

WHAT DOES
GOD
EXPECTS
from YOU?

OLUWAFEMI IKUSAGBA

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

All thanks to God for allowing me to write this book. He has been the fountain and origin of all knowledge and wisdom. This book is to thank God for the 25 years spent in the ECWA ministry.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to MB, who joined the journey five years later. Thank you for your unwavering support and for being a strong pillar.

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Thanks to ECWA churches across the world. Special appreciation to the ECWA Executive and ECWA at all levels. Thank you to everyone praying for us.

Gratitude to those who agreed to write about us. Thank you to those who have been with us from the beginning, and to those who joined along the way. I cannot forget the people God used to lift our hands, just like Aaron did for Moses.

FOREWARD

It is a bit daunting to write the foreword to a book. I think that it becomes a little more daunting when writing it for a book written in a culture different than my own. I am from the USA, and I am writing this for a book to be published in Nigeria. This book will probably be read mostly by Nigerians even though it might make into the hands of readers in other African nations. Regardless, African culture is very different than USA culture. And it becomes even more daunting when writing for a new partner in ministry in a relationship that is in its beginning stages. And it becomes even more daunting still when writing it for a multi-author book when I do not know the other authors.

If it is so daunting, then why am I writing the foreword to this book? I am writing it because it was apparent from the very first time I met Oluwafemi Isksagba that we would indeed be lifetime ministry partners. Despite our different cultures, our brotherhood in Christ gave us an immediate relationship. And despite our relationship being in our beginning stages, our similar ministry mindset and passions gave us an immediate partnership. We quickly became friends, who are “in it” together until Jesus returns.

This book celebrates his twenty-five years in ECWA church ministry, and I hope it energizes him for twenty-five more years. Although he has served in five different churches, his perseverance in the pastoral ministry indicates the commitment of his heart for God's people. In 1 Peter 5:1-4, we read, “So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. (ESV) So, I exhort Femi and all the pastors who read this book to continue in shepherding the flock of God that is among you. I believe that each chapter in this book will be an encouragement to you as you seek to press on in faithfulness.

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The “great cloud of witnesses” in Hebrews 12:1-2 cheers Femi and all pastors to “run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right and of the throne of God.” (ESV) May all who go behind us find us faithful.

In the short time I have known Femi, I have come to realize that his life characterizes the words of Acts 20:28 to the Ephesian elders, “Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.” So, I encourage Femi and all the pastors who read this book to continue to pay attention to your own heart and to all the flock entrusted to you. Your life was obtained by the blood of Jesus. The lives of people in your flock were obtained by the blood of Jesus. A great price has been paid. May his blood fertilize the soil of your hearts and cause you to produce much fruit in your ministry. Pay careful attention!

My prayer is that this book will bear precious fruit in the lives of those who read it. I pray that the kingdom will be built up. I pray the schemes of Satan will be crushed under the weight of transformed hearts and gospel proclamation. I pray that lives will be stimulated to love and good deeds. And I pray that Jesus will be exalted.

I close this foreword with Paul's benediction to the Ephesian elders in Acts, 20:32 as my benediction to Femi, “And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (ESV)

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What God Expects From You

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Testimonies Celebrating

Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba's

25 Years in Ministry

INTRODUCTION

I went to pray with MB sometime in February this year. While taking a walk to pray, it came to my mind that I have spent 25 years in ECWA — 25 years on the pulpit. To give back to society and encourage upcoming ministers, I decided to put pen to paper and write about what God expects from ministers.

Eventually, I modified the idea to "What God Expects from You." It became more of a reflection on the keys that have sustained me throughout these 25 years. As I always tell people, my ministerial call was not like others.

My mother told me that a prophet came to her even before she conceived me, declaring that she would give birth to a servant of God. I grew up hearing my parents say, "You have to be a pastor." At the time, I didn't fully understand that the work of ministry is vast and far-reaching.

Today, by the grace of God, we have reached a quarter of a century in ministry. It's all about God. Thanks to Him — and thanks again. I am not the best. I am not deserving in any way. I simply found grace, and grace has continued to lead me in different directions, bringing me to where I am today.

It has been God all the way. This book is not just like any other book — it is unique because it also carries the story of my life. There are additional contributions in the book, such as "What God Expects from Us is Discipleship" by Reverend Samuel Akeju, my discipler.

There is a section on "Our identity in Christ" by Pastor Professor David Talley. The book includes testimonies from various people about what God has done for them — some we met before the ministry began, others we met along the way. We thank God for all He has brought us through, and all He has done through us.

CHAPTER ONE

My Story

Sometime in the 70s, my mom went for a crusade where people were asked to make prayer requests. She asked for a son and promised to give him back to Jesus to work for Him, like the biblical story of Samuel (1 Samuel 1). The popular preacher; Rev. Samuel Akinbode Sadela, of the Gospel Apostolic Church came on the altar to say that the prayer of the woman who asked for a boy to give back to God has been answered. She was asked to give the boy to God and God will attend to all her needs. That was how my mother conceived me. My dad went to the village without knowing she was pregnant. On his way, someone told him to buy male clothes and prophesied that the child would be a great vessel in God's hands. When I was born, I was told I was under a covenant (which is more than a call). I tried to evade it but could not.

How did I find myself in the seminary?

I was living with my friend. He was the child of a Reverend and wanted to pick a form to go to the seminary. I went to pick the form and submit on his behalf and by then, I already had an idea of the Holy Spirit having given my life to Christ in April 1991 at a crusade during Easter. Also, I already understood what it meant for God to speak as I was a member of a deliverance prayer ministry. When I went to submit the form, I was arrested by the Holy Spirit. I picked the form for myself and submitted. That is how I found myself in Bible school.

In the first church, a lot of miracles happened. God glorified himself in the Church. We started from nothing, to having many families. In fact, we started to give birth to other Churches. We gave birth to Oke Aro and lambe

My Story

We went from ground zero and pastored the Church by the grace of the Holy Spirit. It was a family Church, and banners were strategically placed at the three major locations that led to the Church.

One of the most notable experiences happened when land was bought and I did not know a member of the church was an herbalist. As a matter of fact, the herbalist was heading a State. After the land was bought, he said he wanted to help the Church, and so requested that we go to the land together. He said we would finish building the Church in five months, and I said "Amen" thinking he knew people who would give us money.

Eventually, he said it was going to cost us 300 or 400 white clothes, wrappers, cutlasses, and salt. Curiously, I asked what we needed all the items for and he answered, we would return to the location by 1AM. I was required to tie the white wrapper, dig the ground with the cutlass, put the salt and people would begin to come from everywhere to support the Church building. I told him it was the Church of Jesus and we could not do such a thing. He did not like my position and was angry. He was not a Yoruba man, so I had to call an elder to help speak to him.

There were many recorded miracles such as a boy who was about to die and God saved during a service. Deliverance happened many times and salvation stories were told. Healing and transformational stories were also told. Many youths were liberated, many families were restored as well as people got desired positions at work.

Though it took a while, we were able to purchase the Church land for N600,000 to the glory of God. Remarkably, in that Church, there are saints of God whose labour cannot be forgotten; the likes of The Akinbitans, The Afolabis, The Gbadeyans, The Eleshos, The Olorunmonus, The Jolayemis, and The Adebos. Of course, there were other members in the Church who were important. The Korodes, and The Awedas's went to Lambe.

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There were ups and downs during the ministry of ECWA Akute, but God saw us through. I got married there after the five year anniversary of the Church. The Church anniversary was April 2nd and I got married on the same day five years after. The story of the church continued to be part of my story.

We moved to the second station: Mushin English Church. We were there for three and half years and were able to pastor with power by the help of God almighty. We began with three senior ministers: Reverend Dr Adegbola, Reverend Nwachukwu, and Reverend Olaniyan. During this period, God glorified himself and we were able to connect with our people from Odo Ere.

There were a lot of healings and deliverances among which I recall a particular deliverance that took place, and someone wrote a six-page letter on it. The good Lord visited us in Mushin Church and blessed us with Oluwamisimi. It was indeed a refreshing time and God was undoubtedly there. The power of God was manifest in our midst and God gave us a platform to operate. There were remarkable people there as well in Mushin Church whom the Lord used to advance His work. The Afolabis, The Adeyemis, The Iranloyes, Bode, The Abes, The Okenwa, The Oluyoris, The Agbanas, The Ajayis, The Sakabas, Glory Ajayi, Mama Ajayi, to mention a few There were quite a number of people in the Church, some of whom I could include: Reuben, Oni, Banji, etc. Many youths had their lives transformed and received a purpose for their life.

Since I yielded to the call of God upon my life, my ministry and my family have moved from one location to another as the Lord pleases in His own time. From the English Church in Mushin, we moved to Agbelekale where we spent five years. Agbelekale was a pure Yoruba Church. We were able to tame the storm. The Lord helped us to build an event hall from scratch. We rejuvenated the church and helped the community. We prayed

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for people and provided hospital for the sick. We helped the Ijebu-ode Church. And established mega Churches. We established a Church altar and ECWA Ogidi. We supported ECWA London, ECWA in America, ECWA in Canada, ECWA in Gambia, ECWA Togo, ECWA Ghana. The Lord helped us to be able to perform great and mighty things in the Church. The Church waxed strong. The Lord gave us Oluwalonimi while in His service in this station. To God alone be all the glory.

Our deliverance programs went well. A man named Adedotun who has gone to be with the Lord, Bamigbade, Eniola Ajide, Olorunnipa, Adeyemi, Akintoye, Shitta, Femi Ayoola, Kunle Benz, etc helped with the building of the Church with God's help.

At the Lord's time, we were transferred from Agbelekale to Ikorodu Church. Oh my goodness, Ikorodu Church had loving people. We were able to pastor the Church with the power of the Holy Spirit. We were able to establish Adanmo Church and strengthened all the Churches in the environs. We were able to build a pastorium, fix the gutter and covet, create streetlight and partake in many community development activities. We supported other Churches and pastors around, completed and dedicated the building. Some remarkable people in Ikorodu Church I could remember were: Mrs Adeoye (She has gone to be with the Lord), Baba Sola (He has gone to be with the Lord). The youths were liberated: Koya, Segun, Ayo, Ola, Ame, Adewale, Samuel, Ademola, and many others.

Based on all that has happened, we give God praise. From Ikorodu Church, we were then transferred to ECWA Ikeja, our present station. Our transfer to Ikeja has been awesome, powered by the Holy Spirit. Prominent people of God are Madam Barnabas, The Ogungbemis, The Olorodes, Evangelist Femi David, Elder Olorunfemi, Captain Ore, Onikeku, and some new people that joined. We thank God for how far he has helped us in the 25 years of ministry. None of the Churches we had pastored wanted us

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to go when we were transferred. They would always write against our transfer. Also, God helped us to pastor these churches using different methods. For Akute we pastored with planning. For Mushin English we pastored with power. For Agbelekale we pastored with preference. For Ikorodu we pastored with position. For Ikeja we pastored with patience. The Lord has helped us.

Recounting the miracles in the last 25 years, I recall the first miracle out of several was about healing a daughter. It was during the period of the youth camp and the idea was to go on 5 days marathon. However, I did not go with them. I travelled alone to meet the the team but already believed in my heart I was not part of the team. I just showed up to pray along with them. While I was there, a word of prophesy came saying that God wanted to use an unprepared person and I convinced myself that I was not the one. The prophesy came the second time that the person God wants to use is not ready and I then agreed in my mind that I was ready to be used of God.

As soon as we entered the hall, a lady came straight at us to arrest the person leading us and they started praying. We did not know it was the devil operating at that time because our discernment was not sharp. I went to the altar to pick the mic and there was eruption of divine manifestations I began to name the problems of the people I was ministering to. One person had a very thick asthma and God delivered her. For more than 25 years she has stopped using her inhaler. We give God praise for that. Another miracle occurred while we were having a service in a Church. A couple came for the first time, and we did not even know that their 2 years child has never walked. They entered the church as we were singing an hymn and their girl slipped from their hands and started walking in the Church and we did not know this until after the service That couple have grown to become strong members of ECWA today.

At another time, we were doing thanksgiving, and a boy was about to

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die but thankfully, the Lord came to the rescue and resuscitated the boy. At a certain service on the 31st of December in a different Church. A person was dying gradually when I told him to start shouting Hallelujah and God restored his health. Many people birthed children, and several people were lifted from poverty.

There was the case of a man who worked with a newspaper publication company and his salary was N13,000. The newspaper was a weekly magazine, so he came to me to say he was tired and needed to move on. We prayed and a week after, another newspaper that published weekly articles reached out and offered him N26,000. He was happy, but I told him "No, this is not what God is saying. The miracle you are expecting will shock you when it comes. You will not even be able to come and tell me."

After a month, he got another offer from a daily newspaper company and they were willing to pay N58,000. I told him that was not the miracle. The column he was writing in his previous job was being read by the Governor of a state. Eventually, the Governor made enquiries and discovered the author was from his State. He contacted him to come to Abuja to become his chief secretary. He was already on his way to Abuja to accept the offer before he could call to tell me. That is how he became a government official and lived in the government house. God blessed him, his life changed, and things were good for him.

I remember someone who wore a pair of shoes that did not look good. I jokingly talked about it, and he got offended. When he was going home that day he told God if I was really a man of God, he would get a job before Sunday. He got the job before Sunday. During my service another day, I told people to touch me while singing "My hands are blessed." A particular woman who had told doctors she was coming to do a test in church touched me and received her healing. She never went back to the doctors until the day of thanksgiving.

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During a program in a massive church, the Lord delivered his people. I got a seven-page letter judging me from a prominent person because I sang "Arise oh lord let your enemies be scattered." Today, the person that wrote the letter is my friend.

I remember a situation where a member of the church caught her house help playing with her son's private part. She slapped the maid only for the girl to terrorize her in the night with demonic power. We had to go to deliver the family that night. I also remember a time when my daughter did not allow anybody carry her. A woman came to report that her maid was terrorizing her and that was the girl my daughter started clinging to. I was afraid of witchcraft transmission, but God told me he is my daughter's protector, not me. I also remember a boy that was expected to go blind before the age of 10. We prayed, the mother sacrificed to Jesus and up to date, the boy still sees. We give God praise for that.

Several miracles happened. I remember a member wanted to travel. I tried counseling her not to go for the program, but she insisted she must go. On getting to the place, they were attacked, the car was stolen, and they shot the driver before leaving. She returned, unable to attend the program. I used to be confrontational and asked if she eventually attended the burial. When she said no, I reminded her that I warned her.

I know a member who lived in a one room. We went to pray, and the word of knowledge came saying God will build him a house. It came to pass. One of the things I have discovered is everything I say with my mouth do not go unaccomplished. God always honors his word. Several people have been able to birth children, many have bought cars, gotten better jobs, many people have gotten their deliverance and healing.

I remember a woman invited me over and when I got there with two of my pastors we were served food. I could not finish mine and she started

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eating the remnant when I was there. I was tempted to ask why she was doing this but decided not to. Two days later she confessed that she used the food she ate as a reference point for healing and God healed her from her sickness. I thought I just ate, I never knew somebody came to eat to get her deliverance.

During a church vigil—held at a ministry I often attended for various programs, though not my main church—we encountered a striking incident. A young woman, who was working as an apprentice for a clothing vendor on Lagos Island, began to experience uncontrollable shaking of her head during the service. As we prayed for her, the Spirit of the Lord revealed that her spiritual freedom was being suppressed by her employer. When she returned to her workplace the following morning, her boss dismissed her, claiming she had changed into “something else.” Upon inquiry, the employer admitted to spiritually subjugating her apprentices, citing fear of theft and betrayal. She believed domination was necessary to maintain control. By the grace of God, the young woman was delivered and set free from that bondage. We give all glory to God for her restoration.

In another instance, we encountered a young woman involved in prostitution. We took her in and provided shelter, renting a flat where we housed other women rescued from the streets. We listened to their aspirations and supported their efforts to start afresh, funding their training and education as needed. With God's help, many of them began new lives. These are some of the cherished testimonies we've witnessed over the past 25 years. To God be all the glory. I remember also a story that happened in Agbowa. The woman had an issue of blood and I started carrying myself well. I became conscious of myself. She came to touch my cloth and according to her she received healing. I was scared.

I remember going to a program in a church and the pastor's wife told me she had not slept since the day they entered the church. Satanic powers

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manifested daily. When I came to the church, those powers left, and she became free. Many other testimonies of healing, and a great number of deliverance that demonstrate the faithfulness of God which I may not be able to recount all abounds. God has been so awesome.

Considering these 25 years, all I want to do is thank the Lord, return all the glory to him and say nothing more. In these 25 years, I have seen God move in His power. I have seen Him perform wonders. I have seen Him do what no man can do. God prospered the Churches I had the privilege to minister to. . It is all God's grace. God blessed the members or raised backups. He transforms the lives of the people that come to Church. I know people who had financial concerns but are now blessed. In this 25 years of ministry, God has done great and mighty things. This is His doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes. Many miracles have happened. Sometimes people talk about testimonies I have forgotten.

There was a miracle that happened in Church. We went to do evangelism in a particular hotel with prostitutes and 17 prostitutes gave their lives to Christ. We were able to close the hotel. 30 of them followed us to Church but four of them returned to their beliefs.

I believe God can do much more.

We give God praise;

we give Him worship.

CHAPTER TWO

God Requires Faithfulness

This is what He requires from us as a steward. He requires you to be faithful in your time, because he owns the time, faithfulness in your talent because He put it in you, faithfulness of your treasures, remember he gave you power to make the wealth, which He the owner requires us to be faithful

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship involves managing resources (treasures), talents, and responsibilities entrusted to us by God. This includes our time, finances, relationships, and the earth.

Key Aspects of Faithful Stewardship:

Accountability: Recognize that we are accountable to God for our actions and decisions.

Responsibility: Take care of the resources and opportunities entrusted to us.

Integrity: Act with honesty, transparency, and ethics in all aspects of life.

Wisdom: Use discernment and wisdom in decision-making.

Generosity: Share our blessings with others, supporting those in need.

Biblical Examples:

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30): Emphasizes using our gifts and resources wisely.

The Good Steward (Luke 12:42-48): Highlights the importance of faithfulness and responsibility.

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Practical Applications:

Financial stewardship: Manage finances wisely, giving generously and saving responsibly.

Time management: Prioritize activities, focusing on what truly matters.

Environmental stewardship: Care for the earth, reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

Benefits of Faithful Stewardship:

Spiritual growth: Deepens our relationship with God.

Inner peace: Brings a sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Positive impact: Benefits others and the environment.

By being faithful stewards, we honor God and live with purpose.

Let's dive deeper into the concept of stewardship.

Stewardship in the Bible:

Genesis 1:28: God gives humans dominion over the earth, emphasizing responsibility.

Matthew 25:14-30: The Parable of the Talents teaches using gifts and resources wisely.

Luke 12:42-48: The Good Steward highlights faithfulness and responsibility.

Types of Stewardship:

- ***Financial Stewardship:*** Managing finances, giving, and saving responsibly.
- ***Time Stewardship:*** Prioritizing activities, focusing on what truly matters.
- ***Environmental Stewardship:*** Caring for the earth, reducing waste, and promoting sustainability.
- ***Relationship Stewardship:*** Nurturing connections with family, friends, and community.
- ***Spiritual Stewardship:*** Nurturing spiritual growth, prayer, and Bible study.

God Requires Faithfulness

Key Principles:

Accountability: Recognizing responsibility to God and others.

Integrity: Acting with honesty, transparency, and ethics.

Wisdom: Using discernment in decision-making.

Generosity: Sharing resources and blessings with others.

Faithfulness: Consistently fulfilling responsibilities.

Practical Applications:

Budgeting: Managing finances effectively.

Volunteering: Giving time to support others.

Sustainable living: Reducing environmental impact.

Mentorship: Sharing knowledge and experience.

Prayer and reflection: Nurturing spiritual growth.

Benefits:

Spiritual growth: Deepens relationship with God.

Inner peace: Brings sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Positive impact: Benefits others and the environment.

Personal growth: Develops responsibility and character.

Challenges:

Prioritizing: Focusing on what truly matters.

Selfishness: Overcoming self-centeredness.

Distractions: Managing distractions and staying focused.

Overcoming Challenges:

Prayer and reflection: Seeking guidance and wisdom.

Community support: Surrounding yourself with like-minded individuals.

Setting goals: Establishing clear priorities and objectives.

CHAPTER THREE

Our Identity and Inheritance in Christ

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In his book *Knowledge of the Holy*, A. W. Tozer writes, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us...Worship is pure or base as the worshipper entertains high or low thoughts of God...For this reason the gravest question before the Church is always God himself, and the most portentous fact about any man is not what he at a given time may say or do, but what he in his deep heart conceives God to be like.” The entire first chapter of this book sets forth his full argument on this brief quote. The entire book is very foundational for a knowing God. A right view of God is always the necessary primary point if a Christian desires to live a fulfilling and Christ-exalting life, but that is not the focus of this chapter.

For this chapter, I want to identify a necessary secondary point that must also be fully grasped by everyone who follows Jesus. We must have a right view of our self, meaning our redeemed-in-Christ self. As followers of Jesus, who are we? What is our identity in Christ? Rather than write many words, I believe it might prove helpful to those reading this chapter to provide a full arsenal of biblical teaching to encourage you in who you are in Christ and what is yours in Christ. It is my hope that you will be strengthened in your walk with Christ.

