



Benson Idahosa

1947 - 2017

Much of the information here derives from Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, especially the article by Ben Akosa titled 'God's Generals from Nigeria' Vol. 1, Lagos, Nigeria. He was born 11 September 1938 in Benin City, Edo State of Nigeria and was called by the Lord 12 March 1998.

His background could not have been humbler. He was rejected by his father for being too frail and sickly. He fainted often and on one occasion when he fainted the mother took him to a refuse dump and left him there. But when he recovered the mother took him back. His father would not send him to school until he reached age 14. He was growing up in a mud house.

The call to the Ministry began when a certain Pastor Okpo took him on. He then became particularly active in evangelism. He then established a church in a small store in Benin City. His faith blossomed as he had a strong belief in the supernatural powers of the Holy Spirit. From 1970-1990 he was credited with converting many to Christianity from animism. He who started a church in a small store built a spectacular Faith Arena which could seat 10,000. He became the founding President of the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria. Many prominent pastors including Ayo Oritsejafor, David Oyedepo, Felix Omobude, and Chris Oyakhilome were said to be his protégés.

In his ministry, he had strong links with Billy Graham, T L Osborn, Kenneth Hagin, Reinhard Bonke, Maurice Cerullo and Oral Roberts. T L Osborn was claimed to have described him as a pastor, builder, counsellor, prophet, teacher, apostle and evangelist. He was said to have taken the gospel to 145 nations, including Sweden, United States, Singapore, Malaysia, Korea and Australia.

Notwithstanding he did not have early education his educational attainments, in the end, were outstanding. They were given as follows:

- In 1971, he earned a diploma in Divinity from Christ for the Nations Institute in Dallas, Texas
- In 1981, he earned a Doctorate of Divinity from Word of Faith College in New Orleans
- In 1984, he earned a Doctorate in Law at the Oral Roberts University
- He was once the President of All Nations for Christ Bible Institute
- His was prosperity based evangelism, even as the videos show he openly taught how people could make money. He himself became prosperous and it was claimed that many who followed him and his teaching did so
- He was said to have received specific direction to promote education, starting from nursery to university levels. This process he began in the 1980s. In 1998, what had started as Christian Faith University became Benson Idahosa University. The Nigerian National Universities Commission granted the University a License to operate. The mission of the institution was 'to raise leaders for the nation who are complete in spirit, mind and body; thus contributing to the production of high-level leadership and quality manpower for the nation and the world.

This author regards him as a miracle worker in the Oral Roberts tradition. It was claimed that he healed the blind and raised back to life from death 21 people, though some of these were disputed for lack of evidence. His life, what he achieved in totality would be seen as the greatest miracle of all.

Celestial Church of Christ at 70
September 1947-September 2017
Sup. Evang. Banji Oyelakin