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TB Joshua's Deception

manipulation and voodoo acts" – Former Prophet

By Solomon Izang Ashoms

After we ran the first part of the story on TB Joshua in our last issue, I received a threat through a telephone call from the Synagogue church of All nations in Lagos, Nigeria with the promise to "sort me out", blackmails by TB Joshua's loyalist and partners both in and outside of South Africa.

TB Joshua himself went on his TV programme to talk about the article written in Parable Magazine. As a magazine, we believe in fairness and objectivity. We did our best to get a response from TB Joshua regarding the allegations leveled against him. But all we received were DVDs, books, and magazines about him from a member of TB Joshua's staff here in Johannesburg, Shaun, whom I spoke to three times. So in this issue we bring you an interview with Godwin Paul Agomoh. Godwin was the deputy prophet to TB Joshua and served the "ministry" for 11 years before his decision to leave.

Up until 2005, Godwin Agomoh Paul was the pastor of the Ghana Branch of The Synagogue Church of All Nations headed by the controversial TB Joshua. He recently blew the whistle on his former boss along with other ex-devotees in a video documentary where they accused their former leader of grand deception, manipulation and voodoo acts. He shares in this interview why he is speaking out now.

You left The Synagogue some four years ago. Why are you speaking out now?

Actually, when I left I started all over with my life. I am married and have settled down to my own calling. I was comfortable and I did not intend to go after Joshua. But inside me I could not shake off this pain that overwhelmed me each time I saw them carrying on with all these tricks. I could not shake off the fact that many people were still being deceived and the number continued to increase. I became restless. My spirit continued to convict me to do something about it. I was part of this deception and I know a lot! This for me is not a revenge mission neither is it a personal vendetta.

I am only obeying the voice of the spirit of God. When the pressure to do something became too much to bear, I began to pray. It was in the place of prayer that God gave me direction on what to do. I feel that I am duty bound to do what I am doing now and if I fail God, He will not forgive me and I will never have rest of mind. I know the implications. I am aware Joshua will not leave any stone unturned to try and eliminate me. Those who have dared him, I know what he did to them. So I knew the risk before I plunged in but I cannot compare the risk with eternal life. The Bible says

we should not be afraid of those who kill only the flesh and cannot touch the spirit but we should be afraid of God who kills both the flesh and the spirit. Even if he succeeds in killing me today, I know that I have the full forgiveness of God. Part of the standards for forgiveness with God is confessing your sin. Since I embarked on this I have been free. I sleep well, I eat well, I think well and I am in union with the Spirit.

It is alleged you left the church because of the death of the lady you wanted to marry.

Nana's death did not precipitate my leaving. It was just one of the things that happened as I was planning to leave. Everything came to a head and I knew I had to leave when I discovered that T. B. Joshua was a liar, an adulterer, and a wicked man. I never knew he was all these when I was a disciple. He operated by divide and rule. In Synagogue we had two levels of messages; one for the disciples and one for the congregation. What he gave the congregation differed from the message he gave us. His dealings with each disciple must remain exclusive to each one of them. They must not



TB Joshua is a fraud

tell each one another. All the disciples had personal relationship with him that no other person is privy to. It was a big crime for any two disciples to stand together and discuss for two minutes. If they were found, they would be sent to face panel and explain what they were discussing. I was the head of that panel. You could be there for ten years and all you would know is what he used you for; you would not know what he used others for. Everyone kept his dealings with Joshua secret. In all those ten years, I did not know T. B. Joshua slept with those girls. I got to know when I was contemplating leaving. That revelation made me resolute to leave. I could not continue to stay in the devil's den when all the while I thought I was worshipping God.

So why did you leave?

The real reason I decided to leave had to do with Pastor Kayode Peters who was the pastor in charge of Ghana's branch. TB Joshua recalled me from an assignment in Benin Republic (West Africa) and told me that Pastor Kayode in Ghana had rebelled and gone with members to start his own church called Awakener's Chapel in Kotobabi, Accra. We went to Ghana in 1997 to hold a crusade. At the end of the crusade, Kayode was left behind in Ghana to start a fellowship; from there the church was established. From 1997 to 2004, Kayode's wife was in Lagos with Joshua in the Synagogue church. She was never allowed to visit her husband. In 2004, he sent Kayode's

wife to go and visit her husband in Ghana. When she got there, the husband refused to sleep with her. Kayode was suspicious of the move because Joshua had separated him and his wife for over six years.

