



## Introduction

Dr. O. P. Opreh Chairman, BOT

s the harbingers of increasing natural disasters and distresses of diverse sorts are becoming more prevalent and uncontrollable, anxiety and perplexity are leading to panic states almost everywhere in the world. This is especially so as the strategies in place are no

match for the rapid rate of these events. In Nigeria, today, because there are so many diseases, casualties and deaths that Government and conventional healthcare institutions are unable to cope with there has arisen an urgent need to revert to the Creator-God's original blueprint for peaceful coexistence and health.

The testimonies shared in this magazine highlight some of the measures and this evolving country-living institution is the launch-out base.

Welcome to Elim Lands!

# Editorialcolumn



Vojta & Dorcas Ligenza Writer, Editor, Photography

Florence Callender **Fditor** 

**Joel Anthony Graphics Design** 

Elim Lands & SDA Hospital, **Ile-Ife, MMT Training Students** 

Writers - Testimonies

## Correspondence

For **ENQUIRIES**, **SUPPORT** or **DONATIONS**, please contact any of the following:

### **ELIM LANDS MISSIONARY** INITIATIVE

Ojudo, Oogi, Sekona/Ode-Omu Road, Osun State, Nigeria.

- © +234 813-632-7530
- info@elimlands.org
- www.elimlands.org
- +420 776-7715-02



Email: dynareal@gmail.com

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where the words and the works of God should be studied, and where the students should thus be fitted more and more fully to reflect, throughout endless ages, the light of the knowledge of His glory. *Education p. 22* 

Our ideas of education take too narrow and too low a range. There is need of a broader scope, a higher aim. True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the

spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.

#### Education, p. 13

The plan of the schools we shall establish in these closing years of the work is to be of an entirely different order from those we have instituted in the past. Special Testimonies Series B No.11 p. 28

Instead of educated weaklings, institutions of learning may send forth men strong to think and to act, men who are masters and not slaves of circumstances, men who possess breadth of mind, clearness of thought, and the courage of their convictions.

Such an education provides more than mental discipline; it provides more than physical training. It strengthens the character, so that truth and uprightness are not sacrificed to selfish desire or worldly ambition. It fortifies the mind against evil. Instead of some master passion becoming a power to destroy, every motive and desire are brought into conformity to the great principles of right. As the perfection of His character is dwelt upon, the mind is renewed, and the soul is re-created in the image of God. Education, p. 17



Testimony of Ronke

Each time I go home, I make it a habit to tell stories to the kids, from the Bible and about Ellen White. I use pictures and other materials to help them stick better. Through those kids in a little secluded village in Kogi state, God has opened my heart to the kind of selfless love expected of those who are to carry forward the work, with patience, as well as diligence.

when I get back to visit my parent's home every year. Watching the kids learn to read and write - sound out letters, and pronounce words - has been one of the most exciting things I've witnessed. Teaching them Christian songs and listening to them sing them eagerly while playing or relaxing never fails to bring smiles to my face.

I once taught the story of Ellen Gould White to the students and within a week, they were able to recite it, word for word! Imagine a Muslim community with children who know the story of Ellen G. White! Each time I go home, I make it a habit to tell stories to the kids, from the Bible and about Ellen White. I use pictures and other materials to help them stick better.

Through those kids in a little secluded village in Kogi state, God has opened my heart to the kind of selfless love expected of those who are to carry forward the work, with patience, as well as diligence. By his grace, the construction of a sanitarium is ongoing; to bring relief from suffering, and a knowledge of Christ, the ultimate healer, to the people in that little village and beyond. I am blessed to be an instrument in the Lord's hands.



fter studying the Spirit of Prophecy books with some other church members in Lagos for about threeand-a-half years, some of us were convicted of the need to leave the city of Lagos for country living. In the year 2010, after selling our humble house in Lagos, my entire family of five moved to a village in Kogi state as medical missionaries.

The beginning was difficult. We tried to homeschool our 3 young children, but it was not easy. We also thought of Hartland college in the United States of America, but the money was not there and also, they were underage. It was about this time that my wife travelled to Osogbo in Osun state. On the Sabbath, she went to church, and there she met Brother Vojta with his team, who had come to worship and promote a newly established medical missionary school at the Seventh-day Adventist hospital in Ife. My wife discussed with Vojta, our intention to send our children to medical missionary school. Later on, our first child, Ronke, was admitted to the school in ife.

