

A COMPILATION OF WINNING ENTRIES FROM THE OUTLIERS COMPETITION

THE

Outliers





This inspiring collection of poetry and short stories was written by the young Christian students in the first quarter of 2021.

This is a celebration of their creativity and writing skills while they penned down their experience on being an **OUTLIER** as a Christian.

FOREWORD



FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Just like that, the first essay competition was concluded, with varieties of inspiring short stories and poetry by young talented Christian students.

It was not an easy task to select the best or most outstanding entry from this pool of essays, and I would love to commend every participant and encourage them to keep improving and honing their skills and creativity.

This magazine is a compilation of the best entries as vetted by our judges, it is of note that all the essays written by each participant were amazing but these few stood out.

Enjoy!

~ Miss. Peace Areogun
CEO, OOADI

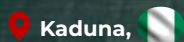


*Junior
Category*

WINNING
ENTRIES

I STAND AN OUTLIER

by Ajijolaoluwa, Adeleye



I stand different,
I stand unique.
I am an outlier,
The best of me.

I stood by Naomi,
In the pain and hurt.
Oprah left but I couldn't go,
I stood for her and not myself,
I remained loyal,
I'm an outlier.

I saw what Oprah couldn't,
It was so strange but perfect indeed.
It gave me strength to stand by her,
Even to the point of death.
A God so faithful,
That turned my story around.

I wasn't the only one battling the
pain,
Naomi was lost in the pool of hurt.
But this faithful father gave me
strength,
To stand by her, to stand with her.
He made me an outlier someone
different for him.
I couldn't have been without him.

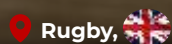
We couldn't explain the pain and
hurt,
But He brought Boaz as our
redeemer.
I listened to Naomi,
And went to the threshing floor.
Then I found favor in his sight.

It took courage to stay when I could
leave.
I didn't realise,
That my patience and loyalty,
Could make me an ancestress,
Of the awaited King.

I stood out,
I stood by,
I stood with,
I stood through,
I stood different then and now,
And I stand an outlier by his power.

KEMI, A WONDER ON TWO LEGS

by Oluwadamilola Ajagunna



Kemi was a wonderful 16-year-old girl who lived in Stratford, London. Her ambitions were to become a successful architect and property owner. The little girl was hard-working and determined, and she loved God dearly. Every morning and evening, she would search the Bible laboriously to uncover scriptures that gave her confidence, and pray. She could pray for hours if she was allowed, but she had so many other things to attend to.

However, something was beginning to cause Kemi to lose hope. Everyone was against her desires, even her own relatives and friends! Daily, she would hear the endless taunts of everyone around her as she walked to school. Her classmates criticized her for four things: her color, gender, ambitions and godliness. She thought they had no right to mock her as they were lazy and unrighteous, yet she became more and more miserable by the day, and would cry uncontrollably whenever she was alone.

One night, whilst Kemi attempted to get to sleep after a fit of sobs, the Holy Spirit woke her from a daze and told her to open her Bible to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. After reading this short passage, Kemi realized that God was on her side and that there was nothing wrong with what she wanted to do as an adult. She cleaned her tear-stained face and soon felt relieved and ready once more.

The next day was extremely essential, for there was the annual arithmetic exam. This time around, Kemi ignored her brothers' snorts as she hurriedly

wolfed her breakfast, nearly choking on it. On her way to school, she met some bullies, who knocked her over and set off in a fit of laughter. Usually, Kemi would burst into tears and flee sorrowfully to school, but instead, she stood up, dusted herself and marched off. The bullies were astounded. What had come over Kemi for her to behave this way?

The brave girl showed the same attitude to everyone else who had mocked her, and they were all bewildered. She separated from all of her friends because they clearly weren't helping. At a point, just preceding the exam, ignoring everyone surrounding her became too weighty and she spoke up. "Just leave me alone," she declared. "What you're doing isn't helping anyone, especially not me. You should change your ways because the LORD isn't happy with you at all. The LORD has given me courage to stand up for my ambitions, so your acts are useless now."

This enormous speech caused a wave of silence to wash over the room. Soon, the exam began, and Kemi ended up getting the highest mark in the whole school! From that day on, everyone respected Kemi for who she was; a kind, determined, hard-working girl who had great potential and purposeful destiny.

