

Brief Biography of Pastor Amos Zubairu Tsado
General Overseer, Nupe Kalvari Church, Minna, Nigeria

Humble Beginning

To God be the glory, honour and adoration. Pastor Amos. Z. Tsado was born in 1947 at Kuchita – Woro compound in Doko, Lavun Local Government Area of Niger State to the family of Baba Joshua Shaba Tsado and Madam Felicia Kaka Tsado. The parents of Amos were professional rural farmers; thus he was being trained from childhood in the art of farming.

Pastor Tsado got married to the Great Woman behind his success in his life on the 27th December 1973. This loving, cheerful, courageous and industrious woman is Margaret Teni Tsado (nee Sokomba), Chief Budget and Planning Officer, Niger State Government. At his death, Pastor Amos was survived by six children, ten foster children and six grandchildren.

Educational Background

The Anglican Church opened a Primary School in Doko to cater for the children of both Christians and non-Christians in the Doko District catchment area. The parents took advantage of the mission school and sent the young Amos to start the journey of his formal education. Thus, Pastor Amos started his Junior School Education at St Peter's Anglican Primary School Doko from 1956 to 1959. On completion of the junior school he proceeded to St. John's Anglian Primary School Bida from 1960 to 1962 for his Senior Primary Education. Thereafter, he was successful at the common entrance examination and admitted for the secondary education at Government College Bida from 1963 to 1967. He proceeded to Government College Kano from 1968 to 1969 for the pre-university Higher School Certificate (HSC).

In 1970 he left Nigeria for Kuban Agricultural University, Krasnodor USSR to study Agriculture. He had to abandon his studies in Russia early in 1973 due to ill health. However, he was determined to obtain a university education. Therefore, he enrolled into Ahmadu Bello University in October 1973 in the Faculty of Agriculture, where he graduated in June, 1976 with a B. Sc. Animal Science. In March, 1978 he left the shores of Nigeria again for the International Agricultural Centre (I.A.C.) Wagenigen-Hollandin The Netherlands for the Post Graduate Certificate Course in Diary Cattle Husbandry. While in the Netherlands, he also attended short courses in Animal Husbandry and Dairy Production in Germany and Poland. Despite the challenges in Niger State in the 1970s, Pastor Amos was determined to improve his performance as a civil servant. Consequently, he attended several seminars, workshops, managerial and professional courses as a civil servant.

Work Experience

Pastor A. Z. Tsado started his working experience as a Science Teacher at Government Secondary School Danbata, Kano State after his HSC course in December 1969. As a result of the political division of Nigeria into twelve semi-autonomous State, Amos took up a teaching appointment with the former North Western State Government and taught briefly on arrival from Russia in 1973. He was posted to Government Farm Center Talata Mafara as Science Teacher. Later, while a student at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, he took up appointment as a part-time Lecturer at the College of Agriculture, Samaru,

Zaria. One of his students at Samaru Zaria is the present Emir of Minna, His Royal Highness Alhaji (Dr) Umaru Faruk.

Pastor Tsado served at the Government Livestock Farm Atali, near Port-Harcourt in Rivers State for the 1976/77 National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) year. After his national service Pastor Amos decided to serve his home State and accepted employment with the Niger State Government as Animal Husbandry Officer. In addition to caring for animals under his responsibility, he spearheaded the production of cow milk yogurt at the Minna Farm Center as part of improvement the quality of life of Niger State population.

While in active service of the Government, Pastor Tsado was involved in a ghastly motor accident in September 1978 along Bida-Wushishi Road with his Peugeot 404 car, which nearly claimed his life. Though the accident was ghastly and the car was almost written off, he miraculously survived by the grace of God Almighty. And continue his responsibilities.

After serving actively for 16 years, he voluntarily retired from Government Service to take up the responsibility in Christian Ministry in God's service, with effect from 1st August 1993. His retirement was as a result of the special vision he received on 1st April 1993 in the Hotel Room in Faslak Hotel, Apapa, Lagos, while attending National Board meeting of the Bible Society of Nigeria.

Christian Life and Ministry

Pastor Tsado accepted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour early in his life. In his Primary and Secondary days, he was very close to the Late Rev. Canon J. N. Angulu, who greatly influenced the young Amos. He assisted Rev. Angulu as a Sunday School Teacher in his Primary and Secondary School days. He was the Church Prefect at the Senior Primary School, and President of the Fellowship of Christian Students in the final years of Secondary School and HSC. While in Russia and Holland he led his colleagues in Christian activities.

Pastor A. Z. Tsado was a life member of the Bible Society of Nigeria. And one of those who fought relentlessly for the creation of Niger Area from the former Kaduna area. For almost a decade he was the Chairman and National Board member of Niger Area of the Bible Society of Nigeria. He has always been an active member in one position or the other in the Executive of Christian Association of Nigeria, Niger State Chapter. He is one of the foundation member of Nupe Christian Fellowship of Nigeria and actively involved in the Minna Branch activities. He is a key member of Nupe Christian Literature Committee. Consequently, he was the Chairman of the "Tswangi Woro" magazine, a popular publication of the Nupe Kalvari Church of Nigeria. He is the author of "NDADUMA" a compilation of "2000 Proverbs and wise sayings of Nupe People", which has been launched. He has contributed greatly to the development and improvement of Nupe literacy standard.

Pastor A. Z. Tsado is the Chairman of the Board of Pastors of Nupe Kalvari Church of Nigeria and did all humanly possible to see that the Church is registered with the Federal Government of Nigeria. His dream on 1st October 1991 of a Nursery and Primary School for the Church became true in 1997 to the glory of God. He is also the Patron to the Church Choir.

He was ordained both as Pastor and the pioneer General Overseer of Nupe Kalvari Church on 2nd July, 2000. As chairman of the Pastors' Forum, he taught simplicity, fearlessness in preaching, care for the

widows and orphans and the passion to deliver Nupeland. He taught Holiness and living at peace with fellow humans whenever and wherever we find them.

Pastor Tsado is a lover of sports. In all the schools he attended he was a sport-star. He represented his schools and even the former Northern Nigeria in athletics and volley ball. For two years, 1968 and 1969 he was the athletics captain for Kano State. His other hobbies are farming and building.

Conclusion

Pastor A. Z. Tsado had fought the good fight. He had finished his course and have kept the Faith. Indeed, he had laid a solid foundation for us to follow in his steps in Pastoral Ministry. He has trained and challenged us to be sacrificial, humble, discipline and to be zealous into every good work. A burden bearer, a man with fire in his bones even in his weakest point. God's grace was sufficient for him. He maximizes the grace of that the Lord bestowed on him. The challenge is: What are you doing with the grace of God upon your life? Please do not turn it to lasciviousness nor receive it in vain" (Pastors of Nupe Kalvari Church of Nigeria, 2018)

Edited by

Barnabas Yisa
Former Secretary NCFI