

The Brook

Vol.1 Nos.1

April - June 2021

UYO BOOK CLUB NEWSLETTER



About Us

Uyo Book Club

- Guiding Philosophy

Uyo Book Club is an intellectual hub. A community of lovers of education; reading, writing and discourse.

The main focus of THE UYO BOOK CLUB (UBC) is to re-awaken the reading culture among people by promoting reading at all levels in the society. We believe that through reading, the sensibilities of people can be refined as a foundation for a better society.

The Club promotes the establishment of Book Clubs in all parts of Akwa Ibom State. It strives to create enthusiasm among people for BOOKS and READING in addition to endowment of Reading/Writing Awards and Prizes at different levels. The Club promotes writing, review of books, collection, distribution and preservation of Books for use by interested persons.

News Flash

Uyo Book Club has been confirmed as host of the first National General Meeting/ National Convention for the Network of Book Clubs and Reading Promoters in Nigeria, NBRP. The event is scheduled for September 2021 in Uyo. Stay tuned for updates.



Dr. Wale Okediran, the Secretary General of Pan Africa Writers Association (PAWA) and former National President of Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) reading from his book when he visited Uyo Book Club.

From the Editorial Desk - P.2

A MAN WHO WANTS TO LEAD THE ORCHESTRA MUST TURN HIS BACK ON THE CROWD.

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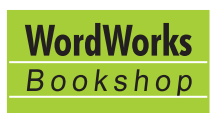
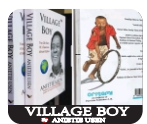
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#newpower

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The Brook is conceived as a Newsletter by Uyo Book Club to be published quarterly.

The conception and birth of *The Brook*, occurred under the microwave culture! The idea conception to the project implementation happened literally in an instant. Dr. Udemé Nana provided the catalyst for speedy implementation of the pilot Newsletter edition.

The design concept is deliberate, to allow for ease of handling and reading. The target audience is universal. It is particularly aimed at encouraging the young generation to imbibe a healthy reading habit and active knowledge seeking culture.

As is common to most projects, the beginning is always full of flowering promises and enthusiastic volunteers. Over time, when the real work begins, most of the bright promises dim and the workers dwindle to a few committed combatants. *The Brook* maiden edition was afflicted with the virus of waning interest and commitment. But for the uncommon passion, commitment and resilience of a few, the dream of the Newsletter would have been aborted. We took to heart Shimon Peres' counsel that "*An idea*

so bold would surely face headwinds... the doubts of those without imagination are no reason to abandon an important idea."

Today, *The Brook* is a reality! The lean and determined project team shared and committed to a robust vision to lead in spite of many odds. The motivation to triumph and excel is best captured by an entry in an advertorial, "The Penalty of Leadership," in *The Saturday Evening Post*, January 2, 1915 by the General Motors in the days of their reign as a global corporate leader:

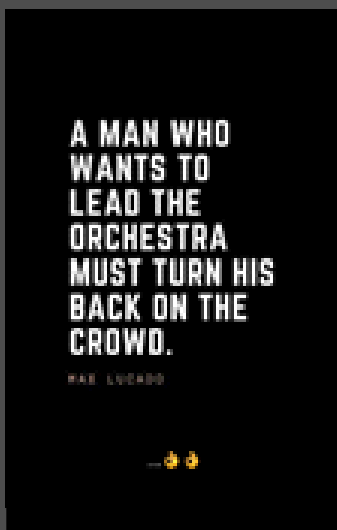
*"Whatever you write, or paint, or play, or sing, or build, no one will strive to surpass, or to slander you, unless your work be stamped with the seal of genius."**

As *The Brook* debuts we should all – members of Uyo Book Club – be geared to play our role to ensure it blossoms to become a leading pool in nurturing a healthy "community of lovers of education – reading, writing and discourse" that is consistent with the ethos of the Uyo Book Club.

Welcome on board!



