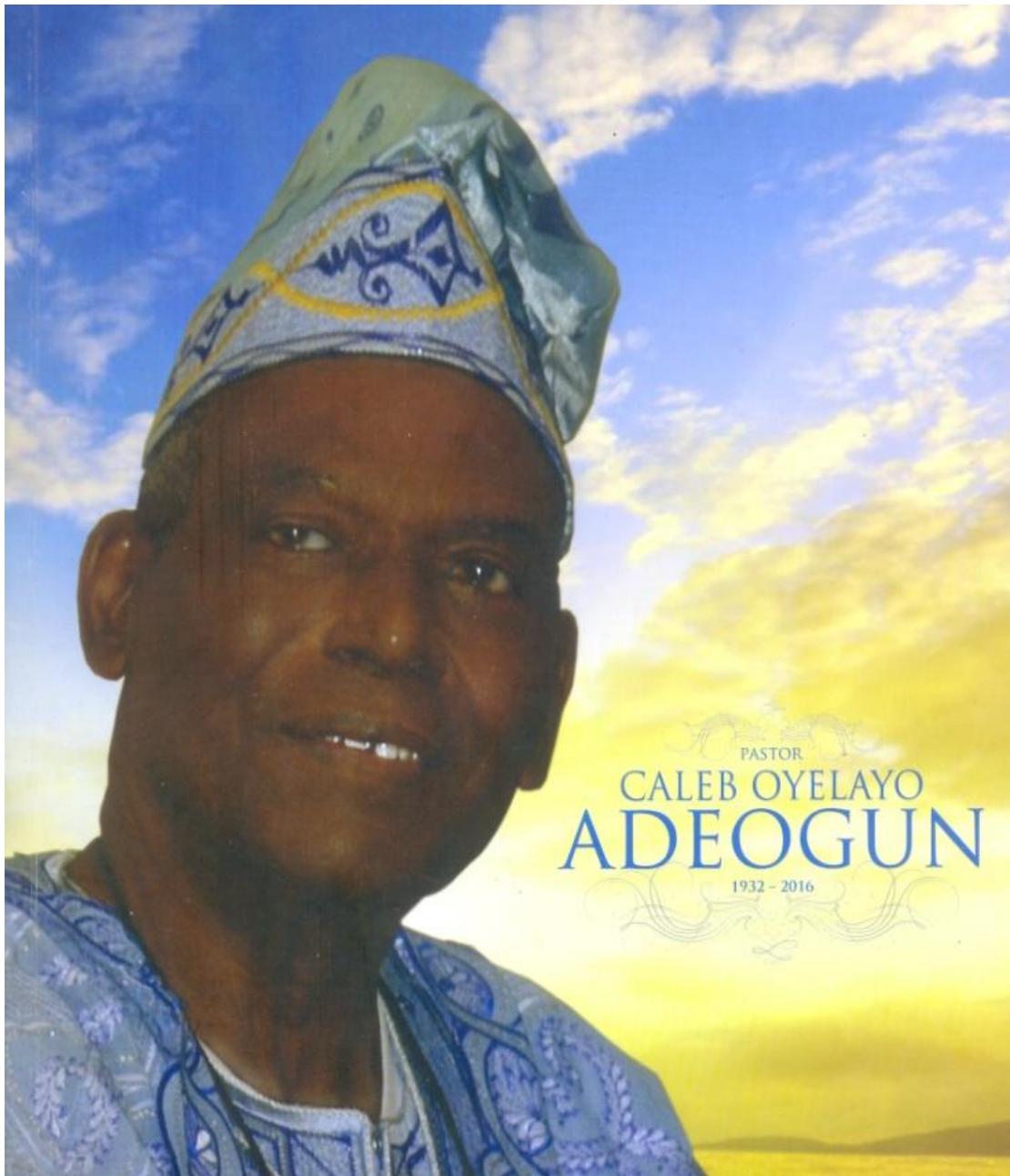




*As one of our publications, Pioneer of the Month brings to you from  
time to time, brief accounts of some of*

*our Pioneers who have labored in God's Vineyard.  
For this month we present a servant of God,*



## **PASTOR CALEB OYELAYO ADEOGUN**

(NOVEMBER 25, 1932 – December 2, 2016)

### **FAMILY BACKGROUND/EARLY LIFE:**

Caleb Oyelayo Adeogun was born on Friday November 25, 1932 at Oke-Bola, Ibadan in the old Western Region of Nigeria. He was born to the family of Joseph Adeyemo Adeogun and Comfort Wuraola Adeogun (Nee Ojo). He moved around a lot as a child because of his father's work as an early pastor with the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In his first seven years, he lived in Ibadan, Owobale, Omuaran, Omuo, Iyapa (now Aiyetoro) and Otun-Ekiti. In 1939, he was

sent back to Ibadan for school, where he lived with Pastor MacClements, an Irish missionary. He enjoyed playing the piano and organ, as well as singing, and led or was part of many quartets and choirs. He also enjoyed playing soccer, and on the field was known to his teammates as Timber!

### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

Caleb first attended St. James Anglican Primary School until the Adventist Primary school was established in Oke-Bola and he transferred there. It was there that he finished standard six. He returned to school and attended Preliminary Teacher's Training College in 1949. He then went to the Adventist Teacher's Training College, Ibie in the old Eastern Region, where he obtained his General Certificate of Education (GCE). He attended the University of Ibadan from 1958 to 1962. He proceeded to Andrews University Michigan in 1973 for graduate studies. At the end of his studies, he was invited by the president of Andrews University to study their administrative set up in order to gain insight and experience on how to run an institution of higher education.

### **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE:**

Pastor Adeogun got married to his sweet heart, Elizabeth Odi, in 1967. That was after he obtained his bachelor's degree and moved to Ede to teach at Adventist Grammar school. While there, they had their first son, Caleb Olugbenga. In the 1970s, the second and third; Joseph Ayotunde and Mary Oyinkasola were added to the family. That was during Pastor C. O. Adeogun's tenure as the acting president of ASWA. Finally, James Abiodun and Comfort Olubukola came into the family in the 1980s, while Pastor served as the President of the Union. He played the role of a father in the family all through his life. In addition, he impacted everyone that related to his family by blood and association; many people pictured him as a father, following the roles he played in their lives as they grew up. At all times, he assured those he raised of God's protection despite all odds more especially as his official responsibilities often kept him away from home, he ensured given the best with few times he had with family and friends.

Again, he served as a teacher to many people around him. He taught some in the field of music, mathematics, discipline, how to worship God, keep the Sabbath, work hard, he also partook in children's home work and a times while in the office out of his busy schedule. All these he did to complement the roles of an ideal father and display of leadership by example. The lessons he impacted no children, relations and friends at one time or the other have remained indelible. It will be important to note that he mentored most children around him including the grand children at his old age.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

Pastor C. O Adeogun began his teaching career at Oke-Bola in 1947. Caleb also taught at the Otun-Ekiti primary school in 1948 where pastor Agboola was the headmaster. After obtaining his bachelor's degree, he moved to teach at Adventist Grammar school Ede. He was transferred to Adventist College of West Africa (ACWA), now Babcock University, in December 1969. At that time, he worked tirelessly with other leaders and staff to build the school's student enrollment and to establish the school as a premier Adventist learning institution.

Upon the conclusion of his graduate studies, he brought the knowledge back home and became the Registrar at ACWA, this experience helped him guard against the takeover of the college by the government, as it was converted into a seminary, and the name changed to the

Adventist Seminary of West Africa (ASWA). He was later appointed as the institution's acting president. From ASWA, Pastor Caleb Adeogun was called to be the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Union Mission in 1976. He became the first Nigerian to hold the position. He was ordained into the gospel ministry in February 1977 at Benin City now in Edo State, Nigeria. As Union Secretary, he visited most of the churches in Nigeria, while majority of the travels were by road. By 1984, he was called to be the Union president and again, becoming the first Nigerian to hold the position. During his term in office, the church in Nigeria grew and God blessed the church enormously. Pastor Caleb Adeogun was transferred to Abidjan after being elected the Executive Secretary of the then African-Indian Ocean Division (AID) of Seventh-day Adventist Church at the 1990 General Conference Session. He kept up the pace of his travels and visited every country in the territory of the African-Indian Ocean Division during his tenure. As was the case during his term as President of the Nigerian Union, the church in the Division grew during his stewardship.

Administratively, Pastor Caleb Adeogun raised and built up great minds for the Church, society at large and Lord Almighty. The result of his achievements in the system has ever been outstanding. Pastor Adeogun was very friendly to all that came across him and impacted each person in different areas of life. To a greater extent, the pioneer of this month was a counselor, who guided both young and old people through Godly advice thereby helping them to take positive decision which resulted to wonderful rewards in life. He taught all and sundry who encountered him right virtues and disciplines.

