



Summer 2015

Humbled and Thankful To Serve Jesus Christ

"You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" Colossians 3:12 Good News Bible

On April 19, 2015, I had the honor and privilege of being ordained by Bishop John Williams with Central Bible Ministries International, for ministry in Africa. It was a humbling, inspiring, and Spirit filled experience.



Sue and I were surrounded and supported by eight African American Pastors in Grand Rapids who joyfully served on my Presbytery: Rev. George Davis, Rev. Eula Gaddis, II, Dr. Dennis McMurray, Rev. Nathaniel Moody, Rev. Dan Oglesby, Rev. Stedford Sims Jr., Rev. James Stokes, and Bishop John Williams.

Bishop Williams stood before the congregation and the Presbytery with no tie and no robe, as a sign of humility. He took a basin and a pitcher of water and washed my feet, as Jesus instructed us to do for one another in John 13:1-17.



It was the first time I wore a clergy shirt and collar. It had been over a decade since I wore my clergy robe. When Bishop Williams handed me the microphone, saying God told him I was to preach, I said a few words. then I humbly knelt before Bishop Williams, my Presbytery, and all people attendance of African descent. To hear my comments please watch this historic Ordination Service which was filmed by my son Andrew and posted on the website by my son Matt: <http://pastorcarewm.org/videos/>.

PastorCare has a high value for marriage and for family. On Sunday afternoon, June 7, 2015, I enjoyed the wonderful honor and privilege of officiating at the wedding of my son Andrew Smith and Elise LaPorte.



Elise shared why she and Andrew wore "True Love Wait's" rings as a commitment to purity until their wedding night when they will enjoy having sex together for the first time as God intended and commanded in his Word.



True Love Waited 3,704 Days April 16, 2005 to June 7, 2015



Andrew wiped away the tears as he read his vows that he wrote for Elise.
After they exchanged their wedding rings, our daughter Sarah read John 13:1-17.



They washed each other's feet as a sign of love and how they will humbly serve each other.



As parents we had the privilege of praying for God's blessing and favor upon our newly married children.



We are very proud to introduce Mr. and Mrs. Andrew and Elise Smith!!



On June 16, 2015 my dear friend Ken Kolenbrander, retired Army Chaplain, told me that his dear friend, Chaplain Edward Lungu was in Grand Rapids for a few days.

On June 19, 2015 I had the privilege of taking Chaplain Lungu out for breakfast to listen to his story and encourage him in his ministry as a prison chaplain in Florence, AZ. I invited Bishop John Williams to join us because of his missionary work in Africa.

After an extended breakfast, I took Chaplain Lungu to visit Our Daily Bread Ministries. Chaplain Lungu distributes 500 copies of Our Daily Bread every month to the inmates. He had been receiving 480 copies in English and 20 copies in Spanish. But his prison population is ninety-five percent Spanish speaking. The wonderful man who gave us the tour said he works in distribution and he will correct the percentage of Spanish copies that are shipped to the prison in Florence, AZ. God is so good!



When we returned to the lobby, we met Rev. Dr. Johnson Rethinasamy, Senior Pastor, Evangelical Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitestone, NY. It is a mosaic ministry, learning, living, and sharing Christ's love with all. Dr. Rethinasamy is from India and most of his extended family continues to live and serve in India.



The person who had agreed to give Dr. Rethinasamy a ride to Our Daily Bread Ministries did not show up, so he had to make other arrangements to get there. God used that delay to give us an unscheduled tour. Then we enjoyed the blessing of meeting each other and sharing contact information for Kingdom connections.



Rev. Lungu is also the Founder, President and CEO of Moyo Africa Foundation. His ministry is primarily focused on developing villages in Zambia until God expands it into other African countries. Their Motto is: Ownership to the local people. They are leading the way in village development.

In his Nsenga language Moyo means heart, soul or life. Therefore Moyo Africa Foundation is defined as the heart, soul or life of Africa Foundation.

The mission of Moyo Africa Foundation is to touch, motivate and cultivate the heart; soul and life of the villages of Africa and the world as far as rural developments are concerned. In partnership with governments, churches, chiefs, headmen and local people Moyo Africa Foundation will help bring meaningful basic needs to the heart, soul and life of all parties concerned.

Moyo African Foundation will make sure that local people take complete ownership of their land and developments such as hospitals, schools, shopping centers, farms, homes and wells. Moyo Africa Foundation will help fundraising for all local programs and project where developments are taking place.

I brought Rev. Lungu to the home of Reuben Ndjerareou for lunch. Reuben's father, Dr. Abel Ndjerareou, is the Director of Transafrican Education Network. He brought several members of his African ministry team to participate in a conference at the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids. The mission of Transafrican Education Network is writing, publishing, and distributing materials in French to provide foundational training in Bible, theology, leadership, and practical pastoral ministry, for rural pastors in French speaking Africa.



Rev. Edward Lungu with Reuben Ndjerareou



Rev. Edward Lungu with Dr. Abel Ndjerareou



Reuben served for one year as a school teacher, and two years as a school principal in his home country of Chad, Africa. He has completed his M.A. in Educational Ministries at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. Reuben's passion is for administration and organizational leadership. He is seeking to pursue his doctorate in Organizational Leadership Development. Reuben's goal is to return to Africa and focus on developing indigenous leaders in Africa to run schools and ministries with administrative and financial best practices.



When Chaplain Lungu told me he was staying in an apartment in Grand Rapids with his friends from Ghana, I asked him to introduce me to his friends.

His friend Joseph arrived just as we were leaving Reuben's house. He introduced himself as Joseph/son of Jacob and asked why I was so eager to meet him. I shared a little of my story of spending three weeks in Ghana in the fall of 2013. I told him how I had lost everything to the corruption and scammers of Ghana & Togo. He listened carefully with great compassion and told me it broke his heart to hear how I was mistreated and taken advantage of by dishonest people in Ghana.

Joseph/son of Jacob said he believes God will use even that for His glory. I agree completely. God used my journey of losing everything I had financially, to bring me to a place where all I had was Jesus. God used the experiences that could have made me angry, bitter, and resentful toward the people of Africa, to fill me with compassion and love for the people of Africa who need Jesus.



On June 28, 2015, Sue and I had the privilege of taking Pastor Joseph/son of Jacob and Sarah Famiyeh out to lunch. We shared a wonderful few hours of fellowship. We encouraged each other and thanked God for bringing us together.

Pastor Joseph/son of Jacob believes God's call upon his life is similar to God's call upon Joseph the son of Jacob in the Bible. He understands that adversity has been part of his calling and fits perfectly into God's plan and destiny for his life and ministry. His passion is to return to Ghana and lead Bible studies in the villages to introduce the young people to Jesus Christ. Then he will continue to use the Word of God to disciple them in the faith.

He wants to bring water filtration systems to the villages of Ghana. Rather than dealing with the cost of purchasing and shipping water filtration systems from America to Ghana, he is praying for God to connect him with someone who can show him how water filtration systems can be built primarily with the raw materials available in Ghana. His goal is to bless entire villages with clean water and a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Joseph/son of Jacob is trusting God to lead him to the right people who can help him with this. If you, or someone you know, can help, please contact me immediately and I will connect you with him.



Sue and I are so blessed!!
God is so good to us!!

If you have a heart for blessing and encouraging Pastors throughout West Michigan and beyond, we ask for your prayer support and your financial support. PastorCare is funded by gifts from people like you. Every contribution makes a difference!

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