Anie Sunny UDOH



Quotable Quotes

"BOOKS help you to travel around the world in the cheapest way and across time intelligently."
- Carlos Ruiz Zafón

"No man can get anywhere in this world in any enduring manner without some recourse to BOOKS."
- H. L. Mencken

"In the time of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future. The unlearned usually find themselves beautifully equipped to live in a world that no longer exist."
- Eric Hoffer

UBC TO SET UP BOOK CLUBS IN AKWA IBOM SCHOOLS

The Uyo Book Club has concluded plans to recreate their widely applauded community service innovation with the setting of model book clubs in schools across the state. The disclosure was made during the club's January Reading Session held at the Shakespeare Room of Watbridge Hotels & Suites, Uyo.

Addressing club members at the meet, the founder of the club, Dr. Udemé Nana, informed that plans were in top gear towards the expansion

of the horizons of reading and learning with the setting up of model Book Clubs in selected schools in the state.

He said the Clubs will play pivotal roles in encouraging students to embrace avid reading and knowledge search with significant positive social and educational impacts on the incoming generations, adding that *"a reading generation is a leading generation"*.

BOOKS DONATION TO UBC



ALRANGE BOOKS LTD made a generous donation of 82 books to Uyo Book Club on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. The books were received for UBC by Dr. Udemé Nana. The donor, Ekom Henry of ALRANGE BOOKS LTD, Library and Educational Consultants is based in Lagos. In a formal letter which he presented along with the books, Henry expressed the desire of their firm to "partner with Uyo Book Club to establish a standard reference library towards the improving the reading culture and academic excellence in Akwa Ibom and beyond." He also pledged that the 82 books donated is the first batch of donation towards achieving the laudable goal. The books cover a wide range of subjects. Dr. Nana and indeed a host of members of UBC expressed gratitude to Ekom Henry and his firm for their kind gesture.

NETWORKING

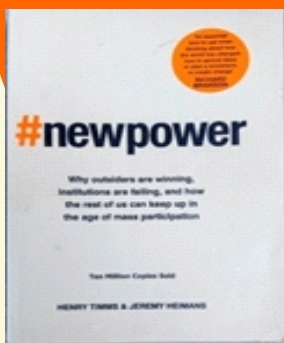
Uyo Book Club parleys with Topfaith Schools, Mkpatak



L-R: Dr. Udemé Nana, Dr. Emmanuel Abraham, Maria Abraham, Sunny Udoh

Founder of Uyo Book Club, Dr. Udemé Nana, two other prominent members of the club, Sunny Udoh and NseAbasi Valentine were guests to the family of Dr. Emmanuel Abraham, founder of Topfaith Schools, Mkpatak; a five-star educational conglomerate in Akwa Ibom State.

The unique visit featured book gifts, knowledge sharing and discussions on the advancement of knowledge in the state through strategic partnerships.



#newpower

*"If you do not understand
new power,
you will not fare well in the
new networked world
of the twenty-first century.
It's that simple."*

Wake up! There is a brand new world upon us and still evolving. Power is changing hands and being wielded by new and 'disruptive' powerbrokers in frightening new ways.

The ability to wield power is virtually in all of our hands with smart electronic devices and tools in a hyper-connected world. Today's ever-present connectivity has disrupted the traditional top-down dynamics of power and demystified the aura and awe of power and authority. This novel hyper-connectedness with a potent 'crowd-pulling-effect' has given birth to new power models and mindsets enabled by crowd togetherness to shake and shatter old power models and shape the New Networked Age. The *new power* is a potent new force that continues to erupt across the world causing seismic waves in politics and workplaces. To bring it home, just refresh the recent #EndSARS protest in Nigeria.

