

Emeka Anslem & Faith Aziegbemi



Trade Your
Gift

...TRADE YOUR GIFT FOR FREE UNTIL IT BEGINS TO ATTRACT A FEE

TRADE YOUR GIFT

Emeka Anslem &
Faith Azięgbemí

First published in 2017

Copyright © Emeka Anslem

anslem.emeka@gmail.com

info@emekaanslem.com.ng

www.emekaanslem.com.ng

facebook.com/emekaanslem01

Phone: +2349024529639

WhatsApp: +2348065582482

JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Never mind, let's begin!

HERE'S MY FAVOURITE QUOTE...

TRADE YOUR GIFT FOR FREE UNTIL IT BEGINS TO ATTRACT A FEE

I've always been passionate about teaching. People who knew me when I was younger say that I talk too much. Of course, that was embarrassing; but what was an embarrassment many years ago is yielding profit today. The complain has since changed, people now say that I talk too small. They say I stop my messages when it is becoming really interesting. Many even go as far as inviting me to their programs as a key note speaker. Isn't that an irony? Someone who "talks too much" now receives mails to talk and be paid.

There is no small gift. Every gift in man is like a seed planted by God Himself. The more you nurture (use) it, the more it grows. It's just unfortunate that many people develop their professional skills and do nothing about their endowed gifts. If only they know that trading their gifts can make them more than any professional skill can.

THE FUTURE...

The only thing I want to become in the future is whatever my gift makes me. The Era of "what do you want to become in the future?" has passed, we should be more focused on what to use our gifts for. Though our Saviour, Jesus, began His life as a Carpenter, but as He began to trade His gifts, God gave Him a name. Today, He has a name that is above any name; a name that is above being a lawyer, doctor or physician, carpenter, or a

ruler. Though he had some professional skills, but He is not known by those skills; rather, He is known by His gifts. Of course, He could still act as a carpenter, but His gift made Him better. You can still act as a lawyer, or a doctor, or an accountant, but trading your gift will make you someone better. I'm not saying you shouldn't pursue a profession, but that it's easier to become a professional developing the things you're passionate about.

What do you think about when the name "Jesus Christ" is mentioned? I know; Saviour, Redeemer, Righteous Judge, The Shepherd, Provider, Counselor, Teacher, Helper, and many other good names, right? Now, what do you think of when your name is mentioned? Let me guess, doctor? Come on, you're far more than that. Even if you're gifted in the area of Healthcare, trading your gift should

make you more than a doctor. If you don't understand what I mean, ask Benjamin Carson. They used to call him doctor, but now his name is branded. At the mention of his name, many things come to mind. That's how I want my life to be. I want to be Emeka Anslem; I want to be whatever my gift makes me.

No one has the right to tell me what I'd become in the future, not even my parents, because God had already destined me for something by putting gifts inside me. The time has passed when parents determine the career of their children. Many parents who are not acquainted with how gifts work will misguide their children in this era.

One of our pastors shared his experience on how he told his daughter to become a lawyer.

Of course, his daughter agreed. But as she commenced her senior secondary school education, she discovered that she took pleasure in taken care of sick people. After this discovery, she met with her dad and asked him "Dad, who told you I'd become a lawyer?". As at that time, she was already in the Art Department, but she didn't hesitate to switch to Science Department when she discovered that her dad didn't have a basis for his decision. Today, she's a medical practitioner.

EYES HAVE NOT SEEN...

1 Cor 2:9 tells us that ***"It is written; eyes have not seen, nor hears heard, neither has it entered into the hearts of man, the things which God has reserved for them that love Him"***.

Gifts will create new roles and professions, just like it did for Daniel and Joseph. If the bible says *“It is written”* then you can be sure it’s true. I can't guarantee you that you'd get a job even after your second degree, but if you trade your gift, you'd get a life. People look for jobs so that they can live a life, but trading your gifts gives you a life even without a job.

Trading your gift will certainly create room for you, even in hard times. In 2016, I started operating two business ideas. One is a home chef service, and the other is a documentation company. And these two businesses were birthed from the gifts that God put inside me. I studied Computer Science in school, and I've worked as an ICT person all my life, so there are no connections between these 3 professions. But the good thing is, when the ICT job is not paying, the

businesses I started with gifts pay. Actually, trading your gift would always pay.

