

DAKIBIYU DISTRICT: BIRTHED BY DIVINE MANDATE

(Extracts of an interview with Special Apostle Anthony Adedayo Bodunrin, Chairman of the Dakibiyu District of Cherubim and Seraphim Movement Church Worldwide in Abuja)



(Special Apostle Bodunrin at different Occasions with Late Prophet Gabriel Olubunmi Fakeye (former Conference Special Apostle for Evangelism and CSMS Surulere District Chairman), His Eminence John Cardinal Onaiyekan, CON (Catholic Archbishop of Abuja), His Eminence Sunday Ola Makinde, GPJ, CON (Primate Emeritus, Methodist Church Nigeria), Special Apostle Kunle Alonge (Special Adviser to the Spiritual Father, CSMS Worldwide), Most Senior Apostle 'Bimbo Ayuba and Special Mother-in-Israel Oluwakemi T. Bodunrin)

Question: Can we meet you sir?

Sp. Apost. Bodunrin: My name is Special Apostle Adedayo Anthony Bodunrin, the District Chairman/General Leader, C & S Movement Church Worldwide, Dakibiyu District, Dakibiyu, Abuja.

Question: The Church will be celebrating its 25th anniversary, what informed your decision to put up a Church like this?

Sp. Apost. Bodunrin: Well I want to thank God for this type of question you are putting up to me. The journey started many years ago with a spiritual injunction and revelation from God that He will use me to propagate his word in a location which was not disclosed then. I took it to heart and left it at that. At that time, I was worshipping at the C&S Movement Church, Surulere District in Lagos and was working at one of the foremost Banks in Nigeria. As providence will have it, I found myself posted back to Abuja by my Office in 1988. At that time, my colleagues and I were fellowshiping together in Abuja District of the C&S Movement Church in Area 2 of the Federal Capital. One thing led to another; and in fulfillment of God's promise, it became possible for us to establish the Church in Abuja on 2nd September 1990. We started as a branch of the C&S Movement Church, Surulere District. From that time till now, God has been very faithful, wonderful and kind in dealing with us and propelling us to greater heights when we attained the status of a District with many branches under us. So you can see that God has been very faithful in the fulfillment of its promises and for his grace in our lives.

Question: You mentioned that you once worked in a foremost bank in Nigeria before leaving for God's work. How were you able to cope and manage that?

Sp. Apost. Bodunrin: Thank you very much. Well, I must tell you that I started my career in the Federal Ministry of Works as a Senior Land Inspector in Lagos. However the major career I wanted to pursue at that time was banking or accounting. I thank God that I was

able to achieve my desire when I moved to United Bank of Nigeria PLC in 1977; and later I was posted to Abuja. I can tell you that it wasn't easy; but with God on my side, all things were made possible. I underwent a lot of trials and tribulations but at the end of the day, God saw me through and I am alive today to testify to God's goodness in my life and the Church. I was able to cope through God's grace. I was giving what was Caesar's to Caesar and what was God's to God.

Question: Would you say you are fulfilled?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: Yes definitely. When I look back, knowing how we started, realizing all we passed through and checking the myriads of God's blessings to me as a person, my immediate family and my larger family which is the congregation, it is an understatement to say that I am fulfilled. But I always remember that all these were made possible through God's grace. That is why I will forever be grateful to God. Indeed God has been very faithful to us. And that is why the theme for this 25th year Anniversary has been aptly captured as *Celebrating God's Faithfulness*. To God be the glory. In spite of this sense of fulfillment, I can tell you that there is still a lot to do. In particular, there are still many souls that need to be won for Jesus. We shall continue to work assiduously towards that because this is the primary focus of this church: winning souls for the Kingdom of God.



From left to right: Dr. Olu Abolurin (Former Commandant-General, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps), Special Apostle Kazzim (Chairman, New York District), Special Apostle Kunle Alonge, Late Prophet (Dr.) G. O. Fakeye and Special Apostle A. A. Bodunrin

Question: What were some of the challenges you faced during the formative years of the Church?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: In many carnal events, challenges may seem insurmountable. But whatever God has placed His signature on will always flourish, even when Satanic forces rear their heads from time to time. There was a time when we had no worship arena. At a stage, we had our church in a makeshift structure under a bridge in Wuse area in Abuja. I remember one day, all we had was washed away by rain. We were harassed many times by powerful individuals. But God in His infinite mercies finally provided a place for us in Dakibiyu where we now have a very big auditorium. Even then, it was not easy because the site was in a virgin area with no access road or facilities, in spite of being located in Abuja metropolis. As we speak now, the area is yet to be fully opened up with access roads and

amenities. But members have been faithful and I want to seize this opportunity to appreciate members who have braced all odds to continue worshipping God in truth and indeed, though it was not convenient. Another issue we had and still having is the perception of potential worshippers who had and still have apathy for white garment Churches. They see it as in different ways. I want to seize this opportunity to assuage the perception of such people, that the C&S Movement Church does not engage in any ritual. All our services, worship and activities are in tune with all the teachings of Jesus Christ as enshrined in the Holy Bible. Nothing more and nothing less! And I tell you, God has been faithful because He has been taking us along the path of truth, worship and salvation.