In the interim, Kayode had secretly married a Ghanaian lady with whom he had two children. Kayode also claimed that he knew Joshua was sleeping with his wife, and that was why he kept her in Lagos for those years. When Joshua heard about Kayode's refusal to sleep with his wife, he invited both of them to Lagos. Then he instructed Kayode to go and bring his stuff from Ghana and stay in Lagos for a while until the differences between them were resolved. But when Kayode returned to Ghana he refused to come back to Lagos. Instead, he went to start his own church and many members followed him. From a membership of about 2,000 only about 20 members remained in the church. This infuriated Joshua. He sent a junior prophet Ben to Ghana; he could not do anything. That was when I came in. I don't know what instruction he gave Ben till today. Whatever he told you nobody must know. It was an order. Once you defied it you were a rebel and that meant trouble. My own assignment was to go to Ghana and bring Pastor Kayode dead or alive. I knew I could bring him back alive but I did not know how to bring him back dead. This was in 2004.

I got some of the elders to get me Kayode's file from the immigration office. That was when I discovered he had married a Ghanaian lady and fathered two children with her. He had established an NGO that the government recognised and was even given awards for the work he was doing. I also discovered that Kayode had established Awakeners Chapel two years back. Every legal means of bringing him back was futile. I returned. I made my findings known to Joshua but he was not pleased and he told me to find any means of bringing him back. I tried to make contact in the military but they told me they could not do anything. Even if he committed a crime he could not be repatriated. He would be charged

and prosecuted as a citizen. I was told. I decided to try the 'Niima boys' (A notorious violent gang). I was hoping to find some thugs who could do a dirty job. I met a Chief Nene who was to be a contact. I met him and the Niima boys. I was told that day Kayode sent texts to the remaining few members of Synagogue on why Joshua was persecuting him. He disclosed that he remarried because he knew Joshua was sleeping with his wife. That text shocked me so much. I took a member's handset and brought it to Lagos to show him (Joshua). He just dismissed it casually. His action not only shocked but also snapped me out of my stupor. I know Joshua; if that allegation had no truth he would not have taken it lightly. He would go on the offensive with everything he had. It was at this point I began to think.

I still had the assignment to resuscitate the Synagogue in Ghana so I came up with a plan that we needed to hold a crusade in Ghana in order to grow back the church. I was in Lagos in TB Joshua's office putting finishing touches to the crusade plan when Lola, Kayode's wife, came into his office. I noticed the lady was pregnant and I couldn't help but point out to TB Joshua that the lady was pregnant. Again he dismissed me and commanded that I face the task on hand. After that, I felt very bad. It began to dawn on me that things were not what it seemed. If you watched the video he released, you would see the part where I was telling the church in Ghana that T. B. Joshua was coming for the crusade. With those announcements both on the T.V and the radio, people began to flock back to the synagogue. I gave about four different dates on which he would come but all that was a fluke. We did that to see the clout his name will bring. A lot of people came back.

Part of the plan was also to prepare some miracles on ground for him. One of them was Elizabeth Gardner, a lady who had some spinal cord problem. She was already undergoing treatments. She had a physiotherapist who attended to her and she could still move. We >



convinced her to lie on a bed as if she was bedridden. During the crusade the woman came on a stretcher and she got up walking. However she walked the same way she had been walking before we met her. No miracle took place. It was a fluke. But her case brought a lot of popularity to Joshua. Before the day of the crusade, I went to meet with him in Lagos to brief him on the final arrangements for the crusade including the arranged miracles. As I was briefing him, one of the girls ran to his office to tell him Lola was having miscarriage. It was as if an alarm went off in my head. I knew Kayode did not sleep with his wife when she visited. I also knew that nobody would dare sleep with any female disciple. So who impregnated Lola? As I returned to Ghana, I was deeply troubled indeed. I realised Kayode's text was a fact. For days I was miserable. Finally I made a decision to leave Synagogue. But I had many hurdles to cross.