#### RETIREMENT DAYS:

Pastor Caleb Adeogun retired in year 2000, and with his wife Elizabeth, returned to his home town Inisa, Osun state, Nigeria. Even then, he continued to serve, and was appointed the administrator of the Adventist Medical Center (Formerly known as the Inisa Community Medical Center). He and his wife later moved to the United States to spend more time with their grandchildren. Shortly before his death, Pastor Caleb Adeogun was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by Babcock University, in recognition of his contributions to the institution in particular, and the Adventist church in general. He was finally called to rest on the second day of December, in the year 2016. What shall we say; but to borrow from the words of Job in Job 1:21 which says ...*"the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."*

#### CONCLUSION:

Pastor Caleb Adeogun, a devoted servant of God, spent his life, fostering the work of God and bettering the lot of both his nuclear, extended family and those who were around him. To many, our pioneer for this month was a Pastor who worked hard to populate the kingdom of God anywhere he went. He embraced the spiritual assignments and ensured that such never suffer any delay.

He remained faithful to God till death, trusting in the Lord and his endless promises; he lived a life worthy of emulation and was so caring. Pastor insisted that the spiritual assignments were never short changed with personal interest; he placed God first at all time, no time, day, programmes, activities or events of any kind took the place of God in his life. He feared God till the last breath of his life. As a servant of the Most High God, he touched many lives within and

outside of the Seventh-day Adventist Church he impacted and groomed ministers and workers administratively for the furtherance of the Everlasting Gospel. To God be the glory.

Source: Retrieved from Biography (burial program February 9, 2017) as written by the Children; Edited and arranged by; (Chinanu- Akpuh, Chinwe Comfort and Charles Makpa)

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# **PHOTO ALBUM**

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Pa

Caleb, Wife, Children and Grandchildren at 2015 December



Calab Adeogun at Six



Pastor and Shepherdess Adeogun and the Onweres



His love for music displayed



Dad and Mum



The Adeoguns and Mrs. Tunji



Caleb Adeogun as a young star



Pa and Ma Adeogun with Pa Joel Awoniyi



Pastor and his friend Mr. Oyedijo



Family celebration at Oyinka's graduation.



