

## 2006 ENDS AND 2007 BEGINS

It had been a busy year. Exactly seven years earlier, I retired from the Anglican ministry as House- for-Duty Priest at Wiggshall St Germans Parish Church, near King's Lynn, Norfolk. Just after publishing the last update, I travelled to Nigeria on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July, 2006. My hosts, Pastors Dan and Pius very kindly met me at the Lagos Airport and we were conveyed to Ibadan through a maze of traffic jams (it was evening rush-hour) and arrived at a hotel in Jericho, Ibadan quite late.

Sleeping soon afterwards at 11pm, I woke late the next morning, Friday the 14<sup>th</sup>, and met with the Five (Pastors Funso, Abiodun and Onaolapo from Ibadan had joined the Abuja contingent) for prayer and planning. I also met with Dr Sunday Oladoyinbo, the national director of Christian Missionary Foundation, before preaching at the Assemblies of Christ at Odo-Ona in the evening. On Saturday, I had the pleasure of meeting with a lady who had been prayed for, one year earlier, for barrenness and had brought forth a baby boy named Ademooluwa Adeyemo three months ago. Apart from that, I was engaged in ministering – one to one- which involved counselling and praying for various people through most of the day.

The weekend finished with hectic Sunday Worship service at the Assemblies of Christ and meetings with Christian Missionary Foundation, which involved some counselling. There was an interlude of two days, which was spent visiting with family, mainly based in Lagos. That was the last time I saw my brother, as he was then on admission at the Lagos Teaching Hospital for a serious illness, of which he died in the first few days of 2007.

We travelled to Abuja on Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. It was a hazardous journey, because we set out rather late and we arrived at 12midnight –not a sensible plan in today's Nigeria. This was made a little more uncomfortable because the electric supply had failed when we arrived. However, the Lord was with us, and our faith-walk required these occasional stimuli, which came from taking unavoidable risks. My daughter, Elisabeth, was in the South -Eastern tip of the country on a Voluntary Service Organisation trip and it was good to make contact. On Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July,

I went with the Abuja pastors to initiate a new venture. Close to the estate which housed their bungalows, was a village called Ekpeyigyi, and after evangelising in twos, we settled down in two clumps to conduct a primary health care clinic, with drugs and food supplements given gratis to needy folk. Later that evening, we drove to Gwagwalada to minister at Dominion Chapel, on the invitation of Pastor John Badu. We were received afterwards into comfortable hotel rooms in the neighbourhood, to make it easy for us, as I again ministered on Sunday morning to a

larger congregation. The time of praise-worship was especially enjoyable. The next three days were a mixture of pleasant one-on –one sessions of prayer and counselling, with some reading and relaxation thrown in. Bukkie's family visited (-my fifth daughter. married in Bauchi, North Central Nigeria).

We returned to Ibadan on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July. The schedule was fairly light until we left on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> for Lagos, with a stop-over at the Redeemed University en route, where we were very hospitably received by the Vice Chancellor of the University and his wife, Remi Tomori. Our next stop was Pastor Sam Ayodele's house at Festac in Lagos on the 29<sup>th</sup>, Saturday.



I preached alongside Pastors Dan and Pius on Sunday at the Redeemed Church Branch of Pastor Sam Ayodele, and ministered to several who came up later. That was the end of that Nigerian trip, as I returned to England on the 31<sup>st</sup> (Monday).

Life reverted to the normal round of telephone prayer ministry, home visits and mid-week activities at the Ring's End Chapel. This was supported by the house fellowship at our house on Sunday morning (worship led by Chris Peach), and the Sunday was rounded up by an hour of praise/worship (led by Richard Clarke)- I preached at both venues.

Life went on through the summer. My daughter Rebekah got her GCE A-level results and got into Bradford University to read a law degree. Her older sister, Elisabeth, who took a gap year visiting USA, and going through a Voluntary Service Organisation 20-week programme in Bristol, England and Calabar, Nigeria got into St Andrews University to read psychology. My oldest grandson, Olaolu, also got into the University of Kent to do financial studies, whilst my oldest granddaughter, JJ, was entering her final year of a law degree at Keele University.