The first thing you must do when you join the Synagogue is that you renounce your family. I refused to see my elder brother who came to visit me once. In fact he was lifted physically and thrown out of the premises. Another close friend of mine visited and I refused to see him. So I had no family, no friends. I had severed contact with everybody. At that time, I was 42 years old and single. I began to pray for a wife. Then I met Nana; I proposed to her and she agreed. I had to inform T. B. Joshua so I came to Lagos and told him. All hell was let loose. No other disciple had the guts to do that. As a disciple you dared not talk about marriage. And if you came married you would be separated from your wife as soon as you became a disciple. The disciples who were married before coming in were very few. Even then they could only be given a pass to visit their wives once or twice a year. He was very angry with me over Nana. He incarcerated me in church for over four months. He sent people to go and bring my things from Ghana. I was not allowed to go back myself. This was about late September. No disciple was permitted to greet or talk to me.

Joshua sent a number of people to

convince me to change my mind on marriage. He sent them to tell me I would be posted to South Africa if I complied but I still refused. After all that, he told me he has agreed to my decision and that I could bring Nana for his approval. Nana came on December 31st 2004 and stayed in the church for two weeks. Every day, he (Joshua) would go out with her on a tour of the church as well as the old site. I did not think anything was wrong with that after all he was my leader. Nana went back to Ghana and we arranged to meet her family. Shortly before we could visit, the girl fell sick, was taken to the hospital



Allagallions by Godwin Agomoh Paul

where she died. I went to him and told him I was leaving. I took my bag and left. Nobody could stop me because as the number two prophet I also commanded a measure of respect and I was ready to kill whoever tried to stop me.

It is difficult to believe that all this while you never knew Joshua was a liar, deceiver or adulterer as you claim. After all, you also participated in the fake miracles. How can you say you did not know he was a liar?

You need to understand that deception does not happen in one day. It takes years. He used to tell us that there are generations, and that he is of the Jesse generation. And the Jesse generations are never guilty of sin. If he did anything wrong, he would be acquitted of his sin while any other person who tried it would be held responsible. Whatever we did on his behalf was not a sin, he told us.

As for the arranged miracles he told us it was to help the faith of others in the congregation to rise. We believed we were helping people to reach the point where they could receive what God could do.

I refused to leave after the first week because I saw a lot of things that did not add up. For example, you had to obtain a pass before you could sleep and you sleep for the number of hours written on your pass. If you exceeded the hours you would be chained and beaten with horsewhips. Other times a bucket of paint would be poured on you while chained. The implication was that you needed kerosene to wash off the paint. But he (Joshua) showed me extra love and care. I was never treated or grouped with these other disciples. I was housed in a room that contained only four people. By that time the hostel had not been built. People used to sleep in makeshift, tent-like structures. He had an agenda where I was concerned and he warned everybody to treat me with extra care. I found a lot of favour with him. That favouritism deadened my conscience. I remember a young girl that was accused of having a boyfriend. It was a lie in the first place; he just wanted to make an example of someone as a deterrent to others. The girl was brought in to our disciples meeting; stripped naked and ground pepper mixed with water was inserted into her vagina. We were so deadened in our conscience that we enjoyed watching the girl suffer like that. At this point I had become so deadened in my conscience and insensitive to people's suffering. Please make no mistake; we had been brainwashed and hypnotised into his system! The day I came to my senses, it was like something hit me on the head.

What is this noise about Joshua and Pastor Chris Oyakhilome?

It is very necessary because Chris Oyakhilome validated Joshua. Before he came to the Synagogue, we were battling with how to win the affirmation of other Pentecostal ministers. The ministers coming then were those from spiritual churches like the Celestial church. No genuine Pentecostal/Charismatic



minister came. When T. D. Jakes was visiting Nigeria he sent a letter to the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria (forum for all Pentecostal churches in Nigeria) that they should explain to him who Joshua was otherwise he would visit him as he had heard a lot about him. PFN replied that Joshua was not a Christian, and therefore not a member of the association. That pained Joshua and he decided that the way out was to punch a hole in their rank. In synagogue we don't watch other television stations, or read newspapers; we only watch our church programmes.