And believe it or not, Kemi did become an architect and property-owner, possessing many valuable properties and designing beautiful buildings for God!

JESUS, THE OUTLIER

by Dolapo, Samuel



"They say they are different.
'But how?' I ask,
They are still people.

Chased out from living with other
people,
Doing their own things,
Murmured about, by people.
Laughed at,
They could hardly live.

But know what!
They remind me of a man,
Who was born into this world,
A freeborn,
But died like an outlier.

Ask what he did to deserve such?,
Are you so curious?,
Then, i have to tell you these;

This Man did not just accept to be an
outlier,
He had to be.
He had to be treated that way,
To fulfill prophecies about Him,
Long before, He was born.

Was He that important?,
For prophecies to be foretold about Him
Before He was born?,

Yes! He was more than important.
Without Him, many would have been,
Without Hope,
And true fellowship with the Father.

This Man became an outlier because,
He spoke the truth,
Brought many people out of darkness,
Shone great light on their path
And delivered numerous people.

This, the rulers of the land hated,
And plotted a plan to kill Him.
Even though He knew about this plan,
He prepared Himself,
And His disciples too.
They rebuked Him.
But, 'No!' He said.
He had to go through this,
To deliver mankind.

No! Even though He seemed calm,
He panicked a little,
He was doing all this, not for His will,
But for His Father's will.
Luke chapter 22 verse 42 says,
"Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove
this cup from me: nevertheless not my
will, but thine, be done."

One of His disciples betrayed Him,
And sold Him out to the soldiers for
money.
He was arrested under weak allegations,
He was beaten up, mocked and hanged
on a cross.

At a place called 'Golgotha', which means,
'place of skull.'
In the fashion of which criminals were
killed.
His family and women disciples cried for
Him,
But His twelve disciples ran away.
Later, Jesus died, saying,
'It is finished.'

BUT! HE ROSE UP,
After three days and showed Himself to His
disciples,
And gave them power to deal with
diseases,
And authority over demons,
And the Holy Spirit.
After spending forty days with them, He
went up to heaven to meet His Father,
Promising to be with them,
And come back to take them with Him.

This Man is JESUS CHRIST, SAVIOUR OF
THE WORLD.
And i am excited to tell you that,
Even if you are an outlier or more,
Or you have lost hope for yourself and
future,
Just know that,
JESUS is ready to show you the right
path and lead you,
If you just surrender your life to Him.

Remember, JESUS IS LORD.
HALLELUJAH!



TUNDE, THE BLACK SHEEP

by Faith Omotosho



In the South-West Nigeria, there lived the family of Mr. Adebayo.

The family was blessed with six children – four girls and two boys. Their father, Mr. Sola Adebayo, was a Christian who brought his children up in the ways of God. Daily, he would tell his children, "Obedience is better than sacrifice. Be obedient to your parent, my dear children, because this is the first commandment in the Bible with a promise. And, the promise is that it will be well with you on the earth."

Tunde was a different child from the others because he was ill-mannered. He steals and lies. He is very disrespectful and despises all the cautions and warnings of his father.

One day, Obi, his friend in school, encouraged him to sneak out of the school. They went to a compound down the street to steal some apples. They both climbed up the tree singing, "fresh apples, sweet apples, we are going to pluck clean apples."

They were already high up on the tree when the owner of the compound released his dogs and the dogs started barking. Tunde and Obi got scared and attempted to climb down the tree. Obi is a very fast runner and has mastered how to jump down from very high trees; so he was able to escape but the case was not the same for Tunde. He lost balance and cried for help shouting on top of his voice but before those living in the compound could come close to help, he stepped on a weak branch and fell off the tree. He broke his ankle and was rushed to the

hospital.

The news spread very fast all over the community. Mr. Adebayo was very disappointed in his son because he had refused to walk in the ways he has been taught.

The school headmaster was also not happy with Tunde and Obi. He addressed the assembly the next morning stating that the two pupils would be on suspension from school for a week.

Tunde was hospitalised for a number of weeks so that he couldn't return to school for the remaining weeks of the session.

