

SPECIAL EDITION | 2026

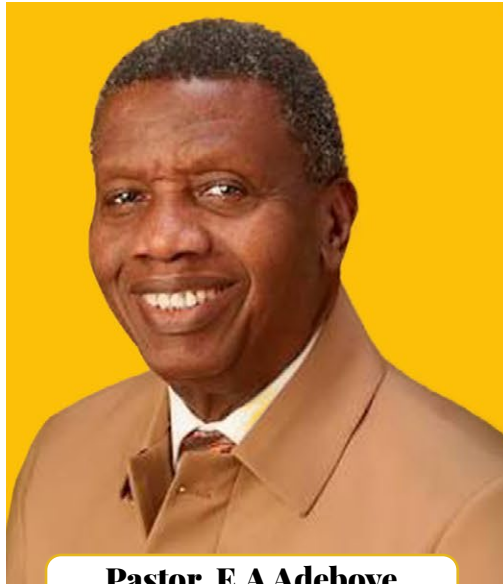


TEAP TRUMPET

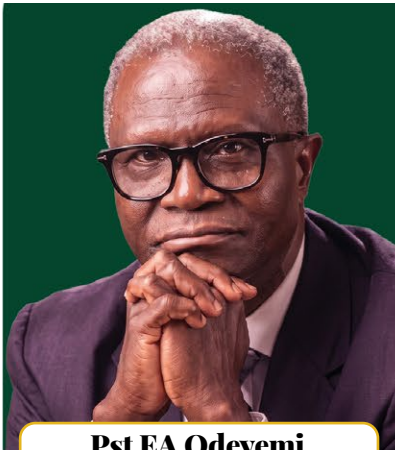
A MAGAZINE OF THE REDEEMED CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD
THE EVERLASTING ARMS PARISH, ABUJA

25
Years
OF GOD'S
FAITHFULNESS





Pastor. E.A Adeboye
General Overseer



Pst EA Odeyemi
Asst General Overseer
Continental Overseer
Continent 2



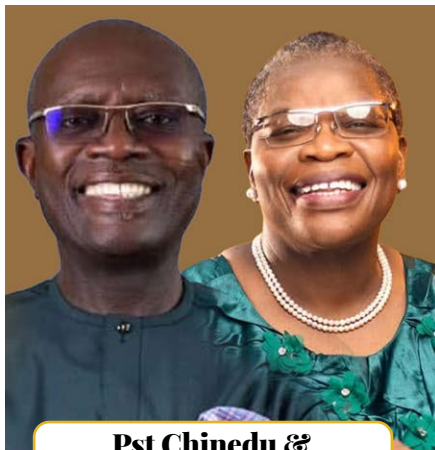
Pst Babajide Akiode
Assistant Continental
Overseer Continent 2,
PICR REGION 10



**Pastor. Amos
Okemuyiwa**
PICP, FCT Province 1
PICR REGION 10



THE EVERLASTING ARMS PARISH, ABUJA



**Pst Chinedu &
Pst Oby Ezekwesili**



**Pst. Evaristus &
A/P. Ngozi Azodoh**

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Years ARMS PARISH

A magazine of The Redeemed Christian Church of God



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By Evaristus Azodoh

25 Years in his everlasting arms

As we reflect on the faithfulness of God in the life of each member of The Everlasting Arms Parish (TEAP) family these past 25 years, we have so many reasons to celebrate. Even though some with whom we started the journey are now of blessed memories, we have no doubts that they are in a better place, and we will meet someday at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

A quarter of a century is no small milestone. It represents lives transformed by the Gospel, families strengthened, prayers answered, young people guided into purpose, burdens shared, victories won, and countless testimonies that only eternity will fully reveal. Above all, it tells the story of a God who has remained faithful through every season.

When we look back to the year 2000, our beginnings seemed modest. ‘Two and a half families’ (borrowing the phrase of Pastor Chinedu) gathered in a living room in Abuja, united by a desire

to obey God’s call. There were no grand facilities or elaborate plans, only a clear conviction that if God had spoken, He would also provide the grace to accomplish His purpose. Twenty-five years later, we stand in awe of what God has done. From those humble beginnings has emerged a thriving Zone comprising three Areas and numerous parishes, each one a testimony that God delights in using small beginnings to accomplish great purposes.

The words of Zechariah still ring true: “Who dares despise the day of small things?” (Zechariah 4:10).

This anniversary is also an opportunity to honour those through whom God chose to begin this work. We celebrate Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili, who faithfully embraced God’s mandate, and every pastor, minister, worker, and pioneer member whose sacrifices, prayers, and unwavering commitment have shaped

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the story we celebrate today. Their labour has not been in vain.

On an occasion such as this, I know many will be telling their TEAP stories so let me also share mine. When TEAP started at the turn of the millennium I was in Lagos as a career military officer in the Nigerian Army. But my wife was one of the five foundation members. So, whenever I came to Abuja, I worshipped with them in Pastor Chinedu's house in Maitama; and after the service, we would move over to the dining room that was called 'The Upper Room

to have biscuits, snacks, and drinks. That helped the people bond.

However, despite being an occasional member of the church by reason of residing in Lagos at the time, whenever I was around, I could sense something unique about TEAP: 'A family structure' that made everyone their brother/sister keeper. That fortunately has lasted over the years and has helped to cement TEAP as comprising 'Unusual people'!

When I left the army in 2006, I came to Abuja to join

my family and became a full-time TEAP member. In 2008, I was sent out to go and start The Everlasting Life Parish in zone 6. I Pastored that church until 2012 when I was posted to the Wealthy Place in Gwarimpa. I was posted back to TEAP and resumed as Pastor in charge on the 8th of September 2013. Pastor Chinedu had founded and nurtured TEAP for 13 years and had set a template. He had hand-picked me to take over from him, and it was indeed a big shoe to fill. The Lord helped us, and TEAP has continued to grow over the years.

25 Years in His Everlasting Arms

A family structure...

The Covid 19 pandemic was a traumatic period, and the subsequent economic pressures made quite a number of members to move out of town. But God in his infinite mercies keeps replenishing his church his church. TEAP is quite a unique church in that even those who have left return from time to time and I am confident that some of our members abroad will be joining us for this celebration.

As we reflect on a day such as this, it is also important to pay tribute to Pastor Chinedu, a man of God in the truest sense of that phrase and our sister Pastor Oby both of whom God used to plant TEAP. He remains the mentor for many of us. Pastor Chinedu's interest in this life is to go to heaven and take as many people as possible along that journey. He lives that scriptural passage in 2 Timothy 2:4 (KJV): No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. That is Pastor Chinedu for

you: A man of uncommon humility, totally given to the service of God.

TEAP sits on an enviable plot of land, and this is an asset some other people could have personally laid claim to. Not Pastor Chinedu. In fact, TEAP has three parcels of land in Abuja, all thanks to Pastor Chinedu. He left a legacy of integrity at TEAP. And he taught us discipline and promptness. He taught us that as Christians, our job is to serve and to give. Pastor Chinedu is a sacrificial Christian. He is a great mentor. And he is very kind. We keep learning from him as we pray God to continue to preserve him and his family. Now retired from being a Parish Pastor, he is now the National Elder for Region 45. He often worships with us in TEAP along with his beloved wife,

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The Covid 19 pandemic was a traumatic period, and the subsequent economic pressures made quite a number of members to move out of town.

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Pastor Oby Ezekwesili.

The parishes under The Everlasting Arms were about 27 parishes before the scattering started into other provinces in FCT and Nasarawa. This is therefore an opportunity for a homecoming for everybody and to celebrate our 25 years together. TEAP become a stand-alone parish in



25 Years in His Everlasting Arms

Pastor Chinedu's legacy of integrity at TEAP...



2022 when the Pastor I was promoted Assistant Pastor in Charge of Province in charge of Christian Social Responsibility (APICP CSR). We then created The Everlasting Strength Zone to take over the responsibilities of TEAP Zone. Today, it is made up of The Everlasting Strength Area, The Everlasting Redeemer Area and The Everlasting Father Area.

TEAP has a focus on all round development of the man, spiritual and secular. One of the pillars is The Redeemer TEAP International School which now has Crèche, Kindergarten, Primary, Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary Arms.

This started as a vision of the 'DARE Women, under the guidance of Pastor Oby Ezekwesili.

In 2016 we started the secondary school with 21 students which has grown to about 400 students. From 2020, some classes have also graduated from senior secondary school. At this point, I must pay a special tribute to Mrs Jibola Malomo, whose steady hands guided the school and laid a solid foundation for the secondary school. I must also pay tributes to the principal, head teachers (past and present) and the management and staff of the school. The RTIS we have today is the product of their combined efforts.

In the last few years, we have built the secondary school block and have recently completed the CBT Centre, which also houses the administrative block. This is to ensure that our students do not have to go to other schools to sit for their national examinations while also hosting examinations like JAMB. This was achieved because of the vision, hard work and steadfastness of the Board of Governors. For this I am grateful to the

chairman of the board, Mr Ike Onyechere, MFR, and Pastor Andrew Onyeankwe both of whom have ensured the smooth running of the school. Their efforts and that of the management have kept the school population at about 800 at a time a lot of private schools are facing closure due to the harsh economic environment. We have decided to keep RTIS as a day school for now.

Meanwhile, the TEAP Empowerment group is peopled by technocrats in finance and development. This group provides technical, financial, entrepreneurial, and

TEAP become a stand-alone parish in 2022 when the Pastor I was promoted Assistant Pastor in Charge of Province in charge of Christian Social Responsibility (APICP CSR).

25 Years in His Everlasting Arms

TEAP Empowerment group...

spiritual support to those who seek their support for business development. One of our flagship CSR programmes is The TEAP Teens Career Conference which celebrated its 10th anniversary yesterday. The vision is to provide role models for our teenagers and youths. It also provides a forum for the teens and youths to meet and interact with these role models. I must say it has been very rewarding.

I must pay tribute to my magnificent workers and ministers in RCCG TEAP. A lot of them come from quite a distance to the church but come rain, come shine they come. Do not think I don't understand when I become 'Old Soja' as some of you prefer to call me, I actually do. But not only do I act in love, I also know that we can do more. Our potential is limitless. Let's activate them together.

I pay tribute to our elders who have remained with us over the years, the tradition



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To our fathers who have given us the opportunity to serve TEAP these 25 years, thank your Sirs. To my colleagues and co-travellers these 25 years, God bless you all. I must of course thank my wife who brought me to TEAP in the first instance. Thank you darling for all you do. I love you.

”

of the church depends on you and your institutional memory. Let us teach the young ones what we were taught, as we must pass on the torch. Let me also pay a special tribute to 'Mummy B' (Pastor Bola Olanubi) who continues to

serve as the Church Office Administrator. Thank you, my Pastor of Pastors. And to our youths and young adults, your tomorrow has come. Today is yours. Take the driving seat, grow this church, and take it to the next level.

To our fathers who have given us the opportunity to serve TEAP these 25 years, thank your Sirs. To my colleagues and co-travellers these 25 years, God bless you all. I must of course thank my wife who brought me to TEAP in the first instance. Thank you darling for all you do. I love you.

TEAP is A family built on mutual support, and we must keep it that way. I will be retiring from pastoring in the RCCG next year, 2027, and my hope is that somebody who shares the vision of TEAP will take over from me. Finally, I thank the Almighty God for the opportunity to serve in TEAP. Ebenezer. For this far has the Lord helped us. 1Sam7:12.