One day, Brother Vojta called and asked us to look for a child (an orphan) in the village for sponsorship. We went round the village, but could not get a child because, at that time, many of the villagers were not comfortable with village that lacked basic amenities.

One night, a thought came to me that we could establish our own school. In the morning, I shared it with my wife, and she agreed with me. I then told Brother Vojta about our plan to establish our own nursery and primary school, and he liked the idea.

In 2013, we started the school with 8 children. a brother from Czech Republic sponsored 3 of the children, from the beginning of the school until now. Currently, we have about 80 children in the school. We also have another family in Ife that sponsors 12 children. Even, though the children were about 99% Muslim, we gave them Bible lessons and they sing Adventist hymns freely. Praise God!

Last year, I saw a need for me to acquire more knowledge in the medical missionary line, so I went back to school, and by God's grace, with other medical missionaries, we are forming a team to set up a standard Sanitarium in Kogi, the construction of which will commence this year. Amen.





We have come to a time when every member of the church should take hold of medical missionary work. Testimonies Vol. 7, p. 62

Let it ever be kept before the mind that the great object of hygienic reform is to secure the highest possible development of mind and soul and body. All the laws of nature — which are the laws of God — are designed for our good. Obedience to them will promote our happiness in this life, and will aid us in a preparation for the life to come. Counsels on Health, p. 386

Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God.

Christ, the soul becomes a conquering power.

Faith is a mightier conqueror than death. If the sick can be led to fix their eyes in faith upon the Mighty Healer, we shall see wonderful results. It will bring life to the body and to the soul.

In working for the victims of evil habits, instead of pointing them to the despair and ruin toward which they are hastening, turn their eyes away to Jesus. Fix them upon the glories of the heavenly. This will do more for the saving of body and soul than will all the terrors of the grave when kept before the helpless and apparently hopeless.



Victoria Adeyeye, I was introduced to the medical missionary work through my older sister (Modupeore). She trained first, and then my mum and my oldest sister. I would visit her, every day, from the Adventist High school I attended, since my school was close. We were close sisters, and I missed her at home. I used to follow her around the hospital and observe what they were learning in the classes. The outreach, the

things like poultices, water therapy, the vegetarian diet and its

Soon afterwards, I graduated from high school. While waiting for my results, I volunteered at the lifestyle center and was able to learn more about what they teach and do. As a result, I was able to make and sell some herbs to raise funds to go to a medical missionary school in Kenya. There I got to know more about God, and medical missionary

advantages.

thee with my eyes." This has been very true in my life. As I continue to learn, I see how health and the gospel go hand in hand, and how the medical missionary work is important to introduce and lead people to Jesus.

"Bless the Lord oh my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy Name, Bless the Lord oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits."

- PSALMS 103:1,2

Medical Missionary and Lifestyle

A Destiny Fulfillment Opportunity

Testimony by Funke

The most important thing is that Medical Missionary
Training and Lifestyle has really helped me to realize my calling in life, as it is also the right hand of gospel.

eing a member of this ministry has been a blessing to me and my family. My husband first heard about the training during the 2011 family camp meeting at Ede. When I started the training, many people were against me. Some even said there was nothing much about the program, but I was happy to do it just because I have an interest in doing new things. My heart is full today, because as a registered nurse, I can testify that the training has given me great opportunity above my colleagues, anywhere I have worked. The 2011 family camp in Ede, Osun State was actually a blessing.

When my now husband and I were dating, he wanted me to be a nurse - a caregiver, but I was interested in teaching. He had been looking for ways to redirect me into a way of serving God, which I also wanted but because of my circumstances, I felt I could not achieve.

One Sabbath during that momentous camp meeting, after the Sabbath School Crew left the stage, Elder Popoola, Chief Nursing Officer at the Seventh-day Adventists Hospital in Ile-Ife, along with his interpreter, came onto the stage to give announcement. It seemed as if the announcement was purposely for us. There was no time for any other item. Since it was time for the Divine Service to begin, they were hurried off the stage after briefly giving a few details about the

Lifestyle Program at the hospital. He then said, "If anybody is interested, see me after the service."

My then 'boyfriend', Zion Oyelade, was so determined to have the full gist of the program he met with Elder Popoola as announced. No one else but me registered for the Lifestyle Program because it was announced at the camp. With that decision came condemnation from relatives and friends. I became their special target.