When he resumed, he went to see the headmaster in his office. The headmaster explained to him that since he had missed the examinations for two terms, he would have to repeat his class. Tunde couldn't imagine himself repeating a class; so he wept bitterly. Only then did he realise that obedience is undeniably better than sacrifice.

JESUS, OUR LIFE

by Oreoluwa Alakaba



Teaching us his ways,
Showing us the truth,
Bringing us to the recognition of the
father,
Helping us to prosper,
Even in our souls,
He is the life.

A thousand years ago was our
freedom bought,
And yet still valid.
Beaten, bruised, and battered
Was he slain,
That our emancipation might be the
gain

In his redemption is the life,
Our hope,
As he soon connects us back to our
roots,
to the father.

Our Spirit has he marvellously
renewed with his,
that his spirit might excellently yield us
into his perfection.
And adoption has he freely given out
While we believe and receive him
That we may be empowered
Casting out fear
As we scream "Abba father"

Upholding all things by the word of his
mouth
He's upholding us
The pillar that holds our life,
the pillar we hold on to....

"Go and excel", he constantly says to
me
As he constantly clouds us with
excellence,
Adorns us with beauty,
Renews us with strength,
Endows us with power.

Even more, Overcome he cries out,
As he approves us.....
A generation of believers he does see,

Imparted, raised, Filled.
His power will he pour and outpour,
As we become clutched into his realm.

His "will" will we do,
till we are perfected,
Fully conformed,
Yielded even
Into his form.

Desperately will we grow
Hunger and thirst
Broken,
Till we conform in us his nature.
His work will we do,
Healing, teaching, delivering,
All the way

And in it all, we see the pay,
As we approach with grace,
Assessing with our faith,
That we might reign,
As we adore Christ
The Empowerment.

Flowing like liquid fire in my veins
My inner self begins to manifest the
glory of this new realm
A regime
A love-filled regime.
The more of him I want
The more he helps me become

"Different" has he called me
The Unique
The Set Apart

"Shine on"!!!
Yes I will
I sure will
And this new life will I continue to
savor
Till I behold his face
At that mansion

"Welcome faithful Servant"
"Welcome home at last".



Senior
Category

WINNING

ENTRIES



THE OUTLIERS

by Jesutomisin Ojo



After his rebellion
He lost his position
This man in question
Is a very rogue one
Because of his glory thirst
Thinking he could be first
But not a surprise at all
It was his down fall
God's best work was then created
"Good" as he had said
But this man operating without
the system
Now vowed to destroy them
He didn't fall as a lone ranger
But he was the first outlier

God had to give up his most
precious
To save man from this beast so
vicious
He had to send us Jesus
Who saved and washed us
God who lived amongst us
Didn't come riding on a white
horse
After his blood was shed
And for three days he lay dead
He rose again to ascend
Greater love hath no man than this
Greater love hath no man than this

Now there is a second set of
outliers
But these ones empowered with
fire

Who live in this corrupt world,
But draw life from God's word
Who then are the real Outliers?
The redeemed? Or the
lawbreakers?
We can't point fingers at one
another confidently
Because this is a battle of so many
Light against darkness
Those living for God against those
for the devil

OFF!

by Mercy Odeyemi

Oshogbo, 

She was His daughter
Never went against His orders
He was her Father
So, she cherished moments of them
together They were made up of a
soul, no border

She loved Him so much no other Of
His words she was a lover
To walk with Him, she desired
forever Their union no one should
scatter Was her major agenda

For to His body she concluded to
surrender Until Lucifer sent his
brother
Lucifer's brother keeps her away
from her Father, her master He
creates a book with another chapter

Enticing her with words that builds
her disaster Gradually she's living
her Father's chamber
For offers that make her suffer
Her new founded lover slowly trails
her to his secluded corner

To his poor riches and sweet lies, she
falls for again over and over Father's
words are seen now as words
without desire
Empty, she is with her new lover
For she left peace for gradual
murder Ignoring Messiah to honour
Lucifer Sis, it's not late to re-
surrender

He still cares about your matter
If only you'll renounce your present
master To announce again your first
lover

Though you left His body and
became The Outlier
Father wants you back in His
custody as His own, His Daughter

REGRETS, REGRET

by Peace Oloyede



"Dare to be different!", Mum always counselled. I always wished I adhered to that counsel. Life is full of unexplainable turn outs. Who would assume that merely discussing with Amaya would cause one to live a dog's life? I'm pondering on why I'm selling vegetables when I remember everything that happened six years back...