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Our Identity

A right view of self as a redeemed follower of Jesus necessitates an understanding that, in Christ, every spiritual blessing is already yours. Consider the following statements, each beginning with “In Christ, I am....”:

- In Christ I am born again (1 Peter 1:3).
- In Christ I am the salt of the earth (Matt. 5:14).
- In Christ I am the light of the world (Matt. 5:14).
- In Christ I am a child of God (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1).
- In Christ I am declared righteous (Rom. 5:1).
- In Christ I am resurrected to new life (Rom. 6:5).
- In Christ I am no longer a slave to sin (Rom. 6:6).
- In Christ I am dead to sin and alive to God (Rom. 6:11).
- In Christ I am under no condemnation (Rom. 8:1).
- In Christ I am a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).
- In Christ I am reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:18-19).
- In Christ I am a messenger of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19).
- In Christ I am a saint (Eph. 1:1).
- In Christ I am holy and blameless (Eph. 1:4).
- In Christ I am adopted into the family of God (Eph. 1:5-7).
- In Christ I am sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13).
- In Christ I am free from the bondage of sin (Col. 1:13-14).
- In Christ I am forgiven of my sins (Col. 1:14).
- In Christ I am chosen of God, holy and beloved (Col. 3:12).
- In Christ I am what I am, by God's grace (1 Cor. 15:10).

To read the biblical truths listed above, summarizing who we are in Christ, on a daily basis is vastly beneficial for every believer. This list provides us with daily reminders of what it means to be “in Christ” as a result of God's powerful transformation of our minds, heart, and will when we become followers of Jesus, who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We must not forget these truths, especially in the battles of life. Each of the statements is true for those of us who are “in Christ.” And they are already yours!

What Does God Expect From You?

Our Present Inheritance

As good as this teaching on our identity in Christ is, it is made even better when we consider our present inheritance in Christ. Perhaps, the use of the words, present inheritance, might have some overlap with what I have outlined in the previous section concerning our identity, but regardless of which word is used, the common denominator is that we have many benefits as followers of Jesus. Each day as we await the soon return of Jesus, we get to experience a present inheritance that is ours as we follow our Lord and Savior. Consider the following list of what the Bible teaches us about our present inheritance:

- I have all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3).
- I am a partaker of the divine nature of Christ (2 Peter 1:4).
- I have the power and anointing in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8, 1 John 2:27).
- I possess forgiveness of sins and freedom from guilt (1 John 1:9; Romans 8:1).
- I have the assurance that God will supply all my needs (Matthew 6:36; Philippians 4:19)
- I can live in prosperity in all things including my soul (3 John 1:2).
- I have love, joy, peace, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).
- I have victory and freedom from the bondage of sin (Romans 8:11).
- I am more than a conqueror in all things (Romans 8:37).
- I possess an abundance of grace for every good work (2 Corinthians 9:8).
- I understand the mystery of God's will (Ephesians 1:9).
- I have access to divine guidance (Romans 8:14).
- I can choose a life of blessedness (Matthew 5, the Beatitudes).
- I am physically secure until God takes me home to heaven (Psalm 91).
- My life has eternal purposes as I co-laborer with God (1 Corinthians 3:9).

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- I am seated in heavenly places with Christ (Ephesians 2:6).
- I have grace to face any trial (1 Corinthians 12:9).
- I can never be unloved...ever (Romans 8:39).
- I am eternally secure (John 10:28).
- I have a hope that will never disappoint me (Romans 5:5).
- Death is not my enemy but my graduation day into God's presence (2 Corinthians 5:8).
- I am currently a citizen of heaven and a member of God's unshakable kingdom (Philippians 3:20; Hebrews 12:28).

Our Future Inheritance

And if the previous two sections are not sufficient to encourage faithfulness in following Jesus, there is more. In addition to our present inheritance in Christ, we also have the promise of a future inheritance.

- At the coming of Christ, my mortal body will be transformed into the powerful eternal resurrection likeness of Christ's body...imperishable, immortal (1 Corinthians 15:51).
- I will be rewarded forever by Jesus Christ for the work I have done (1 Corinthians 3).
- I will rule and reign with Christ in His glorious millennial kingdom on earth (2 Timothy 2:12; Revelation 20:4).
- I may receive one of five crowns offered to those who live for Christ:
- The incorruptible crown given to those who faithfully run the race (1 Corinthians 9:24-25).
- The crown of rejoicing for those who lead others to faith in Jesus (1 Thessalonians 2:19).
- The crown of life for those who endure trials and suffering (James 1:12).
- The crown of righteousness for those who look for the second coming of Christ (2 Timothy 4:8).
- The crown of glory for pastors who faithfully feed their flock (1 Peter 5:1).

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- My name will appear in the Lamb's book of Life (Revelation 20:15).
- I will enjoy the glories of heaven, and the place Jesus has prepared for me (John 14:2).
- I will live forever where there are no tears, no pain, no suffering, no sin, no mourning, and no death (Revelation 21:1-4).
- I will dwell forever in the New Jerusalem and share the eternal glory that belongs to Jesus (Revelation 21:9-27).

What We Need to Remember

Serving as a leader in Christian ministry for almost 50 years means that I have encountered no shortage of difficulties. There were many days when it felt impossible to persevere. On one occasion when a pastoral friend confided in me about his being fired from his pastoral position, I decided to write a list of what I had learned to remember daily as I persevered through my own battles. I share this list with you now to serve as a reminder to those who follow Jesus. Although each point is grounded in the truths of the Bible, I simply wrote the list from memory and did not include Bible passages. I think that each point is worded in such a way that the proper Bible passage is not difficult to find. So, remember:

- That God is the rewarder of those who seek him
- That you are saved by the One who called you before the foundations of the world
- That you were dead in your sins and now are alive in Christ
- That you have been sealed unto the day of redemption
- That this momentary light affliction is nothing to be compared to the eternal weight of glory
- That we are to set our minds on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of the Father
- That, amid suffering, we are to entrust ourselves to our Faithful Creator and do what is right
- That sin can and should be put to death
- That we are to put off the deeds of the flesh

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- That we are to evidence the fruit of the Spirit
- That the evidence of our love for Jesus is our love for one another-- all will know we are disciples by this
- That love is patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, rejoices in truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and never fails.
- That we are to not think too highly of ourselves
- That we are to be of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose
- That we are to humbly regard others as more important than ourselves
- That we are not to look out for our own personal interests but for the interests of others
- That we are to have the same attitude/mind that we see in Christ
- That we can live in resurrection power
- That Jesus is coming again
- That, at Jesus' return, there will be no more pain, tears, or sorrow
- That, even in tribulation, we can know a peace that passes all understanding
- That our primary concern is being an ambassador for Jesus Christ
- That Jesus wants the gospel to go to the nations
- That our citizenship is in heaven
- That we are to cast our cares on the Lord because he cares for us
- That, even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord is with us
- That the Lord will never leave us
- That the Lord will never forsake us
- That the Lord's grace is sufficient for us
- That vengeance belongs to the Lord; he will repay
- That love is to be without hypocrisy

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- That we are to abhor what is evil and cling to what is good
- That we are to be devoted to one another in brotherly love
- That we are to give preference to one another in honor
- That we are to bless those who persecute us
- That we are to rejoice in hope and persevere in tribulation
- That we are to be at peace with all men
- That we are not to be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good
- That one day we stand before the Lord and give account of our lives
- That we are to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lust
- That we must be on the alert because our adversary, the evil one, is prowling about, like a roaring lion, seeking to devour, and we are to resist him, being firm in our faith
- That we are to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain

Wow! I hope that this is a chapter that you will read over and over. It is full of promises of the benefits of being “in Christ.” There is one problem. We must remember them. So, develop a plan to read these lists. Also, begin to memorize some of these passages. May you be increasingly enriched by the powerful teaching and promises of God's word. And may you remain faithful in walking with Jesus until he comes again!

CHAPTER FOUR

My Distractions

A while ago, a member of the Church I'm in charge of informed me that he sells car, so I gave him part of the money for a car, but he was not forthcoming, and his wedding was close. Eventually, he had his wedding, still we didn't see anything. When he wanted to deliver the car, he asked for more money, so we went to members for help. That was the only option available since we were already with the car dealer and he asked for additional Two Hundred Thousand Naira or so. I sent brother Dele to help raise money from Church members. Before then, the car dealer had brought a car, but I was not interested in it. Somebody in the Church instead paid for that car and gave me the money. That made the lender involved in the situation. When we finally bought the car, a lot of people were already involved.

Another person desired to buy a car from the same person, but the seller was not available. The man who delivered the car I eventually bought was available, so he was given money to buy the car. Unfortunately, he was not forthcoming, and they could not find him. When the other guy came back to Church, we informed him, and he helped us track the guy. Those who had given him money before got their cars and after about a year, we got to know that one of the cars that was sold to the other party who knew the dealer through me, was a stolen car. We were asked to submit all our cars for inspection by the Nigeria police, and we lost some cars during the inspection. At the police station, the culprit lied that we were in the business together. It soon spread that I was a thief. The man kept lying and this eventually led to the loss of the car. It became a bad loss because

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the fraudulent man wanted to play a fast one on us. Thankfully, we got over it and we all have cars now.

One of the people I work with told me of a lady that was losing it. She had explored different lifestyles and wasn't ready to leave. I was involved and told decided to work on her. We started talking to her and she got better. She had interest in living again. She went back to school and along the line, her mom died. The family wanted to bury the mom, and they chose the material to be worn on that day. After the program, we had to wait with her since she had nobody to stand by her side. When it was her turn to dance out, I rushed to the stage, dressed in the material the family picked for the burial. I entered the stage with her unknowingly and the people singing who already knew my name started singing and calling me her husband. I did not know that a Church member was in the congregation. The member did not talk to me but went to report to a Pastor. This Pastor called to verify and I told him my side of the story. It was a big distraction, but God helped me out.

I had a primary school friend who wanted to get married. I was told to interview his fiancee. She came to Church during a Bible study. She wore a pair of trousers and did not cover her hair. We did not harass or judge her. When we finished, I offered to take her home. Instead of going my usual route, I turned to the path that led to her house. A member of the Church coming behind saw me turn in a different direction and spread the rumour that I was taking a woman to a hotel. One of the people close to me called to ask where I was. I told her where I was, and she told me to go home immediately because people were gossiping. When I got back to Church on Sunday, I addressed it explaining that carrying a person in my car did not signify adultery. That was another major distraction.

Another distraction happened when I visited someone with fibroid. She was the NCC leader who I could not even identify her randomly. I do not talk to her.

My Distraction

I told the person who introduced us that we need to do something about the situation. I called the NCC leader and told her to go to her family doctor. She did and was told to run some tests. She said she did not have money, and her husband was not ready to give her. I told her to call her family for some money, and she did. She took the test result and kept it. The day she was returning to the hospital, I saw her and offered to give her a ride. The road was under construction, so I did not take her far. The operation was conducted without payment, and it was successful. When the husband got to know, he propagated rumors of me impregnating his wife and going to have an abortion. It became a big thing. The DCC set up a panel who made enquiry and the outcome vindicated us. The man was never disciplined.

I was pastoring a Church when a woman came to me—her husband, who worked at a bank, had left her after getting involved with some women from work. He had moved out, taken part of their belongings, and completely abandoned his family. The wife had initially approached someone in the Church, hoping to get some help, but was shocked when that person suggested taking her to an herbalist, likely for spiritual intervention outside of the Church. Disappointed, she spoke to someone else, who then brought her to me. When I asked what she wanted, she said, “I want my husband back.” I told her, “Let's pray. Your husband will return tomorrow morning.” She was surprised, especially because her husband had already denied knowing her. He had even denied being the father of their child and claimed, even in the presence of law enforcement, that he didn't recognize her. Still, we prayed between 12 a.m. and 1 a.m. At 5 a.m., the husband returned—knocking at their door, crying. Around 1 a.m., the spiritual shackles had broken. Though he had lost everything—his house, his car, and even his bank gratuity—God answered our prayer. He came back home.

During COVID-19, a member who had been expecting for a while gave birth and we were instructed not to carry any baby. The baby was not big but I instructed the

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to be the one to carry the baby. I named the baby in the mother's hands and all went all. Later on the mother began to complain that even though the baby was small, the Pastor could have held her. It was a painful experience. These are the things that cause distractions.

Another major situation that happened in 2000 when I went to fill a form for Sunday School manual in the DCC office. The Secretary asked for the Pastor and I said we do not have. I got an interview and eventually got appointed. Later on, I got an assessment stating how much was expected from the Church. Because it was a young Church and I knew our capacity, I offered to work without pay. This was in 2001. I was part of the committee that divided Lagos DCC into two. We needed to balance contributions, manpower, and so on among the two districts.

By 2004, I started collecting salary. I also kept asking which of my letters was an employment letter, but nobody replied me. I was not taken seriously until an election came up in 2011 or 2012. I won the election by a little margin. A panel was set up and my employment letter was reviewed. Some people said it was fake because there was no letterhead, but it was the letter given to Pastors elected between 1989 to 2000. It was in 2001 that appointment letters were being written on Letterhead. I never had to prove anything. As a result, I faced some undue punishment: My employment was canceled, four years were removed from my time, which I was not bothered. It became a big saga. I was to preach in a conference during the saga and the theme was "The Worker of Truth". Someone told a member that a Pastor who forged his employment letter is the guest speaker of the conference and the person told me. I was not downcast and did not try to explain myself. Here we are today after all the distractions, assertions, embarrassments, travails, trials and judgement. God saw us through 25 years on the ECWA pulpit. I was an associate to three senior ministers with different characters and drives. I had different experiences with all three but God saw me through and helped me. I give him all the glory.

My Distraction

I developed an interest in mission work through the life of Baba J.A. Bello of ECWA Fate, Tanke. Around 1991–1992, while spending time with him, I became inspired by the work in Kubele 1, Kubele 2, and the Kemberi lands. I also remember attending youth fellowship visits to Amoyo Church to encourage them. That period sparked my lifelong passion for mission work.

About 15 years ago, during a council meeting, someone raised concern about the waywardness of children. I shared a shocking observation: in a particular Church, no girl above 15 was committed. Someone was so moved and began to cry. The council asked for a solution, and I proposed a mega Church. They tasked me with creating a template, and I identified five locations: Yaba, Maryland, Lekki, Gbagada, and one other I can't recall now. Unfortunately, the plan didn't take off. We were meant to use a guest house surrounded by three or four academic institutions, which could have boosted engagement. However, another Church took over the space, and other planned sites couldn't materialize even after two or three years of effort.

Eventually, someone invited me to a house dedication in Abule Egba. We saw potential there and decided to start. I released our Church Secretary to serve as the first pastor after the initial candidate declined. Though the start was rocky, it gave us a foundation. That experience led to our work in Gbagada. We found a strategic location and got support from an elder. I met with several leaders, including a Doctor from LUTH, but when he wasn't forthcoming, we approached Demola Onolapo. He agreed, and after much prayer, we inaugurated the Church with a clear vision: a simplified structure focused on prayer, praise, and preaching—unlike the traditional ECWA model. With the support of Rev. Dr. Dike Veras, we launched OPIC Church. Though we first considered Obafemi Oladele and Aremu, only Aremu remained committed. I also remember a former ASM president who declined to support us. But at the inauguration, a lawyer and

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University of Lagos ASM president—whom I consider a spiritual son—was present. It was a sign that God had prepared the way.

We later launched Okearo Church. Pastor Wa, Elder O.J., and Elder Segun had been attending Akute with Mr. Korode, so we invited them to start the work, which began around January, 22 or 23 years ago. Okearo Church acquired land even before Akute due to SCC's support, which boosted their momentum.

In **Otta**, our ministry—Kingdom Business Partners—held a crusade where 42 adults gave their lives to Christ. They pleaded with us not to abandon them, so we appointed a Pastor. Unfortunately, he lacked a soul-winning strategy. Another Pastor declined because he wanted a more structured Church. Eventually, we appointed Pastors Kayode and Matthew Johnson, both of whom accepted. That was how the Church began—rooted in evangelism, and God helped us to formally inaugurate it with Femi Bandele preaching and myself and APS leading the effort.

ECWA Lambe Church began as a response to a need. In January 2006, six families were traveling from Lambe to Akute, spending more on transport than they gave in offerings. With Mr. Elua Abayomi's help, we started the Lambe Church and inaugurated it on the first Sunday of that year.

We supported Ijebu Ode Church through consistent mission visits. While heading Ikorodu, we started Adamo Church, which became a joint mission of the Ikorodu Church and SCC. We also began Ibeshe Church, though it didn't last due to internal challenges.

Our mission work expanded globally. We've supported the ECWA London yearly, providing training and cyber fellowship discussions. We've served in Gambia, the U.S., Canada, and Niger Republic. As an English church, we've had massive outreach, going as far as Togo, Ghana, and other

My Distraction

In summary, we thank God for His help so far. Our ultimate prayer is to see a Mega Church established in Lekki and other key global cities before the end of our ministry. May God bring this vision to life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Call

Jesus came to restore mankind back to God. Sin had created a gap between man and God, and at the appointed time, God sent His Son, Jesus, to save the world. This was the first call to salvation. • Salvation John 3:16–18 [16] For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have eternal life. [17] For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. [18] He that believeth on Him is not judged: he that believeth not hath been judged already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God. Salvation cannot be obtained in any other name. God loves you and sent Jesus to save you. He expects you to accept the gift of salvation so you do not perish.

The devil plans to make you perish along with your generation, but the God who created you has a plan to bring you back to Himself. Jesus was not sent to condemn you, but to bring you to the Father. Acts 4:12 [12] And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved.

The only access to God is through Jesus. No other name under heaven can give you salvation. So, God expects you to live your life for Jesus. Romans 10:9–10 [9] Because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. [10] For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For you to be saved,

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you must declare it with your mouth. This means you should make it known to those around you that you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord. You must believe that God raised Jesus from the dead—and you will be saved. Make the declaration while believing in your heart. Certainly! Here's the text with the important details and words added back, while still maintaining the original flow and structure:

Sanctification

1 Thessalonians 4:3 [3] For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye abstain from fornication. Sanctification is the process of becoming more like Christ. There are three levels of sanctification:

- **Gradual Sanctification:** When you give your life to Christ, you are immediately sanctified. You become a tool for God and a vessel of the Holy Spirit.
- **Gradual Sanctification:** As you continue to grow and work on attitudes that are not aligned with God's will, you keep getting better.
- **Ultimate Sanctification:** This happens when you leave this world and are fully sanctified.

The Word of God is the truth. John 17:17 [17] Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth. To be sanctified, you need to know the Word of God. God expects you to study His word.

Ministry

Ephesians 4:11-12 [11] And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; [12] for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: **I call this the call to minister.** Everyone has this call. As long as you are a child of God, then God has called you. He called you to the fold and gave you a place of assignment.

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The question is: **"Can I be called to more than one ministry?"** The answer is yes. He who called you knows your ability. Remember, He created you. It is believed that the apostles were called to operate in all areas and were also ministers. If God has called you to be a minister, understand that it comes with great responsibility.

No call is greater than another; it's only about capacity and responsibility. So, the apostle should not feel special before the evangelist because both are called to serve. When an apostle is placed in a position of leadership, it's possible for them to perform better than someone with an evangelical calling. It's up to you to place people in areas of their calling so they can perform well. If you ask an apostle to function in the office of an evangelist, he may not deliver, but an evangelist would. These days, many ministers want to operate in the office of a prophet because it appears more respected than others. It is also believed that prophets are closer to God than others. This is not true. Prophecy is simply a gift. God always wants to reach out to His people and will use a vessel of His choice. The prophet is not better or higher than the pastor. So, if God has called you to be a prophet, do not think you are better than others. Most prophets are under pressure to speak the mind of God.

Can we develop the habit of speaking when God speaks and keeping quiet when He is quiet? The evangelist has the gift of delivering simple messages of salvation, and people will be saved. They are interested in outreaches and soul-winning programs. The office is also important to the world but no more important than others. It entails attending to the needs of the people according to the capacity God has given you. God will not judge you on what He did not send you to do. You will be judged according to your ability. Pastors came for the sheep. They have an interest in the members, check up on them, and visit them. Pastors are supposed to be teachers because they need to feed God's sheep with His word. Remember, pastors are not higher than others. They only have privileges others do not have. Your calling may be to become a teacher.

The Call

However, you cannot be a pastor without being a teacher. We have many people God has called to the ministry, but they do not see what they do as a calling. Some teachers are also destined to be writers, but they do not write because they are too critical and want everything to be perfect. Remember, you are not Jesus; one or two errors can be overlooked. Stay in your calling and perform—it's important. The purpose of the call is to equip the church of God. So, check your actions and life, and be sure you are equipping the church, not destroying it. You have a great calling and assignment. The assignment is to equip the people of God. Are you operating in your calling? I'm not talking about the office. You may have the office or title of a pastor but not operate. The operation is the most important thing. Most times, man gives the office, but God gives the platform to operate. The purpose of this call is to build up the body of Christ.

Are you contributing to the body of Christ? When you fail to operate in your calling, it will be obvious. Remember, I did not say “office.” Today, many people have the office of a prophet but God called them to evangelism. Every time you fail to operate in your calling, you are not building the body of Christ up.

Call to Specific Assignment

Ephesians 2:10 [10] For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God beforehand prepared that we should walk in them. In the mind of God, He knows you are the exact instrument He created for the job. He specifically created you for the work He has for you. Because He called you for that work and that work is good, He will prepare you in advance for it. God will call you to do only what you were created to do. It may be a funny assignment or one that will go unnoticed by others, but that was the reason He sent you there and prepared you. He shaped, prepared, and arranged you for the assignment. It is unique. Your assignment is waiting for you. Jesus' death was waiting for Him before He was born. When He came to the world, He came to complete the plan.

