

## **A Brief Biography of Late Rev. Peter Kolo Audu**

**(Church District Superintendent, UMCA Central District, Mokwa)**

### **Early Years and Education**

The Rev. Peter Kolo Audu (a.k.a Baba Eli) was born in Kpaki in Mokwa Local Government Area of Niger State in the year 1916. He was born to the family of Mallam Audu and Mallama Abetu (a.k.a Kaka Chiji). Rev. Peter Audu was the last child, out of the five children of the Mallam Audu's family. His father was called Mallam and the mother Mallama as they were a Muslim family.

However, in 1942 God called Rev. Audu into His field as the harvest was plenty and there was great need for workers in the Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He left Kpaki at the ripe age of 26 years by foot to Mokwa where he joined the missionary for the work in the mission station. He served the missionaries as a houseboy until 1951.

Thereafter, Rev Audu was taken to the Bible School Tsaragi in the present Kwara State as the first batch of students of the school. He completed the two years Bible course and obtained the First Leaving Certificate in 1952. He was posted as the Pastor to UMCA Church in Muwo in Niger State. Within the same year, he got married to his beloved first wife, late Mrs. Phebe Azara Kolo (a.k.a Mama Eli). His marriage with Phebe was the first to be conducted in a Christian way in Kpaki. In his quest for further education, he proceeded to the Bible School in Tunga Magajiya in 1954 where he obtained Advanced Certificate in 1956. After graduation, he returned to Muwo to continue with his pastoral work. Then he was sent for training in Kaduna for six months on how to take care of leprosy patients that were introduced to Christ. He returned to Muwo for a short while and proceeded to the Bible School Tsaragi, as the Principal of the School. By 1962, he returned to Muwo to continue his pastoral responsibilities. And in 1963, he remarried to his second wife, Mrs. Lois Hasana Kolo. After three years in Muwo Rev Audu was transferred back to Tsaragi as a Principal in 1965 fo the Bile School. There he spent four years and in 1969, he was transferred to U.M.C.A Church, Bacita in Kwara State. He ministered to the faithful and shepherd god's people in Bacita on till 1971 when he got transferred to Egbian. He spent three years in Egbian with meritorious service till 1974.

### **Church Leadership**

Rev. Audu (Baba Eli) was elected as the Church District Superintendent (CDS) for the Central District, that covered the current separated Mokwa and Tsaragi Districts. Consequently, he moved from Egbian to UMCA Headquarters in Mokwa to take up the

responsibility of the Church District Superintendent. After completing his first term of three years, Rev. Audu was re-elected for the second as well as the third times. Due to his hard work, dedication and God oriented service, he was re-elected several times to continue as the C.D.S of the District. A post he held altogether for 18 years. Making him the longest serving C.D.S in the history of the Mokwa District. Thereafter, he was transferred to Tsaragi as Principal, to once again reinvigorate the school. He provided required leadership to the school for three years and retired from active service in 1993.

### **Retirement**

He settled in Mokwa after his retirement. However, he only retired but was not tired as he continued with his pastoral work but on voluntary service and on invitations. He was also appointed as a member of the U.M.CA Board of Trustee, on which he served until 1999 when he became ill and no longer active in service. During his service years with the missionaries, he made efforts in collaboration with Pastor Abel, the first C.D.S of the then Central District for the missionaries to visit Kpaki village. The effort and visits were profitable and resulted in the establishment of the first Primary School in Kpaki for the formal education of children in the community. He planted many Churches in both the present Mokwa and Tsaragi Districts. Some of the churches he planted include those in Ibba, Kaniyan, Mawokpan, Lialia, just to mention a few. Very significant, Rev. Peter Kolo Audu trained and mentored many Pastors who served and are currently serving in U.M.C.A and other denominations like ECWA.

He was a spiritual father and guidance to many people, an adviser, a counselor and an associate. His closest friends were Rev. James Majin (Baba Joy), Rev. Joseph Saba, Rev. John Kolo Egbian, Pastor Peter Ndace Kpaki and Pastor Paul Abubakar.

Rev. Peter K. Audu made it a way of life to be always guided by the word of God in the Holy Scripture. He loves studying and meditating on the word of God. He often uses the word of God for directing his immediate family and all those he came in contact with. He very much attached himself to the commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ, particularly the Lord's instruction that we should love one another and stayed in peace with everyone. Throughout his lifetime, Rev. Audu (Baba Eli) was never seen or heard quarrelling with anybody, either in his spiritual work or his community. He was rather known for his smile, jokes, compassion and word of encouragement with everyone around him. He left a legacy and is remembered for his humility, generosity, peace loving, sincerity, kindness and passion for his people to receive Christ.

### **Farming Activity**

Rev. Audu never forgot his root and background and thus he was very good in farming and engaged in it throughout his life time. However, he farmed for his family consumption due to commitment to his primary calling of Pastoring in the Vineyard of the Lord. He also planted economic trees that include mangoes, banana, guava, oranges, kolanut and locust bean tree. Planting trees is a heritage of his people, as he comes from a forest community (Kusopa). A good testimony he left behind is that all the trees in his present compound were planted by him.

### **Call to Glory**

After all this active and passive service, Baba Eli was called to glory on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 at exactly 12:20 pm. He was survived by an aged wife, nine children, 19 grandchildren and other relations too numerous to mention. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace at the bosom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Amen)

*(Note: Above is an excerpt from UMCA note on biography of Rev. Peter Kolo Audu, written in June 2008)*