What next after the ten years at Emneth

It was the start of the second quarter of our tenth year in Emneth. We had started the website about ten years ago as we were preparing to leave the ministry at Wiggenhall St Germans and Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen, where I had been Anglican pastor, as well as an itinerant, international minister for four and a half years. It was a busy and highly significant period in every facet of our life and ministry. (The story of my walk as a servant of Jesus Christ since I came back to Britain in December 1992 is written up on this website www.healingloveofchrist.org as the book ‘Man’s Mistake God’s Remake’).

The first event of this newsletter update started in April of this year. I was invited to speak to the Wednesday Women Warriors at Cath Taylor’s in Ely on April 1, and after that, there were situations bringing joy and sorrow following each other closely. After we lost Howard Agnew, an old friend on the 22nd of April, we had the Board of Trustees meeting on the April 24, and it was a good meeting. In between, my wife and I participated in a high profile Nigerian wedding at Waltham Abbey of Emeka and Amina Udechukwu, at which I preached, during the weekend starting on Friday 17th of April.

Pastor and Mrs Ogbuoji arrived on the 13th of May to spend a very fruitful month with us. However, four days after their arrival, the first Sunday began with a phone call bearing the news of the death of Mrs Marie Nenge, sister to Mrs Ogbuoji. Our friend, Pastor Niran Olajuyigbe was ordained a full priest in the New Covenant Church in London on the 6th of June.

My wife, Bridget organized a wonderful Christian meeting for ladies on the 13th of June, the very day she got the news of the death of her immediate sister, Mrs Rose Olutula. I conducted a believers’ baptism by immersion at the South Lynn Baptist Church on the 20th of June for a group, which included Lindi, a Jewish convert and Ahmed Kuti and her mother (two Muslim converts). Immediately following came the news that my oldest grandson, (Olaolu Baikie) got a first class Honors degree in Financial Economics and Econometrics at the University of Kent at Canterbury, and my daughter, Rebekah, got a second class Honors degree in Law at the University of Bradford. I preached in Pastor Akinwunmi’s Church at the Regional College in Peterborough on the 12th of July just before I travelled to Nigeria on a preaching tour.

After I was well received by Pastors Dan and Pius on the 18th of July in Abuja, Nigeria (staying at the Ohues’ and ministering at their regular meetings), I preached at two successive church services at Pastor Ogbuoji’s Open Christian Assembly on Sunday 19th of July.

Rev Onyiba Ogbuoji & Evangelist Maureen Ogbuoji

Pastor Ohue and I travelled to Lagos on Tuesday 21st of July. On arrival at the airport, I led a Police Inspector to salvation through Jesus Christ while waiting for our motor transport. Later that day, I was graciously settled in Pastor Funso Adekola’s home in Ibadan, where Pastor Abiodun Ilori was also waiting to make me welcome. Apart from preaching at the Assembly of Christ meetings (midweek on Wednesday 22nd July and Sunday 26th July), I spent the whole Thursday the 23rd July at the International Council Meeting of the Christian Missionary Fellowship.

The rest of that week was filled with many one-on-one ministrations, as well as other church meetings at the Assembly of Christ Meeting place. Pastor Pius Ohue left Ibadan with me on Wednesday the 29th of July after a very busy schedule. We spent the night at Lekki (Victoria Island), ministering well into the night, being hosted by Brother Gbenga Oladimeji, who also had taken us to a prayer meeting of ministers in his Four Square Gospel branch. We returned to the Federal Capital – Abuja- on Thursday 30th of July to prepare for a medical outreach on Saturday 1st of August, followed by ministry at the Asokoro Fellowship. Perhaps the high point of this particular missionary trip was my visit to preach at the Chapel of the State House at Aso Rock, Abuja on August 2nd, 2009.

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10 years. Under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Stanyer and the Secretary and Legal Adviser, Jonathan Care, as well as Mr David Hickman, Philip Bilton, Claire Henderson (Moody), Mrs Angie Yeoman and Mr Richard Shipp as well as many others, the Board of Trustees got us registered as a National Charity. Mr and Mrs Brian Baker suggested that God might wish to use us in ministry in Wisbech, and together with Mr and Mrs Le Hair, who we met soon after, we started a fellowship, which met on Sundays and also on some weekdays. Following the visit of Pastor Emmanuel Kure from Nigeria, we were encouraged to resume ministry visits to Nigeria.

Our old friends, Pastors Daniel Okeme and Pius Ohue planned a ministerial tour in 2000 and that was the start of journeys to Nigeria. Rev Richard Shipp was very helpful to us as we ministered alongside him and his friends, Rev Ralph and Mrs Susan McKintosh. Derek Tripp and Richard Clarke have been very good to me, not only in doing all my IT work but ministering with me and donating financially. We owe so much to so many people, that only God can appropriately recompense all who have supported us. Our prayer is that they will find help in the day of their need. As we enter into this new phase, we are seeking the face of God for illumination on every step of the way ahead.

On the invitation of Venerable Obi Onwuzurumba and his wife, Martha, I not only preached at the Chapel on Joel 2: 25 (Repentance, Reformation and Restoration), but was well received by the Vice President of Nigeria, His Excellency Dr Jonathan Goodluck. I returned home to Emneth, Wisbech, in England quite late in the evening of August 7, 2009.

The last three months were remarkable because of our house move on September 1, 2009. My wife, Bridget, with the help of our four younger daughters did the bulk of the packing, though we had a lot of help from very kind friends for the actual moving on Tuesday, September 1. We had stayed in Emneth, Wisbech for almost 10 years. I had retired from my position as House for Duty Priest in the Anglican Diocese of Ely at the end of December, 1999, although I continued for a while to minister in Cambridge and Norfolk in some strictly Anglican situations.

The base of the ministry became broader, being more ecumenical and international. Many of our friends, with whom we have fellowshipped over the years, have remained supportive of our ministry and close to us, and we are very grateful for this. We do need a lot of prayer to determine how the Lord desires to use us in this new place. Although Wisbech St Mary is not far from Emneth, it is quite different in many respects, and we need the special enabling of the Holy Spirit to determine what God’s demands on our lives will be in the future. Although I am now 75 years, I am very blessed in enjoying quite good health and would be grateful for any opportunity God gives to continue in His service.

Perhaps this is a suitable time to show my appreciation for the institutions and individuals used by God to sustain us and to help our ministry forward in the last