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Jonah's calling was already waiting for him; he just needed to enter into the plan. Jeremiah's assignment was waiting for him, and he had a call from the womb. He was a prophet and the perfect instrument for the call. Joseph was also the perfect instrument to move the Israelites to Egypt. Even when he was the 11th of 12 children, his calling for a specific assignment never changed. Even when his mother died early, his assignment remained the same. Even when his brothers did not like him, his calling did not change. Joseph of Arimathea was not just wealthy and powerful; he was prepared to request Christ's body for a proper burial. When he made the request, he got it. If any of the disciples made the request, they may not have gotten it. Joseph had the influence to make such a request. He stood as a guarantor as Jesus' body was laid in the tomb.

Do you have wealth and influence today? Do you understand your call and how to use your wealth and influence? The people mentioned above understood their specific call and carried out their assignment faithfully.

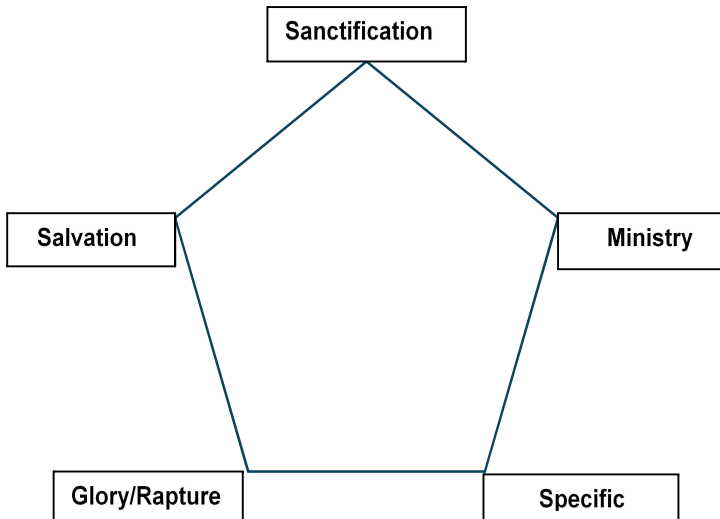
Call to Glory/Rapture

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 [13] But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep; that ye sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope. [14] For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him. [15] For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep. [16] For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; [17] then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

When a man dies, it is believed he is called to glory. As a child of God, no matter your age, the moment you stop breathing, you are called to glory.

The Call

All you have done is done, and all you were yet to do is over. Your account is closed, and your life will be assessed and judged. People may not like to hear this, but it is the truth. The question is: “Will you be called to glory or to groaning?” Not everyone will die before the rapture. Those who remain will receive a call to rapture. Many Christians desire to witness this, but a lot will be called to glory before the rapture. Some will be called to groaning. You must make your choice. Let's do the math carefully:



You can see the trend. If you do not receive the first call, it will affect the last call. I want to tell you that God wants you to accept his calls.

CHAPTER SIX

The Seven Cs

God want you to build capacity

Later, Joseph commanded his palace manager, "Fill the men's sacks to full capacity with food and replace each man's money at the top of the sack.

Gen 44: 1

"Later Joseph commanded his place manger, fill the men sack to full capacity." Show capacity can simply means what you potential or ability to carry. So when we say build capacity it means extend your ability to carry more than you have being caring

Capacity

Capacity refers to the ability or potential to hold, contain, or absorb something, whether physical, mental, or emotional. Here's a comprehensive exploration:

- **Physical Capacity:** Ability to hold or contain physical substances. Just like Samson he was well build physically for the assignment. God has for him
- **Mental Capacity:** Cognitive abilities, such as reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making. This is what David did when his sheep were attacked and because he has built mental capacity he was able to overcome Goliath in battle
- **Emotional Capacity:** Ability to manage and regulate emotions. This what Joseph did when he was faced with Potiphar's wife (Zulika) to see that sleeping with her is sin against God not just against Potiphar

The Seven Cs

- **Social Capacity:** Ability to interact and connect with others. Daniel was in power and also in government, some people are in government but not in power some are in power but not in government. Daniel has socially build capacity in a strange land and God want us to grow, the story of the planter in New testament after planting enemy came to plant weed ,the owner of the garden which is God said let them grow. It means God want you to grow in all area, he want your influence to increase,
- **Organizational Capacity:** Ability of an organization to manage resources and achieve goals.david was just playing instruments for the king even after being anointed, he was about to raise trlthrough the rank and file,you are going to be the ceo,but you need to build capacity within the organization to get to the top.

Jer 6: 16.....

Consistency

Consistency refers to the quality of being consistent, which means maintaining a steady and uniform approach or behavior over time. In this context we talking about our faith in God, we should not allow anyone or anything to take yours away from God. God want us by his side because it pays your more to be on his side. For you to be consistent, you must be:

- **Reliability:** Dependability and trustworthiness. This is part of what is expected of a steward, is just being real, no fake life nor fake appearance
- **Predictability:** Patterns and behaviors that can be anticipated. People can talk about what you will likely do. Example if I give you 8am appointment 98% of people know that I will be there
- **Stability:** Resistance to change or fluctuation. When it has to do with standard and principles of God, God want you to be very steady

What Does God Expects From You?

Rom 5: 3- 5.....

Character

God himself is ready to build our Character that is why he allow us go through all that we went through to be able to build the Character he want for yours through the suffering and trials we went through. I have heard people say two things take people to the top. Skill and character. They also say if you must lost any, make sure you do not lose character because where your skill can't take you, your character will

- **Character** refers to the unique combination of traits, qualities, and characteristics that define an individual or entity.
- **Personality:** Unique patterns of thought, feeling, and behavior.
- **Values and Principles:** Core beliefs and moral standards.
- **Integrity:** Consistency between words and actions.
- **Responsibility:** Accountability for one's actions. How do you see assignment given to you?
- **Resilience:** Ability to cope with challenges and setbacks.

Swallow pressure from every angle to change what is right helps to have Self-Awareness Understanding one's strengths and weaknesses. than trying to turn the weakness to strength by working on it daily through God's word.

2tim 3:16

Correction

How do you see God,s word. Correction is part of the scripture so God want to correct us through his words, we shall make necessary corrections when God is speaking to you. That is part of what he want he want to shape us to by Himself to what he want to make out of our life

Correction is refer to as the process of identifying and addressing errors and mistakes. Since you are the one that make the errors it God,s word and Holy Spirit that can correct you . On your own, you make still stand on it. So why is it difficult for people to yield to correction today it

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because they do not allow God, word and holy spirit to work in them and through them.

Courage

" David also said to Solomon his son, Be strong and courageous and do the work.do not be afraid or discouraged for the Lord God ,My God is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the lord is finished " 1 chr 28:20

Courage can be call fearless.

God want you to be courageous, you know why. Because he want you to do his work and you need courage to do the work, he want you to be courageous because he is with you. When you have God, it doesn't matter who or what is against you, you will win. He said be courageous because he will not forsake you. He said be courageous because he will be there till the end.

This is want God want from you be courageous.

Connection

Connection is joining or linking things or people together so as to provide access and communication

The best example in this is Jonathan and David which by human standards, nothing should bring them together, but God connect them together, Jonathan was in his 50ths while David barely 20 years, and they were able to connect. *In this your life Journey, God has placed people on your path as either David or Jonathan. Hope you will not be jealous and want to rewrite the story.*

Jonathan and David were close friends and key figures in the Bible, particularly in the book of Samuel.

Their Relationship. They are not supposed to be friends. Unlikely Friendship because Jonathan, the son of King Saul, and David, a young shepherd, formed an unlikely bond.

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Mutual Respect. They admired and respected each other's character and faith. If you must connect, you must respect, that has nothing to do with age, it is all about the way the next person feel.

Jonathan made a covenant with David, promising to support and protect him. Hope you understand that the throne by human standard belongs to Jonathan. But Jonathan's display loyalty despite his father's jealousy, Jonathan remained loyal to David. That is unprecedented.

David's popularity grew, and Jonathan recognized his future kingship.

Jonathan's Sacrifice: Jonathan protected David from King Saul's attempts to kill him. Your supposed enemy

Do we still have Jonathan today?

Get up go get your David to the throne by connecting with them.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Relational Discipleship an In-Depth Exploration

SAM M. AKEJU

Relational Discipleship is a Christ-centered approach to spiritual formation that emphasizes deep, intentional relationships as the primary context for making and growing disciples. It mirrors the life-on-life model Jesus used with His disciples that is walking closely with them, teaching, correcting, encouraging, and modeling godliness in the context of daily life. This model is built on the belief that discipleship happens best in the context of genuine relationships, where both the disciple and discipler grow in Christlikeness together.

Relational discipleship is not a one-size-fits-all method or a rigid program; rather, it is a way of life shaped by key biblical principles. At its core, it reflects how Jesus made disciples—through intentional, personal, and spiritually rooted relationships. For relational discipleship to be effective and transformative, it must be marked by certain foundational characteristics. These include intentional relationships, life-on-life interaction, mutual accountability, a multiplication focus, and a Christ-centered purpose. Each of these components plays a crucial role in helping believers grow in maturity and become disciple-makers themselves.

Intentional Relationships at the heart of relational discipleship is the need for purpose-driven, deliberate relationships. Discipleship cannot be left to chance or casual association; it requires intentional investment in others for the sake of their spiritual growth. Relational discipleship begins with intentionality, a deliberate decision to invest time, energy, and spiritual

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resources into the life of another person for the sake of their growth in Christ. It is not a casual or passive association, but a focused and purposeful relationship. Jesus Himself modeled this by choosing twelve disciples and spending time with them daily, not by accident, but by divine purpose. Intentional relationships mean making space in our lives to walk closely with others, offering guidance, listening to their struggles, and pointing them toward Christ. It requires commitment and sacrifice, but the fruit is spiritual maturity and lasting transformation in the lives of those we disciple.

Life-on-Life Interaction Discipleship thrives when truth is not only taught but also modeled in real-life situations. People learn best by watching others live out their faith in the context of daily life, just as Jesus did with His disciples. Relational discipleship thrives in the context of life-on-life interaction, where faith is not only taught but demonstrated in everyday living. Jesus didn't just preach sermons to His disciples; He invited them to live with Him, to observe how He prayed, served, loved people, handled opposition, and endured suffering. In the same way, modern discipleship is most effective when those we mentor can see how we apply God's truth in real time—how we manage conflict, raise children, handle finances, and respond to trials. Life-on-life interaction creates authenticity and depth, as the disciple witnesses firsthand what it means to follow Jesus in both the joys and challenges of daily life.

Mutual Accountability true relational discipleship involves mutual accountability, where both the disciple and the discipler are open, honest, and committed to growth. It is a relationship where encouragement is freely given, but correction and challenge are also lovingly offered when needed. Galatians 6:1–2 urges believers to gently restore those caught in sin and to carry one another's burdens. This kind of accountability helps protect against hypocrisy and spiritual complacency. It fosters a culture of trust where weaknesses can be confessed, victories can be celebrated, and

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progress can be made together. It's not a one-way street, but a shared journey of growth in holiness.

Multiplication Focus A key hallmark of relational discipleship is its multiplication mindset. The goal is not simply to mature one individual, but to equip that person to also disciple others. Paul's instruction to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2 illustrates this well, Timothy was to take what he had learned from Paul and pass it on to faithful people who would then teach others. This four-generation chain reflects the heart of relational discipleship: reproducing disciple-makers. When we disciple with multiplication in mind, we are contributing to the expansion of God's kingdom far beyond our personal reach. It is a long-term, legacy-focused strategy that ensures the Gospel continues to spread and take root through relationships.

Christ at the Center at the heart of relational discipleship is a singular focus: Jesus Christ. Discipleship must never be built around a charismatic personality, a church program, or a human method. It must always point people to Christ as the ultimate example, teacher, and goal. Romans 8:29 tells us that God's purpose is to conform us to the image of His Son. Therefore, all relational efforts in discipleship must aim at that end—Christlikeness. Every conversation, correction, prayer, and example must draw the disciple closer to Jesus. When Christ is truly at the center, discipleship becomes more than just moral improvement or church activity; it becomes a transformational journey into the likeness of our Savior.

Scriptural Foundations for Relational Discipleship at the very foundation of Jesus' method of making disciples is the principle of being with Him. Mark 3:13-14 – “Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. He appointed twelve that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach.” This was not incidental; it was intentional. Before Jesus ever sent His disciples to preach or perform

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miracles, He first called them to Himself. The call to ministry began with a call to relationship. Jesus understood that transformation precedes mission. The disciples needed to be with Him—to know His heart, see His character, understand His priorities, and absorb His way of life—before they could represent Him to others. This reveals a profound truth: discipleship that is not rooted in relationships will be shallow, ineffective, and ultimately unsustainable.

Jesus did not build a classroom or establish a seminary; He built a small community and lived among them. For three years, He walked with His disciples through the ups and downs of daily life. They shared meals, traveled together, served people side by side, and even went through storms—literally and figuratively. He taught them not only with words, but by example. They saw Him pray in secret and in public. They witnessed how He responded to rejection, temptation, pressure, and praise. They learned what it meant to love sinners, confront hypocrisy, and obey God even unto death—all because they were close enough to watch Him live out His faith.

This “life-on-life” model of discipleship is deeply relational. It is not about delivering lectures or distributing reading materials. It is about inviting others into our lives in a way that allows them to see Christ in us. Jesus' method was deeply personal: He knew His disciples individually, addressed their unique struggles (Peter's impulsiveness, Thomas' doubt, Judas' greed), and spoke into their hearts with care and clarity. He celebrated their victories and corrected their failures—not from a distance, but in the context of deep trust and love.

Moreover, this relational approach laid the foundation for spiritual multiplication. When Jesus finally sent the twelve out to preach, they did not go out as strangers to His mission or message—they went as those who had been with Him, who had become like Him, and who were now ready to reproduce what He had done in them. This is the essence of relational

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discipleship: being transformed in relationship with Christ, and then helping others experience the same transformation in relationship with us.

Jesus' decision to call His disciples to be with Him before sending them out shows that relationships are not secondary in discipleship, they are foundational. Instruction without relationships may inform the mind, but relationships with example and presence transform the heart. That is why, to this day, the most effective discipleship still begins with two people walking together, growing together, and becoming more like Jesus – together.

This final instruction from Jesus, often called the Great Commission “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19–20), is not merely a call to evangelism, but to intentional, relational, and transformational discipleship. Jesus did not say, “Go and make converts” or “Go and preach alone,” but rather, “make disciples”—a word that implies an ongoing process of spiritual formation, not just a momentary decision.

Significantly, Jesus clarified what this discipleship entails: “teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” This is more than the transmission of knowledge or doctrine. It is a call to lead people into a life of practical obedience to the teachings of Christ. Jesus did not say, “Teach them everything I commanded,” which would suggest a classroom-style impartation of facts. Instead, He emphasized obedience, living out His commands in everyday life.

True obedience cannot be taught by instruction alone. It must be modeled, encouraged, corrected, and nurtured over time. This requires a relational context where disciples can observe the life of the one discipling them, ask questions, receive corrections, and grow through shared experiences. Just as Jesus lived with His disciples, ate with them, journeyed with them, and engaged them in real-life ministry, so effective discipleship today demands life-on-life engagement.

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This type of discipleship is slow, intentional, and often messy. It requires patience and perseverance, as people wrestle with sin, doubt, immaturity, and the demands of obedience. The goal is not behavior modification, but heart transformation—a change from the inside out that reflects the life of Christ.

Furthermore, this transformation happens most fruitfully within relationships marked by trust, love, and accountability. People are more likely to obey Jesus when they are walking with someone they trust, who genuinely loves them and is committed to their growth. This is the model Jesus gave us—not mass instruction, but deep investment in a few, who then go on to invest in others.

Paul's relationship with Timothy is one of the clearest and richest. New Testament examples of relational discipleship. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul writes: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” This single verse captures the multi-generational vision of discipleship: Paul (first generation) poured into Timothy (second generation), who was to entrust the same truths to reliable men (third generation), who would in turn teach others (fourth generation). This is not a one-time event or a short-term training, but a long-term, intentional chain of spiritual reproduction, a model of multiplying disciples through relational investment.

Paul referred to Timothy as his “true son in the faith” (1 Timothy 1:2), language that reflects not just spiritual mentorship, but deep personal affection and commitment. This was not a distant, formal teacher-student relationship; it was a spiritual father-son bond. Paul was not only imparting doctrine, he was shaping character, modeling godly living, and preparing Timothy to stand firm and lead others.

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Paul's approach to discipling Timothy went far beyond lectures or Bible studies. He mentored him in the context of real ministry, often taking him along on missionary journeys (Acts 16:1–5), entrusting him with challenging assignments (1 Cor. 4:17; Phil. 2:19–23), and encouraging him in times of fear and opposition (2 Tim. 1:6–8). He corrected him, when necessary, reminded him of his call, and called him to endurance and faithfulness. This was hands-on, heart-level discipleship life shared, not just lessons taught.

The instruction in 2 Timothy 2:2 to “entrust” the things Timothy had learned reveals another important layer: discipleship is also about trust and stewardship. Timothy had been entrusted with the gospel and with Paul's teachings, and he was now to guard and pass them on carefully. But he was not to share them with just anyone; Paul emphasized that he should look for “reliable people”, those with proven character and teachability, who would in turn be able to teach others. This again underscores the relational discernment and intentionality that discipleship requires. It's not about sharing truth broadly with no follow-up; it's about pouring deeply into the right people, who are ready to carry the baton forward.

Paul's model teaches us a critical truth: discipleship is not complete until the disciple becomes a disciple-maker. Timothy was not meant to be a permanent student, but a multiplying leader. This process of maturing into spiritual parenthood happens best within consistent, intentional, mentoring relationships—where love, trust, accountability, and shared mission all work together to shape the heart and mind of the disciple.

Another powerful Biblical foundation for relational discipleship is the vibrant and communal life of the early church. In Acts 2:42–47, we are given a window into the everyday rhythm of the first generation of believers after Pentecost, a rhythm deeply shaped by relationship, shared life, and spiritual devotion: “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and

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to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... All the believers were together and had everything in common..." (Acts 2:42–47) This passage reveals that the explosive growth of the early church was not fueled primarily by organized evangelistic events or large public sermons, though those had their place. Rather, it was sustained and multiplied by a community of believers who lived out their faith together in deeply relational ways.

The word "**devoted**" here is significant. It implies ongoing, intentional commitment. These early Christians were not casual in their spiritual lives; they gave themselves consistently and passionately to four core practices:

- Apostolic teaching – sound doctrine grounded in the words and life of Jesus, passed down through the apostles.
- Fellowship (koinonia) – more than casual social interaction, this was deep spiritual partnership, sharing lives, burdens, joys, and responsibilities.
- Breaking of bread – communal meals and likely the Lord's Supper, emphasizing unity, remembrance, and shared life.
- Prayer – consistent corporate and individual communication with God, binding the community together in spiritual purpose.

This kind of environment was not institutional, it was relational and organic. The believers were not just attending services; they were living life together, day by day. They shared homes, meals, prayers, and possessions. They met publicly in the temple courts and privately in homes, balancing both large gatherings and intimate fellowship. This dual rhythm allowed discipleship to happen formally through teaching and informally through relationships.

Importantly, this relational lifestyle was not optional or supplementary, it was the very context in which discipleship thrived. In such close-knit fellowship, newer believers naturally grew as they observed and imitated the faith and practices of more mature Christians.

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There was space for mentoring, correction, encouragement, and shared service. The communal nature of the early church created a culture of accountability and care, where spiritual formation was not the responsibility of a few leaders, but of the whole body.

This passage also highlights how generosity and shared resources were a natural outflow of their unity. When someone had a need, others gave joyfully to meet it. Such sacrificial love reflected Christ's own heart and built deeper trust within the community. It is in this kind of environment that discipleship becomes not just teaching people what to believe but walking with them as they learn how to live.

Additionally, the joy and sincerity of their shared life became a powerful witness to the outside world. The Scripture says they enjoyed “the favor of all the people,” and as a result, “the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” This is a vital principle: authentic relational discipleship not only strengthens the church internally, but it also attracts others externally. People are drawn to genuine love, peace, and spiritual vitality expressed in the community.

In short, discipleship flourishes in the community. The early church grew in depth and number because the believers were committed not only to knowing the truth but to living it together in love, unity, and accountability. This is the kind of church that transforms lives, neighborhoods, and nations, one relationship at a time.

Relational Discipleship in Today's Church – Especially Relevant in the African Context Relational discipleship is deeply suited to the African church due to the inherently communal nature of African societies. In many parts of Africa, the community is the bedrock of social life. People live in close-knit environments where relationships matter deeply, and elders are revered as custodians of wisdom. This environment creates a

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fertile ground for relational discipleship to thrive because it aligns with people's natural way of life. Discipleship through relationships becomes more than just a program, it becomes a lifestyle embedded in daily interactions and shared experiences.

Moreover, African cultures often emphasize oral traditions and storytelling as powerful methods of passing down knowledge and values. Relational discipleship taps into this strength by allowing the faith to be transmitted through narratives, personal testimonies, and communal reflections. Rather than relying solely on formal classroom instruction, discipleship in this context becomes a heart-to-heart journey where faith is caught, not just taught. Elders can recount God's faithfulness, and younger believers can ask questions and find real-life models of Christian maturity.