He sent for me one evening to come and watch Pastor Chris who was on air. He ridiculed him and ran him down saying he was an amateur who wanted to perform miracles. At the end of the programme, he asked one of the disciples to call the number on the screen. The call went through and he requested to speak with Pastor Chris. He flattered him, told him how impressed he was with his programme and the healings and miracles. At the end of the conversation, Pastor Chris promised to visit the Synagogue. Immediately, he told us to get all the journalists on our pay roll and instructed the visitor's coordinating zone to fix cameras everywhere even outside the gate so that if Pastor Chris gets only as far as the gate the visit would be captured. That was what we did. The journalists were briefed. And they were told what they would write and release to Nigerians. The day was a fun fare; Joshua took Pastor Chris to every part of the Synagogue. Afterwards Pastor Chris drove Joshua to the old site. What happened there I was not privy to. By the way, we gave different conflicting stories to the journalists so that there will be confusion in the minds of the readers. Every story you read about that incident was given to the journalists by us. The strategy was to complicate and confuse the matter. We had about six different versions of the story. We orchestrated it. The question we wanted to raise in the minds of the people is "If T. B. Joshua is not of God why did Pastor Chris go there? That means Pastor Chris also is not of God".



TB Joshua at the Synagogue

After that visit, Pastor Chris came again on a Wednesday during a Blood of Jesus Service. Pastor Chris visited at various times after the first visit and he and Joshua used to drive alone to the old site (where the shrine was). The relationship had blossomed before Pastor Chris was invited to the Blood Service. That was the day they both prayed for the allegedly crippled man. In reality the man only had multiple sclerosis that sometimes made him fall at any time. That was why he went around in a wheelchair to prevent accidents that could cost him his life. The man was reported to be crippled and Joshua invited Pastor Chris to pray for him. Now when Joshua wanted to transfer power to his disciples he would put his hands on their back. That was exactly what he did to Pastor Chris. So if you watch the video of power transfer to the disciples and that of Pastor Chris there is no difference. It was deliberate. By the way the man walked the same way he would normally walk. The distance we recorded in the testimony was not more than what he would do in his house. When it was time to pray for the long emergency line, Joshua invited Pastor Chris to go inside the ring and join the rest of us junior prophets while he stood by. It was deliberate; that automatically put Pastor Chris in the ranks of the junior prophets while he stood by as the leader and supervisor. Immediately after Pastor Chris's visit Pentecostal Pastors began to come to the Synagogue.

Tell us about the hand and leg movements you do during so-called healing sessions.

That is the spiritual aspect. The main power flow has nothing to do with the hand movement. What you see on the television is a deception at its best. When you are filled with that power, if you open your eyes and fixed your gaze on the recipient of healings or whatever, you can see when the person's spirit will leave the body. At that point, whatever you think in your mind as you fix your gaze on that person is what the person would do. If you want the person to confess that he killed his mother, it shall be so under that influence. And when the spirit returned they could not remember anything. We used those hand and leg movements with a deep penetrating gaze to control the human body. Sometimes when a person was falling and we observed he could injure himself we could move the person either from falling or away from any dangerous object with our mind. It's pure hypnotism. I can say that I was personally initiated but I cannot speak for others because I cannot substantiate with evidence.

But Pastor Chris and Joshua drove alone to the old site where his shrine is on top of the pond or swamp. What transpired there I cannot say since I was not there. But the much that I was privy to I have divulged. I was initiated in that shrine. We call it mountain. Everyone of the junior prophet has a personal hut in that shrine. We don't call it a shrine; we call it a mountain, just like every other church consecrates a particular place as their prayer mountain. There is a general place where other members can camp but there is also a special place where only Joshua could go. Next to Joshua were late Prophet Benson and myself. Only the two of us were initiated and given access to the first level of spiritual operation. He told us he had ten levels, but we only got as far as the first level. □

Additional info from Life way magazine