Pastor Azodoh is the PIC, TEAP Zone and APICP (CSR), FCT I



By A/P Ngozi Azodoh

Celebrating the faithfulness of God

As we celebrate 25 years of God's faithfulness on this family of God, The Everlasting Arms Parish of the RCCG, my heart is filled with joy, and an overwhelming sense of gratitude, humility, and awe. I am minded to reflect on what has been since the days of little beginnings. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to have been part of this family in my Christian journey. The beginning was humble, but the spirit was huge, because God called us to be part of a truly glorious vision given to our Daddy and Mummy, Pastors Chinedu and Oby Ezekwesili; two deeply spiritual and very driven children of the most high God.

Seeing TEAP grow in these 25 years from a few people in the living room of a young couple to where we are today could only have been God. We did not have this beautiful edifice sanctuary on Damaturu Crescent, or the very many parishes planted from here which have grown into big sanctuaries sheltering and supporting men as we do the work of God, or the many souls won to the kingdom and the impact so recorded. Looking back to

the beginning, what we had was a vision, a deep love for God, and the unwavering promise found in Deut. 33:27 that underneath us are The Everlasting Arms. And we had a young couple, driven by purpose and an unshakeable belief in the calling of the Lord upon their lives, and the promise that He who has called will make a way.

On reflection, I see the fruits of seeds planted in prayers, tears, night vigils,

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Seeing TEAP grow in these 25 years from a few people in the living room of a young couple to where we are today could only have been God.

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sacrifice, and absolute faith. I remember our earliest days when we were few in number but massive in spirit. We were the ushers, the choir, the cleaners, and the intercessors all at once. We worked tirelessly because we believed in what God wanted to do in across Abuja, because we were the Governmental church. With no resources, we trusted God for everything, including the upper room assembly, and God came through every single time.

Celebrating the faithfulness of God

Through every season of these 25 years: growth and expansion, extreme lack, political transitions, and personal trials, one thing has remained absolute: God's faithfulness. He carried us when the road was steep. He provided when resources seemed tight. He comforted us in times of grief, and He multiplied us beyond what we could have asked or imagined. God gave us an identity so distinct you will know a TEAP family member wherever you see them. From our greetings, our professionalism and discipline, our warmth, our commitment, values, prayers, and generosity etc. He has consistently honoured His name in this family with TEAP signature programmes; the Tabitha Tent, Easter Camp Out, Teens Conference to name a few.

As a foundational member of TEAP, the half of the initial two and half families, I am most honoured to be in TEAP 25 years later, as wife of the Pastor in charge of TEAP, APICP/CSR, Dr. Evaristus Azodoh. Pastor Azodoh received grace to keep the touch handed to him by Pastor Chinedu burning, and I celebrate the grace of God upon his life. Thank you, husband dear, for keeping the faith. I also want to thank everyone who has been part of this journey. Thank you for saying yes to God, and let's celebrate what God has done through our "yes". I thank all the people whom the Lord has used through the years to steer this ship across a quarter of a century: thank you for keeping the fire burning. And to the younger generation and newer members: you are our joy and our answered prayers. Twenty-five years is a

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...Let us remember the words of Heb. 13:8 – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever, that the same Everlasting Arms that brought us this far are the very arms carrying us into a future of greater glory, deeper revival, and an overflow of blessings

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truly glorious milestone, an assurance that God is faithful, that He will do what He has promised. But it is also a launchpad. So, as we celebrate this Silver Jubilee, let us remember the words of Heb. 13:8 – Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever, that the same Everlasting Arms that brought us this far are the very arms carrying us into a future of greater glory, deeper revival, and an overflow of blessings. I invite you to say Yes Lord and then relax in The Everlasting Arms of God.





By Obi Joshua

The TEAP Hi Five

There are greetings, and then there is the TEAP HiFive. Two hands raised. Two palms meeting. One simple gesture that says, “We rise together.”

For me, TEAP is more than a church. It is a family, a place where people are welcomed, remembered, celebrated, and encouraged to become better versions of themselves. My journey with TEAP began in 2018. Even before then, whenever I came around to visit my uncle, the pastor, TEAP was already a familiar place. But 2018 felt different. It became more than a place I visited; it became a place I belonged.

Over the years, I have watched the church grow, and in many ways, I have grown with it. Through seasons, faces, memories, laughter, worship, and fellowship, TEAP has remained a place where family

truly means something. And perhaps that is why the HiFive feels so special.

It is more than palms coming together. It is a reminder that we are not meant to rise alone. It represents growth. It represents coming up higher. It represents one person reaching out and another meeting them halfway. So, whenever we raise our hands and bring them together, we are saying: “I see you. I celebrate you. And together, we are going higher.”

From 2018 till now, I am grateful for the memories, the people, and the family that TEAP has given me. THE TEAP HiFive — Coming Up Higher, Together.

By Ugo and Akudo Ikpeazu

We Still Remember!

On this occasion of the 25th anniversary of TEAP, Akudo and I wish to celebrate our mentors and friends: Pastors Chinedu and Oby Ezekwesili, who not only gave us the opportunity to co-pioneer this great assembly, but also created an atmosphere that enabled us to fully identify and express our callings. Through their leadership, TEAP became one big family.

We have no doubts that you must be encouraged by the fruits you see today. The growth recorded over the years, is proof of the foundation that was laid. To our dear Pastors Eva, Ngozi, the current leadership and the entire TEAP family, we congratulate you for holding forth and advancing the vision. Our prayer is that you will continue to stand perfect and complete in every will of God. We love you all.



25
Years

THE EVERLASTING
ARMS PARISH

By Ebenezer Oludare Yusuf

Teens Conference Over the Years...

At the 10th Anniversary celebration of the annual Teens Career Conference of The Everlasting Arms Parish (TEAP) of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) yesterday, we reflected on a decade of consistent investment in the lives of teenagers and young adults. From captains of industry, entrepreneurs, public servants, academics, ministers, creatives, and civic leaders to accomplished professionals from across diverse sectors, the conference has remained steadfast in its mission of raising a generation rooted in Christ, grounded in character, inspired by excellence, and equipped to become transformational leaders who will positively impact their communities, the nation, and the world.

Although a Christian programme, it has consistently welcomed participants from different religious and social backgrounds, creating an environment where faith, leadership, character, excellence, and career development intersect. The conference was established to challenge young people to take responsibility for their future, ignite their imagination through interactions with accomplished professionals, assure them that no circumstance is insurmountable, and help them understand that God remains actively involved in the affairs of men.

According to the conference's founding story, the vision was inspired by Miss Miriam

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The conference was established to challenge young people to take responsibility for their future, ignite their imagination through interactions with accomplished professionals, assure them that no circumstance is insurmountable

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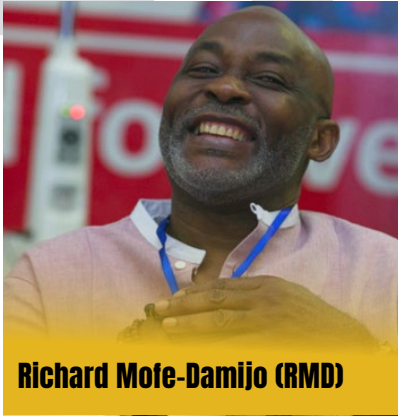


2016

Ameh (now Mrs. Mbene), who was studying in the United Kingdom at the time and, during one of her visits to Nigeria, suggested the idea of organising a career conference for teenagers to the Teens Coordinator, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi. The proposal resonated strongly with the leadership of the Teens Church, and after a series of discussions and planning sessions, the vision gradually took shape. Their shared desire was to create a platform where teenagers could interact with accomplished professionals, receive practical guidance for life and career, strengthen their Christian values, and discover that with faith, discipline, and hard work, they could overcome every limitation.

That vision eventually became a reality with the inaugural edition of the conference held on 13th August 2016, marking the beginning of what has since become one of Abuja's foremost youth development and mentorship platforms. The maiden edition in 2016 with the theme, 'Your Life, Your Future: Not a Laughing Matter', featured ace comedian Atunyota Alleluya Akpobome (Ali Baba) as the lead speaker alongside the then Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Mr. Godwin Emefiele; former Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, Mrs. Ifueko Omoigui-Okauru; and the then Director-General of the National Pension Commission, Mrs. Chinelo Anohu-Amazu. The conference attracted hundreds of teenagers and young adults and received significant national media attention, setting the tone for what has since become an annual flagship youth development programme.

Teens Conference Over the Years...



Richard Mofe-Damijo (RMD)



Folorunsho Alakija



Dolapo Osinbajo

2017

Building on the success of the maiden edition, veteran Nollywood actor Richard Mofe-Damijo (RMD) headlined the 2017 conference with the theme, 'Life is a Stage', sharing practical lessons on purpose, excellence, and personal growth. He was joined by former Minister of Education Mrs. Oby Ezekwesili and Mrs. Charity Shekari, whose sessions challenged participants to embrace leadership, integrity, and national development from an early age.

2018

In 2018, with the theme, 'If You Can Dream It, You Can Make It Happen', the conference continued its upward trajectory. Speakers included Executive Vice Chairman of Famfa Oil, Mrs. Folorunsho Alakija; the then Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara; the then Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ambassador Robert Young; and public affairs commentator J.J. Omojuwa, all of whom encouraged participants to pursue excellence with determination and resilience.

2019

The 2019 conference with the theme, 'Nurturing Your Talent, Developing Your Character', explored the relationship between talent, discipline, and character in achieving lasting success. Speakers included the then Governor of Ekiti State, Dr. Kayode Fayemi; renowned comedian and scholar Dr. Helen Paul; and Mrs. Dolapo Osinbajo, wife of the then Vice President of Nigeria. It was another remarkable edition that reinforced the conference's reputation for bringing together outstanding role models who inspire teenagers to maximise their God-given potential.

2020

Like many programmes across the world, the conference could not hold in 2020 due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the interruption only strengthened the resolve of the organisers to return with renewed vision and greater impact.

Teens Conference Over the Years...



Iyinoluwa Aboyeji



Oluseun Onigbinde



Tony Elumelu

2021

With ‘A Brave New World: Who Dares, Wins’, as the theme, the 2021 conference addressed the realities of a rapidly changing post-pandemic world, featuring renowned technology entrepreneur Iyinoluwa Aboyeji, co-founder of Andela and Flutterwave; Mrs. Omowale David-Ashiru of NewGlobe Education; and Chinedu Azodoh, co-founder of <http://MAX.ng>. Their sessions challenged participants to embrace innovation, adaptability, entrepreneurship, and courage in preparing for the future.

2022

The 2022 conference which had ‘Why Tomorrow’s Leaders Must Begin Today’ placed emphasis on intentional leadership development from an early age. The conference welcomed accomplished actress Linda Ejiofor Suleiman alongside her husband, actor Ibrahim Suleiman. They were joined by civic leaders, Oluseun Onigbinde, founder of BudgIT, and Samson Itodo, Executive Director of Yiaga Africa, who inspired participants to embrace responsible leadership, active citizenship, and national transformation.

2023

In 2023, ‘Wake Up and Take Responsibility’ was the theme in response to the challenges confronting today’s generation. The conference featured leading entrepreneur and philanthropist Mr. Tony Elumelu, Group Chairman of United Bank for Africa (UBA), alongside Juliet Lamin and Dorota Oakley-Matuszyk. Their sessions encouraged teenagers to move beyond excuses, embrace responsibility, and intentionally position themselves for leadership and impact.



The 2022 conference which had ‘Why Tomorrow’s Leaders Must Begin Today’ placed emphasis on intentional leadership development from an early age



Teens Conference Over the Years...



Donald Duke



Nonye Soludo

2024

Recognising the profound influence of creativity on shaping lives and culture, the 2024 edition had as its theme, 'The Power of Music'. Former Governor of Cross River State Donald Duke, an accomplished saxophonist, shared his unique perspective on creativity, leadership, and discipline. He was joined by young saxophonist, Damilade Adepegba while gospel minister Bukola Bekes participated virtually. The conference also provided a platform for young talents to demonstrate their gifts, reinforcing the message that music remains a powerful instrument for inspiring purpose, influencing culture, and glorifying God.