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There were two consecutive acts of miraculous healing in our lounge in September. Tina Tomlinson, from the village, had been in bed for three months and was on a lot of drugs. After passing out as a result of an overdose, she came round to our place, and was miraculously returned to normalcy after laying-on of hands. Martha, Shirlene Phillip's daughter in law from Tennessee, USA visited with her husband, and the Phillips'. She also had intractable back pain in the lumbo-sacral area for many months, but was healed by a Jesus touch after the laying -on of hands.

There was a special work of grace that the Lord wrought through Peter and Diana Stanyer. When our daughter, Esther, was to return to Christ's Hospital, her boarding school, it looked impossible to find the necessary funds for the fees. A word from the Lord given through Peter, allowed her to continue at the school through the co-operation and generosity of Christian friends.

The last quarter started with a meeting I had with the ladies (Diana Stanyer, Claudia Clements, Mavis Donahue, Janet Damari etc) at Cath Taylor's place reporting on the activities of the ministry- especially the last visit to Nigeria. There was a warm time of prayer afterwards. Pastor Daniel Okeme, one of my major hosts in Nigeria visited England for four weeks in October. He spoke at a number of meetings in our immediate environment, as well as in Bolton and London. He also had a number of one on one counselling sessions. During this period, I ministered at the Harvest Parish of the Redeemed Church at Rugby.

My wife, Bridget, who had spoken at a number of Womens' Aglow meetings through the year now undertook a preaching tour in Nigeria. She had been invited often by a number of Christian organisations in Nigeria, but the sad loss of two of her brothers in a row, necessitated a condolence visit to members of her family. She combined this visit to Sapele, in Delta State, Nigeria with ministrations in Lagos, Ibadan, and Abuja. She left on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, and came back on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, with Olusakin, our little girl.

2006 ended, and the new year began with the crisis of my brother's terminal illness and his home-going to be with the Lord. Ayo, my second daughter, had visited from Presque Isle in Maine, USA with her children, Oyin, Adun and Judah and we had a good time. Toyin, the oldest child and her husband, Soji, alerted me that my brother's illness was more serious than we had thought. Indeed, they were getting the next generation members of the family in the UK and USA to purchase the drugs for managing my brother's illness at the Teaching Hospital in Lagos, Nigeria. It was a futile struggle and he died on January 4, 2007. It hit me

somewhat more than I had imagined possible, but even though we have faith, this still involved a physical loss, and there was a need to mourn a good brother before carrying on with the job of living. All we could do was telephone and pray with his immediate family, and give what moral support we could. The words of scripture, in 1 Th. 4:13-17, realign our focus and we rest our thoughts and hopes on future reunion.



The usual flurry of ministrations started in earnest this year, with the dedication in Dartford of the first grandchild born in the family of Segun and Tolu Morgan (21/1/07).

My wife and I also participated in the dedication of George Clarke at Beachamwell Parish Church, where Anne Clarke, his grandmother is minister, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February (his first birthday).



Richard Clarke, his father, has been a prime supporter in various ways of our ministry for over 10 years. Not only did he minister at Ring's End and in St German's Church before that, but he has edited these updates for three years, giving generously of time, IT skills and financial support. He bailed us out when we ran out of heating fuel and our computer crashed.

Without regard to this auspicious start, however, there were signs that there would be changes in the structure of our ministry this year. After the ASBO served on the Ring's End crowd in the summer, the midweek activities had ground to a halt. The Sunday evening

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praise/worship time had also been struggling, and I decided it was time to stop going there. It had been three years of service there, and only God can evaluate the worth of our input.

