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Akindayomi Josiah Olufemi

1909 – 1980

Pa Akindayini started in 1947 the Glory of God Fellowship as a prayer group. The name changed to Redeemed Christian Church of God in 1952. Pa Akindayomi had started his spiritual journey in the vineyard of God in the Anglican Church where he was baptised in 1927. He joined the Cherubim and Seraphim Movement in 1931. Then a voice started to call on him to take up God's work, which he ignored for some seven years. Then he dreamt and he saw in the dream an old man with a sore. When he woke up he realised that he had got a sore himself. He asked God if the sore would heal if he became a minister of God. He was told to read Jer. 1:4-10; Is. 41:10-13; Rom 8:29-31. He then promised God that he would go wherever God sent him.

Pa Akindayomi was with Cherubim and Seraphim Movement when he started the Glory of God Fellowship at 9 Willoughby Street, Ebute Metta, Lagos. He started with nine members initially. God established a covenant with him akin to Abrahamic's that he, God, would make the Church great. Miracles galore followed.

Like Moses, Pa Akindayomi named his successor. God told him that his successor would be a young educated man. That anointed man of God was the present Pastor Adeboye, Enoch Adejare who joined the Church in 1973. Adeboye became translator for Pa Akindayomi and was ordained a Pastor in 1975. Adeboye himself saw a vision that he would lead the Church. Daddy G O, as Pastor Adeboye is fondly called, was born March 2, 1942 and was very well educated with a PHD in mathematics. Under him the church has grown in leaps and bounds and now has a presence in 192 countries of the world, according to a church statement. It is also claimed to have 14, 000 branches in Nigeria. A publication by Newsweek rated Pastor Adeboye as one of the fifty most powerful people in the world.

Celestial Church of Christ at 70

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Sup. Evang. Banji Oyelakin

About the Author

John Adeyeye Olabanji Oyelakin originally trained and qualified as a Chartered Town Planner. He was once the National Secretary of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners; one time the Executive Secretary of that body and the first Registrar, Town Planners Registration Council of Nigeria. He held management positions in both Nigeria and the United Kingdom before retiring to take up full time work in the vineyard.

He presently holds the rank of Superior Evangelist and he is the Shepherd in charge, Celestial Church of Christ, Greater London Parish based in Southall, near Heathrow airport, West London. He is happily married children and grandchildren.