People have complained about the recession in our nation; but despite the recession, these businesses are moving. People still have to eat, and they also have to write proposals for their businesses - even in recession. And that's what I represent; I have something that fetches profit for me in recession and out of recession. That's gift! Even when other companies are losing clients, those who are trading their gifts should actually get more clients. Trading your gifts does not reduce opportunities; rather, it increases opportunities.

GOD GAVE THEM GIFTS...

What God gives to you is what makes you a show to your world. Your professional skills

may give you a leading job, but trading your gift will give you a ruling job.

Concerning Daniel and those three Hebrew boys, the Bible says "God gave them wisdom and knowledge". They were in the same class with Magicians and Astrologers - receiving the same lectures from the same teachers, but report showed that they were ten times better than their peers. That's what gift does; it makes you better than all your peers or competitors, even ten times. If you want to enjoy clear distinction in life, then use gift.

BUT WHAT IS GIFT?

In 2 Cor 9:14-15, Paul said "... and by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you, thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gifts".

So it is the unspeakable gifts of God that we call the grace of God at work. From those scriptures we'd discover that the grace of God comes in capsules called unspeakable gifts; and exceeding grace is engendered by the unspeakable gifts of God in man.

"Unspeakable" means something that cannot be explained in the ordinary, something that cannot be compared with any other achievements, just like they could not compare with Daniel.

When God's gift in you provokes strange works that cannot be compared to any other, people call you a man of grace. Paul said "***I am what I am by the grace of God***", and he went further to say "***but we have these treasures in earthly vessels, that the excellency of power may***

be of God and not of us". What makes us treasurable is not hanging on our head, it's right within us; it's the gift of God.

Without gift men are reduced to trash, but with gift even a non-entity would become valuable. How can a prisoner be invited to the palace overnight? It was because of his valuable gift.

CAN YOU SEE LIFE?

Anything I cannot translate into writing easily bores me. Humorously speaking, even when I get into trouble, I still think of how to convert the troubles into writing - as if writing it will solve it.

Mysteriously, I've discovered that every time I invested in writing an inspiration from my

challenges, I also write the solution in the process. Any other means of solving a problem may not work for me until I think of writing it. And I believe it's because I've been programmed to see life as a message that has to be written.

My friends were having an argument over a matter - which I was also expected to join the argument. But instead, I was actively observing their conversation. They stopped after a while and wondered why I wasn't participating, and one of them said "leave him alone, I'm sure he's thinking of what to write". To be honest, everything they were arguing about already had a solution in the write-up I framed in my mind.

Your gift will always give you a lift in life. A gifted singer sees life as a song and knows

how to sing himself out of problems. A gifted artist sees life as a colorful artwork and knows how to paint himself out of problems. The gift of a man will always make room for him.

I've never lacked what to write because life is full of messages. I've even written messages that I've neither read nor heard from anywhere. Answer this one question; how do you see life?

MUMMY, PLEASE, LET ME DO THE COOKING TODAY...

My mum is a great cook. Her food is one of the reasons why I long to see December. I just cannot wait to travel all the way to eat her specially made delicacies.

My last visit was quite different. Of course, I did expect to eat her fine delicacies; but this time, I was already a Chef.

We battled over who will man the kitchen for each day. It was obvious to her that I am an amazing cook, but the cooking "hobby" in her just could not let go her kitchen. Even when capable women came to visit her, she never allowed them into her kitchen. I guess I used my "sonship" right to win the kitchen. But even when she agreed that I would make lunch or dinner, she changed her mind when it was time.

Just like me, she enjoys the pleasure and feedback from people. You know that feeling you get when people tell you "mehn, this meal tastes great!".

In Lagos, I run a home chef service named "Eat Local". But for months I wondered how I became a good cook, and even derive pleasure in cooking, knowing that I never took out time to learn how to cook from anyone. But my last visit to see my mum gave me the answer. It is a gift I inherited.

These things happen in every generation. Our parents always pass a gift across to us that will help us continue the race of life. I guess that is why God told man to "Produce after his kind". My mum is a retired nurse who never considered cooking as a profession. Me, I am an ICT Expert. But she passed the gift of cooking to me.