Relational discipleship is also an effective tool for bridging the generational divide within the church. Many African churches face a significant gap between older believers and the younger generation, leading to misunderstandings and a loss of continuity in discipleship. By intentionally fostering relationships between the youth and elders, relational discipleship creates opportunities for mentorship, dialogue, and shared spiritual growth. Elders pass down wisdom and spiritual heritage, while young people bring energy, innovation, and fresh questions that enrich the community of faith.

Implementation of Ideas for Relational Discipleship

- **One practical way to implement relational discipleship is by forming mentorship groups** where mature believers are paired with new converts. These groups provide a safe environment for new believers to grow in their faith, ask questions, and observe the Christian life in action. It moves discipleship from the pulpit to the personal, enabling spiritual formation through daily modeling and encouragement.

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- **Another important strategy is to encourage pastoral leaders to engage in personal discipleship of emerging leaders.** While preaching is important, it often does not provide the one-on-one guidance needed for leadership development. Pastors and church leaders must be intentional about investing time in a few individuals, pouring into them just as Jesus did with His disciples. This close mentorship ensures that the next generation of leaders is spiritually grounded, relationally mature, and missionally focused.
- **Family-based discipleship should also be emphasized.** In many African homes, parents are the first and most influential teachers. Churches can strengthen relational discipleship by equipping parents to disciple their children at home. When families engage in prayer, Bible study, and service together, children grow up seeing faith modeled consistently. The home becomes the first "discipleship classroom," shaping the next generation long before they fully engage with the church's formal programs.
- **Additionally, churches should develop clear discipleship pathways that guide believers from conversion to spiritual maturity.** This journey could be visualized as: Believer → Disciple → Disciple-maker. Every believer is encouraged not just to grow personally but also to multiply their faith by discipling others. By doing this, churches move from mere membership growth to true spiritual reproduction, fulfilling the Great Commission in a sustainable and relational way.

Some Identified Challenges to Relational Discipleship Despite its many benefits

Relational discipleship is not without challenges.

- **One of the greatest barriers is the time commitment it requires.** Genuine discipleship involves walking with someone through life's seasons,

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which takes patience, consistency, and emotional investment. In a fast-paced world, and even in mission fields with many demands, leaders and members alike may struggle to sustain these deep relational commitments.

- **Cultural hindrances also present a challenge.** In some African church contexts, a strong emphasis on hierarchy and formality can create a barrier to relational intimacy. Younger believers may feel intimidated or unworthy to approach elders, while leaders may be uncomfortable engaging on a peer level with those they are discipling. Breaking through these cultural norms to establish authentic, Christ-centered relationships requires humility, intentionality, and sometimes, a rethinking of leadership paradigms.
- **Furthermore, many church members, including leaders, lack training on how to disciple others relationally.** They may be willing but unsure where to start or what to do. This points to the need for training programs and resources that equip believers with the skills, biblical understanding, and confidence to disciple others effectively. Workshops, small group leader training, and modeled discipleship can be helpful ways to overcome this barrier and build a culture of intentional relational discipleship within the church.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Delegation of Power

Introduction one of the greatest challenges in leadership is in equipping and empowering Christians to participate in ministry. This is because traditional thinking says that a church leader is the one who should keep most of the control and make most of the decisions. Warren Bennis quoted by Archie Luper has said, **'Most organizations are underled and overmanaged'**. Managers do things right, but leaders do the right things." There is a difference. Often many churches are led by overworked, exhausted leaders and too many inactive members. The responsibility for both conditions, however, lies with the leadership.

Leaders must learn the difference in leadership and management and understand that their primary, biblical responsibility is in teaching, mentoring and equipping members for ministry.

Elders must begin again to focus on their call for shepherding, and stay away from the dangerous pull administration. Satan knows that the more he can falsely influence church leaders to focus on administration and management, fewer members will be equipped for ministry and service to the kingdom of God. Training up new leaders is an extremely potent way of fulfilling the Great Commission.

There are many names for fruitful process. Among other things this process can be enabling, mentoring, discipleship, tutoring, apprenticeship

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delegating, interning or leadership training. Because the Great Commission is so grand in scope, even the most diligent person in Christendom simply cannot fulfill it alone.

Bill Donahue commented that **'apprentice development utilizes the principle multiplication'**. *For example, an effective evangelist who reached one thousand people for Christ a day will win the world to Christ in 13,515 years. But a very effective disciple who teaches or train two people a year to reach others for Christ has the potential to win the world to Christ in 33 years."*

This comment explains why the method is so very effective, because it wonderfully multiplies efforts of many and it can and has endured through many thousands of years.

Old Testament Examples of Power Delegation

When a gigantic task is at hand, God will often instruct leaders to involve others. Some Old Testament examples are provided here to demonstrate this concept.

Joseph and Pharaoh

What were the first words that came out of Joseph's mouth to solve Pharaoh's impending colossal crisis? Joseph said 'Now let Pharaoh look for a man discerning and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh take action to appoint overseers in charge of the land...' So delegation was paramount in the mind of this wise man that God blessed regardless of his status (favoured son, hated brother, slave, prisoner or prime minister) or location (father's tent, pit, prison, or palace).

Jethro and Moses

Exodus 18:13-23 contains a classic example. Basically, Moses was burning himself out. He was also exasperating the people who were waiting for him in line. Fortunately, his father-in-law gave him a sound advice to share the load with others. This will be further explained below.

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Jehoshaphat at the Wilderness of Tekoa

In this precious example, God worked through Jehoshaphat's delegating to defeat Judah's vast and overwhelming enemies. He appointed those who sang unto the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said 'Give thanks to the Lord, for His loving-kindness is everlasting.' When they began singing and praising, the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were routed. In this incident, group members were given a role to play. Some would use the terminology that they were given ownership in the activity.

Whatever you call it, Jehoshaphat's delegation allowed his people to get excited and joyful. They never forget that they took part in a miraculous mighty move of God.

New Testament Examples of Power Delegation

This principle is also mentioned in the New Testament. Some poignant examples are brought up here.

Jesus the Divine Pattern

Jesus started training His apostles' right at the start of his public ministry. Delegation must be important because Jesus was involved with training throughout His earthly ministry. Jesus had concentric circles of relationship in His discipleship process; first was the inner circle with Him and John, then the inner three, then was the twelve, then the forty and so on. So Jesus devoted more of His focus to the inner circles than in the outer circles. Jesus did one-on-one mentoring with John, but he also trained people simultaneously in groups. Also noteworthy is Jesus' pattern of carefully picking disciples. He prayed all night prior to selecting the twelve apostles.

John and Paul

Christian tradition has it that John the Beloved started seven of the Churches mentioned in Revelation. John had this principle as well as Paul.

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Among other places, Paul helped start Churches in Antioch-Pisidia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Ephesus, Thessalonica, Philippi, Berea, Athens and Corinth.

Modern Day Examples

This principle of power delegation certainly does not end with the book of Acts. There are many modern day examples that operate with this principle. David Yonggi Cho has it; he has the world's largest church. Bill Hybels of Willow Creek Church and Rick Warren (author of Purpose Driven Life and Purpose Driven Church) of Saddleback Church in California have it. There are many more modern day examples throughout the world of Church leaders who leave their Church for months and their Church would still be intact.

Why Should You Delegate

In the Church today, delegating power is an important skill for any Church leader to learn. At first thought, you may not think that you are able to delegate any of your work. However, here are two reasons why any Church leader should do his level best to delegate some of his work to others.

First, it's in the interest of the leader. The leader may be a very capable person, but he can't do everything. There are some things that the leader is not capable of doing. And there are some things he can't do as well as others in his congregation can do. Anyone who is a one-man band kind of leader would never think of a holiday. Because the next time he needs a break, nobody in his Church will be able to step in and take over any of the responsibilities of the Church. How could they possibly have any idea of how to carry out any of the tasks if they have never done them. A smart leader will share the load around, unless of course he enjoys being under constant pressure and having everything and everyone depend on him.

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The second reason why you should delegate is that it is in the best interest of the members of the Church. Many leaders don't realize that when they fail to delegate, they are actually stealing. What are they stealing? The ministries of their own people; God has a plan for everyone in the Church, and not just for the leader. Each person has strengths that God wants them to use in order to serve the rest of the Church and reach out into the community. But if the leader is doing all the work, their gifts will be stifled. Who will God hold responsible for that? And when the people realize that they'll never get the opportunity to use their abilities in the Church you minister; can you blame them if they leave? If they have a desire to serve God, they'll be looking for somewhere else where they can use their gifting in His service.

The kind of pattern where the Pastor does everything and the congregation takes on the role of spectators has been very popular over the years. In this model, the Pastor does the work of ministry, and the congregation watch on. But this is the complete opposite of what the Bible teaches. Consider what Paul wrote: 'And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Who is to do the work of ministry? It is the saints; in other words, all of God's people.

What is the role of the leaders in the Church? It is to equip the saints for the work of ministry. Leaders who fail to train and release their people into ministry are stealing the ministries of the very people God has entrusted them with so they can equip and release them.

The Jethro Principle

A story was told of a Church leader who had just been appointed an elder in his local Church. He mentioned that one of the members of his Church walked up to him and said. "It's quite an honour to be an elder now, because you are at the top with all the deacons and members underneath you."

He then told her, 'Yes', it is quite an honour to have everyone working

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underneath me and now having the responsibility to make the decisions of the Church. Although this elder was a loving man, who will serve his Church with sincerity of heart, his view, however, of elders being the ones at the top to make all the decisions is not supported by scripture, either by example or by inference. Somehow a secular view of leadership has infiltrated the Kingdom of God, that the leadership continuum looks something like a pyramid. The further you go in leadership, the higher up you go, and the more people you have under you. In essence, it is the Church leader's role to make most, if not all, the decisions of the Church, Jesus, however, said *“Not so with you; instead, whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all”* (Mark 10:43-44)

Moses also had the same sincerity of heart when he was sitting as judge over the people of Israel (Exodus 18:13-27).

Jethro, his father-in-law, saw what he was doing and questioned Moses saying, 'Why do you alone sit as judge, while people stand around you from morning till evening?' Moses responded, *“Because the people come to me to seek God whenever they have a dispute, it is brought to me and I decide between the parties and inform them of God's laws and decrees' was the case with the elder above, Moses' sincerity of heart did not change the fact that what he was doing was wrong. 'What you are doing is not good! You and the people who come to you will only wear yourselves out. The work is heavy for you, you cannot handle it alone.”*

It's interesting that although Jethro was not an Israelite, he was able to give this type of leadership advice to Moses. We know that Jethro had been a shepherd and a priest. He must have also been a practical trouble shooter and organizer, for he gave Moses direct and practical advice as to how Moses might better fulfill his role as leader of the Israelites. We believe that Jethro gave an excellent example for times when outside help is needed for local Church leaders to serve effectively. Moses was wearing both himself and the people of Israel by his mistaken belief that it was God's will that he

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alone makes every decision for the people, How often do we see leaders in the Church today who are worn-out, burnt-out, or frustrated by the load of their work? It is believed that much of this frustration is self-inflicted by leaders who misunderstand the biblical teaching of leadership and do not know how to empower and/or delegate the work to others. This would free them up from the administrative aspects of the Church, which were never intended for them, and focus on the spiritual needs of individuals and families within the Church.

It's interesting that the people were also being worn-out, when all they were doing was standing around from morning till night (Ex. 18:14). Today, Church leaders continue to wear themselves out by trying to make all the decisions of the Church and in doing so are also wearing out the members of their congregations by frustrating them to the point of inactivity. Gary McIntosh says, *"The most challenging risk that leaders often have to take is investing the ministry in their people. Too many pastors and other Church leaders hold their people down, fearing the mistakes they might make if given freedom to serve."*

Principles of Power Delegation

Jethro gives leaders in the Church of the Lord today an excellent advice on how to empower their members for ministry. Here are some leadership principles in the advice given by Jethro to Moses.

- **Equipping (Ex. 18:20a):**

Jethro began by telling Moses he needed to 'teach them the decrees and laws.' It was not enough for Moses himself to know all the decrees and laws so that he could make all the decisions. Moses was encouraged to take the time needed to equip the people of Israel with the knowledge and understanding necessary so that they could make their own decisions. As the quote says, "Give a man a fish and he can eat for a day. Teach him to fish, and he eat for a lifetime. " It should be the primary focus of leadership

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to equip the members of the Lord's Church for ministry for a lifetime. Equipping, however, is not a quick and easy process. Perhaps, this why most Church leaders do not focus their efforts on doing so. Lynn Anderson, in his book "They Smell like Sheep" said, Jesus' style of equipping is not too hard to understand, but it can be difficult to implement. It is not complex, but it is costly. Equipping call for consistent investment of time in another person's life and patience as that person appears, at times to barely crawl up the learning curve. It also calls for vulnerability and openness and intentional effort. The rewards, however, are immeasurable. It brings spiritual fulfillment to both the equipper and the equipped; it expands the ministry capacity of your Church.

- **Mentoring (Ex. 18:20b):**

Not only did Moses need to teach the people the decrees and the laws, Jethro told Moses he needed to mentor them through the process. Jethro's statement, 'show them the way to live and the duties they are to perform', was much more than just an encouragement to Moses to be a good example. He told Moses that he was to show the people both how to live and how to effectively participate in the decision making process. This is the same type of mentoring process Paul was suggesting to Timothy when he said, and the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others' (2 Tim.2:2). In other words, Timothy was to teach and mentor others in the Church so that they in turn could become teachers and mentors themselves. Mentoring is an important key to continued and consistent leadership development in the Lord's Church today.

- **Selecting (Ex. 18:21a):**

Moses was then to 'select capable men from all the people, men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain.' This selection process is also important. Jethro said that these men are

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to be capable, which suggests that there were some type of processes to insure that these men were equipped to do the job in the first place. That is why the process of equipping and mentoring comes first in the advice given by Jethro to Moses. Anderson further commented that, 'today, most congregations need more shepherds, not more administrators. In many cases, we have capable but unchallenged and unused administrators running out our ears, who could 'lift a lot of load' off our elders (pastors) and free up elders to shepherd, mentor and equip. If we follow the same flow of 'the Jethro Principle', there will be an ample supply of capable men for ministry in the Kingdom of God.

- **Empowering (Ex. 18:21b):**

Many Churches today do a good job selecting men for service in the Kingdom of God, but how often do we see who are selected for ministry, but are then not empowered to do the work of their ministry? When we select people, they are to be empowered with the full responsibility and authority of the work given to them. Max DePree, in his book "Life without Power" says, "Delegation is one of the ways for a leader to connect voice and touch. It is a precious way of enabling people participate, to grow and to reach toward their potential"

- **Accountability (Ex. 18:22a):**

When Jethro tells Moses that he was to 'have them serve as judges for the people at all times', he was speaking of the level of accountability that should guide all those in position leadership. I believe that one of the greatest tragedies of leaders within the Church today is that there is very little, if accountability among those who serve as elders, deacons ministry leaders. In his book, *The Empowered Leader*, Ca Miller states, In order to build a true team spirit [within the Church], you must delegate accountability

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and glory as well as responsibility. Real leaders make followers accountable for the tasks they delegate. When a task is finished, any fault that has accrued will belong to those who were in charge of the assignment. It is also wise to remember that your followers' ability to accept the pain of their failure or the glory of their success is directly related to the role model you supply. If you bear your responsibility in an accountable way, those to whom you have delegated a task will imitate your stewardship.

Accountability is not an option if a Church wants to be truly effective. Max DePree states, *"One of the first things required in movements is spirit-lifting leadership; leadership that Hand lets go."* Where there is no accountability for results, there is enables, enriches, holds the organization accountable, and in the ns always going to be a 'position-oriented' mentality. This 'position-oriented' mentality of leadership says that an elder or deacon remains such by their position and not by their effectiveness. We should be reminded, however, that elders in Scripture were known to be elders by their years of wisdom and experience, and the work that they did within the Church. It was, and is, a descriptive term, not a positional title. In the same way, those who serve as deacons are in reality servants. It is who they are and what they do, not a title given to them. Where there is no accountability you will find elders who do not shepherd and deacons who do not serve.

- **Oversight (Ex. 18:22b):**

Jethro's final advice was to say that there would be times when situations would require that Moses be directly involved in the decision-making process with the most difficult cases. Jethro said, "but have them bring every difficult case to you, the simple cases they can decide on themselves. By the very nature of elder serving as they do, they have the experience and wisdom necessary to

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to make decisions when necessary and difficult cases arise, as they often do. That is why communication between leadership and staff as well as leadership and the entire Church is so important.

- **The Result:**

Jethro tells Moses that if he abides by his advice, he will reap positive benefits from it; 'That will make your load lighter because they will share it with you. If you do this and God commands, you will be able to stand the strain, and all these people will go home satisfied.' What was Moses' reaction to Jethro's advice? Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said. We too should heed the advice given by Jethro. It pays a lot.

Conclusion

Delegation is entrusting a job to another who is also given the authority to do it. It is vital to be clear that delegation is not abdication, to give up your power to another, would be an evasion of responsibility. The benefits of delegation are that it gives you more time to carry out your key functions and to develop you subordinates. People respond to responsibility. They thrive and grow when you trust them. But if you treat people like incompetent babies, you'll have to diaper and feed them the rest of your life. When you give authority with responsibility, you'll be amazed at the creativity of your people. People are always as creative as the structure allows them to be.

As John Maxwell states, "**A leader is great, not because of his or her power, but because of his or her ability to empower others**". Success without a successor is failure. A worker's main responsibility is doing the work himself. A leader's main responsibility is developing others to do the work." Rick Warren also commented, "We have all seen what happens when a prominent ministry is built around a single individual. If that

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person dies, moves or has a moral failure, the ministry collapses. If I were to die today, Saddleback would continue growing because it is purpose-driven, not personally driven." And finally, Jethro himself gives the best reason of all to put these empowerment principles to use when he said, "And God so commands."

DIRECTION

In the account of first Kings 17, we will consider the life of Elijah in line with direction. God expects his children to ask him for directions.

Directions simply means seeking for ways to go or decisions to take during critical times. *A Yoruba adage says that a stranger that gets stranded at a T junction will not know where to turn.*

During mission trips to the desert, a missionary in Africa said: "I was where you could not see trees or any living thing even houses and land. It was dry and lonely and you had to maintain a particular movement to get to your location or you'll get lost and find yourself somewhere else. Compass were used in times like this to get to your destination. So, we can see a compass gives direction to our destination. In the same way, God wants to be the compass of our life. Are we going to allow him?"

Most times, it is the word of the Lord that gives us direction. The word of the Lord came to Elijah, instructing him to leave where he was and move eastward to live by the Brook Cherith, which is east of the River Jordan. God also told him to drink from the brook. Before Elijah even thought about what he would drink, God had already made provision. God knew Elijah would be thirsty and prepared the brook ahead of time. If Elijah had refused to listen, he would have missed God's divine arrangement.

God also prepared a raven to bring him food. Ravens are classified as unclean and feed on dead things.

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Leviticus 11:13–15 "[13] *And these ye shall have in abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination: the eagle, and the gier-eagle, and the ospray, [14] and the kite, and the falcon after its kind, [15] every raven after its kind...*" The raven was the bird sent out by Noah during the flood. When it was released, it never returned to the ark.

Psalm 147:9 shows that the bird is carefree and does not take care of its offspring. **Job 38:41** shows that the bird is unorganized, and its young usually wander about. However, the raven is intelligent. It is a playful bird that can adapt to different environments. God chose the raven, even with its limitations.

When God is involved, everything and everyone becomes useful. God intended to use different ravens, not just one. If you listen to His direction, He will use you. Whether you are useful or useless, organized or disorganized, He will attend to you.

Proverbs 3:6 "*In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*"

What God expects is for us to put Him at the center. Nothing moves without Him. When we realize this, we begin to understand the ways He operates. God told Elijah that He had sent ravens to bring him food. Your concern is not to ask where the provision will come from; your concern is to stay where He has destined you to be, and you will receive favour. Ravens will look for food and bring it to you because you are where you ought to be.

Elijah did what God told him. God has given you direction—please follow it. Because Elijah listened, ravens brought bread and meat every morning and evening. Excuse me, where were the birds getting the food? If Elijah had not been where he was supposed to be, he would have missed the food.

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Let me pray for you: you will be at your place of supply, in Jesus' name. When we seek direction from the One who knows us, we will not fail. As long as you keep seeking direction, He will always give it to you. Scripture recalls that after some time, God allowed the brook to dry up. Elijah had become comfortable with the arrangement, but God wanted to give him another instruction. Elijah needed to save the widow's family.

Sometimes, God changes our direction because of others, to bring glory to His name. God will test your level of obedience while you seek Him. Elijah needed to move according to the instruction given by God. He was to go to Zarephath, which was in the region of Sidon, where Jezebel came from. God wanted to show His supremacy in that region, and Elijah was the instrument.

God told Elijah that He had instructed a widow to take care of him. This happened just as easily as the brook and the ravens had, but Elijah still needed to be directed by God.

- How many widows existed in Zarephath at this time?
- How was Elijah going to identify the right widow?

Luke 4:25 *“[25] But of a truth I say unto you, There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land;”*

Although the direction was difficult, it could be trusted because it was from God. Elijah moved to Zarephath, which was about 90 miles away. As soon as he arrived at the gate, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he knew she was the one God had spoken about. It is possible he identified her because of the way she was dressed. As we often say, "Dress the way you want to be addressed." You need to place your request with wisdom.

Elijah greeted her and asked for water. Water was difficult to come by because it had not rained in years and the rivers were drying up. The lack of

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water was another reason Elijah left for Zarephath. He had traveled for 90 miles and needed a lot of water. The widow's willingness to give Elijah water made him more confident to ask for food.