As at today, we have 15 branches all over the Federal Capital Territory as well as Niger and Nasarawa States. The Branches include Nasarawa, Mararaba, Mararaba 2, Masaka, Kuje, Jikwoyi, Suleja, Kubwa, Lugbe, Guaraka and Gwagwalada among others. We give God the glory that the Lord's vineyard is flourishing. I am really fulfilled and I give thanks to God.

Question: Looking at the role the Church plays in the society will you say that the Church has effectively played its key roles in the society?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: No doubt about that. The Church has been trying its best in that area. Again through the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) and Organisation of Africa Instituted Churches (OAIC), we are able to make sure our communities feel our impact. We are preaching the word of God, evangelizing and providing everything that is necessary physically and spiritually support to the Society.

Question: What advice will you give to the Government of the day?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: Well, this is a very critical question. Nigeria is our country. It belongs to us. There is no other place we can call our own. We all need to strive and make sure Nigeria continues through the path of greatness, prosperity, safety commerce and enterprise. The security issue of the county is paramount. All hands must be on deck to ensure safety and sustainable security in the country. The role of Government and the support of the Church and the Nigerian citizens

cannot be overemphasized in security matter. It is only in a safe environment that you can talk of development; and Nigeria needs to develop at a faster rate. Again, Government should shy away from their responsibility as enshrined in the Constitution (1999 as amended) that the Government should take care of the citizenry. For now people are restless, apprehensive but hopeful; and waiting to see great improvements and the change that all of us yearn for. Our prayer is that, the good God that is doing things for Christians and Muslims will help President Muhammadu Buhari to do a lot and better the lives of the citizenry by ensuring that they deliver on their campaign promises. This also requires the unflinching support from the citizens.



Members in celebration during a Daniel Band Anniversary Thanksgiving Service

Question: Many people in Government Churches and other places of secular worship, yet the country is plagued by endemic corruption. What role do you think Church leaders should play in helping the Government to succeed?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: We are not relenting in our efforts of praying and fasting for this nation so that the endemic cankerworm of Corruption in Nigeria will be wiped off in Nigeria. The Government of President Buhari has a lot to do, and in doing so, he will step on so many peoples' toes. We should continue to pray for him and that God should expose the culprits so that the fight against corruption will not be seen as a witch hunting exercise. I pray God will help the Government in giving appropriate direction on this fight. History will not forget him.

Many pessimistic people will tell you it is not possible in this generation to wipe out corruption. But I tell you, if we are all determined and committed to *Project Nigeria* that guarantees zero tolerance to Corruption, this is possible. We should embrace *Change* in all its ramifications. The Church and its leaders will continue to propagate the tenets of good Christian living including the "*thou shall not steal injunction*", as enshrined in the Bible. We shall continue to preach and pray for everybody to return to God and tread the path of truth and integrity, whether you are a Christian or not. Even with the advent of Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, Church leaders have not relented in praying, fasting and providing advisory role.

Question: What will be your advice to other church leaders like you in the Society?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: Well, you see, some of us are not even honest in what we do. Nevertheless we will continue to pray and advise ourselves. We have organized a lot of seminars, workshops at least to address some of the issues that we are seeing in some of our leaders. It is just unfortunate with the type of news coming out about the activities of some pastors. God has sent us to preach the gospel and we will continue to follow the word of God, the Holy Bible; and at the end of the day, we will achieve the desired success.

Question: Let's go back to C and S Movement Church, will you say the Church is united?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: For now there is no problem; and I want to believe that we are still united. A lot of Districts are working together now. The only thing we seem to lack is that the desired rapid development of the Church is not coming as expected. At least there is no fighting. Everything is going on well.

Question: You have your tutelage from Late Special Apostle Prophet (Dr.) Gabriel Olubunmi Fakeye. What can you say about the man and what do you miss about him?

Sp. Apos. Bodunrin: I am still praying to God to give me the fortitude to bear the loss. It is a great loss to us especially those of us in Dakibiyu and Surulere Districts. In his life time, he exhibited a lot spirituality in addition to firm discipline, orderliness, truthfulness, prayerfulness, etc. He was a role model both to Church members and people from other denominations and non-Christians who have come across him in one way or the other, especially in his radio and television evangelism. We were constrained and monitored to follow the path of goodness and truth. His departure still looks like a dream; but I know that the good Lord that created us will give us the courage and fortitude to bear the loss and forge ahead in the good foot prints he laid down. We are praying to God to raise more people like him who will show his people the goodness of God.