

2006–Mid-Report

When the year 2006 started, I had spent two days in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. I had been well received and well cared for by Mrs Tofe Okeme, with whom I was to stay (supported by Mrs Nnenna Ohue).



Mrs Letutia Akinlami & Mrs Ngozi Onwochie

I had rested well, and my first preaching appointment on Sunday the first of January, at the Dominion Chapel was blessed. Pastor John Badu gave me a warm welcome and my daughter, Bukkie, had travelled from Bauchi to be there. (I spoke with Pius Badu, my son-in-law, a little later on the telephone, and also to my wife, Bridget, my sister, Dupe, and my brother, Olu). On the next day, Monday, there was a fast observed by the members of Dominion Chapel, Gwagwalada, FCT, which was rounded up with a worship service, at which I again ministered.

On Tuesday, 3rd of January, Pastor John Badu took us visiting to the office of Professor Sam Ale. He had been a friend in the distant past, but was now an Archdeacon of the Anglican Church as well as heading a government parastatal, coordinating the teaching of mathematics in the country. Later in the day, the personal ministrations started. A lady, who is the spouse of a minister we had known for about 15 years, visited with her husband. She was diagnosed as having cancer of the breast, but we have since received news that she received a healing touch from God on that occasion. On Wednesday the 4th of January, I preached at King's Church, Gwagwalada, whose pastor is a lady, Mrs Christie Adams, whose minister-husband died less than two years ago. That ended my initial ministrations in the Federal Capital Territory.



Dan Okeme – On his birthday

We journeyed all day, Thursday the 5th of January, by road, driven by Dan, one of the host ministers, to reach Ibadan late in the evening, at 8pm. Pius, also a host minister, kept up an interesting conversation, most of the way. I am usually profoundly ignorant of the details of important goings-on whilst in England that I do need a lot of education on arrival. We were wonderfully hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Segun Morgan in their sumptuous mansion. I was housed in their guest chalet, and was made most comfortable. They had just concluded the wedding celebrations of their second son, Wole (a veritable high society occasion), and their lavish care of me, and my endless visitors must have been something of a sacrifice.

There was a meeting with the five host ministers (from Abuja and Ibadan) on Friday morning, to pray and plan the details of the sessions in Ibadan Assembly of Christ.

2006–Mid-Report

Later the same evening, I preached and ministered at the Assembly of Christ gathering. Throughout the whole day on Saturday the 7th of January, I had a marathon session of counselling and prayer for healing. I rounded up the day by preaching to the whole assembly. Ministrations continued at the guest chalet, where I was staying until past midnight. On the second Sunday of the year, I again preached and ministered throughout the day, except for a lunch break.

As the second working week started, I ministered at an Anglican Chapel (on Monday the 9th of January), at a session arranged by Dr Sunday Oladoyinbo, the National Director of the Christian Missionary Foundation. This was at Jericho, Ibadan. It had been noised about that a barren lady I had prayed for on my last visit was four and a half months pregnant, and many came to hear her testimony. Many seeking the fruit of the womb, came up for prayers. Many missionaries also sought the laying on of hands for greater anointing. There was a semi-social interlude to call at the office of Professor Yemi Omotade, who had been my student, but had also given me my first copy of Daily Light (a daily devotional) in 1973, when I turned fully to the Lord Jesus after backsliding for 21 years. Later that day, there were yet more prayer meetings with the five host ministers.



Dr Oladoyinbo, Dr Sun-Bashorum and Prof Yemi Omotade



At Assembly of Christ, Ibadan



Lady celebrating gift of fruit of womb

Tuesday, the 10th of January, was a Nigerian public holiday. It was a useful little gap to visit with family members. I had met two of my brothers-in-law and had spoken to the others and my mother-in-law. I now visited in Lagos, my brother Olu, who was unwell, and his family. I also called to see my two older sisters. Although Wednesday the 11th of January, was also a public holiday, there were counselling sessions and ministrations throughout. We returned safely by road to Abuja, the Federal Capital on Thursday, even though a car tyre on our vehicle ruptured on the way back. After a couple of days, which I spent reading and writing to get refreshed, we travelled to Kaduna on Saturday the 14th of January.

2006–Mid-Report

We were taken to the hotel by Pastor Hayad, Secretary to Kaduna State Christian Association of Nigeria. He led us from the home of the Vice-Chairman, Dr. Sam Kujiyat. The following day, Sunday the 15th of January was a very busy one. We got to Rhema Bible Church at Angwa Romi, at 8.30am and did not leave until well into the afternoon.



Christian Association of Nigeria Delegates to Government House, Kaduna



Speaking with Governor Makarfi at Government House, Kaduna, Nigeria

It was first to participate in a Bible Study, and then to preach and minister to various groups of people, including ‘singles’-unmarried Christians, who are seeking the face of the Lord to provide a life partner. After a break for lunch, we were back in church to teach about the causes of barrenness, and then to minister to couples seeking the face of the Lord to give them the fruit of the womb.

Dr Kujiyat took us to pay a courtesy call on the widow of the late Governor Shekari, who had hosted us so warmly in 2003. On Monday the 16th of January, the Cathedral of St Michael’s in Kaduna was filled with ministers. I gave a talk on ‘The need for role models in Nigeria’. There was a prolonged discussion after a press conference and a courtesy call on the governor of Kaduna State, Dr Makarfi. There were yet more ministrations until late in the night. One particularly difficult one had to do with a case of ‘intersex’. We had to intercede, because the Word of God says ‘unto God nothing shall be impossible’-Lk 1: 37. All the church services were recorded on DVD, as well as the meeting with the governor.

We returned to the Federal Capital on Tuesday 17th of January, and the day ended in Abuja with yet another case of a barren, but believing lady. Whilst packing to return to return to the UK, there were many one on one ministrations on Wednesday. I returned on an overnight flight from Abuja to arrive at Heathrow on Friday morning.

The rest of the half-year was rich and varied. The Chair of our board of Trustees had started on the road to full recovery from his illness of late last year. Our daughter, Elizabeth, returned from Los Angeles, where she had spent the first four and a half months of her gap year with the Peyton family helping with ‘difficult’ children. She now had to raise some money for a VSO (Voluntary Service Organisation) venture,

2006–Mid-Report

which is based, half in Bristol, UK., and half in Calabar, South Eastern Nigeria. My wife, Bridget, had a highly successful Conference for hurtingting ‘women’ on the 28th and 29th of April in Crown Hotel, Downham Market. My hosts from the Witness Ministries, Abuja, visited England for a 32 day visit, which was brilliant and greatly blessed of the Lord from April to early May.



Member of Oakington PCC at PCC Communion 2006

I preached and celebrated Holy Communion at the first Parochial church Council meeting of St Andrew’s, Oakington at Hemingford Grey in May.



Matthew and Esther Caffell at their wedding

I counselled Peter and Clare Nicholas toward marriage and had the honour of attending their wedding. I also attended the wedding in Birmingham of Matthew and Esther Caffell with my daughter, Bekki.



Dan Okeme and Pius Ohue during their visit

Last, but not least, there have been many ups and downs with regard to our ministry at Ring’s End, for which we solicit your prayers. We are very grateful to all who have supported us over the years with prayer or money or both.

We are also indebted to all who participate in one way or another in our fellowship meetings. May the Lord continue to richly bless you.



Micky, Ali, Chantel, Annie and Richard, Christmas 2005