"Oh...my...God!", I screamed. All eyes from every corner of the library were directed on me. Stella, my best friend, was obviously at sixes and sevens. 'Why did she just scream?' Stella thought. "Okay, so what did you just pull up in here?", Stella asked bewilderedly. "There's this model that schools here. I follow her on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook", I commenced. "Alright, so?", Stella retorted. "She just entered the library", I said almost bringing my teeth out of my mouth. "So what? Hold on! Is that why you screamed?" "Of course. Seeing Amaya in the library is a rare privilege". Stella hissed. "Jeez! Let's prepare for fellowship". "Yeah, let's go", I said eagerly.

Amaya, was the model everyone admired. I was still reading in the library, when she stepped in. She caught me staring at her. Thank God I was alone because I'm sure Stella would have caused a scene. My head still buried in the Economics note, I was reading, I heard footsteps. Whose own? And within a twinkle of an eye, I almost found myself on the ground. Amaya was sitting in my front – such an honor! Then we got into this hot discussion. "You want to be like me, right?", Amaya asked with full-blown confidence. "Definitely!" I exclaimed. "Alright, first get popular the way I want you to. I'll send you something to post on your WhatsApp status. I want it to go viral". Amaya ended just in time for Stella to come in.

"I'm in", I said before Stella said a word. Amaya said okay and just left. Stella asked about our discussion but I refused to talk though she begged. Later, Stella exclaimed that it was almost time for fellowship, as usual. "Um, please, I might not come now. I have to do something". "What is more important?" "Don't bother, I'll join you". Stella heaved a deep sigh and took her leave.

Amaya sent the message. What I saw was terrible. "What in the name of Jesus is this?", I cried out. "Well, I'll still do it. I...will...be...popular...", I chuckled. The renowned Economics lecturer has a secret wife aside the one he claims to be his.

The following day in the library, I posted it. Stella screamed which showed that she had seen it. Within seconds, the library became the noisiest place ever. It was me! I was happier than the most fulfilled person on Earth. And gradually, all eyes from every corner of the library was directed on me. It was as though I was a star. "Yemisi, why would you do such a thing?", Stella brought me back to my senses. "For fame, ain't it?", I shrugged. Stella shook her head and told us to just go for fellowship. "Stop disturbing me with this fellowship trash! I have my life to live. Stop stressing me!", I cried out. "Yemisi, Amaya changed you. You've never raised your voice when talking to me", Stella stormed out of the library. I couldn't start crying over spilt milk.

Stella went with all confidence, to report to the institution's authorities about my actions. Amaya and I were sanctioned and rusticated from the university. However, Amaya used her 'powers' to enter back while I wallow back in futility. I played fast and lost. Dare to be different. I live to regret this!

I CALL IT FIRE...

by Covenant Ogunleye



Some called it Charlie Charlie come back.
Others said it was a ritual from our cult so grim and black.
Some said we were only sinners confessing our guiles.
Spitting out secrets of mire and blatant lies.
But I laugh and call it fire!

It started so innocently safe, not a bit dramatic.
Just some nut-heads doing the usual wednesday ritual, ever pragmatic
Until the atmosphere suddenly changed, getting ruthlessly charged
Filling this young Moslem lady till the strangers in her began to plead and shout
I scream and call that fire!

We all thought maybe that was all for the day,
Maybe the holy spirit had finally applied his brake
But a certain young man continued in the tongues of the angels, ruining our say
Until hot tongs broke through us, compelling innocent others to join the heavenly play
I weep and call that the devouring fire!

Confused, our teachers tried to stop us, to stem the flow
Wondering what was responsible for the special strange glow
They imagined we were intoxicated, maybe even hopelessly drunk
They didn't realize we were having our own Pentecost: the visitation of those hot fiery tongs
Haa! You sef know that is nothing but fire!