Even when we have a direction from God, we still need to study situations and patterns. We should be able to table our requests properly. The widow gave Elijah a situation report on the last meal, and he realized why God had sent him. He had been told that a widow was there to feed him, not the other way around.

Elijah was the man on assignment, and when the widow listened and fed him, she received his blessing. When God gives a direction, will you listen and act according to the instruction? What God expects from you is to seek direction and follow His instructions.

Psalm 32:8 *“[8] I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will counsel thee with mine eye upon thee.”* God has promised to give you instructions on where to go—and you must obey. He is your Father, and He expects you to allow Him to take the lead while you follow.

A. Faithfulness

1 Corinthians 4:2 [2] *Here, moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

The major thing God expects from you is faithfulness. You cannot deceive Him. You cannot lie or pretend to be who you are not. To be faithful means to:

- Be steadfast in the Lord
- To be loyal
- To be reliable

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A. Salvation

Luke 24

[1] But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came unto the tomb, bringing the spices which they had prepared. [2] And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. [3] And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. [4] And it came to pass, while they were perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel: [5] and as they were frightened and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? [6] He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, [7] saying that the Son of man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. [8] And they remembered his words,

[9] and returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest. [10] Now they were Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James: and the other women with them told these things unto the apostles. [11] And these words appeared in their sight as idle talk; and they disbelieved them. [12] But Peter arose, and ran unto the tomb; and stooping and looking in, he seeth the linen cloths by themselves; and he departed to his home, wondering at that which was come to pass. [13] And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was threescore furlongs from Jerusalem. [14] And they communed with each other of all these things which had happened. [15] And it came to pass, while they communed and questioned together, that Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. [16] But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

[17] And he said unto them, What communications are these that ye have one with another, as ye walk? And they stood still, looking sad. [18] And one of them, named Cleopas, answering said unto him, Does thou alone

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sojourn in Jerusalem and not know the things which are come to pass there in these days? [19] And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, The things concerning Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: [20] and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. [21] But we hoped that it was he who should redeem Israel. Yea and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things came to pass. [22] Moreover certain women of our company amazed us, having been early at the tomb; [23] and when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. [24] And certain of them that were with us went to the tomb, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not. [25] And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

[26] Beloved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory? [27] And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. [28] And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they were going: and he made as though he would go further. [29] And they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is now far spent. And he went in to abide with them. [30] And it came to pass, when he had sat down with them to meat, he took the bread and blessed; and breaking it he gave to them. [31] And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. [32] And they said one to another, was not our heart burning within us, while he spake to us in the way, while he opened to us the scriptures? [33] And they rose up that very hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, [34] saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

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[35] *And they rehearsed the things that happened in the way, and how he was known of them in the breaking of the bread. [36] And as they spake these things, he himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. [37] But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they beheld a spirit. [38] And he said unto them, why are ye troubled? and wherefore do questionings arise in your heart? [39] See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye behold me having. [40] And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.*

[41] *And while they still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here anything to eat?*

[42] *And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish.*

[43] *And he took it, and ate before them.*

[44] *And he said unto them, These are my words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must needs be fulfilled, which are written in the law of Moses, and the prophets, and the psalms, concerning me.*

[45] *Then opened he their mind, that they might understand the scriptures; [46] and he said unto them, Thus it is written, that Christ should suffer, and rise again from the dead the third day;*

[47] *and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name unto all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.*

[48] *Ye are witnesses of these things.*

[49] *And behold, I send forth the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high.*

[50] *And he led them out until they were over against Bethany: and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.*

[51] *And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he parted from them, and was carried up into heaven.*

[52] *And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:*

[53] *and were continually in the temple, blessing God.*

24:4 “Perplexed”

The Lord gives help 24:4-8

[4] And it came to pass, while they were perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel: [5] and as they were frightened and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? [6] He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, [7] saying that the Son of man must be delivered up into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. [8] And they remembered his words, As they struggle, the Lord sends an angel to remind them of the very words of Jesus.

24:6 Since the Angel reminds them, the result leads to belief.

24:9 [9] and returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven, and to all the rest.

Sometimes it is natural not to want to believe something but the question is “who is ministering to you?”

Is it the Angel of God or the Angel of the Devil? It must be one of them.

Lack of Belief: The Apostles

24: 11 [11] And these words appeared in their sight as idle talk; and they disbelieved them.

The words looked like a tall tale to them and they did not believe. The words sounded like nonsense.

24: 16 [16] But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

Lack of Belief: The two men on the road to Emmaus.

The Lord gives help: 24:25-27 [25] And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! [26] Behooved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory? [27] And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

As they struggled, God helped them understand the foundational teaching of his word.

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Luke 24:28-30

[28] And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they were going: and he made as though he would go further. [29] And they constrained him, saying, Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is now far spent. And he went in to abide with them. [30] And it came to pass, when he had sat down with them to meat, he took the bread and blessed; and breaking it he gave to them.

As they continued to struggle, the Lord helped them remember the sweet fellowship they had started with him when he broke bread and their minds drifted to the last supper. The result was belief:

24:31 [31] And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

Their eyes were opened and the evidence was in the fact that they rushed to Jerusalem to tell the apostles. Because of God's patience, they eventually proclaimed the most important truth in the world. When the two men arrived, they probably said something like: "You won't believe this, but the Lord is risen"

During the time, the Lord appeared to the rest

1 Corinthians 15:5 [5] and that he appeared to Cephas; then to the twelve;

So, the apostles quickly responded

Luke 24:34 [34] saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon.

The Lord is risen

So they rejoiced together after the discovery of Jesus' resurrection. And there we have it. "The Lord is risen" "The Lord is risen indeed"

We must understand that our belief in the word of God needs to grow even though we may sometimes doubt the truths we hold.

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24:36a [36] And as they spake these things, he himself stood in the midst of them, Can you mentally picture the chatter as they talked about the truth they were beginning to grasp? They were overjoyed but still lacked belief.

24:37 [37] But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they beheld a spirit.

They were frightened, thinking they saw a spirit. Initially they are joyfully talking about the resurrection, but when the evidence entered, they become shocked.

The Lord gives help

24:35-40 [35] And they rehearsed the things that happened in the way, and how he was known of them in the breaking of the bread. [36] And as they spake these things, he himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. [37] But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed that they beheld a spirit. [38] And he said unto them, why are ye troubled? and wherefore do questionings arise in your heart? [39] See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye behold me having. [40] And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

As they struggle, Jesus lets them touch the physical evidence, reminding them of what happened to him.

Lack of belief 24:36 & 37

The apostles did not fully grasp the reality of the resurrection. They expected Jesus to overthrow the Roman Empire, but the salvation He had in mind was entirely different from what they anticipated. Even today, many people misunderstand the salvation Jesus offers. As the disciples struggled to believe, Jesus revealed Himself by eating a piece of fish, demonstrating that He was truly alive. He also guided them to understand the foundational teachings of God's word. Are those whom God has commissioned to carry out His work in the world still fragile and slow to believe today? The answer, sadly, is yes. But imagine the impact we could

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have if we firmly held onto our faith and remained committed to the mission entrusted to us by the Master. If you're not yet part of the fold, it's not too late to come in. He has a plan for you. The primary reason Jesus came into the world was to bring salvation to humanity. This great call—from darkness into light—must not be ignored. Jesus came to reconcile mankind with God.

CHAPTER NINE

God Wants you to Understand Time

1 Chronicles 12:32 "From Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do—200 chiefs, with all their relatives under their command."

Who Are the Children of Issachar? The children of Issachar were people who knew what to do. Today, we live in a world where many do not know what to do. These men supported David as king instead of Saul's son, standing for truth and understanding the concept of God.

We need people in this generation who understand the times and what God is saying to the world. Understanding the times means knowing what to do. The children of Issachar had the discernment to identify what God wanted for Israel. Likewise, we need people who understand what God wants for the world.

The children of Issachar knew what to do. God expects His children to recognize and respond to the signs around them. Issachar was one of the twelve tribes of Israel, and they stood out. God expects you to stand out amidst all that is happening in the world. The name 'Issachar' means "reward will come."

"Do not waste your time fighting with ego and small minds."

Leah, the first wife of Jacob, gave birth to Issachar, making him the sixth son (Genesis 49). We are in dangerous times. Not only is the world going from monologue to analogue, but this is also a time when people have lost their identity.

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Ephesians 5:16 *"Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."*

We are in a Time when:

1. GMO is being introduced,
2. People do whatever they like
3. Machines have started to control humans
4. People hear what they want, not what they need
5. Excessive drinking
6. Deceit – The truth is uncommon
7. LGBTQ2I influences – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and Intersex
8. Ungratefulness – People lack appreciation
9. Nepotism – Favoritism is widespread
10. Celebration of evil – Immorality is glorified
11. Shameless generation – People are unapologetic about wrongdoing
12. Materialism – Money is idolized above everything else
13. Impoliteness – Lack of courtesy and respect
14. Lack of attention to detail – Carelessness is common
15. Moral decline – Ethics and values are being abandoned
16. Lack of planning for the future – No concern for long-term impact
17. Self-centered love – People prioritize themselves over others
18. Not expecting Jesus – Disregard for Christ's return
19. Halloween obsession – Dark influences are celebrated

Conclusion

Some people are on the stage now.

Your time on stage will come.

One day, you will leave the stage.

It is your time.

Time is the greatest enemy of man because some people believe they will always have time, but before they realize it, time is gone and they discover that they have been robbed out.

The greatest possession of man is time.

If only we understand time now, we will love what God loves and hate what God hates.

THE APOSTLE

“This is a subject over which there has been a great deal of misunderstanding as many Christians think of apostles as the twelve disciples appointed by Jesus” - David Petis

Today people believe that when Jesus appears to you as claimed, you are one of the disciples.

Apostles are messengers, delegates, representatives, and ambassadors.

Testimonies Celebrating Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba's 25 Years in Ministry

Oluwabukola Ruth Awoyemi

Our journey started when you were transferred to ECWA church Ikorodu in 2015. You pastored and mentored me for 4 years, you made me to realized God's purpose for my life.

Rev'd Femi Ikusagba, my family met him when we're at the lowest state of life but he helped us to pool through, he always encourage, advice and pray for us but he wasn't aware of it. Rev'd Femi Ikusagba is a true child of God, a teacher of the word to its fullest, a mentor and a disciple (I am one of the students of his disciple class), a man of his word, a giver and he is time cautious.

Rev'd Femi Ikusagba is an achiever and knows how to keep relationship weather he is your present pastor or not. His wife (Mrs. Bolanle Ikusagba) her humility cannot be compared, she is loving and peaceful. She is an easy going person but don't tolerate nonsense. She loves God and the things of God. I Am always looking up to her to be like her..she is my secret mentor.

The family of Rev'd Femi and Mrs Bolanle Ikusagba has been a blessing to this generation and we are grateful to God for blessing us with them in a time like this

Am really grateful for this opportunity and I pray you will not be an abandoned vessel, you will always find good reason to press on and you and your family will not lose your reward in Jesus name amen.

Thanks and God bless.

Testimonies

Mrs. Doris Barnabas

I am happy to have met Rev'd Oluwafemi Ikusagba in 2019 in ECWA Ikeja. During COVID 2020 my father was sick in Kaduna, I was worried on how to see him. Rev'd Ikusagba link me with someone that will help purchase my ticket to Gombe where they transferred him to in Federal Medical centre I remain grateful for this.

When I was transferred to Port-Harcourt he was there to pray for my success until I was transferred back to Lagos.

One thing I can testify about him is to encourage you to make use of every opportunity to achieve something and he can support you through prayers and his physical presence of which he did in Port-Harcourt and Lagos.

When my son wanted to do his SIWES he connected him twice to airport and later SIDMACH And when my father died in 2023 he made sure some Pastors and Elders came to Tula my Town in Gombe to console with me although he was not around.

Although we met not long ago but your impact in my life and family is great. I want to say a big thank you Rev'd Ikusagba for your support encouragement and being always there for me and my family and the church where you serve presently ECWA Ikeja.

I pray God will continue to bless you and your family financially materially and your ministry in Jesus name.

Thank you Sir.

Ayodele Okoh

I count it a great honor to be invited to share this testimony as part of the celebration of Reverend Oluwafemi Samuel Ikusagba's 25 years of unwavering service on the ECWA pulpit. It is both humbling and joyful to reflect on the impact his life and ministry have had on mine.

I first met Reverend Ikusagba in 2015, shortly after the passing of my dear

What Does God Expects From You?

mother. It was a period of deep personal reflection and spiritual searching for me. From our very first interaction, I experienced his genuine compassion, humility, and spiritual depth. What began as a moment of pastoral care soon evolved into a lasting bond. He became both a spiritual father and a trusted friend.

Even after I left Nigeria in 2018, our connection remained strong. Despite the geographical distance, he has continued to reach out, pray for me, and offer wise counsel. His consistency in communication and spiritual support has been a source of great strength to me. Whether through a simple message or a heartfelt prayer, he always finds a way to show up when it matters most.

One of the most admirable aspects of Reverend Ikusagba's ministry is his unwavering commitment to youth development. He has been a tireless advocate for young people, not just in words but in action—mentoring, encouraging, and entrusting them with real responsibilities that build both faith and character. His ability to relate with young minds, nurture their potential, and inspire purpose-driven lives is truly rare and deeply impactful.

Another distinctive quality I admire is his thirst for knowledge. Reverend Ikusagba is not only grounded in the Word of God but also well-versed in the affairs of the world. This makes his ministry dynamic, relevant, and far-reaching. He is constantly evolving—embracing technology, maintaining an active social media presence, and sending out prayer messages that uplift and reconnect us to God in today's fast-paced world.

Through Reverend Ikusagba, God has ministered to me in areas of emotional healing, spiritual maturity, and the pursuit of purposeful living. His example reminds me that ministry is not confined to the pulpit but continues through presence, compassion, and a heart committed to others.

Thank you, sir, for your dedication, for staying true to your calling, and for walking with so many of us on our journey of faith. May this celebration be a reflection of the seeds you've sown, the lives you've touched, and the generations you continue to impact.

Mrs. Christie Akin-Akinyosoye

Rev. Femi Ikusagba is my Spiritual Leader and the head pastor of my Church, ECWA Church Anifowoshe, Ikeja. “Chapel of Progress.

I met Rev Ikusagba when he was transferred as the Minister in charge of ECWA Ikeja where I am a member. His style of leadership is dynamic and spontaneous as the spirit leads. Ready to learn and introduce new things to help the church march forward.

His teachings and approach to things has changed my views on so many things and made me to see things differently, in that what you cannot change should not hold you captive.

Rev Femi Ikusagba is a driver of change and firm believer in Christ and he has used this believe to turn many youths to believe in themselves and launch out into various career changing lives that they wouldn't have dreamed of doing.

He simply in his own unique way of leadership impacted me as a person and his true Christian values and love for God cannot be faulted and I am thankful to God for having a pastor that represents God so well. He is a man of the books, loves information and this keeps him well informed as he pastors and teaches the word.

Rev Ikusagba is a minister of God with a direction driven purpose, he knows what he wants to achieve and how to achieve it. His reliance on the Holy Spirit and resilience in the office of a minister has propelled him in his ministry thus far and has helped shape lives of many under his leadership. He keeps personal relationships with his members and that is a great strength in his leadership as a minister of God.

He is indeed a blessing to this generation.

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Engr. Ayodele O. O.

I met Rev. Oluwafemi Samuel Ikusagba at ECWA Church, Ikorodu, during his time as our pastor before he was transferred. From the moment he stepped into the pulpit, deep spiritual insight and love for God made a lasting impression on me.

One of the key lessons I learned from his ministry was about giving more in God's Kingdom without complaining. He taught me that true giving is an act of worship, and it's something I now do with joy and understanding, thanks to his teachings.

I've also been richly blessed by his books. They are full of wisdom and spiritual depth, and they always leave me inspired and encouraged in my walk with God.

Rev. Ikusagba has truly been a blessing to my life and a good friend. I'm grateful to have been under his ministry, and I thank God for using him to shape my growth.

Congratulations, Sir, on 25 faithful years on the ECWA pulpit. May your next chapters be even more fruitful and impactful.

With heartfelt gratitude.

Mr. Moses Olorunipa

I would like to join thousands who are celebrating with you in attaining this milestone of 25 years on ECWA Church pulpit.

I met you when you were posted as Minister-In-Charge at ECWA Agebelekale under Agege LCC, Lagos State.

You worked very hard to construct the big Hall for the church. You challenged me and many other members to contribute to doing the work for God.

This is a thing that I love to do. I thank Jehovah God and that spirit is still in me today.

I pray that God will continue to bless your Ministry in Jesus name amen.

Congratulations! .

Pastor Dada Emmanuel Olushola

As one of your disciples, I am honored to celebrate your 25th anniversary on the ECWA pulpit. I've known you for over a decade, and I'm consistently impressed by your sincerity, visionary leadership, and commitment to discipleship. Your preaching is holistic and faithful, complemented by a compassionate lifestyle.

Your loyalty to the ECWA constitution and unwavering commitment to its principles are truly admirable. You're a humble, gentle, yet frank and disciplined leader. Your prolific writing on discipleship and life purpose has inspired many.

I've personally learned diligence, commitment, and faithfulness from you. You've taught us to take time seriously, love unconditionally, and live with purpose. Your impact on my life, family, and ministry is immeasurable.

Wishing you many more years of successful ministry! Remain focused and committed to our Master's work. Your reward is great, both now and in eternity.

You've left an indelible mark on the lives of many.

Happy 25th anniversary!

Dolapo Shinkaiye

Pastor Femi as I love to call him crossed my path in April 2014 at LUTH, Lagos University teaching Hospital, and just barely exchanged pleasantries when he said "I have an assignment for you, We are starting ECWA MEGA Gbagada and I will like you to join the brethren to start, repulsively I answered No, that i can't leave Ebute-Meta, but Gbagada is closer to you, he said , assertively I answered I can't. I Just started with a group of Teenagers and I Wouldn't want to leave them at the moment; in his usual way "whenever you're ready I'll be here" he responded and we parted way.

2017 February, on a cloudy winter morning, at day break in North

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Vancouver, I stood by the window and saw a light across the Pacific Ocean, then a thought came, “do you know that light is never switched off both day and night? Just wait as the day breaks and you will see; and as said, glaring still, few minutes later the rays of the light gradually faded into the light of the day, and the thought now was strong “YOU WILL SOON EXPIRE”. At that, I needed someone that can understand my predicament in ECWA setting, for the thought continued and said, I gave you a timed assignment in ECWA and you will soon fizzle out/ fade away. His name popped up and in my terrified state I reached out to him. God used him to explain the urgency in my God's given assignment, he disciplined and launched me into the deep. The outcome is what many know in this vineyard of Dolapo Shinkaiye.

To this fearless servant leader with a top notch discipleship who never takes NO for an answer, his dictionary lacks one word “impossible”, I doff my hat and say thank you for yielding to the Lord.

Cheers to more exploit in God's vineyard.

Cheers to finishing strong.

Cheers to heavenly rewards.

Oluwatosin Balogun

I am grateful to God for the gift of Pastor Femi Ikushagba—a dynamic and visionary servant of God. He is a goal-getter, passionate about making a difference everywhere he goes. With a unique talent for motivating others, Pastor Femi has a way of helping people discover and strengthen their God-given potentials, encouraging them to step into purpose with boldness and confidence.

One of the things that sets him apart is his genuine commitment to the members of his church. He doesn't just preach from the pulpit—he walks alongside his flock. Pastor Femi takes time to know each person God has committed to him personally. His regular follow-ups, heartfelt visits, and sincere concern for the welfare of others have touched many lives,

Testimonies

including mine.

I met Pastor Femi at ECWA English, Mushin, Lagos. Our bond grew stronger when he started a discipleship class, which I was privileged to be a part of. He fanned into flame the gifts of God in my life, pushing me to rise above shyness and embrace the call of God with courage.

One experience I will never forget is the weekend missionary journey to Ijebu Ode that he initiated. That trip was not just a mission; it was a revelation. Supporting and encouraging those serving God in the rural village opened my eyes to the challenges faced by missionaries. It ignited a fresh zeal in me to support, pray for, and stand with men and women laboring in such difficult terrains. That journey marked a shift in how I saw ministry and service.

In all, I am thankful to God for Pastor Femi Ikusagba's life and ministry. I count it a blessing that our paths crossed.

Congratulations, sir. I pray that as you start a new phase in ministry, God will continue to strengthen you, keep you focused on kingdom matters, and use you mightily to make greater impact. May your light keep shining, and may many more lives be touched through your ministry.

Olayimika Aderemi

I met Rev. Femi Ikusagba in year 2022 at ECWA Ikeja. He has been a blessing to me in every part of my life especially my marital life, He renewed my hope/faith in God with his words/ teachings. Can't say it all, but I am grateful I know him and have him as a father. I appreciate God in his life for being an amazing and sweet soul ,His mercy will never depart from you.

More anointing and Happy Anniversary Sir.

What Does God Expects From You?

Bunmi Orunmbe

I met Daddy about 30 years ago, before he officially stepped into pastoral ministry, and even at that time, he carried a divine presence and Christlike character that made him stand out. His humility, wisdom, and quiet strength were unmistakable.

About 20 years ago, he lovingly adopted me as his own, and that decision has shaped my life in countless ways. He has been a true father in every sense, guiding, checking in, praying, and investing in me and my family with a depth of love that reflects God's heart.