In addition, as the year proceeded, it became obvious that, in accordance with the objective stated in our write-up, a part of the fellowship that met in our house felt they would be viable, if they set up a meeting in their area. Chris Peach and the group from Downham Market have set up meetings on a regular basis at West Dereham since then. Nevertheless, we were no less busy or productive than we had been before. In addition to our ongoing prayer and counselling ministry, my wife spoke to the Wednesday Women Warriors in Cath Taylor's place on February 7, and ministered at the Women's Aglow meeting at St Ives, Cambs, on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2007.

There is a formidable group of three ladies (Alison Hill, Pamela Simmons and Janet Pierson), who have prayer meetings regularly with my wife, Bridget. They organised a ladies' meeting last April and had planned another similar meeting for March/April, 2007. They, however, received a word from the Lord, which required them to invite two Nigerian pastors (Pastors Daniel Okeme and Pius Ohue) as guest speakers at a weekend meeting for families, with the title, 'Tragedies or Testimonies'.



This meeting took place at Shipton, in Warwickshire from March 30<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup> and both my wife and I, as well as the three ladies and Mrs Katy Sheldrick, ministered alongside our guest speakers. Of the two visiting speakers, one has a considerable teaching gift, and the other is an anointed prophet.

The Lord graciously visited the weekend with His presence, and everyone was blessed. This was followed by another conference at St Edmund's Parish Church Hall in Emneth, Wisbech, Cambs from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, on 'Holiness'. Our two guests were ministering again as the main discussants, but there was a different moderator for each day's conference. The conference dealt with a different facet of the general theme each day, the moderator introduced and the discussion was led by our guests, but the Holy Spirit was given the freedom to operate at will. The

moderator was Dr Mark Graham for Monday, Richard Jones with James Gardner for Tuesday, Craig Millward for Wednesday, Professor Peter Curtis-Prior for Thursday, Revd James Alexander for Friday and Gordon and Gill Tanner for Saturday. Worship was led, in part by Chris Peach, with some input from Dick Brading, and partly by Janet Pierson and Pam Simmons. There were evening sessions on Monday and Tuesday at Clenchwaten, organised by Alison Hill. We were all blessed, and our lives will never be the same again.



I left for a visit to Nigeria on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, and returned on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. It was a very busy trip. I spent the first five days after arriving in Lagos, in Akwa Ibom State on behalf of Christian Watch of the United Kingdom.



They had invested some money in a school for poor children in Ikot Udoetor near Uyo, and had asked me to investigate the activities of the local contact group of the Christian Watch there. I ministered at the school, and made a video recording of all the meetings with the local contact group of the Christian Watch, as evidence of all that happened on my visit. I was greatly assisted during my visit by Dr Michael Ukpe, who went to great lengths to ensure that I saw all that went on with that project.

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After consoling the family of my late brother in Lagos, I spent the next week ministering in Ibadan, Oyo State. I travelled with Pastor Pius Ohue's family in a chartered car to Abuja on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of May. During this particular visit to Abuja, I ministered three times in chapels located in the military cantonments. Those ministrations were arranged by Evangelist Abudu Aliyu and his wife, Toyin in addition to those at Dominion Chapel, Gwagwalada. Once again, I returned to Lagos on my way back to England. Each time I went through Lagos, Pastor Sam Ayodele's generosity and help made my visits to Nigeria pleasant ones.

There are so many things to thank God for. After the sudden home call of Tom Welch, who managed my web site up until July, 2006, my son, Bode and his wife, Bimbo, both working at Amherst, Mass. in the USA, have organised to have a new manager for it, and it is now [www.healingloveofchrist.org](http://www.healingloveofchrist.org) in place of [www.healingloveofchrist.com](http://www.healingloveofchrist.com).

My oldest granddaughter, JJ Baikie graduated from Keele University with an upper second class honours degree in law and two daughters and my oldest grandson finished their first year in university, the last with a distinction pass. Our thanks also go to the Rev Robin and Ann Hogg, who kindly gave us their car to replace our Toyota, whose gasket head cracked on July 4, this year. There is a need for prayer, to determine what the next big step is in our ministry. There are many indications that God is about to do something dramatic and perhaps, strange. Please pray along.