By the grace of God, I became part of the program in January 2012. God also provided me with the opportunity to travel to Kenya with a colleague, Funmi, to conduct further studies at Bethesda Health Farm. The training was very helpful to me when God paved the way for me to get into Nursing in the year 2014, after my marriage to Zion. Today, I am more of a Lifestyle than an Orthodox Nurse. That would not have been possible if my heart, training and skills had not been engraved with the God-giving knowledge of Lifestyle health and healing.

The most important thing is that Medical Missionary Training and Lifestyle has really helped me to realize my calling in life, as it is also the right hand of gospel. I am able to direct sick people to God who is our creator, owner and giver of life. That was what I was known for at a private Hospital in Ijebu-Jesa, Osun State, where I officially started my career as a Nurse. The Medical head of the hospital wanted me to minister the word of God to his patients. As a result of testimonies

he heard from his clients, he loved the way I did my duties, and the difference I brought into the system. It was difficult for him to let me go after my three months commitment ended. From this training, I learned the value of contentment.

At another work assignment in Ilesa, my co-workers saw nothing wrong in demanding additional money from patients, after already paying the official fee for their treatment to the hospital. This they did, along with many other illicit acts. Although it seemed to be the norm, I refused to follow them. My rejection of their unlawful behaviour came with a cost. I was given a tough job to do and spent time working beyond my official hours. In addition, I had to take up duties of another person. God was perfecting my character, and my family was supportive of me. Little did I know that, through all of this, God was preparing me for a greater place. This same department nominated me as a Nurse Reliever for International Breweries PLC, Ilesa.

Not long afterwards, I got to know a man who had a diabetic's foot ulcer for more than five years. I sympathized with him. After treating him with natural remedies, to the glory of God, the wound dried up. In addition, many of the hypertensive patients were able to eliminate the drugs they were prescribed with my intervention. My medical missionary training has given me an edge above my colleagues anywhere I work. To God be the glory!



This word imparts power; accepted by the will, received into the soul, it brings with it the life of the Infinite One. It transforms the nature and re-creates the soul in the image of God.

he Holy Scriptures were the essential study in the schools of the prophets, and they should hold the first place in every educational system, for the foundation of all right education is a knowledge of God. Used as a textbook in our schools, the Bible will do for mind and morals what cannot be done by books of science and philosophy. As a book to discipline and strengthen the intellect, to ennoble, purify, and refine the character, it is without a rival.

God cares for us as intelligent beings, and He has given us His word as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Its teachings have a vital bearing upon our prosperity in all the relations of life. Even in our temporal affairs it will be a wiser guide than any other counselor. Its divine instruction points the only way to true success. There is no social position, no phase of human experience, for which the study of the Bible is not an essential preparation.

The grand truths of sacred history possess amazing strength and beauty, and are as farreaching as eternity. What more important knowledge can be gained than that which outlines the fall of man, and the consequences of that sin which opened the floodgates of woe upon the world; which tells of Christ's first advent? The incarnation of Christ, His divinity, His atonement, His wonderful life in heaven as our advocate, the office of the Holy Spirit–all these vital themes of Christianity are revealed from Genesis to Revelation. Each is a golden link in the perfect chain of truth. Why, then,

should not the Scriptures be exalted in every school in our land?

God is the author of science. Scientific research opens to the mind vast fields of thought and information, enabling us to see God in His created works. Ignorance may try to support skepticism by appealing to science; but instead of upholding skepticism, true science contributes fresh evidences of the wisdom and power of God. Rightly understood, science and the written word agree, and each sheds light on the other. Together they lead us to God by teaching us something of the wise and beneficent laws through which He works.

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, yet he said to Israel, "Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the Lord my God commanded me, that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people. For . . . what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons." Deuteronomy 4:5-9. Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 422, 426-428

y name is Uchenna Obasi. I want to express my gratitude to God on how He led me into medical missionary training in the Seventh day Adventist Hospital in Ile-Ife, Osun State. It all began in the year 2011, while I was still waiting for my admission into Ado Ekiti University study Literature and English studies, when our beloved minister, Pastor Sylvester informed me of the upcoming training in the hospital. He invited and told me that it would be nice if I could join the training. I automatically turned down his suggestion, because I was waiting for my admission into university.

Some days later, another person, Sister Glory, approached me with the same suggestion that I should attend the medical missionary training. She told me that I could enroll for the training while awaiting my admission, since I was not one hundred percent sure that I would be securing the admission. Sister Glory told me that I can abscond from the training if, along the way, I gained the admission into University. After her sincere persuasion and conviction, I decided to join the training.