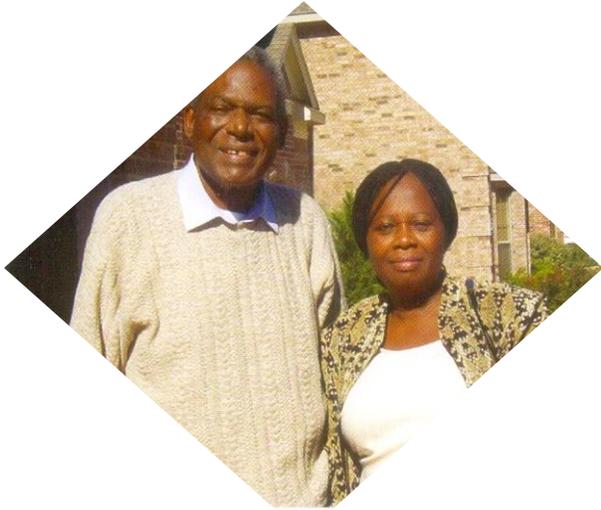
Family celebrates of Biola and Kemi



*the Clinton Presidential Library*



Daddy and Mummy with Kolade at Houston



Daddy with Pastor Kio



Pastor at Pastor Agboola's Ordination Programme



Pastor Caleb and children ready for Church



Daddy, GC Colleagues



Pastor C. Adeogun, Eld. Thomas and Nortey of AID



Daddy, his boys and some of the grandchildren



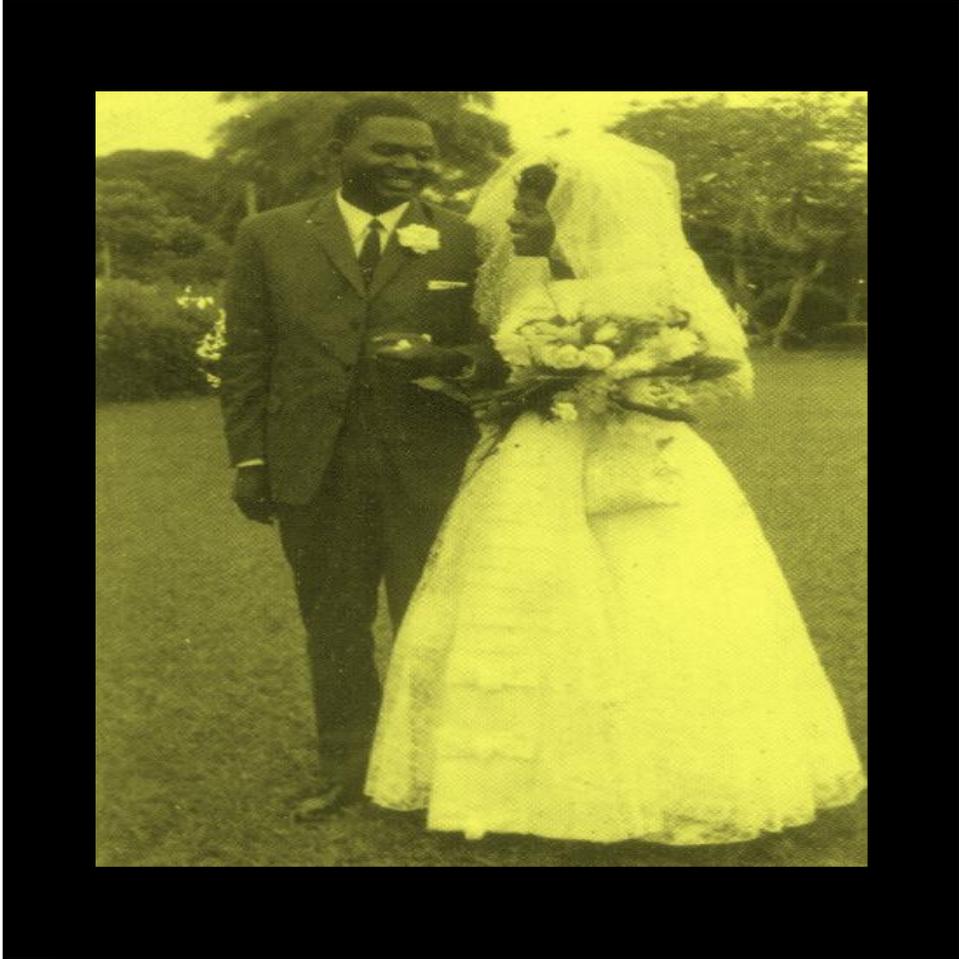
Daddy during his graduation from the University of Ibadan in 1963



Daddy and his cousin, Chief Alao



Pastor C. O Adeogun, his Mother, Father and Aunt



On their wedding day



At Bukky's wedding



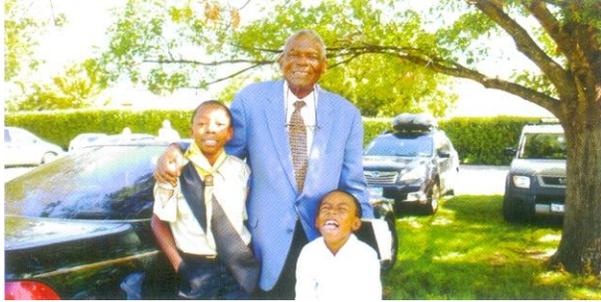
Daddy with the family on a cool winter day



*Daddy with Oyinkan, Delphia and the grandchildren in Dallas*



Daddy after Sofia's violin recital



Daddy with Deji and Tayo after a pathfinder program



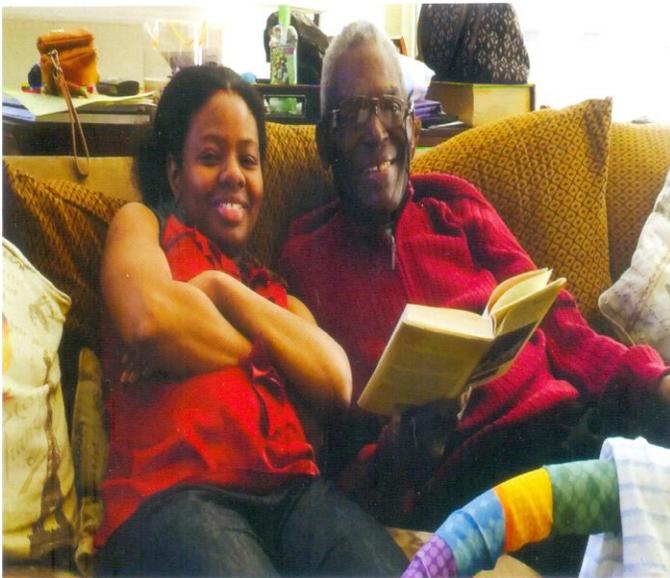
Daddy, mummy and grand daughters



Daddy at Tayo's kindergarten graduation



On a cold winter day



Pastor and Daughter