Daddy is a complete man, combining godly wisdom with practical grace. These five things stand out to me uniquely in his life and ministry:

A goal getter who pursues purpose with clarity, discipline and results

A great Bible scholar whose teaching and depth in the Word sharpen lives

Family oriented, leading not just his home but inspiring others to prioritize family. An outstanding counselor who listens, discerns and speaks life-transforming wisdom. A great planner, consistently structured and purposeful in every season and assignment

Through his ministry, I have grown spiritually, emotionally, and in leadership. He has challenged me to pursue God deeply, to walk in purpose boldly, and to carry people lovingly. The seeds he has sown continue to bear fruit in my life.

It is an honor to know him, to be called his child, and to witness the grace of God upon his life over these 25 remarkable years. I celebrate you, Sir, and thank God for the gift you are to the Body of Christ.

With deep love and gratitude.

Sodiya Segun

I met Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba in the year 2012, when he was transferred to ECWA Agbelekale as a minister in charge, since then my life has experienced a positive turnaround. Then, I was not that close to him. He told all the youth members to see him on a personal basis which I didn't go.

It was Mama Kano that later encouraged me to meet him. After a brief discussion, he encouraged me to have faith in God and the impossibility would become possible. He gave me money to resit for WAEC and JAMB form respectively.

I did well in both Exams but I didn't pass the post utme at OAU. He further encouraged me to obtain HND full time form as well because I told him that I didn't have anybody to sponsor my full time program. I later secured admission to Lagos State Polytechnic in Isolo. He paid the school fees and I stayed in his house throughout the program with feeding.

I learnt a lot living with them as a youth and it helped my spiritual life a lot. We did have morning devotion together and vigil once in a month.

God used Reverend Femi Ikusagba for me both financially, morally and spiritually.

Without God and him, I don't think I would have become a graduate that will also served in NYSC which had been my greatest dream. He did a lot in my life that I could not remember all.

He is truly a man of God, lovers of youths, lover of evangelism and church development.

God will continue to water your Ministry and expand it. You impacted so many lives when you were in Agbelekale. You will not labour in vain and you will end well. You will not miss heaven and your rewards as a faithful servant of God.

You have a good heart Sir.

Thank you sir.

Rev'd Oladele, Tola John \$ Family

I came across Rev'd Oluwafemi Ikusagba precisely in May, 2010 when I was transferred to Agbado LCC. Few months later I was selected to be one of his disciples. Rev'd Femi is a discipler, teacher, encourager, giver, planner, trainer, organizer, dream achiever, not a dream killer. Rev'd Femi is a progressive man of God.

My family can never forget the impacts and contributions of Rev'd Oluwafemi Ikusagba in our lives. When my family was troubled, persecuted, frustrated and humiliated by the church members, Elders and the fellow Pastors, the hope was almost gone, Rev'd Oluwafemi and his family stood by us.

He always help people to discover God given gifts for their lives. God has used him for me to develop and discover myself in many ways. There was a time that the troubles and frustration of the ministry made me to forget the HOME MINISTRY (Home Builder) that I used to do before. God used Him to charge and encouraged us to continue the Home Builder Ministry and today many families has been blessed through it.

One of his uniqueness is that ,if Rev'd Femi is doing good to somebody, and the person is paying back with evil he will never because of that stop doing good. Rev'd Femi is a unique man of God

I was seriously sick to the point of death in year 2022, as a result of the conspiracy, persecution, frustration and humiliation in the ministry, the sickness lasted for months Rev'd Femi together with his wife took me to their house, raised money for me, fed me, takes me to LUTH for months. Somebody will now tell me not to get close to the person that God used to save my life, it is impossible. My family are not afraid neither ashamed to call you our discipler, mentor, adviser, lecturer and encourager.

You cares about my health, wife business and children every time. As you have contributed tremendously to our ministry and family we will forever remember and appreciate you and your family.

We pray that, as you advance in God's kingdom business , Almighty God will increase your strength and anointing to function more in Jesus name.

Thank you very much Sir. Love you.

Testimonies

Philip & Faith Ajiji

We am honored to share my testimony about the impact of your ministry on our life. We met in 2005 when you were the Associate Pastor at ECWA English Mushin. Your encouragement and guidance have been instrumental in our spiritual growth and service within the church.

You subtly helped us transition from being a passive attendee to an active participant in church service. Your mentorship and support gave us the confidence to explore our gifts and talents, and we are grateful for the opportunities we have had to serve.

Your love and care extend beyond age boundaries and social status. You are a friend to both the young and the old, rich and poor, the influential and the down trodden. Your ministry has touched many lives. We are a testament to this. We am grateful for the bond you have formed with our family.

You are a shepherd, following in the steps of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, always watching out for the flock. Your dedication to watching over the flock is evident in the way you care for the congregation under your care. Even after leaving EEM, you have maintained a constant watch over our family's interests, checking in on us, visiting, and offering a listening ear.

You are indeed a Son of Encouragement, and your ministry has had a lasting impact on our lives and all those around you. We pray that God will continue to use you mightily and grant you a rich reward for your labor of love.

Thank you for being a source of inspiration and guidance. We pray that you will continue to do exploits here on earth for God. And at the end of your earthly ministry, you will be sitting with the saints together with God in heaven.

We celebrate your 25 years on the pulpit and pray for many more years of fruitful ministry.

ELD. Capt Joel Ore

Upon finishing the Federal Government contract assignment at Nigeria College of Aviation Technology in Zaria late 2017, I returned back to my base in Lagos only to behold a new pastor, Rev. Samuel Olufemi Ikusagba transferred from one ECWA CHURCH Ikorodu to ECWA Anifowose, Ikeja where I worship.

It was a tough and rigorous beginning for the Church/Board of Elders to align to the style of Rev. Ikusagba who was alleged to have a rigid ideology and difficult to bend, but as time went on, a clearer understanding between Rev. and the Church prevailed and situations normalized.

Rev. Ikusagba abhors time wasting, always in a hurry as if life "will end tomorrow". He is versatile and articulate and one will always laugh when he delivers rip-roaring message, seasoned with jokes alongside day to day human experience. His major attribute stays on his desire for the growth of the Church spiritually and morally. An incurable optimist, he is infectiously humble, using his talent to attract many into 'Chapel of Progress'. Hence the upsurge of English and Yoruba worshippers. The youths in the Church can never forget his contributions and encouragement to their spiritual, social and moral well-being.

A graduate in Marketing and absurdly polite, he knows how to effectively raise funds (even from the dead) to propagate the gospel. That is why ECWA IKEJA is presumed buoyant even with very few wealthy members.

Rev. Femi Ikusagba has an irrepressible voice speaking truth to power to amplify the voice of the voiceless. Anifowose area and surrounding environs will not forget in a hurry the evangelical work Rev. Ikusagba did and he is still doing. Even the primary School pupils nearby still enjoy his touch of human kindness, as well as the widows in the Community. He is indeed a consummate organizer. A prolific writer, Rev. Femi Ikusagba has authored over ten publications to his credit, exhibiting to would be readers, in depth understanding of the scriptures.

It is a great honour to testify to the works of Rev. Femi Ikusagba, a man of relentless diligence, tender affection and grueling tenacity, while I wish him well on his 25th year in ECWA pulpit and more graciously years to come.

Oladimeji Taiwo Babatunde

My Reflections on the Works and Ministry of Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba.

My first encounter with Reverend Ikusagba at ECWA Church, Ikorodu, revealed a truly delightful man of God. His tenacity, gravitas, determination, charisma and love are defining characteristics.

I'm humbled he mentored me despite my inadequacies. I'm grateful for his kindness, guidance and unwavering support. Thank you for teaching me life and ministry principles, for believing in me and serving as an exemplary teacher and mentor. Your impact is immeasurable.

Congratulations on 25 years of dedicated service. May your heavenly reward be immense, and may you conclude your journey triumphantly.

With sincere love.

Engr Eniola Ajide

I met Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba over 12 years ago while he was at ECWA Agbelekale.

Rev Femi's encouragement and teachings led a lot of young folks to get more involved in the works of the lord including myself. Through his effort, some of the young folks including myself eventually became church Elder at ECWA Agbelekale .Since we met, we have maintained a close family friendship over the years.

One of Rev Femi's impactful life to the body of Christ is his passion to erect structures and execute projects for the work of God. Rev Femi's has been a great influence on me regarding the work of God, showing empathy and supporting work in the Christian Faith.

Regards.

What Does God Expects From You?

Eld. Barr. Bode Iranloye

With hearts full of gratitude, I rejoice in 25 years of God's faithfulness manifested through our beloved Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba.

From humble beginning as an Associate in ECWA English Mushin to visionary leader and missionary pioneer, his journey has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Twice to the Republic of Niger: As the only minister from ECWA English Mushin appointed to lead evangelistic teams, Rev. Ikusagba's passion for the Great Commission carried him across borders—twice—to Niger Republic, where many souls encountered Christ.

Dynamic Church Administration

Coordinated Associate

His talent and skills for Committee and believer in collective leadership endeared him to both young and old.

Under his oversight, every local assembly experienced holistic growth—spiritual, numerical, and infrastructural.

Leadership at ECWA Mushin District Church Council

As Secretary for the “Bring Back the Glory” campaign, he and other team members achieved what seemed impossible:

Maiden Glory Concert Invited and hosted ECWA President, Rev. Anthony Omolewu Farinto, for an evening of worship that set a new standard for our district.

b) Invited Rev Dr Mipo Dedang ECWA General Secretary as our Guest Minister for the 2nd Glory Concert.

Member of First Breakfast Fund Raising At Airport Hotel, Ikeja, he orchestrated our inaugural breakfast meeting, successfully raising seed funds for the Glory Concert.

Regional Ministerial Reunion & Dinner

He coordinate and welcomed our leaders from four South-West Districts for the inaugural Glory Meeting and into a spirit of unity, reunion and renewed partnership.

Testimonies

AIDS Awareness Health Walk & Evangelism

– Tenaciously coordinated the health walk evangelistic outreach in the seven strategic points from Mushin through Yaba, Ojuelegba, Idi-Oro, and back—melding health education with the Gospel.

Prison & Care-Home Ministries

– Compassionately ministered in Ikoyi and Kirikiri Prisons, and brought solace to residents of the Old People's Home.

Personal Qualities & Legacy

Visionary & Goal-Setter

Constantly dreaming bigger for Christ's kingdom and equipping others to join the journey.

Result-Oriented & Focus-Driven

Every initiative under his care has produced measurable impact—souls saved, funds raised, structures built.

Time-Manager & Family Man balancing pulpit, missions, administration, and home with grace and discipline

Through 25 years, Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba has set new standards, developed every congregation he served, and inspired a generation of leaders.

Congratulations & Blessings

“Well done, good and faithful servant. . . . Enter into the joy of your lord.”

—Matthew 25:21

I honor you, Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba, for Silver Jubilee — twenty-five years of unwavering devotion, dynamic leadership, and transformative service. Here's too many more years of harvest in the fields of souls!

Oluwabunmi Felicia Okeowo

To God alone be all the glory.

When Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba was transferred to ECWA Ikeja, I had never heard of him or listened to any of his sermons. But the message he preached the day I was opportune to listen was powerful and educative. From that very day, I recognized him as a disciplined and a well-educated pastor who teaches directly from the Bible.

The impact of his ministry on my life has been profound. Before now, I had never truly fellowship with others since joining ECWA. But with the help of God and Rev. Ikusagba, I am now a fully committed member. His wife also speaks boldly—she always hits the nail on the head whenever she delivers a message. She is a very straightforward person who tells nothing but the truth.

Rev. Ikusagba has been a great blessing to my family. Even in my business, he always says, "Not by power, nor by strength, but with God, all things are possible. If you believe, shout Jesus!"

Today, even if I close my shop to attend fellowship or any church program, when I reopen, all my customers come back. Rev. Ikusagba is truly a great blessing to me and my entire family.

Elder Dr. Adebayo Samuel Ayo

Rev Oluwakemi Ikusagba is a renowned Nigerian Gospel Minister, teacher of God's word, and Life coach, pastoring at ECWA Ikeja. Rev Ikusagba is deeply committed to discipling God's people, bringing out the best in the youth and believing in hope and purpose for every soul. He is a prolific writer and giver per excellence. He match his words with actions.

A no-nonsense pastor who believes in planning and saving for raining day.

Overall, Rev Ikusagba dedication to his faith, and community has earned him respect and admiration.

Apostle Oluwole Kayode Samuel

Senior Pastor: *Men of The Message International Ministry, Ibadan.*

It was in the year 2000 when i joined ECWA Theological Seminary Lagos extension for a Diploma in Pastoral Studies that I met this great man. We were in the same class though he was like a year ahead of me but somehow we were attracted to each other and gradually became close friends.

I think what actually bonded us was his passion for the gospel.

Though a born again Christian with commitment to holiness and righteousness but also social. What I meant by social is that he relates well with everyone around him freely and with him there is no dull moment. I can actually say that he is the most popular student pastor among us.

Sincerely my journey into ECWA church was made possible by God through him.

He gave me platform in his church then at ECWA Akute. And also recommends me for revivals and open air crusade programs which eventually gave me the acceptance in ECWA to plant a church with him and other brethren through a group he formed with other Apostles called Kingdom Business. A crusade was organized in Ota by Kingdom Business through the leadership of Pastor Femi and APS which gave birth to ECWA Ota.

Pastor Femi had always been there for me in every areas financially and spiritually. He has been greatly supportive even when I left Lagos in 2006 to start my Ministry in Jos, he never left me even though he later told me he wasn't happy that I left ECWA yet he visited me in Jos when occasion demands. And never stopped supporting me and the ministry.

He told me one day that pastor K you are not just a friend but a brother to me and that is exactly how I see him too. He is a brother indeed and in need he was not the only person I met in the seminary but he is my best friend and good brother.

Thank you for being a good brother and for answering God's call.

Your contribution to me will ever remain indelible.

What Does God Expects From You?

Rev'd David Taiwo

I join the team to congratulate you on your Silver Jubilee celebration! Twenty-five years of faithful ministry, marked by dedication, passion, and transformative service, are truly commendable. Your commitment to the Great Commission, dynamic leadership, and compassion for souls have left an indelible impact.

May God continue to grant you wisdom, strength, and joy as you harvest souls for His kingdom. Your legacy inspires a generation of leaders, and your labor of love will forever be cherished.

Congratulations and blessings on this remarkable milestone. Keep serving faithfully; your reward is awaiting you.

Adegoke Gbadeyan

Constant is the word I can use to describe your impact in my life. Pastor Femi has the ability to see past the surface to bring out the best in people. Ever since the days of ECWA Akute, Pastor Femi has been one of the few people who have modelled Jesus Christ a simple but yet practical way. After walking closely with Pastor for a number of years, that really rubbed off on me. Another thing I learnt walking with Pastor is that you can't think small. Pastor taught me to go for it. With God, infinite possibility exists. Thank you for modelling this, too. God has used Pastor to provide a safe spiritual place for countless number of people, and I am honoured to be one of them. Thank you Sir for your sacrifice, prayers, words of counsel, and pastoral care to me and my family.

Genesis 12:2-3 “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Truly, you have been and continue to be a blessing to me and many”

Oluwabunmi Abolarin

I met Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba at ECWA Akute where he was the Pastor then. He took me as his own Daughter. The impact his ministry has in my life was when he encouraged and paid for me to write General Certificate of Education (GCE) when I was in Senior Secondary Class two, I didn't do well at the exam and that challenged me to prepare well for my West African Examinations Council Examination (WAEC). I sat for the Exam with the experience I had gained from the GCE Exam, while I kept telling myself "you can't afford to fail this exam" and thank God I passed all the papers!

I still think about this from time to time and I thank God for Reverend Femi who invested in this little girl and I do wonder what would have happened if I hadn't written the GCE first.

Samuel Ayenigba

I met Pastor Femi now Rev. Femi Ikusagba in 2009. Ever since I met him, he left a lasting impression on my prayer life. Since then, he has remained a constant presence in my life. His love for me and my family is sincere and unwavering.

Rev. Ikusagba is more than just my Pastor; he is also a dear friend. He has played a vital role in nurturing my passion for missions and evangelism. His care goes beyond spiritual matters—he genuinely desires to see you grow and thrive in every aspect of life. He is a minister that always wants to know how you are doing at every point in time.

As you celebrate 25 years in Ministry, I pray that the Lord will keep using you to nurture many more people in finding the calling and footing in the vineyard of the Lord. You will continue to shine for the Lord.

What Does God Expects From You?

Emeka - *ECWA English Mushin*

My encounter with Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba, or Pastor Femi as I prefer, in 2007 at ECWA English Mushin, where he served as an associate minister, remains a significant memory. He ministered under two senior pastors, and I particularly recall his impactful period alongside Reverend Cosmos Nwachukwu, a time of remarkable growth and spiritual vibrancy for EEM. Pastor Femi's care was deeply personal; he didn't just ask how you were, he genuinely wanted to share your burdens and would go the extra mile to help. His regular visits to every member demonstrated his exceptional ability to connect with people from all backgrounds, a trait that resonated with the spirit of 1 Corinthians 9:22-23.

As a village member who found myself somewhat lost in the large ECWA Mushin congregation after arriving in Lagos in 2002, Pastor Femi's observant nature was a gift. Despite being a member for four years and having given my life to Christ there the previous year, I felt unnoticed. Then, in 2007, Pastor Femi called me to his office. Our conversation revealed my lack of involvement, a fact that hadn't been acknowledged by anyone before. This simple act of recognition led to his direct encouragement to join the gospel team and actively participate in the youth fellowship. He has an incredible ability to discern and cultivate the gifts within individuals.

Words cannot fully express what Pastor Femi means to me. He embodies the true essence of a pastor: a shepherd who understands the unique needs of each sheep, a dedicated discipler, coach, and mentor. He and his wife are a remarkable team in ministry, her powerful and loving presence a beautiful complement to his.

Your life and ministry played a crucial role in my early spiritual development. I pray for your unwavering commitment to God's purpose. With men of your caliber, ECWA's future is filled with hope.

I wholeheartedly celebrate your 25th anniversary in pulpit ministry within ECWA. Congratulations!

Elder Ajumobi

I cannot remember knowing you before the day you reported as the Pastor of ECWA Osifila. Ikeja.

Eventually, the five ordinances that distinguish as a Pastor of substance are as follows.

- ✓ A gift that makes you a benefactor to the needy.
- ✓ A peculiar endowment of liberation and liberal act.
- ✓ Operating within the plumb line of God's divine honour.
- ✓ The co-gency by which you strongly and clearly express in a way that influences what people believe.
- ✓ The cogitation by which you think carefully about something before putting it into practice.

The coherence of the above ordinances amount to renown discipleship .

Shoremi Abiodun Olaitan

A member of ECWA Agbelekale, Lagos. During Rev'd Femi Ikusagba's tenure as our pastor (2009-2012), he showed remarkable kindness to me and my family. When my widowed mother couldn't afford my higher education fees, Rev'd Femi intervened, registered me for GCE, covering lesson fees, and JAMB expenses. He even rallied the church to pay my first-year tuition.

When financial struggles forced us out of our rented apartment during my second year, Rev'd Femi generously offered my mother and sisters a self-contained room in the pastorium. We'll forever be grateful for his selflessness and kindness. May God bless, support, and enlarge Rev'd Femi, his family, and ministry.

Happy 25th Anniversary!

Olorunsola Samkay

In one of my discussions with a colleague that's an atheist, he queried my faith and the existence of God. When he questioned if I have ever experienced God, I didn't waste time before narrating one of the several encounters:

In 2008 while I was job-hunting, I applied to several organizations but was not considered. During the ECWA national Youth week Thanksgiving, Rev Femi asked the whole congregation @ECWA English, Mushin to pray for me and another brother. He also told me he was instructed to join me in a 5 days of prayer and fasting which we did. On the 5th day, we met in the auditorium for prayers. During the Prayer, he announced that God told him that I will get 2 employment offers by the end of the month.

Few days later I was invited for interview by 2 different companies. I was unable to raise the transport fare to attend one of the interviews in Obajana, Kogi state. It was still the same Pastor Femi that facilitated the required money. On 29th August, I received an offer letter from one of the companies. 2 hours later, I was invited by the other company to come for my offer letter. I called my Pastor to inform him of the development and he drove down to meet me for another prayer. While Praying, I heard God clearly by myself about the better choice.

This experience not just impacted my career, it also redefined awareness of God. If there is any man I ever referred to as 'My Pastor' Rev Kusagba is the one. He has not just ministered to my spiritual needs, but he ministered to my financial needs, material needs and also touches several aspects of my life. No wonder, after being physically separated for 17 years, He still check on me more than any other man of God. On several occasions, He has traveled to Kogi state, just because of me.

Is he a Prophet, yes

Is he a Pastor, yes

Is he a Bishop, yes.

Truly, there is a man of God in ECWA, and He's called to this generation. God has used him in these 25 years of ministry to affect a lot of lives.'

Samuel Ayenigba

I met Pastor Femi now Rev. Femi Ikusagba in 2009. Ever since I met him, he left a lasting impression on my prayer life. Since then, he has remained a constant presence in my life. His love for me and my family is sincere and unwavering.

Rev. Ikusagba is more than just my Pastor; he is also a dear friend. He has played a vital role in nurturing my passion for missions and evangelism. His care goes beyond spiritual matters—he genuinely desires to see you grow and thrive in every aspect of life. He is a minister that always wants to know how you are doing at every point in time.

As you celebrate 25 years in Ministry, I pray that the Lord will keep using you to nurture many more people in finding the calling and footing in the vineyard of the Lord. You will continue to shine for the Lord.