Writing and cooking were just hobbies for me, just as cooking is a hobby for my mum.

But the difference is, God gave me an idea to convert my hobbies to professions.

Now here is my point; our hobbies cannot continue to be hobbies in these coming times. We must think creatively to convert our hobbies to professions. What we most times call hobbies are things that many people will pay for. I believe that the reason why we have certain gifts is because a certain generation could not put them to effective use. Now I do not only cook for myself, I cook for families and also make profits from it.

USING YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFTS

By Faith Aziębemi

We all are born with gifts; different gifts to fulfill special purposes. People may possess similar gifts but with some uniqueness, because everyone has a purpose. However, these gifts are all in accordance with God's plan. 1 Corinthians 12:4 ***"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit."***

Gifts are inbuilt abilities, you don't need to pray to get them, they are just there as God wants it. Everyone is born with gifts; that's probably why the Bible says ***"The gifts and callings of God are without repentance"***

Gifts are meant to be effectively utilized. Your gifting is a pointer to your lifting. Only your gift can lift you to fulfilling Gods purpose. Gift is an ultimate card, it works anywhere!

Most times you see people excelling with something else other than what they studied in school because their gift is what makes way for them. Some other people even earn more from their gifts than profession.

Life is easier when using your gift as a profession because it's something grace has covered. You would not need to work yourself out unlike others.

In reality, you'd earn more from your gifts than profession; that's why your gifts must be traded.

It's wiser studying in line with your gifts, because you'd naturally find passion when you study in the area of your gift. Most people who work outside what they have in their certificate are people who didn't study according to their gift, but certain circumstances finally pushed them to their gift. Your gift is what makes the way for you.

Your gift is dominant; even if you can't see it, people notice you for it; it's visible and unique. If you can't pinpoint your gifts then you can get to know from people around you, do a survey, you'd notice that 80% would say the same thing concerning you.

I've done it before too; I was shocked at their responses because it seemed like it was planned, but it wasn't. You can consider doing that too.

You must use your gifts; do not try to bury it. Many people bury their gifts because they are scared of work, but your gift is accompanied with grace to fulfill. That's why you find yourself doing certain things easily unlike others. Any gift you don't possess will require much work to attain; you might even get frustrated. But the gifts you possess is accompanied with grace. Burying your gift is like a suicidal mission, nothing would work even with much efforts.

If you try to bury your gift, it might sleep in you. Do not be scared to showcase your gifts, do it anyhow but develop yourself. It may not start rosy, but persistence and diligence is key.

Growing up as a child, I had always loved writing; I wrote a storybook while I was in Junior secondary school; the title was "Broken

paradise", I hoped I would get to publish that book because it was really interesting and the fact that I completed the book in a 40-leaves exercise book. But it didn't happen. Finally, I lost my book; I stopped writing because I felt maybe I shouldn't. I continued writing articles for the press club in my school until God connected me with Emeka Anslem, my spiritual father, and a mentor. He has a writing school which I attended on scholarship; that was how I regained the writing power.

I must tell you that when I started I was struggling; he'd always charge me to be consistent, but it seemed like I was out of ideas or the Holy Spirit had nothing to reveal to me.

Subsequently, I discovered my writing skill and purpose and continued writing easily. Presently, I have an audience who are always eager to read from me. Whatever gift you

may possess, persistence is key. Do not relent.

Gift makes you outstanding; it's something peculiar to only you. It's what singles you out in a group of people. In any gathering, you can easily notice the gifts people possess. It's seen in the way they act, talk and dress. Your gift is a trademark; trade cautiously!

Do not be scared, you can possess two or more gifts. People say "**JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF NONE**"; but you can actually be a master of all as long as you take it step by step. Each and every gift you possess are spirally connected; you just need to learn how to work and trade with these gifts for perfection. In the parable of the talents, there was one given ten talents; which means multiple gifts can be possessed.

Many people don't even know the gifts they possess, that's why they're probably still struggling in their course of study. You need to identify your gifts and trade them. Your gift is your highest source of income because it comes along with different ideas and strategies. You see yourself thinking and people would seem to wonder how you are able to come up with such thought. It's just there because it's your gift!