2025

In 2025, the theme was 'Cultivating Healthy Relationships: Setting the Right Boundaries'. Participants were challenged to build healthy relationships founded on respect, character, and godly values. The conference featured Mrs. Nonye Soludo, First Lady of Anambra State; renowned leadership coach Mr. Fela Durotoye and Mr. Adebowale Olujimi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Emadem Energy. Celebrated gospel minister Greatman Takit ministered powerfully in music, creating an atmosphere of worship and inspiration that became one of the defining moments of the conference.

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What began as a simple idea has, by God's grace, become a movement that continues to shape destinies, ignite purpose, and remind every participant that true and lasting impact is possible only when one's life is deeply rooted in God.

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The annual TEAP Teens Career Conference was conceived as a platform to prepare teenagers and young adults for purposeful living by exposing them to accomplished leaders from diverse walks of life. But what began as a simple idea has, by God's grace, become a movement that continues to shape destinies, ignite purpose, and remind every participant that true and lasting impact is possible only when one's life is deeply rooted in God.

Teens Conference Over the Years...



By Nyaknno Osso

Answering the Call of God

At the time we were using the abandoned Sofitel Hotel, now NICON Luxury Hotel at Area 10, Abuja, Nigeria; as our temporary site for TEAP, our parent parish. It happened that ex-soldiers were invited by the Pension Commission to come for verification of their documents. Many of them who came, had no place to stay, no food to eat, and were wearing rags. When the documentation and verification exercise were delayed, some of them ended up sleeping in open fields uncared for.

We were in an evening service, when someone came to inform our Pastor – Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili, that there were many casualties on the field close to us and that we should play the ‘Good Samaritan role’. Some ministers were delegated to go and bring them to our church. Seven of them were brought in the first day, while more joined later, cleaned up with a change of dresses and given temporary accommodation. Interestingly, one day we came to church, only to find out that they had all disappeared. Information got to us that they had moved to the Ex-Soldiers village called

Angwan Mada at Asokoro, behind Abacha Cantonment (now Mogadishu Barracks).

On Sunday 2nd November 2003, at the worker’s meeting, Pastor Chinedu announced to the church that we must conduct a follow-up process – to ensure that they (Ex-soldiers) remain in Christ. In a dramatic spiritual session, Pastor Chinedu asked that we should all kneel down to pray for God to choose a missionary. After a few minutes nobody showed any interest, it was then the Holy Spirit placed the burden on me as per Isaiah 6:8; reminding me “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying,

whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, ‘Here am I; Send Me’.

That was when I raised my right hands volunteering to go for the Lost souls. Immediately, Pastor Chinedu asked me to come out with my Wife for the “enabling prayers” for our new missionary journey. When we got there that Sunday

... it was then the Holy Spirit placed the burden on me as per Isaiah 6:8; reminding me “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, ‘Here am I; Send Me

Answering the Call of God

morning, we met with Six ex-soldiers at the verandah of one Good Samaritan, and that was “How the Parish” started.

It was during the Inauguration of the parish, on Saturday 22nd November 2003, under what we then called ‘The Grass Cathedral’ that the name, ‘Sought Out Parish’ was given to the church by Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili. It was derived from Isaiah 62: 12, “And they shall call them, The Holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought Out, A city not forsaken”. It became the First parish to be given birth to by TEAP.

youths and a host of others that were in serious need for help. We had to quickly set up a powerful Welfare system to take care of the immediate needs of the people – Providing good drinking water by tankers and medical facilities for treatment of the common disease: Typhoid and Malaria.

Because of our active developmental programmes, we were able to negotiate with the “Village Council of Elders, including the ‘bale’ – to be allocated Six hectares of land for our Auditorium and a planned Civic Centre for RCCG Youths in Abuja.

Through the assistance of

The church grew exponentially within a few months of its birth due to aggressive evangelism. Situated amidst extremely poor people with little or no income; retired soldiers waiting for their pension, petty traders, unemployed youths and a host of others



In 2008, the name of the parish was changed to “The Everlasting Strength” in line with the registered brand: Everlasting. The church grew exponentially within a few months of its birth due to aggressive evangelism. Situated amidst extremely poor people with little or no income; retired soldiers waiting for their pension, petty traders, unemployed

the Provincial Pastor, Pastor Eskor Mfon (who donated a personal sum of N1.5m) and other supporters we were able to put up an Auditorium within a year with a capacity for over 1000 worshippers. Other facilities we organized under the welfare package were, (a) Barbing salon for the boys (b) Hairdressing salon for Ladies (c) A standing Football Team for the Youths

(d) A mini-market for petty traders (e) A scholarship scheme for the brilliant students (f) A cooperative society

One Sunday I was encouraged by the Holy Spirit to take a television set with DVD player to start the children’s unit of the church. We had about 15 children and a few teenagers watching the “Life and Times

Answering the Call of God

of Jesus Christ” in a video during the church service. At the end of the service, they all moved into villages (house-to-house) to inform other children in different churches that if they wanted to see Jesus Christ ‘Live’, they should come to their church.

By the following Sunday we had more than 100 children attending our church. We had to acquire more canopies to accommodate them outside the church. These children were those who eventually brought parents to our parish, when we started awarding scholarships to many of them. We were able to persuade Julius Berger construction company to come and create a two-lane road network for the Mogadishu Barracks to our parish as part of their social responsibility programme/project.

While trying to clear the land for the youth’s civic centre, we got the information that the FCT Minister, Malam Nasir El-Rufai was planning to demolish all the structures in the village, including all the churches, in order to allocate it to Army Generals. On 26th October 2006, the bulldozers and caterpillars arrived and the church we invested millions of naira to establish and develop, was brought down, completely

demolished in less than 30 minutes.

It was a gloomy season of discouragement to all the members who were thrown into confusion. What to do? I had to move the church to my facility/home at seguela street, near the British village in Wuse 2, FCT, Abuja. I had to quickly convert my Tennis court into an Auditorium for the parish. From there the church had moved to several places – Raw Material Premises, Wuse 2; The Eagle Square Park, Abuja; Mama CASS Restaurant, Area 11, Abuja; before settling now in a permanent site at Nyanya – as Everlasting Strength.

During my time as Pastor-in-charge of Sought Out Parish, we were able to plant and build two other parishes in Nasarawa State: (a) The Peculiar People Parish (PPP) (b) The Everlasting Testimony Parish. This was the beginning of my transformation into a committed Kingdom Investor. Which gave me the confidence to build and donate a Big church in my village called Gloryland Parish of the RCCG, Ete, Ikot Abasi LGA, Akwa Ibom State, in which our mentor, Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili came with the company of Pastor Richard Adeboye, the Regional Pastor Akwa Ibom State to dedicate on Saturday, 27th August, 2016. Praise God.

By Deaconess
Modupeola Ogundimu

The Children Voted for TEAP



In August 2005, my family and I relocated to Nigeria. We settled in Abuja and during our first month we attended Sunday service at two different churches. By the third week, the children were asked to mention which of the churches they preferred to attend. They unanimously chose TEAP as their preference. Reflecting over the last 21 years, I give God all the glory for a journey of faith, love, and amazing grace. TEAP is undoubtedly a family of love and a true expression of our theme scripture, “the eternal God is my refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms”.

Having attained this landmark milestone of 25 years, I pray that TEAP continues to remain steadfast in its expression of God’s unfailing love through social impact and other initiatives geared towards the expansion of God’s kingdom.

By Mwuese Briggs

A Haven of Love

My husband preceded us to Abuja. He always spoke glowingly about a couple from Freedom Hall where we had received our workers training. Pastors Chinedu and Oby Ezekwesili had opened a parish under Freedom Hall – in their home. It was exciting to him! When we arrived Abuja, we joined the family. After service, we would sit and talk and eat! Often Pastor Chinedu would cook! At other times, some of us would join. We were close, knit together by blood: the Blood of Jesus. Cars leaving church were always loaded to the brim. It was automatic, take someone home who needs a ride.

By and by we moved from the house to different locations. At one point, we left, starting our own ministry; with Pastor Chinedu's blessing. But there was no real distance.

During the time (21 days) my husband was in hospital, after a fatal car accident; Pastors Chinedu and Oby never left my side. At the end, they broke the news of his passing to me and poured fragrant oil of love all around me. When the ministry shut down, they welcomed me with arms open wide back into the Everlasting Arms Parish. TEAP is one of the few places where love surrounded me. Everyone was and still is warm and welcoming when they see me. Too many people to mention, but TEAP will always have a special place in my heart and in my children's personal history books.

By Dr Chioma Nwosu

My Time at TEAP

I joined TEAP because someone recommended the school to me. Little did I know that what began as a recommendation would become a beautiful journey of grace, growth, and transformation. On my very first day, I was warmly welcomed by two of my former colleagues. That warm welcome was, in many ways, the beginning of something truly special for me.

My time in TEAP has been so blessed. I have had the privilege of meeting lovely, amazing, and interesting personalities, people whose lives, words, faith, and behaviour have helped to shape my Christian journey. I have had so many exciting moments to remember. From the dancing competitions with Pastor Chinedu during high praise; to the spiritual mentors who continually point you to Christ; the disciplinarians who remind you that the Christian journey requires both grace and discipline; the prayers that break every shackle and pull down every stronghold; the voices that take you straight to the throne of grace (before you suddenly remember that you are still on earth! And then, there is that unique style of greeting that takes you higher and higher; the extraordinary testimonies that sometimes leaves you wondering, if you are dreaming.

TEAP family is an unusual people who serve an unusual God. Indeed, TEAP is not just a church. TEAP is a FAMILY. I can say with gratitude that joining TEAP was more than a recommendation, it was a divine appointment. For every prayer, every word, every lesson, every correction, every encouragement, every testimony, every song, every dance, and every beautiful memory in TEAP, I appreciate the Almighty God. May the unusual God whom we serve continue to make TEAP an unusual family, and may the lives touched in TEAP continue to shine as testimonies of God's grace Amen.

A/P Arit Eyo Abia

A Journey with Heavenly Focus

My journey with TEAP began as a worshipper with a sincere desire to know God more deeply. From the very beginning, the church became more than a place of worship, it became my spiritual home, where I was nurtured through sound biblical teaching, fervent prayers, vibrant worship, and genuine Christian fellowship. It was here that my Christian journey took on a heavenly focus.

As I grew in faith and commitment, God began to entrust me with greater responsibilities. By His grace, I was ordained as a Deaconess in this great ministry during the time of our daddy Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili and Mummy Oby, a milestone that strengthened my resolve to serve Him faithfully and wholeheartedly. This ordination marked the beginning of a deeper commitment to ministry and servant leadership. In His own time, God lifted me further through another ordination as an Assistant

Pastor this time during the period of our daddy Pastor Evaristus Azodoh.

This sacred calling has deepened my dependence on God and reminded me that ministry is about faithful service, humility and leading others closer to Christ. Every stage of my journey has prepared me to the next proving that God equips those He calls. Looking back, I can clearly see the hand of God directing every step_ from being a member, to becoming a minister,

serving in various capacities. Every responsibility has drawn me closer to God and sharpened my focus on His eternal purpose.

As TEAP marks its Silver Jubilee, I celebrate not only the growth of the church but God's faithfulness in my own life. TEAP has been the instrument through which God has shaped my character, refined my faith, and prepared me for greater service in His Kingdom. My prayer is that The Everlasting Arms Parish will continue to be a place where lives are transformed, leaders are raised, and believers are equipped to fulfil God's purpose. May the next twenty - five years witness an even greater outpouring of God's grace, power and glory.

