

LOVE UNDER PRESSURE – MAKING DIAMONDS, NOT CRACKS

The Midlands and Northwest Region
of the Apostolic Faith Mission

Report on the 2025 Couple's
Conference





Introduction

The Midlands and Northwest Region of the Apostolic Faith Mission successfully held its 2025 couple's Conference at the Birmingham Church under the resonant theme, "Love Under Pressure: Making Diamonds, Not Cracks." The event commenced at 10AM, warmly welcoming 62 delegates. The day was thoughtfully designed to guide couples through a journey of reflection, communication, and spiritual realignment, focusing on how the inevitable pressures of life can, with faith and unity, strengthen a marriage rather than fracture it.

Brother Akazue opened the conference by leading the delegates in worship, setting a reverent and focused tone for the day. This was followed by an opening prayer and remarks from Brother Lazarus, who began by acknowledging positive developments within the church community. He specifically thanked delegates for their feedback from the previous year, which had directly led to tangible improvements, such as the upgrading of the church toilets. Brother Lazarus warmly reassured all attendees to feel at home, free from pressure, and formally declared the conference open.

The first session, "Part 1: Pressure in Marriage," was anchored by Bro Anu and Sis Esther Bakare. It delved into the common pressures that couples face, including financial strain, geographical relocation, and the stresses of moving homes. This segment was highly interactive, prompting couples to engage in private discussions about the challenges they have faced and the strategies they used to overcome them. The session powerfully framed these life pressures through the biblical lens of James 1:2-4, illustrating how God can use trials to build perseverance and character. The practical takeaway encouraged couples to write down their challenges, pray over them together, and offer apologies where needed, turning pressure into a force for growth.





Following this, "Part 2: The Cutting Room," led by Bro and Sis Afe, shifted the focus to communication and refinement. The session opened with a reading from Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." A poignant activity asked couples to discuss what hurts them in their marriage; an exercise so impactful that delegates requested more time for conversation. This underscored the deep need for safe spaces to address marital friction. The session also encouraged proactive kindness, with couples writing down one nice thing they would do for their spouse in the coming week, aligning with the scriptural exhortations in Ephesians 4 to let go of bitterness and be kind to one another.

The final morning session, "Part 3: United Front," was facilitated by Bro and Sis Ajayi. They masterfully used the diamond metaphor to illustrate marital strength, noting that while a diamond can only be cut by another diamond, it can be easily shattered by a sharp, targeted blow. This highlighted the dual nature of marital strength and vulnerability. The central message was the non-negotiable importance of unity. Couples were urged to present a united front in all aspects of life, especially in parenting and facing external challenges, relying on God as their foundation. Delegates then contributed practical examples from their own marriages, testifying to how unity had been their key to overcoming adversity.



After a lunch break, the conference reconvened for a question and answer session anchored by Bro Lazarus and Sis Mercy. Four pre-submitted questions were discussed, allowing delegates to share their wisdom and experiences. Brother and Sister Simbanegavi concluded each discussion with godly counsel and biblical insights. The conference drew to a close with closing remarks and prayer from Bro Adeyemo. Brother Lazarus shared a touching message from Bro Toyin Emitola and his wife, who prayed for the conference's success. It was also announced that this would have been their final Couple's Conference in the region, adding a note of farewell to the proceedings. Delegates then exchanged heartfelt goodbyes, and the event concluded on a note of spiritual enrichment and strengthened fellowship.

Pictures