Since the spirit is subject to the prophet, we managed to put full stop
Only that our Baba God laughed and ask us whether he told us to 'cut'

He said, 'the drama has just begun' stopping it don't even try
'Tear a sheet of paper' Mr Ishola said, but Baba's fire was too hot, adults began to cry
I jump and call that glorifying fire!

Sorry was no option with this unstemable flow of tears
Daddy Adigun came running, the spirituality of the moment was so clear
One by one the fire fell, and one by one it was received
'God is real!' They screamed, 'friends don't be deceived.'
Kai that one na overwhelming fire!

We thought that was surely the conclusion, May be even the end
Let's just pray and thank God for this glorious trend
We came together on ISI's field, the crowd of people waiting shocked us no end
Only God could 've been responsible for bringing the small and big and cause all to blend
This is surely God's blazing hot fire!

'I want to do something great with you' we heard God's message
We didn't understand but knew clearly, a divine message
We came back to the field the following day and the fire became hotter
No one escaped the touch of God: I tell you we left the mountain radiant and stronger
'Do not be fret in ISI I've just begun' the assurance came so loud from our father
I know you would agree with me that that is nothing but eternal fire!

THE SUPER- NATURAL YOU

by Jumoke Ayodele

Ede, Osun State 

Vessels of the Most High
They are flexible and available for God works
Living a Christ life

They live in purpose, fulfilling their destiny
Following the Most High instructions
They do everything in wisdom

Their words are life, gives strength to the weak
and joy to the depressed

Their smile inviting as always
Dressing modestly and doing everything in unity

They act love, wear love, speak Love
They are love, just like the Father

They are known for their Joy, peace, love,
long-suffering, gentleness, goodness,
faith, meekness and temperance

They are well guided by principles,
eternity minded
They function well as the body of Christ
All in one accord

They are just different

They are God's own unique perfect creations
Making the supernaturals natural
Manifesting as sons of God

They are new breed of people burning for Christ
- regardless of where they came from,

they act like One - from Zion!!

They are terror to the Kingdom of darkness
Keen to do anything for Christ..to lay all..
For to live is Christ

They do greater works like Christ prophesied
They intercede for a greater nation where Christ is the future

They are rising from every tribes, countries and continents
Out of the darkness-filled world, they stand out as light and shine brightly

WE ARE THE CHOSEN GENERATION!!

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

by Excellent Oloror

Effurun, Delta State

How do they do it, always achieving excellence? No one passes the JSCE without malpractice, yet they did.

How do they do it? Constantly receiving blessings from above. Ours is a matter of speculation, but theirs a matter of certainty

How do they do it? Constantly growing in status and favour. We grow but are stunted, they grow and are constantly furnished

How do they do it? So gifted and talented, We are also creatively blessed but their talents minister grace. How do they do it, could it be the 'Jesus' they preach? These were the kinds of questions that bothered John a student of Peak Academy.

On a faithful day, John gathered courage and decided to ask what the secret was. He was tired of carrying his burden and was now ready to give it to the Master.

"Favour, Raymond and Peace, the three of you have just been so spectacular. It is like someone placed an excellent spirit on you guys."

A little smile played on the faces of the trio. Favour replied "You are right, someone placed an excellent spirit upon us".

"Who" John replied curiously

"God, the creator of heaven and the earth. He has placed his spirit on us, just like he did on Daniel."

"Really" asked John

"Yes. That was why Jesus before he ascended promised us that the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in his name, will teach us all things and will bring everything to our remembrance."

Raymond comes in, "The Holy spirit is a

part of the Trinity and when it dwells wholly in you, you become a vessel unto honour. You become the salt of the world and also a light to the world."

"Does it mean I would become a pillar of salt"

"No" Peace replied, what he means is that you will become a person of value. Your lifestyle becomes a source of edification and men would begin to see your good works and glorify your father who is in heaven.

"How can the Holy spirit dwell in me"

"You must first believe in Jesus Christ as your lord and savior. After you believe, confess your wrong actions and habits and forsake them, then begin to practice and meditate on the word of God. In addition to this, you must also remember that since God now dwells in you, you are now strong and can do great exploits."