The book, *#newpower* by Henry Timms and Jeremy Heimans is thought provoking, eye-opening and insightful guide to *"why outsiders are winning, institutions are failing, and how the rest of us can keep up in the age of mass participation."* The authors examine how the nature of power has changed, and how this 'New Power' is already shaping who governs us, how we work, and even how we think and feel. They showcase with numerous case studies how the rise of new power is shifting people's norms and beliefs about how the world should function and our place in it. The rallying cry for this new wave has been to "disrupt," with traditional institutions being quickly classified as dinosaurs or 'old school' and earnestly instructed in the trending ways of the future by smart, savvy, internet-propelled generation. Often the old generation is being rudely impacted by the invasive forces of the new power. Such has given rise to a world of colliding – and overlapping – old and new power forces.

The authors assert that the future will be a battle over mobilization. "The everyday people, leaders, and organizations who flourish will be those best able to channel the participatory energy of those around them – for the good...the bad, and ...the trivial." Put differently, the future belongs to those who can spread their ideas better, faster and more durable. The tools of trade for effective engagement in that future are embedded in the playbook of the *newpower*. It is imperative that for those (old and young) desiring a life of functional utility; they must adjust, adopt, and adapt to the changing new world and become active participants by integrating into the new power dynamics.

Poetry

Don't Drop Your Guard: The Man-Eater Returns!
SEASON OF HANDSHAKE-LESSNESS
By Ekong Sampson*

Keep your handshake to yourself
The man-eater prowls next door.
Third World War is on
Not with fighter jets
But with a virus
No atomic bomb on Hiroshima
But a stealth drone over Wuhan
Now stalking a trembling earth.

News, news by the hour
Of territories fallen and falling
Recovered and recovering
Hooded traffic going, gone
None too mighty
Nor too lowly.

I seek these faces
I find none
Instead
Tempestuous clouds
Rise and dance
In search of the missing genius.

Scientists must deny the vulture
This festering feast
Lord
In supplication we plead mercy
While we wash and duck.

Imagine -
A world without handshake!
Bare
Free, alas, from the hypocrisy of friendship
On false earth.
Silence.
The streets are empty.

In this strange season
Of taskmaster termites
No price but prize
If you decline a handshake from the king.
No more pretence
As we all crouch grim-faced
In bunkers
Away from the man-eater
In wait for the friendly masquerade.

The old man has returned to the caves
In sympathy with the oration of the
Town-crier.
The young man
Defiant
Waits inside raindrops of fate.

The Poet & Writer, Rt. Hon. Barr. Ekong
Sampson, PhD is a Patron of Uyo Book Club.