As TEAP marks its Silver Jubilee, I celebrate not only the growth of the church but God's faithfulness in my own life

I remain eternally grateful to God for making me part of the TEAP family. My story is a testimony that when we remain under God's Everlasting Arms, He leads us from grace to grace, from service to service, and from glory to glory.

By A/P Grace Osanebi

Where God Shaped Me

This church was where God shaped me. He taught me responsibility, prayer and a life style of love. Today, I am not the same person. The discipline, the Word, and the covering I received from TEAP are still with me. To the leadership, thank you for saying yes 25 years ago. To the Sunday School teachers, you are doing holy work. Never despise small beginnings. I pray God crown the next 25 years with greater glory. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this story. To God alone be all the glory.

By A/P Funke Abegunde

A Prayer for TEAP

Heart-warming fellowship, relationship, praise and worship have brought glorious testimonies of blessings unspeakable to every member of my family. I am grateful we found TEAP when we needed a place of worship. I prayed that as the name implies the church will continue to be on top and move on from glory to glory in Jesus name.

By Deacon Enoch Eme

To Mpape and Back

In January 2016, I was sent to MPAPE Village to start The Everlasting Possession Parish (TEPOP). I went there with a team made up of my wife, Brother Mike Akuka, Auntie Maureen of the blessed memory and a few others. To the glory of God, we started with less than 15 Members, but 10 years down the line, the Children's Church alone had grown to over 100 in number. Having attained age 70 last year, I had to 'retire'. But the Parish is presently doing well, making impact in both the Zone and in Provincial Programmes.

By Bello Hosea Bissalla

The Resting Place

When we moved back from Lagos in 2014, we initially settled in Kubwa. Not long after, we had the need to relocate to Garki Area 2. Coming to the city centre, I needed a Parish that gave me the kind of spirituality I had at LP Region 20 Lekki Phase 2 in Lagos. In 2016, after visiting one other parish, we came across TEAP and from the first worship service I knew we had come home. Since then, it has been a wonderful journey of fellowship, love and communion.

I always look forward to church because of the opportunity to fellowship with a group of people who have become family to me. Our House fellowship, Upper Room has turned into a family fellowship where we see each other as one. This bonding amongst brethren makes it difficult for me to miss Sunday services as it's always a refreshing time with the brethren.

I am currently back in TEAP as a retired Parish Pastor but not tired, as I am actively working with Evangelism/Hospitality Department. We recently conducted a Crusade at a village called Apo Dude, visited both Kuje and Suleja Prisons where we recorded fruitful outings. Since I joined TEAP 20 years ago, it has been an active platform for me in my Kingdom work. My wish is for TEAP to continue to grow more and more and produce more kingdom men and women for our Lord Jesus Christ.



By Kate Onyeanakwe

TEAP as a Family Church

At Love brought me to the TEAP Family mid-2001 and love kept me there.

My husband, Andrew had relocated to Abuja and was worshipping at RCCG – The Everlasting Arms Parish (TEAP), then meeting at Pastors Chinedu and Oby Ezekwesili's home in Maitama. They were from the 'Apapa Family' in Lagos where we also had our 'roots', so it seemed logical that I accompany my guy there. The genuine, 'undiluted – everyone matters – we are one – your pain is mine – your joy is mine – this is home' love of Pastor Chinedu and Oby Ezekwesili kept me.

I still remember the 'upper room', fellowship of snacks and drinks after the actual service on Sundays during which we got to know one another and share our joys or challenges and give help where needed. This became a TEAP culture, we

are family, we watch out for each other.

I still remember that the search for a permanent place of worship took us through several locations over a period of six years (Dec. 2000 – 2006): From residence to Savannah Suites in Garki to Hotel Sofitel in Central Area to Hebron House in Area 11 and finally to the current and permanent site at TEAP School hall, Damaturu Crescent in Garki where we met under 'open heavens' as we built, God kept us! There were challenges but the love and enthusiasm of the leadership was infectious! I remember our first wedding under 'open heavens' – the Onwukas, they inspired me. Another TEAP Family culture was born: Church is not in the name, location or building – it is about the people and the family they have become.

I still remember my Sister, Dupe Aladesanmi and the

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*Again, this is why **TEAP is a Family not a parish. It is a family with a culture of investing in the community, the community became family members, 'we move', 'we grow'***

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pre-marital Counseling Classes for couples intending to marry. She was the rock behind the early days' premarital classes. At a point it was just the two of us conducting the classes.... but together we expanded it into a 'faculty' meeting three 'diets' a year because God kept expanding us at TEAP! And couples benefitted from the wealth of knowledge of

TEAP as a Family Church



Pastor Bola Olanubi, The Azodohs, The Aladesanmis, The Onyeanakwes, The Ipoades, The Alaye-Ogans, The Onidarafunmis, Sis. Florence Egopija, Pastor James Komolafe and Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili were the first faculty of counselors! Then more expansion, the Counselors and counselees increased.

This is another family secret and TEAP culture...everyone who went through that premarital classes became a family member whether at TEAP or in diaspora, we never lose touch! I stopped counting about 2010 when we got close to a hundred. Some of the counselees are now themselves counselors, glory hallelujah!

I still remember... how can I forget? How Pastors

Chinedu and Oby Ezekwesili empowered and challenged every worker to be the best they can be. Pastor Eva and Ngozi Azodoh continued that legacy. I remember those early morning workers meeting! My goodness You were inspired to work for God! I still remember the first time Sister Oby said to Sis. Dupe Aladesanmi and I that we were going to establish a school...hahaha! I thought to myself finally we just took on too much! No, we didn't. It came to pass. Sis. Aladesanmi leading the school initiative and Dr. Aladesanmi leading the clinic initiative...I still remember. Again, this is why TEAP is a Family not a parish. It is a family with a culture of investing in the community, the community became family members, 'we move', 'we grow'.

I still remember TEAP 'Sisters': Oby called us D.A.R.E. (Deborah, Abigail, Ruth and Esther Women) a.k.a. Sisters for life who 'dared' to accomplish so much by the grace of God. We were always there for each other. Accomplished a whole lot together in Voices & Drama; Teaching & Speaking Series; the Book Club; Project DARE; Vineyard Dressers; Evangelistas; birthed the Microcredit Scheme (Nov. 2010) to empower women and fueled the Tabitha Tent a free marketplace (Dec. 2007) etc. Above all, I remember the love, singing, fun and lots of laughter practicing for Women programs, cooking for programs with Mummy Cecilia Ujubuonu (RIP) at Pastors Chinedu & Oby's residence. Back then another culture was born, yesterday, today and forever...if a woman tells you she is from the TEAP Family, better take her serious!

Oh, I remember the birth of TEAP Trumpet in 2005!

The TEAP Newsletter. All pastors of TEAP had a knack of having a quick conversation with you and

TEAP as a Family Church

leaving you to run with the vision - their suggestion/ dream / directive / instruction. Whether it was Pastors Chinedu/Oby Ezekwesili or Pastors Eva/ Ngozi Azodoh. I recall a quick discussion with Pastor Chinedu, and I stayed up all night looking for a word to rhyme with TEAP and a vision to go with it...until TEAP Trumpet was born. It was fun and it was a joy putting articles together those early days working with: Brothers Titus Olayiwola (RIP); Funso Adenuga-Ajayi; Sesan Adeniyi (who after a message by Pastor Chinedu helped birth the Unusual People sticker - it became our identity!); Timothy Ukuta, Sister Oyinda Kolapo-Adedokun and Sister Gloria Matthews who continued to run with the vision from 2010. I still remember that TEAP Family culture, excellence and professionalism in all we do, or we simply don't!

I remember that The CARE (Care And Relate Everyone) was follow up mechanism that soon became the house fellowship - 'church' that met in homes. They grew into huge families within the TEAP Family! The 'church' that met at Birnin Kebbi

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TEAP Family is a church without borders. There were more than twenty churches that came out of TEAP and probably continues to grow...

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House fellowship, led by Bro. Timothy Ukuta and Sis. Chioma Nwosu grew beyond thirty families at some point! It became the 'International House fellowship' and the love then still binds us together today in line with the TEAP culture, family is forever!

During this twenty year journey many saints contributed their share in the TEAP Family then went home to be with the Lord. How can I forget? They are so many, but I still remember today: Bro. Titus Olayiwola (TEAP Trumpet), Bro. Olushina Olukareh (Football Team), Sis. Eniola

Onafuye (DARE Hospitality), Mr & Mrs Okoronkwo (Elders Forum), Sis. Mfon Offiong (Microcredit Project) and Mummy Cecilia Ujubuonu (Women mentor and Hospitality), may they and others continue to rest in peace in the bosom of our Lord. They served God with enthusiasm and put smiles on faces, a TEAP family culture, long after you are gone your legacy lives on!

TEAP Family is a church without borders. There were more than twenty churches that came out of TEAP and probably continues to grow but the lines are blurred because we often see the family not the location. I know we each remember yesterday, today or forever. It is a tapestry of memories that can only be complete when all others share their memories.... because the TEAP Family story is a story of very unusual people that cannot be told by one. Happy 20th Anniversary TEAP Family! "The eternal God is your refuge, and his everlasting arms are under you." (Deut. 33:27)

A/P (Mrs.) Kate Onyeanakwe is now with RCCG, The Everlasting King Zone



By Ngozi Onwuzulu

How God Used TEAP to Bless Me

I gave my life to Christ, at RCCG, Hope Hall in Lagos in 1995. I became a worker in 1996 and attended all necessary training after which I went for a one-year Bible and leadership training in RCCG, Olive Tree Parish Ikoyi. I was ordained a Deaconess in Lagos in 2002, before our relocation as instructed by God to Abuja 2003. We joined TEAP Family. And TEAP was really Family to us all. It was also at TEAP that I got my job through Pastor/ Dr/Mrs Oby Ezekwesili. I really owe a debt of gratitude to the Ezekwesilis as well as Pastor & Pastor/ Dr Ngozi and Eva Azodoh, Pastor/Mummy Bola, Pastor & Pastor/ Mrs Aledesanmi, Pastor & Pastor Mrs Onyeankwe, Pastor & Mrs Eke Aki, and all the Brethren God used to bless us when we were going through our wilderness experiences.

Meanwhile, I served God and headed various Departments in TEAP. God used me to start Prayer Department with Brother Austin. By 2008, I was ordained Assistant Pastor. In 2010, we were sent out to plant The Everlasting Light Parish (TELP). I was made the Assistant to Pastor David Itulua. By 2012, I was made the Parish Pastor of TELP. By the end of 2012, I was transferred to Lagos, so I told the Area & Zonal Pastor, I could not continue with the position of Parish Pastor. In 2016, God gave my family American Permanent Residency, and by 2017, we relocated.

In all, it was God all through. Every glory to HIM. Thank God for all the answered prayers in TEAP Family. TEAP is the place. Go with the heart of Service. Do not look at anyone, just focus on God. And keep serving Him diligently. HE will surely show forth in all your situations.

Dr 'Gina Onuoha

When God Showed Up

I was born into a Roman Catholic family and I also wedded in the Roman Catholic Church. Later, the enemy, the devil came like a roaring lion looking for who to devour. My husband had a health challenge and a parishioner directed him to TEAP where he will continuously pour out his heart to God in prayers as well as hear and meditate on His word daily.

Later, he went for a major surgery outside Nigeria and came back with serious complications. He landed in one of the hospitals in Abuja, the fever was intense and after taking so many analgesic drugs, the fever persisted. He stopped taking analgesic and resorted to praise and worship while still in the hospital. He called the then Pastor-in-charge of TEAP to come to the hospital and pray for him. The Pastor came with a church member of blessed memory to call on God, the greatest physician on his behalf.