Your gifts must be traded, that's where your wealth also lies.

Your gift is different from your purpose. But your gift could be a ladder to fulfilling your purpose.

Do not mix things up, that you're trading your gifts doesn't guarantee fulfillment of purpose. You also need to consciously discover your purpose. About finding your purpose, I recommend the book “Learn How to Find Your Purpose” authored by Emeka Anslem; I found the book very helpful.

HOW DO I DEAL WITH MULTIPLE GIFTS?

Like I quoted earlier, you can actually be a master of all your gifts; do not be deceived. That saying is human perception, which are facts, rather than God's word which is the truth. The truth should always precede facts in your everyday life.

Personally, I have many gifts of which I've realized and probably still realizing; so as we go further, I might be using myself as a

practical example alongside some other people I know.

Also note that, there isn't any small gift. The way you trade your gifts determines the results that follows.

As part of my gifts, I make hair; it isn't something I learnt. As a kid, I loved making anyone I know look beautiful and I was really good at combining colors. I would style my mum and aunties hair whenever they let me. My mum never wanted me to touch her hair because she always felt I would tangle it up. But now, she doesn't go anywhere near the salon; even when I'm not available, she'd wait till I am; not because I won't charge her but because she likes what I do on her hair. Even if I didn't learn hairdressing, the amount I make in making hair for people is equivalent to what shop owners earn. Trade your gifts!

You need to trade your gifts even if it's for free, later it would attract a fee. I used to make hair for friends for free while I was still in secondary school, but now they pay me even if I don't charge them.

As you grow, realizing your different gifts and potentials, you'd be eager to jump into all. You would want to do everything at the same time, conscious of the fact that you're flexible to these gifts and it can be done with ease. You should know that the ease associated with these gifts is grace. Grace reduces exhaustion but it doesn't give room for rest; you would work! You need to take it step by step like climbing a staircase. As you discover, develop and be perfect before you step up to the next level. Do not be an average in all.

Being an average has a negative effect because you can't boldly showcase any gift,

making you an amateur in all. You need to develop each one.

Many people tend to float around their gifts; switching and switching till they kill one or more. You must learn to grow each per time. You might get frustrated trying to start with all at a time. When you start all, you'd find yourself always tired and angry because you haven't mastered all. It's like always beginning but never ending. You must master each one after the other; at the end, you'd be able to combine all.

I was 10 when the gift of public speaking was discovered; I gave a 10-minute presentation in a congregation of about 200 people. I had always loved public speaking even though at first I was fidgeting. I represented my school

in debates, participated in talk shows all because I just wanted a platform to speak.

Recently, someone who I wasn't even close to invited me for a speaking engagement. Discovering this gift was one thing but I developed it. I studied about public speakers/compères, read books to improve my vocabs and turned my parents to an audience I speak to.

As I continued to discover my gifts, I kept working on them for perfection. I still am though.

Most importantly, you need mentors in all areas. For each gift you discover, locate a mentor. Your mentor could be distant but also have a mentor you can relate with and learn directly from. You need a mentor to guide and challenge you. Mentors are not people you feel should be, they should have

passed the level you are evidently. If you have an inconsistent mentor, you'd be an inconsistent protégé.

Age doesn't define who your mentor should be. Age and grace are wide apart. You only need someone that has passed the level you are long before and has the grace to replicate. You are to learn from your mentor and not to argue; if you think you know it all, you should mentor yourself. Your age mate might not be your grace mate!

No matter how fast you grow, you still need a coach. Even if you think you're doing fine, you must still have a mentor. You are not an island.

Also, you mustn't rob Peter to pay Paul. You can't subdue one gift for another. You must utilize all.

No gift is insignificant; all gifts are invaluable. If your gift is singing, sing and take it up as a career. If you can sing, dance and talk; merge singing and dancing and be a speaker. You can do all!

There are certain gifts that needs extra training. I might be a fashion designer but it's a gift; though I had to train which I did for just 5months. If you know what fashion designing entails, you'd understand the timeframe. Most people learn for 3years or more before perfection but mine was a gift that was trained.

TOOT YOUR HORN...

Are you confused as to what I mean? Well, tooting your horn is synonymous to trading your gifts. Let people know you for who you are and what you do. It's the only way to

trade your gifts. I don't mean you go around bragging, but anywhere you find yourself people should know what you carry.