VISIT

UYO

One of the fastest emerging cities in Nigeria

- Serene
- Peaceful
- Hospitable
- Secured



Visit Uyo facilitated by
Dr. Uwemedimo Udo
Executive Chairman, Uyo LGC

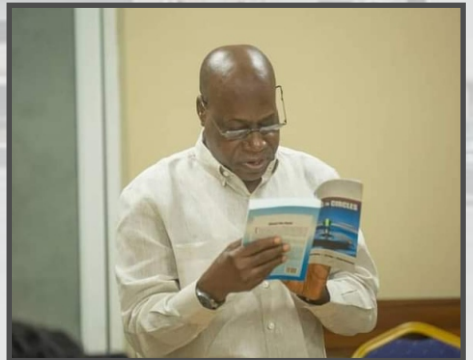


Watbridge

HOTELS & SUITES



Colloquium for Obong Victor Attah @ his 82nd Birthday



Mr. Ray Ekpu, Grandmaster of journalism at Uyo Book Club Reading Session



Mr. Ray Ekpu, veteran Journalist with some members of Uyo Book Club



Uyo Book Club hosts Jude Idada, poet and novelist



PROUDLY HOSTS UYO BOOK CLUB MONTHLY
...powering intellectualism in hospitality

Watbridge **HALL OF FAME**

Brain Teaser

Cross Word Puzzle:
Akwa Ibom State – State and
Local Government Areas



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| A 1 | I 2 | K 3 | E 4 | E 5 | T 6 | I 7 | M 8 | E 9 | K 10 | P11 | O12 | E13 | M14 | A15 | P16 |
| E 17 | K18 | E19 | T20 | A21 | B22 | R23 | O24 | O25 | R26 | A27 | R28 | A29 | I30 | S31 | Q32 |
| X33 | O34 | W35 | O36 | N37 | U38 | F39 | A40 | N41 | A42 | K43 | U44 | S45 | D46 | A47 | A48 |
| I49 | T50 | U51 | A52 | B53 | M54 | R55 | G56 | D57 | N58 | I59 | K60 | T61 | U62 | B63 | C64 |
| N65 | E66 | C67 | N68 | I69 | I70 | K71 | U72 | R73 | N74 | L75 | A76 | E77 | N78 | A79 | B80 |
| I81 | K82 | O83 | N84 | O85 | B86 | M87 | Y89 | A90 | O91 | O92 | N93 | R95 | E96 | O97 | N98 |
| D99 | P100 | O101 | O102 | N103 | I104 | O105 | O106 | T107 | N108 | E109 | A120 | N121 | I122 | K123 | A124 |
| E125 | E126 | T127 | R128 | E129 | O130 | E131 | M132 | I133 | O134 | T135 | M136 | O137 | S138 | O139 | T140 |
| R141 | N142 | E143 | E144 | M145 | N146 | F147 | L148 | S149 | W150 | I151 | G152 | B153 | S154 | N155 | U156 |
| T157 | E158 | V159 | I160 | S161 | O162 | R163 | O164 | N165 | T166 | N167 | U168 | O169 | E170 | N171 | S172 |
| E173 | S174 | I175 | T176 | E177 | K178 | E179 | T180 | E181 | I182 | A183 | D184 | L185 | E186 | B187 | A188 |
| U189 | R190 | U191 | E192 | O193 | F194 | F195 | O196 | N197 | G198 | N199 | T200 | O201 | D202 | A203 | O204 |
| M205 | K206 | P207 | A208 | T209 | E210 | N211 | I212 | N213 | S214 | D215 | O216 | E217 | D218 | S219 | P230 |
| I231 | S232 | A233 | B234 | A235 | T236 | O237 | K238 | I239 | I240 | I241 | K242 | O243 | T244 | I245 | K246 |
| T247 | G248 | S249 | O250 | U251 | T252 | H253 | T254 | D255 | L256 | E257 | T258 | U259 | A260 | K261 | I262 |
| N263 | S264 | I265 | T266 | U267 | B268 | I269 | U270 | M271 | E272 | K273 | S274 | E275 | M276 | A277 | S278 |
| A279 | R280 | N281 | T282 | I283 | B284 | E285 | N286 | O287 | N288 | E289 | O290 | N291 | T292 | B293 | E294 |
| W295 | A296 | N297 | E298 | O299 | B300 | O301 | T302 | A303 | K304 | A305 | R306 | A307 | A308 | A309 | B310 |
| S311 | M312 | I313 | M314 | O315 | B316 | I317 | O318 | N319 | O320 | I321 | B322 | I323 | O324 | R325 | I326 |

TASK:

Trace **AKWA IBOM STATE AND THE 31 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS**, by listing the corresponding numbers of the alphabets that correctly spells the State and the Local Government Areas. E.g. INI – (49, 65, 81)

Send your compilation by SMS to 08029295533 or email to uyobookclub@gmail.com.

THERE ARE PRIZES TO BE WON FOR PERFECT SCORES AND EARLY SUBMISSION

TIP: Trace Horizontally, Vertically, Diagonally and in Reverse Direction.

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The Story of **WORDWORKS!**

By Enwono-Abasi Elisha

Books have spirit and got a soul. Simply the reason it can possess its possessors. Listening to Book-lovers like Felix Nyong and his counterpart, Damian Embiet, is like having yourself examined with life portent indices which are immemorial. A book is one of the immemorial key index in measuring life's growth.