At this time, I was still going to the Catholic Church. After the prayers, the Pastor turned to me and said - 'Gina, is it not high time you started worshipping with the Redeemed Christian Church of God?' I didn't argue. From that particular day in 2010, I stopped going to the Roman Catholic Church and started attending TEAP. Not only did God heal my husband, the same God has remained ever faithful. On this 25 years anniversary, may TEAP wax stronger and stronger, from glory to glory, honour to honour, Amen. And may we win more souls and take many to heaven in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

By Florence Egopija

TEAP and the Sweet Memories...

My family moved to Abuja in September 2000 after several years as members of the 'Apapa Family' of the RCCG in Lagos. We were obviously delighted to see familiar faces at the 'Desire of Nations' parish of RCCG in Jabi. One Sunday in October of that year, we spotted Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili and his wife at the parking lot. They informed us that they were about to start a Parish and we immediately committed to being a part of their calling.

On the first Sunday of December 2000, we were in the palatial home of the Ezekwesilis in Maitama for the inaugural service of what is now TEAP. That was how we became members of a unique and loving family of believers. Every Sunday, we looked forward to service at the 'Church-in-the-house' where we were richly blessed by the ministrations. The in-house ministers included Pastors Chinedu Ezekwesili, Ugo Ikpeazu, Okoriba Briggs (of blessed memory), Andrew Onyeanakwe and James Komolafe. There were a number of visiting ministers such as Pastors Shyngle Wigwe, Chidi

Umeh-Ujubuonu, Pat Akem, Evangelist Peter Nwachukwu and Eskor Mfon (also now of blessed memory), that my children were so excited to see.

Being a small congregation, everyone had a duty to perform and I found myself in the Junior Church. Getting activities and materials for 12 children from four families was a huge challenge but God in His faithfulness saw us through as the numbers increased. Months later, He brought my sister, Elizabeth, then a Junior Church worker in RCCG City of David Parish, to Abuja. She immediately took charge of the Junior

Church while I, under the leadership of Sister Akudo Ikpeazu, moved on to serve as an Usher alongside Brother Leon Azi and Sister Mwuese Briggs.

I recall with nostalgia a vigil where I was asked to lead Praise & Worship in my native tongue. To this day, I do not know how I did that because I only make a joyful noise unto the Lord with no particular pitch or music note. Meanwhile,

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Again, This Is Why Teap Is A Family Not A Parish. It Is A Family With A Culture Of Investing In The Community, The Community Became Family Members, 'We Move', 'We Grow'

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TEAP and the Sweet Memories...

my husband loved being a Temple Guard. The parking lot was his altar for 'praying in the cars.'

The TEAP 'Upper Room' experience was also memorable. At the end of each Sunday Service, we retired to the 'Upper Room' where we chatted over tasty puff-puff by Sister Funmi Lowo-Dada and other snacks and drinks provided by our hosts. The Upper Room set the tone for several unplanned visits to one another after Church services. I remember the visits to the Ikpeazus, where aunty Ndidi served her specialty – coconut flavoured jollof rice. I cannot forget all the impromptu birthday parties for my daughters because on their special days, Pastor Chinedu and his clan would show up to pray down GOD's blessings on them. In addition to children of the Azodohs, Briggs, Effiongs, Egbutus, and Ossos, the adults at those 'parties' included Sisters Ada Aki, Joko Falope and Brother Ben Alika.

When TEAP moved to Sofitel (now NICON Luxury Hotel), my family enjoyed driving to Church on Saturday evenings to set up the

Hall with other workers; yet as the adults arranged the chairs, the children scattered them. I remember the weeks of planning that went into the spectacular drama presentation titled 'Joe and May' by the Teens Church under the leadership of Sister Dupe Aladesanmi. The closing song of that presentation (Almighty God, my generation shall praise Your name) is still my prayer today.

My family was not in Abuja when TEAP moved to Area 3 and then Hebron House. We returned to Abuja soon after the Church moved to its present location. A few months into our return, Pastor Chinedu created a new Department, the 'Meeters and Greeters' with the responsibility of welcoming everyone to Church and introducing TEAP to first time visitors. It was a time of sweet fellowship with General Matthews and his wife, Sister Gloria as well as Pastor Sam Babatunde, Brother Gabriel Dibia, Sisters Tina Omoera, Fatima Modupe and Ruth who never failed to bring Hilton cakes for the first time guests. Our Head of Department, Assistant Pastor Ngozi Onwuzulu was jocularly called 'HOD ti o

cooperate' (uncooperative HOD) by my husband and other Temple Guards.

RCCG is known for church planting and TEAP has over the years established many Parishes. Seeing friends being sent off to start Parishes has always been emotional for us: from Pastor Osso to Alaye-Ogan to Aki to Onyeanakwe to Ajudua to Azodoh, to Onidarafunmi and Aladesanmi, it was always hard whenever they had to move. But we also remained one big family. The love of brethren has always been so palpable and we traversed the nation to be with grieving brethren. One of the earliest trips was the journey to Pastor Ikpeazu's hometown for his father's burial. There was the trip to the Omoera's for Brother Omoera's burial and trips for the burials of Sister Ofonime Eshiett and mummy Obike.

It was no surprise that TEAP stormed my hometown for my father's burial and I was delighted to introduce my 'Abuja mom', late mummy Ujubuonu, to my stepmother. I loved hearing her call me 'Florence Nwam' and cherished her warm and loving motherly hugs. The natural groups created

TEAP and the Sweet Memories...

in TEAP have been avenues for God to show forth His love to us and through us. We marvel at how HE gave life to the dreams of the women, shared at the periodic DARE Women Breakfast Meetings and other gatherings. Dreams that became Projects include the TEAP Clinic, Redeemer TEAP International School and the annual outreach programme, Tabitha Tent.

The 'DARE Voices' was an opportunity for me to have a feel of what it takes to bring down God's glory. To date, I am amazed at the anointing, energy and zeal of brethren in the choir, Levites and Minstrels like Sisters Kemi Adeniyi, Blessing Osayi, Mercy Iwuajoku, Uche Okoro, Busola Bisoga and Pastors Bolaji Teru, Barry Mfon and Victor Modupe. The DARE Women's Newsletter, 'DARE Wings', was a must-read as the 'mummies-in-the-house' and prolific writers like Sisters Chalya Miri-Gazhi and Mwuese Briggs churned out Spirit-filled articles. I was exposed to deep insights on health and marriage when I was part of the Marriage Counselling Team.

We witnessed the birthing and evolution of the Men's

Group, Men of Issachar, with vibrant brothers like Debo Adedokun, Funsho Ajayi and Clem Omife. It was so refreshing to attend programmes of the Young Adults Fellowship under Brother Tim Ukuta. When we clocked 45, we had to join the Elders Group under the able leadership of Assistant Pastor Nkem Orakwe and Elder Okoronkwo (of blessed memory).

We hesitated to host a House Fellowship but when we finally started one under the leadership of Sis Eki Iyoke, the gatherings were always spiritually exhilarating. Christmas Cantata was incomplete without presentations by the House Fellowship Groups. One of the most memorable was the rendition of the Nigerian version of the Christmas classic 'Twelve Days of Christmas' by the Asokoro House Fellowship.

Today, we are elders and our lambs, not kids, are now young adults. There is a Yoruba saying that twenty children cannot play together for twenty years. Indeed, in the 20 years of TEAP's existence, there have been many separations necessitated by postings or relocations but the agape love shared with brethren

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Our lives have been impacted by the lasting friendships with people who, at various times have been our advisers, burden bearers, destiny helpers, hand lifters, prayer partners

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has not diminished.

Our lives have been impacted by the lasting friendships with people who, at various times have been our advisers, burden bearers, destiny helpers, hand lifters, prayer partners, etc. We relish the beautiful memories of baby dedications, birthdays, house openings, promotions, testimonies, weddings etc. and thank God for leading us to TEAP. Going down memory lane, we are indeed grateful to God for His faithfulness in all facets of our lives. We pray that God will continue to uphold every family in TEAP, envelope us in His everlasting love, and use us for His glory to the end.

Happy 25th Anniversary TEAP!

TEAP and the Sweet Memories...





By Chalya Miri-Gazhi

Still the Fruitful Garden

I have memories of the good, the bad, and the ugly in my life. But at the top of it all was the good I got from my fellowship at The Everlasting Arms Parish (TEAP). It wasn't just good, it was great, it was awesome, and it was a period that was used by God to sculpture, paint, re-write, define and ultimately beautify the landscape of my whole life.

I joined TEAP when it was just a house church at Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili's residence in Maitama, Abuja. I, alongside John Okafor, came for the biscuits and the fanciness of a church in Maitama. Eventually, we stayed because of the love and consistent follow-up of Pastor Chinedu.

I was a young woman in my twenties then, still grappling with the excitement and adventure of youth in a city bursting with an emerging cosmopolitan life. At such a time, I wanted to try everything, be everywhere and become all things as well. Of course, the endangerments for a young woman of no means thriving in an expensive city like Abuja was always around me. Bills had to be paid.

Accommodation, electricity and other monthly utility bills had to be dealt with. Life was no piece of cake. Everyone was busy trying to survive and succeed in the capital city.

Religion, and all things Jesus was the very last thing on my mind then. It was an encumbrance that would require living up to certain morals and having at least an appearance of rectitude. I didn't want that kind of bondage upon me. I didn't want my freedom held to account by religious people who didn't understand my journey. What the heck! I wanted to be free from all the inhibitions that would make me accountable to a religious institution. Brought up in a religious home, I had come to Abuja

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The DARE women provided a ladder for every woman to climb towards success. We encouraged the birthing of new ideas and we supported and strengthened ourselves.

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to escape all that 'nonsense'! I wasn't going to commit myself to a local assembly no matter how loving the Pastor or members were. I preferred to be a back-bencher. You know, keep my distance and be somewhat aloof from all the activities of TEAP.

But God had other plans. The vagaries of life happened. A tsunami of challenges hit me from every side until I was flat out broken and ready to hear God. It was a very low point in my life.

Still the Fruitful Garden

God took away my job, my business, my male friends and all sources of income were abruptly stopped. Only then, did I have time for God. There is something about being broke, wretched and vulnerable that throws you at the mercy of God. In that condition, you feel helpless and even suicidal. And you are finally ready to be rebuilt by God's love and nurtured back into health. I needed all of that nurturing, holistically. And it was the sisters of TEAP that helped me on my way to recovery.

I am talking about senior sisters like Tina Omoera, Ngozi Azodoh, Bolanle Onagoruwa, and a whole array of beautiful women I got to know in TEAP. Under the DARE women umbrella of the church headed by Sister Oby Ezekwesili, I learned to become many things. The teachings about the women of the Bible came alive. Under Sister Oby's fierce leadership, the attributes of the DARE women group, which was an acronym for Deborah, Abigail, Ruth and Esther women became applicable to all the areas of our lives. No woman was allowed to be passive in church. We were all active, lively and practical. We all learned to be daughters of the Most-High God in an excellent way. We learned

to support each other, visit one another, pray together and especially, demonstrate to each other that LOVE is an active verb. I learned that there was honour in living a life of uprightness, and integrity according to the standards of Christ.