ADEGBOYE, Emmanuel Timilehin

Kingdom Evangelical Missions International Network (KEMIN)

Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

As a fellowship member of the EYF Goodnews, Fate-Tanke, I had long heard numerous accounts about Rev'd Oluwafemi Ikusagba during his time with ECWA Fate-Tanke. However, my personal encounter with him began in 2018. That year marked a turning point for me when Rev'd Femi sacrificially left everything he was engaged with in Lagos to attend a three-day leadership retreat for our fellowship. Remarkably, he came without any expectation of honourarium or gifts. The first session alone lasted for an astonishing eight hours, during which he taught with such ease, clarity, and depth that it was difficult to believe so much time had passed—we thought it had only been thirty minutes. The only break we had was for meals, not out of fatigue but merely to satisfy hunger. His engaging delivery, profound simplicity, and revelatory depth drew me in from the start, and each session only left us thirsting for more of God's Word, his life experiences, and the practical wisdom he so graciously shared.

What Does God Expect From You?

That encounter marked the beginning of a transformational journey in my life. Those discipleship classes were not just sessions; they were divine appointments that redefined my spiritual journey. Rev'd Femi did not merely teach us doctrines; he disciplined us into making deliberate personal commitments that strengthened our spiritual growth. He introduced us to actionable spiritual routines and ignited in us the courage to initiate projects we had never imagined possible within such a short period. Among the notable outcomes of his mentorship were our community impact initiatives, structured evangelism strategies, and fellowship-based service activities. His teachings instilled in us a deep sense of responsibility and spiritual discipline. Additionally, I have been tremendously blessed by his numerous publications, including *The Person of Jesus*, *Message to the Church*, *Use Me Lord* and others, which offer profound truths, derived from Scripture and reinforced with life experiences.

His unwavering commitment to discipleship has shown me the true essence of sacrificial ministry. Rev'd Femi exemplifies a rare breed of ministers who pour themselves into others regardless of personal cost. His desire to see believers mature in the knowledge and practice of God's Word is evident in his tireless efforts to teach, guide, and mentor. I have witnessed him travel across states and nations, passionately extending the love of Jesus to people, especially his disciples. His life reminds me of the Apostle Paul—zealous, focused, and resolute in the pursuit of the Great Commission. Through his ministry, I have seen countless lives transformed, mine included. His example has been a guiding light, and his investment in me has been one of the most defining aspects of my spiritual journey. It is under his mentorship that I have found the strength and direction to write books and midwife an evangelism and discipleship ministry.

It is with great honour and heartfelt gratitude that I pen this tribute to Rev'd Femi Ikusagba as he celebrates twenty-five years of devoted ministry service with ECWA, alongside the launch of his new book. As my

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discipler, mentor, and pastor, his life has left an indelible imprint on my spiritual and ministerial journey. I have drawn extensively from his wealth of wisdom and transformative encounters with God. His teachings are not merely theoretical—they are the fruit of lived experiences, deep communion with the Holy Spirit, and an unshakable foundation in the Word. I have no doubt that his new book will serve as a valuable resource, encapsulating his journey, revelations, and ministry milestones in alignment with the truth of Scripture. I wholeheartedly encourage every reader to savour and meditate upon the masterpiece they hold in their hands.

Olukemi Gbenga-Dada

To the one I fondly call Papi, Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba, Happy 25th anniversary as a Minister of life-giving virtues. Reverend Oluwafemi Ikusagba is a pace-setter, a relentless goal-getter, a tough lover, and a generous giver.

I met Papi about 16 years ago while I was still in higher institution of learning, a young girl filled with dreams and hopes, but with little clarity or direction. How he noticed me, let alone became so invested in my journey, still amazes me. I didn't see much in myself at the time, but Papi did. Loving me couldn't have been easy, yet he remained a constant through many seasons of life.

Watching you walk out your calling has been nothing short of inspiring. You don't follow trends; you chart your own course. You stand tall, with distinction, among your peers, and I am beyond proud to be associated with you. You live and breathe growth. You push for progress and desire deeply to see everyone around you thrive—and that's a rare gift. Thank you for the years of selfless investment, guidance, and encouragement. You've helped shape my life in more ways than words can capture.

As you celebrate 25 years of unwavering service to the Father, my prayer is that God will continue to uphold you, make you stronger in spirit, consistent in devotion, and excellent in mind.

In this new season, you are a TERRITORY TAKER. You walk in relentless authority, irrefutable command, compassionate leadership, and prosperous relationships, all to the glory of God.

Congratulations, my dear Papi!”

Theophilus Dada

ECWA English Mushin

Long before I met Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba in person, I had already heard of his impact—a reputation that preceded him like the scent of a flower carried by the wind. As a minister of God and now a Reverend Gentleman with 25 years on the pulpit, his presence in ministry has not only endured—it has matured into a beacon for many.

My closer acquaintance with Rev. Femi began when he was posted to ECWA English Mushin around 2006–2007 as an Associate Pastor under Revd Julius Adegbola and later Rev. Cosmas Nwachukwu. From that period onward, three distinct and lasting impressions of him took root in my heart:

A Cultivator of Leaders: Rev. Ikusagba has a rare gift—he doesn't merely lead, he builds leaders. He entrusts responsibilities to the youth, not as a test, but as a means of maturing them into purposeful contributors. He believes in people, especially young people, often before they believe in themselves. Under his guidance, potential isn't just noticed—it's nurtured and brought to life.

A Bridge Builder: With intuitive grace, he forges meaningful relationships and connects people, not at random, but with intention—based on needs, growth paths, and divine opportunities. He sees beyond the surface, pairing people with platforms and purposes in ways that foster mutual upliftment and lasting bonds.

A Visionary Administrator: Rev. Ikusagba is a planner, a strategist, and a thoughtful executor. He sees the big picture clearly and draws others into it with clarity and conviction. He manages people with a rare discernment, deploying them according to their gifts and the goals at hand. He is not just futuristic—he holds a mental blueprint of the future and builds toward it with precision and passion.

A Shepherd Beyond the Walls, A Pastor for the Times. There are ministers you meet by chance, and then there are those who walk into your life with purpose—sent, as it were, by divine design. Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba is of

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the latter kind. For a quarter of a century, he has stood on the pulpit, not merely to preach, but to reach—into lives, into destinies, into futures waiting to be awakened.

My testimony of him is personal and lived. He has connected me with life-changing opportunities—career-wise and otherwise. He has invited me to share knowledge and purpose as a guest speaker at programmes, not out of protocol, but because he sees and affirms value. He has flooded my inbox countless times with online opportunities, academic resources, and growth-oriented information—each one thoughtfully tailored to who I am and what I carry. That level of attention, that pastoral reach, is rare.

But it doesn't stop there. I've watched him operate—not just within the bounds of his assigned local church, but far beyond. Rev. Ikusagba is, in truth, a pastor at large. His ministry stretches into digital spaces, academic circles, interdenominational fellowships, and informal mentorships. He does not just wear the title; he lives the function. And what sets him even further apart is his investment in continuous self-development—an ever-burning commitment to remain fresh, relevant, and refined in a world that constantly evolves. That commitment has made him a model of modern ministry: deeply rooted, yet dynamically responsive.

What astounds the most is that, even after 25 years of active service, there's nothing stale, nothing worn out, nothing routine about him. His ministry is so fresh, so full of life and divine clarity, that one could mistake his entry into pastoral work for just last year. Yet, here we are, marking a silver jubilee that feels like a golden dawn. In him, leadership wears consistency, connection wears wisdom, and administration wears vision. Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba is not merely a pastor—but embodiment of values, vision, and enduring influence.

This is the summary of Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba's 25 years of impactful ministry: A man who sees, a man who builds, a man who connects. A leader with insight, a planner with foresight, and a pastor with heart. A vessel ever-filled, ever-flowing, ever-available. A timeless soul assigned to a timely generation.

What Does God Expects From You?

As we celebrate this milestone, one thing is certain: the years ahead will be even more glorious, even more purpose-fulfilled, even more divinely meteoric.

Long live our dear Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba.

Your legacy is not just history—it is prophecy in motion.

Jespher Musa Mamman

I met Rev. Femi Ikusagba in ECWA Church Erhumnwunse when he was invited by Reverend Lucky Osagbakhoe to come for a revival program. I got his number and continued to talk to him about my personal needs which he offered me spiritual counsels and prayed for me.

Every new year, Rev. Femi would send me a message asking for my prayer requests assuring me of his availability to pray for me.

Rev. Femi cared so much for my spiritual life, journey and struggles..

His godly counsel has helped me find my path to peace.

He helped me to trust in God's sovereignty over some issues and concerns which I shared with him. My fears dissipated because his counsel was biblical and still echoes in my heart. I am grateful.

Rev. Femi was also interested in seeing that I contributed meaningfully to the society by supporting me with prayers and godly counsel on what business to do. Whatever I told him I was interested in, he would ask me questions that would make me focused in order to realize my dreams.

Thank you so much Sir for being a part of my life. You have helped in shaping me to be a Godly woman, wife and mother.

As an ECWA Pastor, you have shown selflessness in discharging your pastoral calling. May God bless you.

Thank you.

Oluwafemi Abe

Pastor turned Friend and Confidant!

Pastor Oluwafemi Ikusagba is one of his kind in personality and pulpit ministry. Our roads crossed in January 2007 when he became my pastor in ECWA English Mushin (EEM). He is a man of many parts when it comes to my family. Primarily, he is my pastor. We became friends and confidants in the process of his ministry in EEM, and remain so till date. In addition, he is currently my student in Yoruba class (LoL) learning Yorùbá ijinlè (conk Yoruba language) in form of owe ati asayan òrò (proverbs and idiomatic expressions). Of course, I am much more his student in many other respects.

A Jolly Good Fellow

Rev. Ikusagba is an amiable fellow – friendly, Jovial and accommodating. It is always fun to connect with him physically or virtually. He and his wife hosted my wife, our son and my mother-in-law for almost one week in January 2008.

Purposeful Clergyman --- Pastor per Excellence

Like the Apostle Paul, Pastor Ikusagba is fighting “the good fight” of faith with unwavering vision (2 Timothy 4:7). For 25 years, his ministry has been marked by intentionality—whether preaching, counseling, or mentoring, he aligns every effort with God's kingdom purpose. His diligence and strict adherence to rules of commitment has robbed him of many friends. True to 1 Peter 5:2-3, he shepherds with compassion, "knowing the state of [his] flocks." I attest to his habit of checking on the sick, visiting homes, and remembering names, birthdays and important anniversaries of members—a rarity in large congregations.

Innovative and Visionary

Mirroring Joseph's wisdom (Genesis 41), Oluwafemi anticipates challenges and opportunities, pioneering initiatives (e.g., church plants, youth programs) that ensure growth in ECWA and relevance for future generations. From discipleship tools to creative community outreaches,

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mouth ministry, and cross-borders evangelism, he proves that "new wine needs new wineskins" (Matthew 9:17). His innovation keeps ECWA ministry dynamic and impactful wherever Pastor Femi is posted to serve.

Super Administrator

Pastor Femi operates in the spirit of the modern-day Jethro (Exodus 18) combining spiritual depth with organizational excellence. Under his leadership, church structures thrive—from Sunday school curricula to outreach logistics, pulpit message and welfare distribution—all "done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). In EEM, quarterly Breakfast Prayer Meeting remains one of many lasting legacies of Pastor Femi, with an interesting story of faith, confidence and mobilisation skill behind it that will be told another day – probably by EEM itself.

Humble Servant, Discipler and Teacher of the Word

Though reasonably accomplished in ministry—the fact that he may not readily acknowledge—Rev. Ikusagba still embodies Christ's humility. He credits others, offers silent helping hands and quiet counsel that can get things done without shouting about it. It is a proof that greatness is in service. A true "father in the faith" (1 Corinthians 4:15), he invests in leaders. Many pastors and lay ministers can trace their spiritual growth to his mentorship programs and small-group discipleship models. Like Ezra, he "devoted himself to studying and teaching" (Ezra 7:10), equipping saints for life and ministry.

Prolific Author

Pastor Ikusagba calls me "My learned friend" and I call him "My learned Pastor". Aside from administrative skills he's blessed with in good measure, he is truly learned when we view him from the lens of many books he has blessed the world with. With his books—for example *New Me*, *Living Sacrifices*, *The Person of Jesus*, *Christianity and Some Challenging Issues*, and *Not by Power*, to mention a few—he extends his pulpit globally, addressing themes like discipleship, evangelism, Leadership, Christian race and commitment, and the likes. His writings reflect James 3:17—"wisdom from above" made accessible to man.

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Dependable and Sociable

Amid distractions—from which under shepherds are not exempted—my learned Pastor remains "steadfast, immovable" (1 Corinthians 15:58). He can be trusted to fulfill commitments—whether sermon preparation, honouring invitation, giving a referral, or crisis response—without fail. His warmth disarms strangers and endears unbelievers to Christ. A staunch Muslim cousin of mine, Motunrayo, surrendered to Jesus the first day she encountered Pastor Femi. He engages people across ages and classes, making everyone feel seen and valued.

A Legacy of Impact

Reverend Oluwafemi Samuel Ikusagba's 25 years in ministry exemplifies "faith working through love" (Galatians 5:6). As we honor him, we pray for continued grace to continue his race—until the Chief Shepherd appears.

Hon(Mrs.) Folashade Shinkaiye

My pastor has been a great source of inspiration, guidance, and spiritual growth in my life. Through his well- researched sermons, counsel, and examples, he has helped shape my understanding of faith and make me a better Christian geared to achieve greater life purposes and enduring services to mankind .

Rev Ikusagba's teachings are always rooted in the Word of God, yet he delivers them with such relevance, such humour and compassion that they resonate deeply with my everyday experiences and helps me to understand the position of God on many matters of interest or concern to us as Christians; What Does God Expect from Us? is one of such. Likewise, How Do We hear from God? How to Seek God and Find Him, and many more.

What Does God Expects From You?

Beyond the pulpit, he has shown consistent care for the congregation, often reaching out to members who travel to follow up on their journeys and welfare, he likewise reaches out to the sick, the needy, rejoicing with those who are joyful, and creates programmes that encourage members to give to the needy and mobilize them to support Church needs, especially in the areas of evangelism, and Church building & equipment requirements. His great belief, even according to the word of God, is that God owns the treasures of darkness and riches in hidden places (Isaiah 45;3), and so believes that funds required for Church projects can always be found even from unexpected persons or places. This is why he is able to leave a legacy project at many of the Churches that he had the good fortune to pastor! Besides handling projects and conducting impactful spiritual programmes, he often gives words of encouragement, or simply offer a listening ear to persons who present their issues to him for guidance. By using the important contacts at his disposal to solve the congregant's life challenges, he brings Christ's love manifestly to his congregants. In my words, I would say that on a human level, a problem presented before Rev Ikusagba is a problem half-solved as he carries the matter 'on his head' as we say in our local parlance, essentially regarding such problems as his! , His leadership style is marked by purposefulness and integrity, and he consistently challenges us to grow not only as believers but as compassionate and responsible members of society.

Like the rest of us, according to the word of God in Mark 10;18, Jesus says none is perfect, except God. My admiration of my pastor, Rev Ikusagba, is that whenever any such 'imperfections' in his leadership style is brought to his attention, he would take it on board and work hard to make it perfect. As a relatively young pastor, I have no doubt that this has helped his growth, and made him an astute administrator. Given an opportunity to project into the future, I have no doubt that he would be commended to higher offices in the Church administration, based on his high administrative skills, focused and compassionate leadership and also because he is a sound manager of resources placed at his disposal.

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Personally, I have grown in confidence and faith under his mentorship. I remember how he encouraged me to participate in the baptism by immersion since I had confirmed that I was already a born-again Christian as of when I joined the Church, Evangelical Church Winning All(ECWA), Anifowose, Ikeja which he pastors. I had been born & raised as a Catholic, and had had my baptism in my early years but not by immersion. By listening to that advice, at about 60 years of age, by far the oldest in my baptismal class, I underwent the baptismal training, not permitting age or shame to stand in the way of my heavenly race.. As my pastor, his encouragement has pushed me to pursue my God-given gifts, which includes, but not limited to teaching.

With my qualification as a full member of the Church, following my immersion, I became a Sunday school teacher, able to use the help of God, the word of God, the manuals provided and my knowledge in life experiences to teach my class and bring them closer to God by a greater practical knowledge of Him. I have also been able to serve more actively even in leadership positions in the Women fellowship Group and in my church community in general. All these opportunities arose from that singular advice he gave me to be baptized, by immersion!

In many ways, my pastor has been a spiritual father—a shepherd who leads with love, wisdom, and unwavering faith. His impact on my life is immeasurable, and I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to walk this faith journey with his guidance and support.

As my Pastor, Rev Femi Ikusagba, marks 25 years on the pulpit, supported by his lovely wife, Mrs. Bolanle Ikusagba and family, We, my family & I wish Rev Femi Ikusagba many more decades in the service of God and His people. I pray God will continue to use Rev Ikusagba for his greater Glory. Amen

Murna Sakaba (Mrs.)

Reverend (Rev) Ikusagba was deployed to ECWA English Mushin (EEM) in 2007, while I was attending a one-year course in Kuru. After the completion of my course I came back to Lagos in 2008 and met him as an associate minister of the church.

Rev Ikusagba is a very versatile, vibrant, proactive and a result-oriented person. In his 25 years of service, the Rev made a remarkable impact and has been a blessing to many of his members. Some of the areas he demonstrated his impact ability include:

1. The area of prayers. Rev Ikusagba prayed for, prayed with, and is still praying with people. He usually organize various prayer sessions with families and individuals. He would go to their homes, offices, places of work and the church to pray with them. In fact, many members testified that, the prayer sessions they had with him impacted on their lives tremendously
2. Rev Ikusagba believes that goals must be set, defined, pursued and be achieved. He believes that ministers should not only preach, but should be able to identify developmental projects in their various churches, and be able to carry them out. So whichever church he's deployed to, he embarks on projects that would not only improve the aesthetics of the church, but will also improve the resources of the church earnings.
3. He's a good youth minister, and has many youth around him, who he grooms and mentors.
4. He's relatable, simple and maintains a very cordial relationship with most of the present and former members.
5. He believes in visiting his members and does that regularly. Additionally, he attends their functions and events whenever he can. When he cannot visit he calls, send Whatsapp or SMS messages to check on members, and to find out about their wellbeing.

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6. Rev is easy going, humorous and jokes a lot. When he's in the midst of his members cracking jokes, it's difficult to tell that he's a minister.

7. He's a solution provider, and can go out of his way to solve people's problems.

8. He's a family man and always endeavors to see that his wife is happy, especially on her birthdays. He would call some of us, plead with us to call, pray, sing, and to wish her a happy birthday.

9. He loves writing and has written quite a number of inspiring and encouraging books.

10. Even as a minister he at times seeks for opinion and advice on some issues from some of us.

The above list is not exhaustive. Undoubtedly, the Rev has done well, and we thank God for allowing himself to be used by God over these 25 years. We pray that the good Lord will prosper him in health, and in all ramifications. May his later years be more glorious, productive and more impactful than the former years, in Jesus name.

Congratulations, to God be all the glory.

Esmim Adesola Abiodun Deborah

Rev. Oluwafemi Samuel Ikusagba is not just a pastor but a life groomer. He is a raiser of men full of passion for the Lord and His service.

Personally, I have been tremendously blessed and admire his effort to impact lives. The impact of his ministry on my life transcends me as a person as it has also rubbed off on my family and even my work ethics.

Pastor (Dr.) Seyifunmi Afol

YOWICAN Chairman, Ogun State.

Meeting Revd. Femi Ikusagba was truly a divine encounter that has left an indelible mark on my life and ministry. I first met him during a Youth Conference while I was still a student at Olabisi Onabanjo University. Later on, our paths crossed again at the ESM Conference. Little did I know that those encounters would mark the beginning of a life-transforming journey under his spiritual guidance and mentorship.

From the very first day, Revd. Ikusagba took a genuine interest in my spiritual growth. His approach to discipleship was not casual; it was intentional, firm, and deeply rooted in love and truth. Through his teachings, personal example, and constant encouragement, my spiritual life began to take shape in ways I had never imagined. He instilled in me the discipline of personal devotion, the seriousness of ministry work, and the relentless pursuit of excellence in all I do.

When I eventually answered the call into full-time ministry, it was Revd. Ikusagba who became my mentor and spiritual father. His mentorship has been one of the most critical factors influencing my effectiveness in ministry today. He taught me the importance of diligence, accountability, and commitment to the calling. His consistent emphasis on practical ministry skills, biblical soundness, and character formation has been a compass guiding my path.

One outstanding attribute of Revd. Ikusagba is his disciplined life. He is a man who does not take nonsense, and he never tolerates mediocrity or irresponsibility. While this strictness might have seemed hard at first, looking back now, I realize that it has been one of the greatest blessings in our growth. His discipline trained us to be serious with God's work, to value time, to respect authority, and to maintain a life of integrity and order virtues that have sustained us both in life and ministry.

Another vivid memory of his mentorship is his deep concern for our responsibilities, especially in fulfilling obligations like paying our assessments. He would regularly ask, "Have you paid your assessment?".

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This question, though simple, carried a deep lesson that ministry is not just about preaching but about accountability, responsibility, and stewardship.

Beyond ministry, Revd. Ikusagba consistently encouraged us to pursue education and excellence. He motivated us to study hard, equip ourselves intellectually, and become forces of positive change in the world. His words often reminded me that a true minister must be both spiritually vibrant and intellectually sound.