"People's reasons for gratitude differ. For me, I am grateful to be able to summon authors who have died 2000 years ago to come, sit down and teach me. They don't reject the call." says Felix Nyong, Director, *WordWorks* Bookshop. For him, books open up for whoever cares to open it. Books, according to his description, are impartial with ideas and opportunities. "That is why I pity those who do not read books," Nyong laments.

Owning **WordWorks Bookshop** and running it, is made simple by Nyong's passion for books. He makes it clear that there is no place he has ever visited in the world without a stop-over at a Bookshop. This is why he claims to have solution and ideas from books. Not unusual for him to have gotten the inspiration to name the Bookshop, 'Words Work,' from the Holy Book!

Great individuals attain their respective successes through self-development with books as viable tools. To spread this Book gospel, *WordWorks* is expanding its scope to library projects where Institutions and individuals are assisted to setup standard libraries and knowledge corners. Nyong and Embiet have taken up the initiative to stock the Library of the Community Secondary School, Amamong in Okobo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State with good books.

THE NYONG-EMBIET'S TIE

Once you step into *WordWorks* Bookshop, aside the attractive stock of books, Damian Embiet's friendly and courteous mien will surely endear one into liking what he loves; books! His sedate, comeliness and humble personality blazes for anyone to see and admire.

The relationship of Nyong and Embiet spans 25 years. Both have been together at ALSCON, Ikot Abasi LGA. Now, as a bookseller attending to Books in *WordWorks* speaks volume over mere friendship. Embiet cares for his friend's books as a mother cares for her infant child. Only a humble and a true-friend can attend to others' like his own without inhibitions. The pair would not have found their partnership easy just as friends if they did not like books. Nyong-Embiet's soul-tie has been strengthened by relishing on the potency of the Books' Spirit and they seem bonded in harmony to a Book Soul!

Quotable Quotes

*"Every **BOOK**, has a soul. The soul of the person who wrote it and of those who read it and lived and dreamed with it. Every time a book changes hands, every time someone runs his eyes down its pages, its spirit grows and strengthens."* - Carlos Ruiz Zafón

*"**BOOKS** don't just go with you; they take you to where you've never been."*

- Rahima Rahim

"A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful, which God has implanted in the human soul."

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* (1749 – 1832)

"Doubt sits at the right hand of all writers. We spend a day ... struggling with the challenge of translating our ideas into words on the page." - Richard Bevnon



Aniedi Etim on Writing and Period Poverty

"We all have the potential to make history...what would you like to be remembered for?"

WHO IS ANIEDI ETIM?



Aniedi Etim is an author, a philanthropist, a strong advocate for the girl child education and child welfare. I have a passion for humanity; it's a calling I can't escape from.

WHY WRITING HAS BEEN IMPORTANT TO ME

Writing is my voice. At age eleven, writing had already become something that I couldn't help but do. I loved writing and could even write deep into the night and would not be tired. My lovely mother who encouraged me right from the beginning made it easier.

In the early days, my mother made sure my lantern never ran dry of kerosene because I used to stay up late, writing. She had seen the passion, the drive, and the never-say-die spirit in me as a child. Writing had become therapeutic for me even as a young girl, but most of all, writing made me happy. I couldn't stop writing until my first book, ***Not a Safe Place*** was finally published in 2017. My dream of becoming an Author came true, a feat I'd describe as "a stepping stone", because I stepped right into a great purpose through the book.

Growing up, I enjoyed reading mostly literary books. Reading expands your knowledge, and as a curious fellow, I love reading anything just as much as I love writing which became even more important to me when I realized, that stories have the potential to change the world. Stories are powerful, stories are weapons of change, and through writing, I found a voice.

That's why I was over the moon with joy when my book made the list and was read by the students of Akwa Ibom State Polytechnic between 2017 and 2018. To top it all, last year 2020, my book was approved as a Literature text by the Government of Akwa Ibom State, through the Ministry of Education, for JSS2 students in the State. A gigantic dream come true.