The DARE women provided a ladder for every woman to climb towards success. We encouraged the birthing of new ideas and we supported and strengthened ourselves. We shared what we had with each other. Provided food, clothes, funds, prayers, shelter and aid to as many women who needed it. We were admonished to be better women by Sisters Dupe, Nkem, Ifeoma, Kate, Ngozi and Mommy Olanubi. We found sisterhood in women like Elizabeth Ekpenyong, Ada Eki, Florence Egopija as well as Sisters Flora, Mfon, Joko, Briggs, Chizoba, and others. We developed bonds with younger sisters and brothers like Jessica, Reuben, Blessing, Onyeka, Seun, Funmi, Uche Okoro, Rekiya, Precious, Ella, and Bolaji Teru. We learned to relate well with our men folks who served as big brothers to us: Colonel Eva Azodoh (now TEAP Pastor) as well as Brothers (most of who are now Pastors) Andrew Oyenakwe, Williams Onidara funmi, Azubuike,

Aladesanmi, Aki Eke, Debo, Austin, Sunday Momoh, Uche Okonkwo, Faith, Olusegun Adeniyi and others. These were all my contemporaries at TEAP then. Many of them have branched out to start parishes of their own.

The foundation of TEAP and our DARE women group was the love of Christ; the bedrock of our unity was our Christian friendship and the sustainability of the group rested on the relationships that we had nurtured via house fellowships and DARE sub-groups. On this tripod, we flourished and still do up until now. TEAP was, and hopefully still is, a garden that could take a fragile plant and nurture it into a tree. TEAP was a fertile garden where seeds thrived and became oaks, flourishing like Palm Trees surrounded by many waters.

Thank you TEAP for being a vintner of God's vineyard. Thank you for being a shepherd of God's sheep. Thank you for being God's gardener on earth. TEAP had the ability to take anything on a small scale and tend and care for it until it became a blossoming flower. May the rewarder of faithful servants and stewardship bless every person who worked in the garden called TEAP - whether they planted or watered.

By Temitope Fayomi

A Life-changing Experience

From the day I joined TEAP in 2015, I have learnt many valuable lessons about God, faith, and Christian living. Through Bible study, prayers, worship, and the teachings of God's Word, my relationship with God has grown stronger. I have come to understand the importance of obedience, humility, love, forgiveness, and living a life that pleases God.

There have been times when my faith was tested, but I have learnt to trust God in every situation. The encouragement and support I have received from the church have helped me remain steadfast. This journey has inspired me to become more committed to serving God and sharing His love with others. I believe God is still working in my life, and I look forward to growing even more in faith and spiritual maturity.

My family of faith in the TEAP church community is the Dare woman, It is a place where I have experienced God's love through the care, encouragement, and fellowship of pastors, leaders, and fellow members. They have supported me through prayers, counselling, and by setting good examples

of Christian living. Being part of this family has taught me that Christians are called to love one another, work together in unity, and encourage each other in faith. I have made meaningful relationships that have strengthened my spiritual life and helped me

I appreciate the pastors, leaders, and every member for their love, prayers, guidance, and support throughout my journey. I pray that God will continue to bless TEAP

remain focused on God. I am grateful to belong to this family of faith, and I pray that God will continue to unite us, help us grow spiritually, and use us to bring His light to the world.

I thank God for His love, grace, and faithfulness in my life. Since becoming part of the TEAP church, my faith has grown stronger, and I have learnt to trust God more. Through His Word, prayers, and fellowship, God has guided and sustained me. I thank Him for His protection, provision, and many blessings. My prayer is to continue growing in faith and serving Him faithfully. I sincerely thank God for the privilege of being part of the TEAP church. I appreciate the pastors, leaders, and every member for their love, prayers, guidance, and support throughout my journey. I pray that God will continue to bless TEAP, increase the church in strength and unity, and use it to transform more lives. May God's presence always abide with the church, and may it continue to grow and fulfil His purpose. Amen.



By Olusegun Adeniyi

Notes from Tabitha 2024

(For the past 21 years, ‘Tabitha Tent’, an annual charity programme initiated by Pastor Chinedu, holds the first Saturday of December every year and has been able to impact lives in Abuja and environs. Excerpted below is from a column published in THISDAY on 7th December 2024)

The Everlasting Arms Parish (TEAP) of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), where I worship in Abuja, features an annual programme that supports the less fortunate with gifts of food items and household wares during the Christmas period. Called ‘Tabitha Tent’, it was initiated by Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili in 2007 and continues with his successor, Evaristus Azodoh. Dependent on donations from church members (with some of us also using our networks to get external support), the event is held on the first Saturday in December every year.

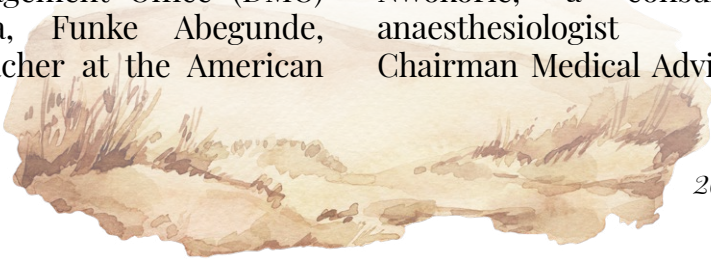
While my wife and I had been actively involved from the beginning, Pastor Azodoh raised the stakes in 2019 by appointing me chairman of the organising committee. Our responsibilities include raising funds, procuring essential foodstuffs and coordinating the programme. I have able lieutenants in Modupe Ogundimu, the immediate past Lagos Zonal Director, National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA), Elizabeth Ekpenyong, Director of Strategic Programmes, Debt Management Office (DMO) Abuja, Funke Abegunde, a teacher at the American

International School, Abuja and Bello Bissalla, Managing Director/CEO, Beltina Printing Press.

Being both a retired army Colonel and a medical doctor, Pastor Azodoh ensured we had security and medical teams in place for the programme every year. Despite that, we have had situations of some participants going home with bruises and other minor injuries after being treated by our team of medical personnel led by Dr Rosemary Nwokorie, a consultant anaesthesiologist and Chairman Medical Advisory

Committee (CMAC), Asokoro General Hospital and Bayo Olakareem, a pharmacist. Last year, a woman broke her arm in the struggle at the gate.

After the preliminary intervention by our medical team, I asked my driver to take her to the hospital with N50,000 as a deposit. Before they left the church premises, the woman asked to be given the money and just taken home. When all entreaties for her to be taken to the hospital proved futile, we acted as she demanded. She was around three weeks ago for this year’s edition and told us she had spent a fraction of the money to heal the arm through traditional methods. But that is not the real story of this year’s Tabitha Tent.



Notes from Tabitha 2024

On Saturday, 7th December 2024, our medical team was on ground and for security, we had ten policemen and another ten men from the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to support them. These 20 official security people were joined by our 13 in-house security personnel (we have an expansive compound that also hosts both primary and secondary schools) and several Ministers/Workers. In the days preceding the event, as it was the practice every year, we (in the organising committee) also fasted and prayed together. On D-Day, we believed we were well covered despite the thousands who had camped outside our church premises from Friday 6th December—24 hours before the programme.

The programme started by 8am with beneficiaries (the number we could cater for) allowed entrance into the premises through a guided process once they collected their tags. Everything went well and by 10.30am we had concluded the sharing of foodstuffs to as many as 1,300 people – only clothing materials and shoes were left. By our arrangement, beneficiaries had to remain inside the church premises so that they could all leave at the same time since the number of people outside was almost

three times the number inside. When we felt our assignment was completed, we asked the security people to open the two gates to allow beneficiaries to leave with their packs. That was when all hell broke loose.

The moment the gates were opened, the thousands of people outside rushed in. And that was the point of divine intervention. For some inexplicable reason, the people inside practically froze. Likewise with all the security men who became mere onlookers. That was how we were saved from what could have been a tragedy. If those inside had attempted moving out while

those outside rushed in, as it almost always happens on such occasions, many lives would have been lost. Although Pastor Azodoh was evidently shaken by what we witnessed, I had a delayed reaction. It was only after the Ibadan tragedy that I began to ruminate on what could have happened at Tabitha Tent 2024!

The first lesson I take from ‘Tabitha Tent’ every year is how the level of desperation in our society continues to rise and the need for concerted efforts to deal with food insecurity in the country. This is a programme that we do not advertise yet huge crowds turn up every year 24 hours before. Packs contain little more than rice, beans and garri (vegetable oil has disappeared from our list in the last two years) that would last no more than two weeks at most. Yet people come from as far as Nasarawa and Plateau States. Since they are mostly women, another story on its own, many come with their children. They sleep on bare ground outside the church premises and endure the scorching sun the next day, even though some still go home empty-handed because the turn-out almost always exceed our provision—even when we were catering for about 5,000 people.

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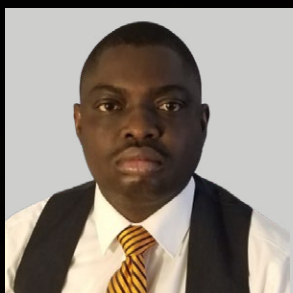
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The Unusual People





By Olusesan Adeniyi

Gone But Never Forgotten...

"A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing..."

That hymn by Martin Luther was my chosen recessional song. As we marched piously out of the sanctuary, singing joyously while gazing with hope to our new future together, I took my eyes off my beautiful bride and the popular hymn briefly to check the people that trailed our procession. Among the clergy that was mostly clad in Agbada was this foreign minister from Abuja in blue suit. He had traveled by road to Ilorin that year to join the couple together.

His name? Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili!

We joined TEAP in 2004 and left in 2014 on posting as Assistant Pastors. During that 10-year period, we rose to be heads of departments. My wife for most part was the head of Levites while I served with the teenagers and publications departments. Among people of my generation who got married outside Abuja, very few can boast of having the honor of hosting Pastor Chinedu at their wedding. Those were the days when Pastor Kate Onyeankwe was the head of publications that had Fred Iteogu, Oyinda Adedokun (nee Kolapo), Ebere Ikegwuonu,

myself and Yinka Oyinwola of blessed memory as members.

Yinka was just a lovable young man that came to Abuja to hustle after his graduation from the University of Ilorin. He was in the choir and

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Each of these people who departed early touched us and while they could, served the God with the Everlasting Arms. I pray continual comfort for the families they left behind

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publication departments. Yinka it was who got the call from Pastor Chinedu that for some strange reasons, he left his blue suit that was meant for officiating at the wedding. Against all odds, Yinka brought the suit from Abuja to Ilorin that Saturday morning, in time for the uncommon minister to join us together. Nobody knew except those close to pastor. It was later Yinka regaled me with the tale of his journey from Abuja to Ilorin with the apparel.

Gone But Never Forgotten...

"We lost Yinka!" that was the short, direct message that morning in 2010 when Pastor Chinedu called my wife. The moment I heard, I burst into uncontrollable tears. I wept like a faucet. I remember my junior brother rushing out to find out what happened to me. My mom had been sick at the time and I had to quickly dispel his fear owing to the horror on his face. Story had it that Yinka was travelling in the company of his family from his hometown when herdsmen or hoodlums started shooting sporadically. Bullets penetrated their vehicle and our Yinka fell in his prime.

As we celebrate 25 years of TEAP, we cannot but remember these lovely people that we met and who left a great impression on us. They will never be forgotten. I can remember quite a few and can write a long essay about how each and every one of them touched me and my family. Pastor Faith Omosese was my wife's

predecessor HOD. Aunt Mfon Essiet was a huge blessing and encouragement to my family in many ways. Brother Charles Egelebe, Sister Hajara Obayemi, Sister Funke Ibitomi, Sister Mustapha, Sister Kemi Ademakinwa, Sister Chichi Itulua, Sister Kelechi Osuji, Mr. John Omoera, Aunt Eniola Onafuye and others. These were not just brothers and sisters but family. Sam Anya, a young bassist was 'bad' on the guitar according to his generation's lexicon. Each of these people who departed early touched us and while they could, served the God with the Everlasting Arms. I pray continual comfort for the families they

left behind.