I abandoned my business, since the training was an intensive one. It was a daily full-time program. It was indeed tough but interesting. It was tough in the sense that we had to wake up every morning for our personal devotion and later for general devotion. We attended classes every day except on Sabbath days. We engaged in

various physical labors like gardening, cleaning, painting, cooking, baking etc. It was also very challenging because we had to do many studies encompassing health courses, Bible courses, agriculture, Church history, studies on Ellen G. White writings etc. A few weeks into the training, I fell in love with it. I realized that the wonderful lessons and experience I was gaining, no university on this planet could teach. Finally, when the awaited admission lists came out, my name was missing. I was not given admission to the university that year.

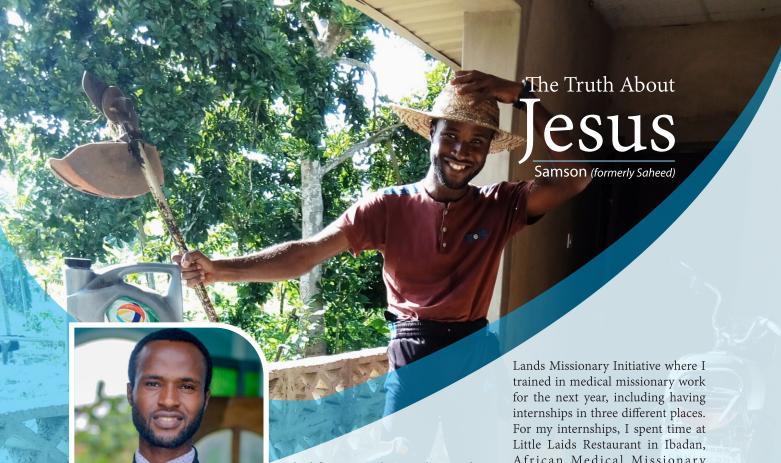
Nobody knows the reason why I was not given admission, because I did well in my entrance examination. When I went to inquire from the school management what happened to my name, they told me it was a pity that my name could not be found on the list of the people that participated in the exam. Without regret, I gladly returned and forged ahead with my medical missionary training. With much determination and effort, and by the grace of God, I graduated from the training in 2012, after which I went for extended practicals in Kenya for three months. There I received further training in Bible courses and organic farming. On my return from Kenya, I joined my teacher, now my best friend, Brother Vojtech Ligenza. I assisted him in handling some Bible classes with the next set of students.

It was also a very big privilege and experience for me, in 2014, to

visit one of the best medical missionary centers in Africa - Riverside Farm Institute, Zambia. Here I gained more knowledge on organic farming and the Bible, as well. I assisted them in the areas of farming, preaching and treatments in their wellness center, for the period of three months. The medical missionary training helped me so much in understanding the reason why God created me. It helped me to understand my place and role on this planet earth. It gave me a vision and a reason for experience.

The vision that I gained through the medical missionary training is that God created me for His glory, to serve humanity and point sin-sick men to the man of Calvary. It was the same vision that led me into the aspiration of securing basic and further education in the theological field. Today, I am a happy 4th-year student of Sola Scriptural Theological College in Hungary. It is my singular desire to encourage as many young and old people as I can, to get trained in medical missionary schools, to get spiritually fit and be prepared for service in the vineyard of the Creator.

All glory to God Almighty who made it possible for me to join the medical missionary work, and for all His love and mercy in my life. Special thanks to my dear minister, Pastor Sylvester, and to my kind and dear sister, Glory. May God bless you all and continue to use you for His own glory. Amen!



"In Jesus' Name," my mother would often call me by the nickname she gave me.

I grew up in a loving Islamic family. Though my family taught me to love God and to pray and sent me to a Quran school, I did not find the power in Islam to help me break my ungodly lifestyle and my addictions as a youth. Desiring freedom, God sent me information by bringing me in touch with the gospel of Christ. Shortly after, I found a power which hitherto I did not have. And I broke free!

"I want you to be a missionary." A silent voice said to me and grew stronger in my head.

Questions poured into my bewildered heart. What was this about? I understood God was calling me into some missionary work, but I could not wrap my mind around the terrifying idea. For the next year, I felt like Jacob who was wrestling with God because he feared for his life.