Today, as I reflect on my life and ministry, I can boldly say that much of my foundation was laid through the sacrifices, teachings, discipline, and love of Revd. Femi Ikusagba. His 25 years on the pulpit are not merely years passed, but years of impact, of raising sons and daughters for the Kingdom including myself.

Thank you, Revd. Ikusagba, for being a true father in the faith. Thank you for every rebuke done in love, every encouragement shared in hope, and every prayer sown in faith. You are a gift to our generation, and your legacy is written not just in sermons, but in lives like mine.

Congratulations on 25 glorious years of faithful service. May your impact continue for generations yet unborn. Your labor is not in vain.

Ikusagba Oluwamisimi (BLM)

My pen is poised as I write this tribute to my very own daddy, pastor, and best friend. Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba. I congratulate you on your 25 years in ministry. I have known you for 17 good years, and all I can say is that God's grace is sufficient for you. I have watched you grow in the word of God, and I have watched you live a Christ-like life. So I wish you the very best in life. Many more years to come. Your Damsel,

What Does God Expects From You?

Oluwafunke Ishola

Happy 25th Anniversary, sir! You've been a constant source of unwavering faith, love, support and guidance to my family. Your impact was evident during the lifetime of my dad, Elder Caleb Oluwalogbon Ishola, even when he passed on, you were a pillar of support. You stood by us and helped us navigate the challenging season. We are truly grateful for your love, presence, gift and leadership.

Though you've been transferred from ECWA Ikorodu, you stayed in touch, prayed for us and monitored our progress. I remember how you called me months before my Late dad's 70th birthday, advised that we do something special for him and you kept a tab on our preparations. Despite your tight schedule, you showed up with your family and surprised him with gifts and musical fanfare. God bless you, sir. Those memories were unforgettable and cherished, they comfort us when we miss his presence.

Sir, I appreciate you for being a kind listener and for guiding me and my siblings with empathy whenever we run to you, even on short notice. Your large heart didn't discriminate against us that we aren't ECWA members.

May the Lord continue to bless you with the joy, peace, and love that you have so freely given to us through your ministry. I wish you more unction for greater impacts. Congratulations, sir.

Mr. Richard Elesho

My first meeting with Pastor Femi Ikusagba was circa 2001. I moved to a new apartment in Ajuwon, Ogun State. After about a year in the neighbourhood, I knew about Evangelical Church Winning All, ECWA Akute-Ajuwon through a loose banner, pointing direction to the worship centre. Promptly, I located the small hall where the young pastor was labouring hard to establish a church.

From the first day I set foot in it, I knew I had found a home and looked no further for another church. It was a small but warm community of believers committed to things of God. The pastor (I think he was an Assistant Pastor,

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then) was young and unmarried. So was I. In no time, I also discovered we both hailed from the same Kogi State. Naturally, we bonded.

He respects the other view and gently states his own convictions without offence. In all our years of association, one can safely say that Pastor Femi is hard working and unsolicitous even with his commendable passion to meet the needs of other people. He knew all his members, which remains a good gift in church planting.

Focused, humble, and intelligent, the pastor has a unique way of making you feel wanted and pointing the way in times of crisis. He has been part of the trajectories of my life. For instance, he encouraged me to settle down and, in fact, attended my wedding in far away Ughelli, Delta State, against all odds. He officiated at the naming and dedication ceremony of Ogbonyemi, our first son. Even though he had been transferred from Akute when God blessed us with Iretide, our second son, he ensured his wife attended his naming. Pastor Femi has been more than a fair-weather friend.

He was a very strong pillar of support when I was involved in an accident and a stronger pillar when I lost my immediate senior brother also in a fast succeeding accident. I can not but recall his tender support during the passage of my father-in-law, Pa. Alex Utomere. It was his lot to break the sad news to my wife in those days of my long absence from home. In these comely and tragic bus stops, he proved to be a pastor that stuck closer than a brother.

Thus, when duty compelled my relocation to our home state, the pastor made the separation easier to bear for the family. He has remained an invaluable part of my family and spirituality. Always the first to check on the flock in spite of obvious shortcomings, he is a shepherd indeed - a God sent.

Francis Okenwa

ECWA English Challenge Compound

I count it a great privilege to be associated with Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba a man of God with great passion for God and Kingdom business. I came to know him some years back at Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) English located at Challenge Compound Mushin in Lagos State while he served as a Pastor at ECWA English Mushin and thereafter I became closely acquainted with him by virtue of our engagement in the Local Church Board meetings for planning, prayers, etc.

I became endeared to him for the abundance of God's grace upon him and his passionate commitment to see the church of God grow holistically – numerically, in the ministry of the word, in the ministry of prayer, in evangelism, in leadership, in relationships, in social relevance etc.

By virtue of my association with him; I find Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba as a Pastor with great and global vision for kingdom business. During his pastoral assignment at ECWA English Mushin, by the grace of God he initiated, coordinated and led missionary outreaches to Niger Republic in two instances which happens to be the first of its kind in the history of ECWA English Mushin. God also used him to kick off a special prayer session in ECWA English Mushin tagged “Breakfast Prayer” that became a very impactful program till date.

Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba is strategic planner, a great influencer for kingdom business who had at various times positively influenced brethren to get committed in promoting and executing kingdom business through personal involvement, financial involvement etc.

He cultivated special interest in identifying and interfacing with virtually all members of the congregation through one-on-one discussion, telephone conversations, surprise unscheduled pastoral visits, birthday greetings, etc. irrespective of your age, background, tribe, occupation, and social status,

I found Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba, a very simple, kind-hearted, loving, and

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bold personality, always jovial, very friendly and caring, by the grace of God. His love, dedication and commitment to the work of the ministry is amazing. The books he was privileged to author is a signpost of his quest and commitment to reaching out to many globally with the gospel message. Truly Rev Oluwafemi was indeed a great asset to ECWA English Mushin.

Notwithstanding the fact the Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba has for long been posted to serve in other ECWA LCB; yet many members and families of ECWA English Mushin still remain in touch with him till date and vice versa due to his close association with the flock of God while he was with us at ECWA English Mushin.

To God be the glory for His wonderful grace upon the life and ministry of Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba. I'm glad to share in the joy of your 25th anniversary of pulpit ministry in ECWA; and my prayers and heart desire is that God in His mercy and love will continue to keep you in good health, perfecting all that concerns every aspects of your life, ministry and family, granting you greater dimension of His unction, divine wisdom, divine guidance, divine direction and abundance of His grace to continually excel in life and ministry: On a day like this, I join you to reflect and appreciate God for making you a vessel of honour in His vineyard.

“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry (1 Timothy 1:12)

GREAT INDEED IS GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

What Does God Expects From You?

Mrs. Eunice Oyetoyan

I met Rev. Oluwafemi Ikusagba and family in the year 2015 when he was transferred to ECWA Church Ikorodu where I am a member.

Aside being a spiritual father, he became a friend of the family and would always drive one to aim higher and flourish.

He is really a burden bearer as his role was quite overwhelming when I lost Elder Olu Femi Oyetoyan in the year 2017. His care, constant check and counseling are spirit lifting.

Despite the fact that He was transferred to Ikeja from Ikorodu, He never stopped keeping in touch with my family that he celebrates me on every of my birth Anniversary.

Appreciating God for your impactful life, I pray you a greater exploits in HIS kingdom service. May the Lord continually keep you and all yours under the hollow of His arms in Jesus name.

AMEN!

Rev'd S. A. Jolayemi

ECWA Chapel, Ilorin

I give thanks to God and rejoice with Reverend Femi and Mrs. Ikusagba as they celebrate 25 remarkable years in ministry, a testament to God's grace and mercy in their lives.

My journey to knowing Reverend Ikusagba began through Reverend Peter Adegbola, my senior and roommate in Igbaja, who often spoke highly of him. When Reverend Ikusagba joined us at Igbaja Summary for his Master's degree in 2009, I was delighted to meet him. I discovered a sincere, straightforward, and compassionate servant of God.

What has deeply endeared me to him is his love, vibrant prayer life, genuine interest in younger pastors, and willingness to go the extra mile to support church members, colleagues, and lecturers. As a teacher, counselor, strategic thinker, and discipler, Reverend Ikusagba's ministry

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has had a profound impact.

Personally, I've benefited greatly from his kindness and counseling. He takes a genuine interest in my life and ministry, offering valuable insights and guidance whenever I share updates with him. I'm grateful for his mentorship and the ways God has used him to bless me.

As Reverend Ikusagba marks this milestone, I join others in celebrating his dedication to the pulpit ministry of ECWA.

May God continue to bless and empower him for the kingdom's advancement.

Segun Okoh

Rev. Femi Ikusagba: A Beacon on My Journey

I met Reverend Femi Ikusagba in the tender aftermath of sorrow — 2015, the year my mother passed into glory. It was a season when life felt heavy, and yet, as though heaven heard my silent cries, God sent Reverend Femi to our parish — ECWA Ikorodu — as our shepherd.

From our very first meeting, there was an undeniable grace about him “a wisdom not born of books, but breathed by the Spirit”. He spoke not just to minds, but to hearts. His counsel opened new horizons. His vision built not just churches, but people. His faith called forth the hidden strength in weary souls like mine.

In the quiet of conversations, in the firmness of his encouragement, in the steadfastness of his prayers, Reverend Femi became a father, a mentor, and a guide to me. Through seasons of uncertainty, he stood unwavering; through crossroads of decision, he offered clarity rooted in Christ.

Under his ministry, my life has been shaped, my faith deepened, and my hope renewed. He taught me, not merely by words, but by the power of a life yielded fully to God.

Today, as we celebrate 25 years of his faithful service on the ECWA pulpit, I thank God for the gift of his life. I pray the heavens reward him richly — that he will live to see the fruits of every seed sown in tears, now

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blossoming in joy.

Sir, your journey is a living epistle of God's grace. I am blessed to be part of the countless lives you have touched, and forever grateful for the light you have shone on my path.

Congratulations, my Father, my Mentor, my Shepherd.

Your beloved son.

Adetola (Nee Aboyeji Adeoye)

I met Rev. Ikusagba in 2015/2016 when he was brought to ECWA Church Ikorodu. I had just completed my NYSC at the time and I was struggling on what to do next. While I was doing my NYSC, my mom (Late. Mrs Adenike Adeoye) kept on saying this pastor is very different, she kept singing his praise and I kept telling her that I bet he is for the vintage and wise people (older generation). LOL! There is no way he understands young people. Oh boy!!! I was wrong, my mom was right.

I was super-surprised with his ability to connect and impact people of all generations. I found out he is very dependable, kind, and very hardworking, he is also an amazing teacher. Some of the lessons, I learnt from him as made me an overall better human (if I do say so myself. LOL), made me continue serving the Lord even in the difficult times. Rev. Ikusagba is not your typical pastor in my opinion. He sees you, doesn't judge, corrects in love and he is super kind and thoughtful. I'm glad that ECWA made our path cross.

Thank you for your service, for being a gem to humanity and for being a great mentor to me. Congratulations on your 25th year of service, I pray the Lord will continue to shine his light on you always.

Rev Dr. Stephen Oladipo

We have come to know each other over three (3) decades now, since the time of our youth days, as we have been involved in many activities of the church as members of ECWA in the then Southern District Church Council (SDCC), especially in the Boys' Brigade and Youth Fellowship.

As God will have it, we also found ourselves in the ministry of the church as pastors. This made us to be more closer to each other and our working relationship becoming smoother by the day with the help of God. This has been possible because, by God's grace, we developed a similar ministry perspective of standing by the truth of the Word of God no matter the circumstances.

Let me say here that the celebrant has been a man of God that is always ready to say truth as it is without fear and favour; and will not compromise it at any cost. This, his dedication and commitment to the things of God made me fell in love with him and others look at us not as beings friends only, but as brothers in the Lord. Evidence of this is that we have to attend induction course at ECWA Headquarters together at the same period of time. Though having similar perspectives, but his uniqueness and style in the ministry has impacted me positively.

Finally, there is one area of ministry that I would mention here, which happened to be so passionate for both of us. It is the ministry of Discipleship which got fuelled during our induction course. But I need to say, at this juncture, that the celebrant's ruggedness and consistency here has challenged me more and God has used it to be a blessing for me.

Just to conclude, I would say that the celebrant has been a strong willed man of God, who will not relent nor be discouraged in serving the Lord.

The Lord will continue to renew his strength in Him forever. Amen.

Shalom.

Bro Olumide and Sis Folakemi Adeyeye

I had the privilege of meeting Rev. and Mrs. Femi Ikusagba in 2008 when I joined ECWA English Mushin. Rev. Ikusagba's approachability and kindness were evident when he approached me after church and gifted me ₦5,000, a generous act that left a lasting impression. His sacrificial heart and beneficence endeared him to me.

Mentorship and Opportunities: Rev. Ikusagba's mentorship and guidance played a significant role in my spiritual growth. He provided opportunities for me to serve God and utilize my gifts and potentials. His encouragement brought me to the forefront of church activities, introducing me to influential people who positively impacted my life.

A Home Away from Home: The Ikusagbas' home was a haven for me, offering warmth and hospitality. Their contributions to my wedding were invaluable, and the gift Rev. Ikusagba gave us continues to be a blessing even after 12 years. Their consistent support and check-ins have been a source of comfort and strength.

Ministry and Legacy: Rev. Femi Ikusagba embodies a true man of God, driven by a calling rather than a profession. His large, sacrificial, and generous heart is a testament to his devotion. Mrs. Ikusagba, a virtuous woman, has been an invaluable partner, supporting her husband's ministry.

As you celebrate 25 years of serving God's purpose, I pray that the Lord will equip you both with greater anointing, wisdom, and resources to win more souls and serve Him faithfully until the end. May your legacy continue to inspire and impact generations to come.

With love and appreciation.

Engr. Ogungbemi

Rev. Olufemi Ikusagba and I met well over 25 years ago, I will say about 30 years ago before he became a pastor. You can say we are like family friends. He attended our wedding. And I was also part of his wedding. Years later after he became a pastor we got in touch again; we attended naming ceremony of one of their children and was part of other aspect of his ministry.

As faith would have, he became the minister in charge of our local church, and we worked together even more. Working together helped to reinforce some of the things I believed in like punctuality and timekeeping. Also, another area is giving more to work of God, he encourages to give more especially for specific cause in the house of God and God have always blessed my family in many folds of such giving.

Also his ministry have encouraged me to serve God more even when it appears there is no time, but one creates time out of no time, in summary have been a huge blessing to my family and I in numerous way, my prayer is that will continue to enlarge your ministry and bless you according as you have been a source of blessing and encouragement to others.

Rev Oluwadamilare Peter Adegbola

I got to know Rev Femi Ikusagba when I first came for my student internship he was Pastoring ECWA AKUTE then. The second time was when he was then associate in ECWA English. Right from there I know that God has made our path to cross for a purpose.

There are times I have been depressed, frustrated and each time I ran to him he will reassure me with God's word. As a young man trying to find my feet in God and in my calling he imposed such a confidence in me even given me task to do before I even start Pastoring.

When others were mocking me that I don't have any business coming into the Pastoral ministry he took me in and stood by me when I was a nobody.

Because many felt then it was my father that compelled me to go to the

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seminary.

I remember one day he called me and sat me down and he said Peter you need to learn how to teach. Everything is not about laying of hands. Since then I made up my mind to give myself to rightly dividing the word of truth. He said those who cannot teach the word will not last in ministry and it is God's word that breaks the yoke. I love his passion to see other young Pastors grow and become a better version of them.

When I started Pastoring I easily get angry, but God used him to teach me and help me to overcome my anger issues. He also taught me how to manage my elders. He always tell me then when I felt cheated “Peter let God fight for you”. He fueled my passion for prayer and the Youth ministry.

I remember my first attendance at the ECWA ministers international conference at Abuja, God used him to sponsor me when my church couldn't even pay a kobo. I was almost at the verge of leaving ECWA to Pastor elsewhere but God used him to convince me to stay in ECWA till date.

He taught me to respect elderly ministers. He taught me how to endure and Pastor difficult members. There's one thing I love about him, he love God, has undying passion for God's work, he loves to dig deep into God's word and he is a true son of ECWA by his actions and results.

Three years ago, I was terribly sick except for my family he is the one that took responsibility.

He personally drove me to LUTH I stayed in his house for a month, also supported me financially. He told me that Peter you can't die now. Then I was almost given up.

I have come to find his preaching style very fascinating, rightly dividing the word of God. Let me also encourage you Sir never to stop discipling God's children. You will give account to Jesus not men.

I also want to appreciate our MB and mummy G.O for her love and support. On behalf of the Discipleship class I say thank you for all you do.

The Lord will reward you abundantly Sir.

Mrs. Afolabi Perpetual

My encounter with Rev Oluwafemi Ikusagba started in year 2016 at ECWA Ikorodu he was the present Rev in-charge of the church at that period.

Rev Ikusagba is an Angel of Motivation, i have a Skill in catering service but I never plan to use that skill, been a graduate I was waiting and hoping for a white collar Job..

One day Rev Ikusagba ask me Madam what are you doing self? My respond nothing I'm done with my NYSC but I have a Skill, I'm into catering, He responded by saying why do we waste money every month on food, whenever Elders are holding meetings.. Elder Adewale (Omoyi Caterer NI) this lady is a Caterer let her be cooking for us whenever we have a meeting..

Then he whispered to me (Se ko dun oo) let the food sweet. He opens my eyes towards that, since that year till date I'm into catering fully, which has really helped me financially.

Rev Ikusagba is a caring and understanding man of God, I was faced with a particular challenges which required me to be hospitalised in Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Thou He came for his own personal Assignment but Rev make sure he pay me a visit, Rev Ikusagba wanted to bored a plane, but he has to put a call through to ask me how I'm doing.

My Husband is not a church goer, but Rev never give up on him, until my husband was forced to attend a church even thou is occasionally worshipper

Your Ministry is to help people Discover their purpose, You push people to bring out the best in them..

Above all God gave you a partner that understand the assignment God gave you, Mummy Bolanle, MD you are Loved ma.

Rev Ikusagba build me spiritually with all his wonderful Teaching, Morally I learn something from you, let me confess☐

Before I love saving, but seen you prioritize the need of people motivate

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me a lot and the way you spend for the work of God..

I am so glad to be your Among your spiritual Daughters, You represent a great father Figure in my Life, I use to be very proud of you wherever I go or to anyone I meet, people have heard about you from me without meeting you, keep the work going, God will continue to be your strength sir.

Congratulations

Sir, you will end well IJN.

Olufemi O. Olayemi (PhD)

Occupier Professor,

Dr. Mike Adenuga Professorial chair in Entrepreneurial Studies, Dept of Business Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, University of Lagos. Akoka-Yaba, Lagos State.

Revd Oluwafemi Ikushagba and I met in year 2000 at an open field crusade organized by the then Lagos DYC in Alagbole Akute, which led to the birth of ECWA church in that location.

I have known him to be a Reverend gentleman who has been faithful to his calling and have been serving God diligently for more than two decades.

Although we are contemporary but he has played a lot of fatherly role in my life and so many others. He is always there as a friend, brother, close confidant, prayer partner, counselor , trustworthy and caring person.

He selflessness is incomparable to none. Pastor as I often called him can go to any length to inconvenient himself to please others. He has demonstrated kindness and support to all irrespective of creed, race and gender.

You are a multi- talented person who gifts are very rare and worthy ambassador of God. You may not know how many lives you have touched but count mine as one of those.

You are highly celebrated on the occasion of your 25th anniversary on pulpit. More unction to function in God's vineyard. Greater heights shall be your portion in Jesus mighty name. Amen.

Mrs. Aminat Amu.

Reverend has a profound impact in my life and I thank God constantly for placing such a remarkable person in my path.

I first met my Reverend in 2012 - (13 Years) ago through my elder sister, and looking back now, I realize that moment was a turning point in my life. What began as a simple introduction has grown into one of the most impactful and transformative relationship I have ever had. From the beginning, Reverend saw something in me that I hadn't yet discovered in myself.

His influence in my life goes beyond the pulpit. He has helped me uncover my identity and my worth and has guided me with wisdom, patience and compassion every step of the way. There have been many times when I felt lost, overwhelmed, or unsure of my purpose and reverend has always been there. He is my go to person during that moment of struggle.

What makes him truly special is his genuine care for people, his willingness to listen and his consistent presence in time of need. His ability to connect through shared experiences, no matter the situation, he has a way of making you feel seen and understood. He shares stories that reminds you that you are not alone in your pain.

His Firmness, compassion, wisdom and humility are qualities I deeply admire. He leads with strength but also with a softness that draws people in. He doesn't just preach the word, - HE LIVES IT. Because of Reverend, I am a work in progress as I am growing spiritually, emotionally and personally. I have learnt to trust God more deeply and to be confident in who I am.

His influence will always be a part of my story and I am endlessly grateful for the role he has played and still playing in shaping my life.

Thank God for the first meeting in 2012 and for every step of the journey since.

GOD BLESS YOU SO MUCH SIR. REV. OLUWAFEMI SAMUEL IKUSAGBA.”

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Oluwafemi Ikusagba is a child of God, a teacher of God's word. He is committed to discipling God's people. He is a life coach and believes that there is hope for every living being.

He studied Marketing in the University of Lagos, Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies at ECWA Theological Seminary Igbaja, Kwara State and studied Biblical Studies at Chester University in United Kingdom.

A member of European Pentecostal Theological Association. A pastor in Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) Lagos, Nigeria. Blessed with thousand of spiritual children across the globe. Traveled to five out of the seven continent, and more than 20 countries of the world.

He is married to Bolanle and the marriage is blessed with Oluwamisimi and Oluwalonimi.

Other books from the author



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