"So if I follow these instructions, would I become like you guys" John asked eagerly

"You should not desire the spirit of God because you want to outshine anyone. It was something of this sort that almost incur God's wrath upon Simeon."

"I am really sorry for thinking that way. I hope God will forgive me"

"Yes he will, but your desire for the holy spirit should be for a sincere fellowship with God and not for selfish gratification." John bows his head now remorse and Favour places his hand on shoulder.

"Come, let us pray."

IT PAYS TO BE AN OUTLIER

by Odunayo Akinsanya



“Well, well, well,” Mrs. George said clapping her hands as she entered Mr. Michael's office.

Joanna's heart skipped. She began to breathe heavily.

“What do we have here?” Mrs. George questioned.

Joanna stammered saying, “I...we...us...me.”

“I said what you guys are doing here!” Shouted Mrs. George as her voice echoed.

“I am sorry ma. We were planning on taking...checking...stealing the exam question,” Joanna confessed amidst tears.

“Is that true Rose?” asked Mrs. George.

“Yes ma,” Rose boldly.

“Both of you straight to my office!” Mrs. George commanded.

Three days prior to the incident, Rose informed Joanna, who is David's best friend, of her plan to steal the physics exam questions. Rose is David's and Joanna's classmate. Rose is a rich, wayward and popular girl.

Joanna refused stating bluntly, “I will not do that.”

Rose then proceeded by further promising to be Joanna's best friend. Owing to Rose's affluence, Joanna neglected all her Christian virtues and accepted.

Rose told Joanna to tell David about the plan. Joanna sheepishly agreed. The next day, she called David.

“Listen, what I'll tell you remains between us,”

“Okay?” David replied wearing a confused look.

“Rose and I have decided to take exam papers from Mr. Michael's office tomorrow during recess. Join us,” Joanna stated.

David laughed in disbelief and responded, “You're joking right?”

“No, I'm not,”

“I can't! This is unbelievable! Miss Mary taught us at Sunday school not to consent when sinners entice us. We should be arrows for God in school. We're supposed to preach Jesus with our lives by portraying good examples.”

“Remember Physics is your weak area. How will you pass?” Joanna asked angrily stamping her feet and rolling her eyes.

David chuckled and forcefully replied, “I have the mind of Christ. Secondly I am the head and not the tail. Finally, I have somebody in my corner, he's the Holy Ghost, and he will teach me all things.”

“Desperate times calls for desperate measures,” Joanna retorted.

“My friend, if sinners entice you, consent thou not,” David added and left.

The following day, Joanna reported David's response to Rose. Rose insulted him calling him a 'good for nothing dullard.' The duo drafted out their plan for the heist. At recess the next day, when they will go to Mr. Michael's office, Joanna will stand guard outside as Rose takes the papers.

David's conscience pricked him. He reported to Mr. Michael who thanked him and changed the location of the papers. Thereafter, David and Mr. Michael reported to the Principal, Mrs. George. Mrs. George appreciated David for reporting. Mrs. George came up with a plan to catch Rose and Joanna red-handed.

At recess the next day when Rose had a hard time finding the papers, Joanna joined in the search. Mrs. George watching from a distance entered Mr. Michael's office clapping her hands.

“Well, well, well!” She stated. Joanna was dumbfounded as she cried her eyes out in the principal's office. They got the beating of their lives and were suspended for three weeks but David was awarded 'the most honest student of the term.'

LIKE, SHARE, & FOLLOW **US ON**

Twitter and Instagram @ooadinitiative

Web link @<https://ooareogundevinitiative.org/>

SOME HIGHLIGHTS IN 2021



LIKE,
SHARE
& FOLLOW
US



ABOUT US

The Olusola and Oyenike Areogun Development Initiative (OOAD Initiative) is a Christian based non-governmental organisation and development arm of Sola Areogun Ministries, where support is given and love is shown to the vulnerable and less privileged individuals and communities, thus empowering them to fulfil their dreams in life.

We identify and tackle socio-economic and health-related problems that subject people to poverty or threaten their state of living a balanced life- physically, emotionally, spiritually and socially.



Sponsored by
**THE OLUSOLA AND OYENIKE
AREOGUN DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE.**