In 2015, the first time the Holy Spirit convicted me to become a missionary, I ended up in a hospital bed for two weeks, wondering what to do with the endless questions about my life and my family whom I dearly love. I wanted to give back to them for all their love and sacrifice in giving me a good education, but how could I do that as a missionary?

At this time, Nigeria was in a lingering economic crisis and that meant hard times for everyone. The idea of being a missionary scared me to death! I held a graduate degree. I had a good job with the federal government. Life was quite promising.

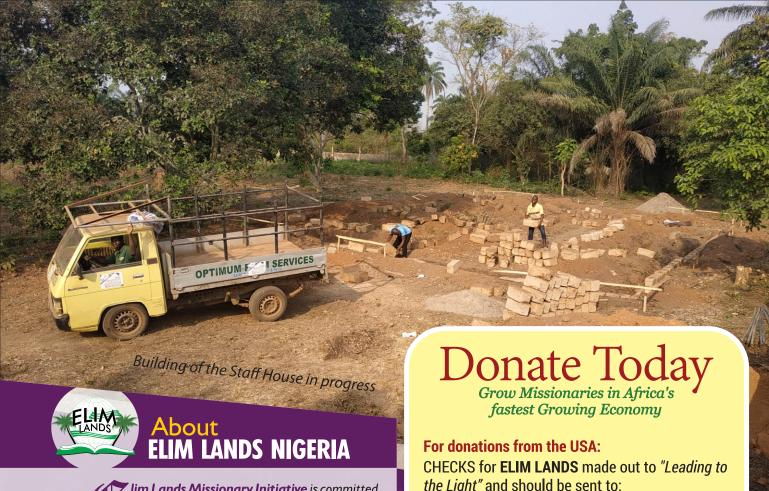
I tried valiantly to quiet the voice by reasoning that every Christian was a missionary, though in my heart, I knew God was calling me to a life of dedicated service outside of my comfort zone and nominal Christian life. Rather than obey, I took a 3-day intensive literature evangelism course and went back to my job. After work, I would spend time visiting people to share literature and the gospel with them. I also took literature to work and shared with my colleagues. I tried terribly hard to quiet my conscience!

But with God's help and much prayer, I broke free from my paralyzing fear and sought after God's true purpose and freedom. I resigned from my job and stepped out in faith into the unknown. Providentially, God led me to Elim Lands Missionary Initiative where I trained in medical missionary work for the next year, including having internships in three different places. For my internships, I spent time at Little Laids Restaurant in Ibadan, African Medical Missionary Institute in Porthacourt, and Ishaka Adventist Hospital Lifestyle Centre in Uganda. During this time, life was challenging and the future seemed uncertain. But God remained faithful to me and through His grace, I held on valiantly to His promises.

Two thousand years ago, the Apostle Paul declared, "Yea doubtless, and I count all things [but] loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them [but] dung, that I may win Christ," (Philippians 3:8).

Two years after my leap of faith, God opened the doors for me to study media ministry at Hartland College in the United States on a missionary scholarship. Today, doors are opening for missionary work in Nigeria, where I personally see a huge potential for the proclamation of the three angels' messages—the everlasting gospel of Revelation 14. The time for preparation for the soon return of Jesus Christ seems very ripe in Nigeria, as it does in other parts of the world.

Every day, I am progressively discovering God's will for my life as a missionary. And life has never been more meaningful, happy, and fulfilling!



Iim Lands Missionary Initiative is committed to the training of youth in spreading the gospel through the medical missionary work. Since 2016, this organization has trained more than 60 medical missionaries for the country of Nigeria. These youth are trained in many areas of life, from vocational work (carpentry, welding, bricklaying, farming, tiling, and trading) to helping the sick to recover (through the use of natural remedies, health expos, community health surveying, health education, home care services, and natural health food production). They are also trained in how to give Bible studies and are well-versed in the Scriptures. Our training school encourages the young people of Nigeria to use all their God-given faculties to touch souls and to generate income for themselves, as unemployment is increasing day by day, leaving the youth idle and useless and later leading to an unhealthy influence in society.

We have come to the point in Earth's history where we need to prepare more gospel workers than ever before. Every day we see the reasons why we are called to serve in Nigeria. For over 9 months we were not able to travel to Nigeria due to the lockdown, but we have seen God's providence in lifting the travel bans. In October we were finally able to travel back to Nigeria, where many potential missionaries awaited our return. Praise God!

We want to thank you in advance for your prayers and financial support.

Yours in service,

Dorcas Ligenza

www.elimlands.org

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