That was the time Aunt Liz and Dens Dupe Aladesanmi held sway as HOD of Children/Teens Department and we had Aunt Faith and myself serving. Then we had Ope Matthews, Chinedu Azodoh, Chidinma Azubuike, the Ezekwesili twins and many others as teenagers. Thankfully, all the children in that set are successful with great testimonies of advancement in their chosen fields. They have made their parents and the church proud. I think their story should be highlighted as one of the reasons TEAP is rolling out drums to celebrate.

Pastor Kate was many things to many people in TEAP. Apart from being a minister, she oversaw the workers' department as well as publications and marriage counselling. Very few sisters and brothers escaped her scrutiny during marriage counselling. We passed through her, Mama Kwakwa and Dens Aladesanmi. Where she got her strength was always a question everybody asked. Those were days of many meetings and we had to attend. TE Media was a recurrent topic in our meetings back then. It was a struggling department

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Gone But Never Forgotten...

trying hard to meet the high standard set by Pastor Chinedu. I hope the present crop of TEAP Media crew were told about the efforts of pioneers like Kabiru Raji, Kwame and pretty Jessica who had Seun Teru's attention, when we thought he was busy on the drums!

It is hard to tell our story now and how God has helped us without making reference to TEAP. Many of our friends and close confidants are people God brought our way in TEAP. Onyekachi Kanu and his wife blessed us while in England, so did Bukola Emilolorun and her husband. Bolaji Teru and his wife in Vienna remain friends closer than brothers. Mayowa Onare in Texacana visited us when the road was rough. Mrs. Toyin Adeoye left our house for London only to call us to guess who she just saw at Heathrow. It was Pastor Evaristus Azodoh. Henhen...Daddy, na so you dey pass without saying hello?

We had a good laugh and had had good times being checked upon by our father in the Lord many times after that. Yes, good times we had. Those were the days when Pastor Azodoh used to visit from Lagos. That he later became the senior pastor was a brilliant idea of a

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transition. He was the man that understood the vision of the founding fathers of TEAP and capable of carrying on the peculiar tradition that made TEAP different from other parishes of RCCG.

Back to where I started. There is no way anyone can write the story of TEAP, especially the spirit that distinguished the parish without the mention of Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili. I was privileged to work with him and can attest to his good heart. I tell people Pastor Chinedu is a Christian. He is kind and generous and loves the Lord with passion. Myself and my wife are direct beneficiaries of his kind generosity. None of the young men

in my generation escaped his “wardrobe allowance.” He was always buying us shirts. Pastor Oby faced the ladies with a special focus on my wife. Return from DC then was always followed by ‘Kemi, come to the house’. That Pastor Chinedu attended our wedding was a huge honor that we will never forget. Such is the impact the Ezekwesilis have left on us and indeed a whole lot of people they encountered. They taught us. Wherever we go now, it is difficult for us not to see things through the prisms they handed to us. It has to be excellent. It has to be neat. Check out the sitting arrangement. It has to be ‘governmental’. Now, if you missed that last part, you missed a lot.

The story has been told by people who have not met us but heard about the God of TEAP. How we continued like Zechariah in service as Levites and Teens department away from the main sanctuary without a child. We struggled with infertility but held on to the God that said none shall be barren. Well, God came through for us in a big way. He will come through for anyone who is trusting Him for such breakthroughs. It is thanksgiving time for TEAP. It is also time to say thank you to the good people we

Gone But Never Forgotten...

met who stood by us through the challenge of conception. Prominent are Pastor Chinedu and his family, Uncle Olusegun Adeniyi and his wife who practically adopted me and my family into their immediate and extended families, Aunt Tina Omoera, Mama Ujubuonu (God rest her soul), Pastor Bola Olanubi, Aunt Liz Ekpenyong, Mummy Garuba, Pastor Andrew, Pastor Abegunde, Pastor Kofo Ayodele Davis, Sis Idowu Aboderin, Pastor Azubuike, Pastor Bolaji Teru, Pastor Seb Okonofua and Pastor Azodoh who not only prayed with us during the period but whom fate

brought to work at the theater on the upper floor of the same building where the children were delivered at the National Hospital.

The wedding reception was great. Uche Okoro nee Anya was the MC. Sis Flora Biu was spiritually present. Toyin Adesina was there along with Pastor Onidarafunmi. Levites were well represented in Ilorin at the wedding. I quickly jumped to the last stanza of my favorite hymn. Remembering those we met along the way is pretty awesome memory. Remembering those who have passed is overwhelming and really painful. But I found the words of the song extremely comforting.

That Word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them abideth; the Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth. Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also; the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still; his kingdom is forever!

Congratulations, TEAP! We are glad to be part of this unusual family of God.

Olusesan Adeniyi and his wife Olukemi live in Laurel, MD, United States, with their children.

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The Tie That Binds

By Dupe Aladesanmi

TTEAP, a family of unusual people doing great things for God. This is our Abuja family where the true love of God is sustained. We thank God for giving us this opportunity. Our children still contact and relate with TEAP members, even now as adults. May we keep walking in his love, truth and righteousness as we await his coming in Jesus name amen.



By Pastor Chinedu
Ezekwesili

How the Journey Started...

Our family relocated to Abuja from Lagos in October 2000. Setting out for the federal capital, I knew that God was sending me to do a new work of Ministry. Until then, I was one of the Ministers at the City of David Parish of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Lagos. My wife, Obiageli (Oby), who had been assigned back home from the Harvard University Centre for International Development in the United States, was provided a dual-purpose accommodation (office and home). It was located in the Maitama District.

Within weeks of our relocation to Abuja, I had a chance meeting with Pastor Ugo who was a church worker colleague during the early 90's at Freedom Hall (the old Apapa Parish of RCCG on Jimoh Odutola Street, Surulere, Lagos). Ugo would subsequently become my Assistant Pastor in the new work that became The Everlasting Arms Parish (TEAP) of RCCG. Pastor Olu Obanure (now of blessed memory) was at that time the Pastor in charge of the Northern Region. He and his wife, Funke were the first team sent from the then Apapa Parish in Lagos to

start a RCCG Parish in Abuja. It was therefore providential that I had the privilege of sharing the vision for a new work with them.

The Obanures were extremely supportive of our vision to establish a new RCCG Parish in Abuja under the administrative oversight of the City of David Parish then led by Pastor Eskor Mfon (now also of blessed memory) in Lagos. So supportive were the Obanures that they started having scheduled prayer sessions with us to prepare for the new work.

At that time, we had no clue on what the name of the Parish should be; nor its location within the city. We therefore relied on prayers to receive direction from God even as we began to take the necessary steps for establishing the Parish. Eventually, God impressed on me that the Parish should be called The Everlasting Arms Parish from His word in Deuteronomy 33: 27: "The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the

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How the Journey Started...

everlasting arms.”

From that moment, the Vision of God for TEAP was simple: It is, “to empower us to work with Him as He builds us up to become a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-national community Church with a focus on loving the Lord Jesus and loving one another.”

Identifying a venue for Church services was crucial. But providentially, our residence was so large that we decided, at least in the interim, to convert one of the living rooms for church services. We commenced our services on the 3rd of December 2000 and for the next year and a half, began our search for a permanent church venue.

The church services started with only two and a half families: My family, Pastor Ugo Ikpeazu’s family and Dr (Mrs) Ngozi Azodoh whose husband was at that time still in the military and resident in Lagos. However, as months went by, more families joined our services and the numbers began to grow. When, 18 months later, my wife completed her Harvard University assignment and was appointed into the Federal Government of Nigeria, our accommodation was still available. With the former office section given

to us as part of our residence, we had even more space available to use for Church activities.

We, however, did not have the financial and human resources that a new Church Parish required. Yet, I recall how all our family members chipped in to make the vision possible during the first year of TEAP. We were doing everything. We were the ushers. We were the prayer warriors. And we were choir members. One major highlight of our gathering was an after-church-service activity which we called the “Upper Room”. After each Sunday service, our congregation would climb up the staircase to interact and feast on any meal of that day. The Upper Room reminded us of the way the Early Church is described in Acts of the Apostles.

As a Church congregation, we and our young ones were growing in number, growing in the Spirit of God and faith and also closely bonding within and across families. But while the Church grew with many more people attending our services, our landlord became disaffected. Despite explaining to him that the dual use was provided for within the lease agreement (although for office purposes) and that using our home for

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After each Sunday service, our congregation would climb up the staircase to interact and feast on any meal of that day.

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Church was temporary, he went ahead to serve notice of unwillingness to renew our lease on expiration. With that development came an urgent need to find a new home as well as finally settle into a proper Church facility.

Then a colleague of my wife, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai (former Governor of Kaduna State), was amazed and impressed with what he regarded as the selflessness of my Ministry to Prisoners which I was at that period carrying out at the Kuje Prisons. He therefore made a pledge to help us find a location for Church services and was instrumental to our being allowed the temporary use of then Sofitel Hotel (now NICON Luxury Hotel). The hotel was abandoned and vacant at the time but there were plans to complete the

How the Journey Started...



construction and furnishing for its use by the Federal Government to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government conference at the time. Fortunately, we were able to occupy and use one of the several halls at Sofitel up until the time we had to move out for its completion work.

During our time at Sofitel Hotel, we became aware of several ex-service (army) men who were sleeping on the streets. We designed a welfare programme to care for them. We fed them not only with the Word of God but also with food just as we met their other needs. So deprived were they that many of them would collect provisions such as clothing and Bibles and sell them to earn cash. It was a huge financial burden for us and the Church to care for those abandoned pensioners. But our welfare efforts led to

the salvation of some of them and their presence increased the membership of the Parish.

At some point, we decided that it was more convenient for the pensioners to have a Parish of the Church closer to their abode. We went on to establish a mission Parish for them and called it "Sought Out Parish" under Deacon Philip Yakubu. It was located within the shanty community behind the Abacha Barracks where majority of the pensioners lived.

Visiting their community brought us in close contact with pernicious poverty. That community was only 15 minutes from the seat of government and yet was one of the poorest places in Nigeria at the time. The children in the community were mostly out-of-school even though many of them were evidently very intelligent. So, we designed a school programme for them and focused on supporting their mothers in the trades and entrepreneurship for improved household income. And that began for us the phase of ministering to the poor that subsequently became core to the vision of TEAP.

When our time to vacate

the premises of Sofitel drew closer, we started a congregational prayer session with the theme, "Cry your Cry". As the Pastor, I would lead the corporate aspect of the prayer and ask our members to cry: "Oh God! Where do we take the church to now?" With church membership growing significantly in number, it was a troubling period for me.

Notwithstanding my apprehensions, I did not want to dampen the spirit of the members and so would speak with confidence and optimism on how God would hear our cries and grant us a great location. I would say to the congregation; "where God is taking us to, we will have a school as part of church premises". With that, I encouraged those saddled with responsibility of searching for the new location to look for places that could accommodate that dream.

The search was intense but it was very difficult and a trying period for me as the Pastor. I remember that at some point I was really deeply distressed as I no longer knew where to turn to since we were not making progress in finding a venue. On one service day, I laid flat



How the Journey Started...

on the church floor in Sofitel and cried out to God, telling Him that I was exhausted and overwhelmed and that I had no idea where to take the Parish in the coming days. That day, I got an assurance from God that He would take care of the situation. Rising up, I felt at peace in my spirit even without knowing whether there would be a manifestation of the promise.

In between this time and when we found the new location, we simply had to move out of Sofitel as the quit notice was definitive. So, we temporarily rented a place within Savannah Suites. That move resulted in declining membership since not many people were comfortable with an itinerant church. People generally do not like the idea of a 'Nomadic' church without a permanent address and so, many of the members left TEAP as we struggled to settle into a venue.