THE BIRTH OF PROJECT 'PAD A GIRL'

One night in October of 2017, a dream was born. It was a defining moment when '**Project PAD a Girl Initiative**' sprouted after some moments of torture. Before this very night, I had thought about what I could do as a person to support and promote the girl child education in my community and nearby communities. When I had this vision, I discovered my purpose. Project '**PAD a Girl**' was inspired by the messages in my first book, in 2017. The messages of compassion, equality, change, girl child education, widows' empowerment, etc. I was basically driven by empathy; knowing that one small action can change the world.

Ten African girls miss school because of **period poverty**, according to the United Nations Children's agency, UNICEF. Period poverty occurs when someone cannot afford proper menstrual hygiene products, such as tampons and sanitary pads. And so, **Project PAD a Girl** aims to eradicate period poverty among school girls, and help them not skip classes because of a natural and unavoidable phenomenon such as menstruation.

My advocacy goal is to see that one day, hopefully, soon the Nigerian government will adopt the policy to **offer free sanitary pads to school girls in Nigeria**, to defeat period poverty and the decline in girl child education in Nigeria, just like it has been recently adopted in Scotland and New Zealand. Because change is possible!

”
**BOOKS CAN BE DANGEROUS
 THE BEST ONES SHOULD BE LABELED
 THIS COULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE”.**



■ VILLAGE BOY

by Anietie Usen

Village Boy is a story of the life of the author... The book is a chronicle of his life's journey from childhood, youthful age to adulthood. It is a story of tenacity. It is a story of bravery; it is a story of determination and hope which ends in fame.

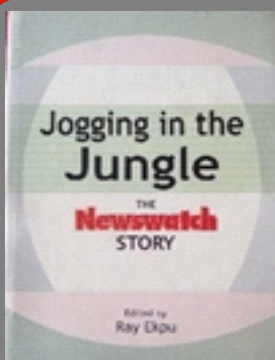


■ FINDING YOUR SHE SPARK

by Yvonne Ebbe

Yvonne Ebbe boldly declares: *"It's time to get your mojo back!"*

She engages in frank conversations, affirmations and straight talk, for Women who want to build a premium brand... get ahead in their work and career...carve a niche for themselves...are ready to make bold career statement.



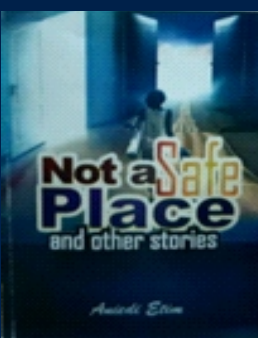
■ JOGGING IN THE JUNGLE

by Ray Ekpu (Edited)

The book chronicles vintage writings of *Newswatch* magazine in its first 25 years (1985-2010). Ray Ekpu affirms that it,

"...constitutes, in some tangential way the history of Nigeria ... part of the jogging in the jungle was that we had to deal... with the persecution by the press to kill the virus of carnivorous journalism."

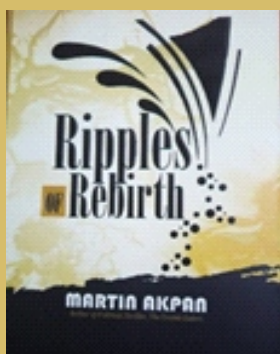
It is an authentic collector's item!



■ NOT A SAFE PLACE

by Aniedi Etim

... is a collection of short stories that deals with a cocktail of contemporary Nigeria: child labour, child trafficking, sex slavery, etc.



■ RIPPLES OF REBIRTH

By Dr. Martin Akpan

"... (is) a poetry collection with bold fronts of didactics, sagacity and satire."

Ripples...is akin to an oratorio with resonant echoes coursing through the GIANTscape. However, there are sparkles in the horizon signposting rebirth.