I know of a person who was into event management. His neighbour had an event and used another event planner. He got angry because his neighbor was not aware of his abilities. This person, if he doesn't wisen up, would continue losing opportunities. Don't let that be your case. Toot your horn!

In tooting your horn, you need to be conscious of destiny cutters. These people are positioned to frustrate your efforts. Before I came into full time writing, I told an older friend I felt the need to write a book; she asked if I thought writing was for everybody. Those words pierced my heart but I didn't allow it to weigh me down. Do not expect

everyone's support while trading your gifts. Just continue growing and build bricks with the stones thrown at you.

The more you trade, the tougher the challenges you meet. Challenges may threaten your abilities, but you should focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. Everyone might not appreciate you at first, but do not relent. Soon enough you'd be irresistible. There is no success story without a history.

You should be creative. It's a gift! You need to have your own style that people associate you with. The fact that you have the gift of public speaking doesn't imply you should speak like Oprah Winfrey, speak like YOU!

You don't need to go to school and study what your mates are studying simply because it's what's in vogue. Go and study your gifts and excel with it!

Someone once told me I might be wasting my time studying economics instead of mass communication. Management is another gift I possess; and that means I could write or speak on management. Your gifts are spirally connected.

Finally, my spiritual father and mentor, Emeka Anslem, once said to me "Faith, I don't know what I want you to become, but become whatever your gift makes you". So, study your gift and become it! I wrote a little e-book titled "The Relay". You'd find that book really inciting when it comes to maximizing your gifts.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE GOD'S RESERVE FOR OUR DISTINCTION

By Emeka Ansem

There is a lucid difference between natural talent and spiritual gift. Talent is an endowment; spiritual gift is an “endowment”.

Talent is God's investment in man, He put it there before man was born. Spiritual gifts are God's unfathomable additions to the talent of man. God uses spiritual gifts to distinguish His people in this competitive world.

Joseph had managerial skills or talent; he managed his father's flock before he moved to the next phase of his life. He also knew how to be hospitable, which was why he was placed in charge of other prisoners. But interpretation of dreams was not part of his talent.

The reason why his father preferred him to his other sons was not because he knew how to interpret dreams but because he was hospitable. However, the benefit of his father's preference was just likeness; he didn't have the capacity to take Joseph to the top.

Talent or natural gifts may compel people to like you, even to an extent of devising means to help you, but a person with spiritual gift

never lacks help, because spiritual gift itself is the help of God in man.

No matter how talented you may be, you can't compare with one who is spiritually gifted by God. You may compete with skills and other talents, but not spiritual gifts. This is why many people who forget God and depend on their natural talent still run to man to support them. Man may guide you on what he thinks you can use your gift for, but only God can tell you the exact potentials that your gift carries. It's like choosing a road-side engineer to service your car when you have free access to the manufacturer. People have advised me to go into singing and acting. Though I may have the natural talents, but those are not what God wants me to do with the talents He put in me.

There is a place for you with God, but you cannot arrive there without the spiritual giftings of God. It is the giftings of God that determines the liftings of men.

Don't pray to be lifted, pray to be spiritually gifted. When the spiritual gift of God came upon Joseph, he didn't pray to be lifted, the gift pushed him out of the prison. When Daniel was gifted, he didn't pray to enter the king's palace, the gift made a room for him. If natural gifts make room for people, spiritual gifts would make palaces for you. This is why I don't envy worldly people who have similar natural talents like I do. We may have the same natural talents, but they don't have spiritual gifts, which is something only God can give. I know many writers I started this journey with; surprisingly, many of them have become my protégés. We were competitors, but now they've become students. We had

the same natural gifts, but spiritual gift distinguished me. And that was exactly what happened to Daniel and those three Hebrew boys; they were ten times better than their peers, just because God gave them spiritual gifts.

Spiritually gifted people don't lack opportunities; they don't beg to enter into high places, their spiritual gift just put them there - just as it did for Daniel and Joseph. In 2010, my write-ups were not "worthy" to be published, but as I received the Spirit of Knowledge in 2013, worth came. Natural talent may give you fame, but spiritual gift gives you worth. Destiny is not actualized by fame but by your worth.