When God finally intervened, He did so through an unusual and very self-effacing gentleman who over the years has become family to us. My friend, who is in the business of estate management, not only helped with the search but was pivotal to the success we ultimately achieved when we found and secured the most suitable option

for the dream of locating a Church and starting a School consistent with the RCCG vision for Education.

Before the success, we had to despairingly revert to using our living room for week-day services because Savannah Suite was both too costly and inadequate for all our church needs. With that, we lost even more members! However, our spirit revived when our benefactor got involved and succeeded in finding a three-story building in Port Harcourt crescent in Garki that was the profile of what we needed for our vision of Church and School. When we began negotiating the rent it was the lowest and the cheapest among comparable

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When God finally intervened, He did so through an unusual and very self-effacing gentleman who over the years has become family to us.

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buildings. Even then, the cost was way beyond our capacity.

My prayer then was that God Himself should provide His own church premises. I would remind Him that I did not call myself into ministry and that since He called me, He should do what must be done. To make matters worse, after indicating our interest and were fretting about financing the lease, a government parastatal offered to pay more for the building. Then our estate manager, a friend who assumed that we had the resources to fully consummate the lease, called to know the status of our discussions with the landlord.

Buoyed by faith, I attended a meeting he had called with the agent and at the end of that meeting, found myself signing the lease agreement for the Parish tenancy based on his promise that payment would be made to the agent within the week. The Almighty God had answered our prayers in the most dramatic way. A few days later, he delivered the bank draft for the rent minus the agency fees which we could cover with our own resources and so we took possession of the building and named it 'Hebron House'. Prior to that it was just a numbered house but I had received a revelation

How the Journey Started...

and declared that “from this place, Hebron we will move to our permanent place.” We were further provided a John Holt 150 KVA generator and some air conditioners by my friend.

Looking back, I will say God has been very faithful. But of all the vessels he has used to support us in our Kingdom assignments; the one that still amazes the most up until now my very dear friend. Obviously, being in Estate Management, he had been positioned by our all-knowing God to be a support to His vineyard. I call him my Big Brother because he is elderly. I remember at a point he had health issues which he told me about. He said he wanted to travel out but was not sure of what the outcome would be and I told him to go and that he would come back. Of course, I just boasted in the Lord. I had to go and plead with God to honour my faith because the man had sown a precious seed into His kingdom. The Lord heard our prayers because the man indeed recovered.

As we settled into Hebron House and with much larger space and greater stability of church administration, church membership of TEAP grew more and more. The church was becoming known

in the city for being a place of worship for committed people who wished to hear the TRUTH of God’s word that as Christians we must be the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World. The Word was preached without restraint or compromise. Holiness and Christian integrity were the constant foundation of TEAP and the concept of Church beyond the walls guided our vision and programs.

As part of this, I charged the DARE Women Ministry of TEAP to lead some aspects of our Social Reformation agenda by establishing a nursery and primary school to advance the RCCG vision for parishes to establish mission schools across the world. The new school, known as Redeemer TEAP International School was enthusiastically received and began to grow over the two-year period and occupied part of the floors of the Church.

While at Hebron House there was an adjacent land owned by a prominent politician from the South-east. We approached him to consider selling it to us and it coincided with the first year’s expiration of our lease. We also needed to have a parking space. We thought that God wanted us to expand around the same location and so we wanted

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The Word was preached without restraint or compromise. Holiness and Christian integrity were the constant foundation of TEAP for the families they left behind

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to buy the land. We wrote to him and had a committee approach him after we had managed to raise some money. He misconstrued our intentions and refused to sell the land. We desperately needed a permanent place of worship with the expanding congregation as well as the school which was rapidly increasing in population.

It is instructive that church land was a major challenge generally in the city of Abuja in those years. At that period, there were not many churches in the city that were well located like the Family Worship Centre (FWC) with multiple facilities on their grounds. When I first visited FWC, I liked their location and as we took a walk around their premises,



The Unusual People



How the Journey Started...

I asked some of the workers how they managed to secure such magnificent location for Church building. When they responded that they had simply applied to the Federal Capital Authority (FCT), it gave me the idea that we also should apply for a church land and so we did. We asked for as much hectares as we imagined was the size of the Family Worship Centre.

That application went through a long and laborious process but ended up being successful. We were allocated the current location of TEAP for the Church's highly expanded mission school project. By this time, Port Harcourt Crescent on which Hebron House was located had become a cluster for hotels and night clubs and so the environment was becoming rather unhealthy for church activities. The challenge was how to rapidly construct structures for the school and a school hall for Church services on the TEAP School land. Yet, the alternative option of remaining at Hebron House was more challenging.

Instructively, because of the past record of God's faithfulness, by this time of need to embark on a church construction project we had learned to absolutely depend

on Him. Hence, when we were leaving Hebron House for the TEAP school land, we were faced with a trial of faith that we were confident would be surmounted with the help of our reliable God. This strong foundation of faith in the power of God to come through governed our credo as both a family and as leaders of RCCG--TEAP.

Integrity was and has ever remained the watchword of our Christian walk and so we steadfastly avoid any path of financial activities that fall short of the standard we set according to Biblical injunctions. When therefore some people suggested that since my wife was an influential figure in government, I should leverage the opportunity to embark on a church building project fund raising drive I vehemently rejected their counsel. Their suggested approach was not consistent with anything God had done for us in the past and He had not told me to change my usual total dependence on Him to accomplish His vision.

One Saturday in November, we did not only physically move into the TEAP school land, but we also had our first activity which was a wedding ceremony. Since it was conducted as an open-air

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service, we adopted the theme "Open Heaven" wedding ceremony. All subsequent Church services on the land were called Open Heaven events even as construction gradually begun through the individual contributions of members from the least to the greatest. Some of the members contributed by providing manual labour on the project site.

In the construction activities, among the many people of goodwill who played one role or another, we must specially commend the exceptional services of Pastor (Architect) Eze; who provided the building plan and drawings for TEAP school land without charging a fee as well as Pastor (Eng) Ikechukwu.

How the Journey Started...

When the first phase of the structures was completed, we rejoiced in the knowledge that God had once again come through with His provision for the Vision of a permanent worship place through the construction of TEAP School Hall. That He achieved it in the most unusual manner using ordinary members of the TEAP congregation who freely contributed as in the day of Prophet Ezra's

rebuilding of the Temple was the more remarkable. Such extraordinary outcome went a long way in strengthening the faith of everyone in the close knit TEAP family of worshippers.

For the TEAP Family, it was always ever about understanding the exceptional calling of God which by revelation makes us Unusual People who no matter where they find themselves,

know that they are a people specially chosen by God for unusual manifestation of His greatness. 25 years later, what began as a mustard seed of two and half families, has become a TEAP Zone of dozens of parishes with a strong family of people from all tribes and tongues spread across the land and yet glued together because we all are carried in His Everlasting Arms!

The TEAP People...



The Everlasting Family: Parishes That Grew from TEAP

1. Sought Out Parish was birthed in November 2003 with Pastor Nyaknno Osso and Bro Philip Yakubu in charge.

2. The Everlasting Covenant Parish located at Gwarinpa was birthed in May 2006 with AP Tokubie Alaye Ogan and Bro Eke Aki in charge.

3. The Everlasting Joy Parish located at Dutse Baupma was birthed in April 2007 with Pastors John Okubadejo and Segun Omotola in charge.

4. Peculiar People Parish located at Gidan Zakara was birthed in April 2007 with Deacon Francis Iwuajoku and Bro Ephraim Zaki in charge.

5. The Everlasting Light Parish located at Lugbe was birthed in November 2007 with Pastor David Itulua and AP Ngozi Onwuzuluin charge.

6. The Everlasting Life Parish located at Wuse Zone 6 was birthed in January 2008 with Assistant Pastors Eva Azodoh and Williams Onidarafunmi in charge.

7. The Everlasting Love Parish located at Durumi was birthed in January 2009 with Pastors Steve Ajudua and Ayodele Davies in charge.

8. Joshua Generation Parish located at Gwarinpa was birthed in February 2010 with Brother Sebastian Okonofua in charge.

9. The Everlasting Refuge Parish located at Asokoro was birthed in March 2010 with AP Wale Adekaiyaoja and Brother Sola Onalaja in charge.

10. The Everlasting Priesthood Chapel located at Gudu was birthed in July 2010 with Pastor David Itulua and Deaconess Deborah Adedokun in charge.

11. The Everlasting Dominion Parish located at Kurudu was birthed in July 2010 with Pastor Femi Obayemi and Bro Tony Ekanem in charge.

12. Flame of Fire Parish located at Florida USA was birthed in September 2010 with Pastor Gladys Nwankwo and Purvette Byrant in charge.

13. The Everlasting King Parish located at Wuse Zone 7 was birthed in August 2010 with AP Andrew Onyeankwe and Bro Funsho Ajayi in charge.

14. The Everlasting Gospel Parish located at Masaka was birthed in December 2010 with Pastor Favour Akpan and Brother Joseph Ajanaku in charge.

15. The Everlasting Truth Parish located at Wuse Zone 4 was birthed in January 2011 with Deacon Bolaji Teru and Brother Akin Olatunde in charge.

The Everlasting Family: Parishes That Grew from TEAP



16. The Chosen Generation Chapel located at Kuchingoro was birthed in February 2011 with Deacon Kola Oke in charge.

17. The Everlasting Testimony Parish located at Shamaki Keffi was birthed in April 2011 with Brother Ephraim Zaki in charge.

18. The Everlasting Mercy Parish located at Gwarinpa was birthed in March 2012 with AP Adeyinka Aladesanmi and Deacon Effiong Esu in charge.

19. The Everlasting Foundation Parish located at Asokoro Extension was birthed in April 2012 with Deacons John Okafor and Chikere Obi in charge.

20. The Everlasting Fortress Parish located at Kurudu was birthed in December 2012 with Deacon Godson Olumuyiwa and Brother Yakubu Fisse in charge.

21. The Everlasting Rock Parish located at Kabusa was birthed in March 2013 with AP Gbenga Ayodele-Davies and Deacon Ayodele Oni in charge.

22. The Everlasting Hope Parish located at Tunga Madaki was birthed in November 2013 with Deacon Eze Obasi and Brother Innocent Manasseh in charge.

23. The Everlasting Redeemer Parish located at Kaura District was birthed in April 2014 with AP Amaechi Azubuike and Brother Uko I. Uko in charge.

24. The Everlasting Arms Parish located at Texas USA was birthed in July 2014 with Pastors Gladys Nwankwo and Peter Fai in charge.

25. The Everlasting Father Parish located at Area 11, Garki was birthed in August 2014 with AP Eke Aki and Deacon Barry Mfon in charge.

26. The Everlasting Righteousness Parish located at Tunga Wakil was birthed in April 2016 with Brother Ukoh Essien-Ibok in charge.

27. The Everlasting Possession Parish located at Mpape was birthed in April 2016 with Deacon. Enoch Igwe and Brother Mike Akuka in charge.

28. The Everlasting Kindness Parish located at Tunga Samu was birthed in November 2016 with Pastor Deacon Alphonsus John and Brother Simon Nicholas in charge.

29. The Everlasting Grace Parish located at Piakasa Lugbe was birthed in April 2017 with AP Olabode Olagunju and Bro. Sunday Ape in charge.

30. The Everlasting Hill Parish located at Jahi was birthed on April 2018 with Pastor AP Steve Ekirigwe and Brother Victor Modupe in charge.

31. The Everlasting Salvation Parish located at Jabi was birthed in November 2018 with Deacon Seun Afolayan in charge.

THE EVERLASTING ARMS PARISH | TEAP

