his tenure
- The Role of Servant Leadership: Dr. Chinwo underscores that true leadership in CLASFON is about servanthood. Leaders must focus on the needs of others, support the vision of the fellowship, and remain humble in their service. This leadership model, he asserts, magnifies the value of the office and ensures the fellowship's mission is sustained.

# "CLASFON, I CAME, I SERVED AND I AM BLESSED" DR. CHUKWUMAA. J. CHINWO

#### **Reflections on the Chapter:**

Dr. Chinwo's perspective on magnifying the office of leadership resonates deeply with the values of CLASFON. As Christian lawyers, we are called not only to lead but to serve with integrity, humility, and a commitment to the greater good. His reflections encourage us to see leadership as a sacred calling, one that demands a balance of authority and compassion, and a constant reliance on God's wisdom and strenath.

This chapter serves as a reminder that leadership is not about titles or personal recognition but about fulfilling God's purpose through service and integrity. It challenges each of us—whether in leadership or not—to elevate the role we play in our respective areas of influence.

#### **Closing Thoughts on the Book:**

"CLASFON, I Came, I Served and I Am Blessed" is a valuable read for anyone involved in CLASFON, especially for those in leadership roles or aspiring to lead. Dr. Chinwo's personal insights and reflections on his time as president offer lessons not only for current and future leaders within CLASFON but also for anyone seeking to serve in a Christ-centered, professional environment.

This book is a testament to the enduring legacy of CLASFON, and Chapter 1 sets the stage for a deeper understanding of what it truly means to lead with faith and humility. We highly recommend it to all our members as a source of inspiration and guidance.



## **BIRTHDAYS!**

#### FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

We celebrate ALL members whose birthdays fall in the month of March, Happy birthday to all of you! May God continue to bless you with wisdom and success in all your endeavors



Anyone that wishes to have their Birthdays celebrated in the next edition of the Newsletter for the Month of April should call or message 08034768365.



**CR** 

Thine Kingdom

#### CLASFON REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2025 EARLY BIRD RATES

STARTS 1ST FEBRUARY - FNDS: 30TH APRIL

EGAL PROFE	SSIONALS:		RATES
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POST CALL 1-7 YEARS - N30.000 POST CALL 8 - 15 YEARS - N35.000 POST CALL 16 - 24 YEARS - N40.000 POST CALL 25 YEARS & ABOVE - N55,000

SOLICITORS GENERAL - N70,000 JUDGES, SANS, ATTORNEY-GENERALS - N100,000

#### OTHERS: NON-LAWYER SPOUSE

RATES: - N25,000

YOUNG ADULTS 18+/LAW STUDENTS - N15,000 CHILDREN 13 - 17 YEARS - N13.000 CHILDREN 4 - 12 YEARS - N10.000

CHILDREN 3YEARS BELOW - FREE **DRIVERS & ORDERLIES** - N15.000

NOTE: Magistrates, Professors (Excluding Professors who are SANs) and other judicial officers to pay according to their year of call.

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You can also send Us a Mail: clasfonn@gmail.com\*

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#### SUPPORT CLASFON

As we continue to expand our mission and vision, we ask for your support. Whether through prayer, financial donations, or volunteer efforts, every contribution helps to further our impact on society. To donate or learn more about how you can support CLASFON, please contact us at:

Email: info@clasfon.org

Website: www.clasfon.org

Your partnership is invaluable as we strive to be faithful witnesses of Christ in the legal profession.

#### **PRAYER POINTS**

Please join us in praying for the following:

- National and Regional Conferences: That these events will be fruitful and inspire members to deeper commitment in the legal profession.
- PIC Meeting: For wisdom and unity as we plan for the future of CLASFON.
- For Faithful Witnesses: That all members will be steadfast in their faith and serve as true ambassadors of Christ in their legal practices.

#### **CLOSING THOUGHTS**

As we move forward into 2025, let us keep our eyes on the Kingdom of God and our hearts set on reflecting His love, justice, and righteousness in all we do. Together, we can make a significant difference in the legal profession and in society. Stay blessed, stay inspired, and continue to be a faithful witness in the legal community.

For sponsorship and Advert details, call or contact:

The CLASFON Media and Publicity Team at: 08034768365.

With warm regards,

The CLASFON Media and Publicity Team.





# Chairman's Corner (MR JEGA)

Dear Esteemed Members of CLASFON,

I warmly welcome you to this special section of our newsletter, a space dedicated to sharing insights, inspiration, and reflections as we navigate our collective journey as Christian lawyers. As we engage with this edition, I encourage each of us to take a moment to reflect on our purpose—not just as legal professionals, but as ambassadors of Christ in the legal space.

This year's theme, "Thine is the Kingdom" (Matthew 6:13), is a powerful reminder of our divine calling. As practitioners of the law, we often face ethical dilemmas, professional challenges, and societal pressures. However, we must remember that our ultimate allegiance is to God's Kingdom, where justice, righteousness, and truth reign supreme. It is our duty to ensure that these values remain central in all we do.

The legal profession offers us a unique opportunity to stand as beacons of integrity in a world that is increasingly swayed by compromise. We must remain resolute, knowing that our faith is not separate from our practice — it is the foundation upon which we build. Whether in the courtroom, in negotiations, or in policy-making, let us be guided by the principles of justice and fairness as enshrined in God's Word.

In this edition, you will find insightful articles, upcoming events, and



testimonies that reflect our shared commitment to transforming the legal landscape through Christ-centered advocacy. I encourage you to actively engage, contribute, and most importantly, apply these lessons in your daily practice.

Together, let us continue to build a legal profession anchored on Christ.

Yours in His Service.

MKPACHI-OKO XAVIER CHINAECHEREM (MR. JEGA)

Chairman, CLASFON Monthly Newsletter Committee