LET ME CONCLUDE WITH THIS...

Natural talents or gifts are good, but spiritual gift adds great value to them. I'm a naturally talented teacher; but just imagine what the spirit of knowledge has turned me into. Most of the things I share on my platforms are not things I studied and learnt from somewhere, they were divinely inspired. People say they like my teachings and writings; but in actuality, they like the knowledge they get from my teachings. While they see the outward effect, something more powerful is doing the wonders from within.

Spiritual gifts are freely accessible once you're baptized in the Holy Ghost. Spiritual gifts are the properties of the Spirit of God; He releases them to us according to our desires. Let's see how apostle Paul described it:

1 Cor 12:

4. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9. To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10. To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

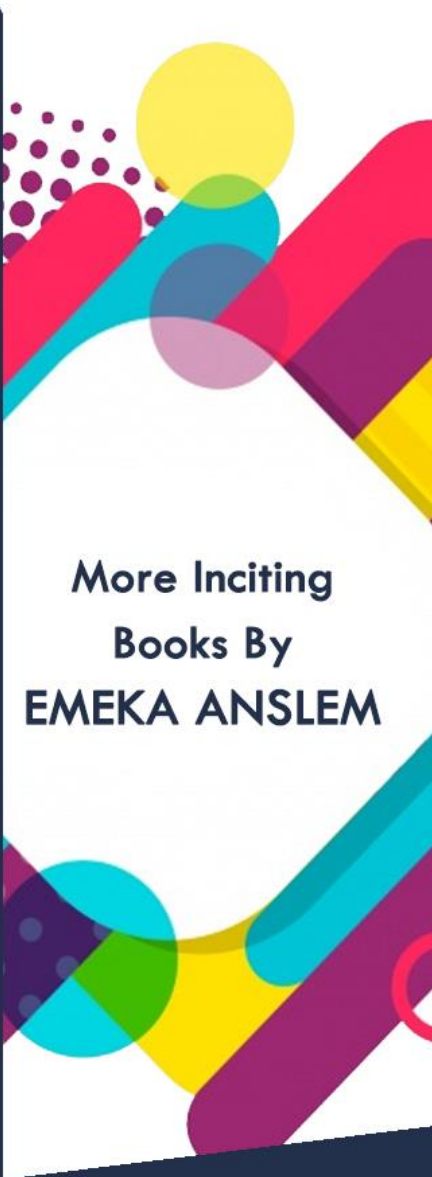
11. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Did you see that? Different gifts from the same Spirit, and they are all given to us for profiting. In other words, if your natural talents are not bringing profit your way, use spiritual gifts to enhance them. Spiritual gifts are natural enhancers of your natural gifts.

I believe you've been blessed by this book. It is my prayer that it speaks greatly in your life, in Jesus name!

God bless you, I love you, and don't forget to send in your testimonies.

- PUTTING GRACE UNDER PRESSURE
- HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR DESIRED
MIRACLE
 - COLOR IN WILDERNESS
 - THE BAIL OUT PLAN
 - WHERE ARE THE YOUTHS?
- HE BLESSES OUR BREAD AND WATER
 - WHERE THERE IS NO VISION
 - FOCUS
 - ACADEMIC DRIVE
- LEARN HOW TO FIND YOUR PURPOSE
 - MOTIVATING RIGHT EDUCATION
 - THE TIME IS NOT ENOUGH
 - A NEW CONFIDENCE
 - INTO THE DEEP
 - OVERCOMING DEPRESSION
 - TIMELY NOTES 30-DAY DEVOTIONAL
 - I COULDN'T FIND A SILVER SPOON
 - ANSLEM'S FAITH BOOK
 - NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN
ENTHRONED
 - THE GREAT ADVANTAGE



More Inciting
Books By
EMEKA ANSLEM



I am Emeka Anslem, the privileged writer of Timely Notes Daily Devotional, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. I received a divine call to be a teacher in April 2013, with an assignment to "Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people". By His grace, I've committed my life to this assignment, and I'm always willing to add value to lives.

I'm very accessible. So please do not hesitate to connect with me through the contact details listed on the copyright page. God bless you with multiple promotions!