

## **The Doctor Shouted, “Man of God, man of God...!”**

Thompson Dania Folajoye was born in Edo State, Nigeria. In his youth he strayed from the path of righteousness and got into so much trouble with the law that he fled to Vienna, Austria to escape prosecution in Nigeria. His criminal activity didn't stop in Vienna until he met United Pentecostal Church International Pastor Richard and Mrs. Heidi Podstanty. They witnessed to Thompson and brought him to a place of such conviction that he repented of his sins, was baptized in the Name of Jesus, and was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Over the next two years the Podstantys invested hundreds of hours of time in Thompson. They grounded him in the doctrine of Christ and New Testament salvation and out of it Thompson felt God calling him into the ministry. Thompson returned to Nigeria in September of 2010 and enrolled at Ministerial Training Center, the educational arm of the UPCI in Nigeria. He graduated on December 8, 2012.

Wasting no time, he married the very next day and moved, with his new bride, to Benin City. Here he became the pastor of a church that had ten members and had not seen any growth in years. However, a phenomenal change was coming - in January he baptized nineteen people; in February, eleven. By the end of the year eighty-three souls had been baptized in the saving Name of Jesus Christ! Most of them also received the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel writer, Mark, made it plain that if we believe and are baptized, signs will follow. Thompson was not a sign chaser, but signs did follow him, *extraordinary* signs.

Thompson had been witnessing to a young married couple for some months. The husband, James Osaze, was a self-proclaimed atheist. Nothing Thompson said could nudge this man toward the Lord.

On Sunday August 4, 2013, as Thompson was closing the morning church service, the Osazes burst into the church carrying their dead two year old daughter, whose name was Favor. Her parents were frantic, grief stricken - almost hysterical. They pleaded with Thompson to pray for the lifeless baby, whose body was already growing cold and stiff. Thompson chose to first pray for the lost father. He asked God to win the heart of James Osaze. Thompson then took the dead baby and laid her on the altar. Along with some of the church members he began to seek God for a miracle.

Under the equatorial sun, the metal roofed church was getting hotter and hotter. The stifling air was absolutely oppressive. Dripping with perspiration, the group prayed on, not minding their own discomfort. The Osazes were incapable of prayer, but expressed

their grief by rolling on the dirt floor and crying hysterically. Thompson and the church members continued in prayer, refusing to be distracted by the actions of the parents. One hour turned into two, two hours into three. Some prayer warriors gave up and left, but Thompson prevailed.

After three hours and thirty minutes Favor sneezed. White spittle dripped from her mouth, and then the miracle happened, Favor burst forth with a lusty cry. God answered prayer! Rejoicing erupted as Favor's life was restored.

The unbelieving Osazes were now believers. They were baptized in Jesus' Name and Sister Osaze came out of the water speaking in other tongues. They are two of the most faithful members in the church today, and Favor is a very healthy and active toddler.

That August, Thompson was confronted with yet another encounter with death. While preparing to eat his afternoon meal, a sharp knock came on the door. Elizabeth, a sister in the church, and neighbor of the Thompsons, tried to explain that her husband had died. Her husband was a rough man who refused to serve the Lord. He was given to drinking and using illicit drugs, and he was known for beating his wife when his anger got the best of him. Thompson initially thought that Elizabeth had come to escape another beating. Then he realized it was much more serious. Elizabeth, six months pregnant, was screaming about her husband in terror, "How can you leave me so soon?"

Thompson ran to Elizabeth's house and discovered that her husband, Ochuko Buba, was dead. It was 3:00 p.m. When Thompson touched the dead body, he described the head and chest as being cold "like a refrigerator." The temperature was in the 90's that day and the house was even hotter.

Other neighbors began to pour into the house. These spectators wept and cried so loudly that they attracted an ever larger crowd. Thompson shut out all of the commotion, and enlisting the prayer support of his wife, they prayed. At 6:00 p.m. the body showed no signs of life. The couple continued to pray while others looked on in disdain. But, at 6:15 p.m. Ochuko stirred. His eyes fluttered and opened. In the matchless Name of Jesus, Ochuko had rejoined the land of the living.

At first he was embarrassed by the crowd of people that had packed into his house, finding him lying prone and shirtless on a table. Then Elizabeth explained what had happened and great rejoicing ensued. Three days later, Ochuko was baptized in Jesus' Name and he came up out of the water speaking in other tongues. How many people

would have cause to boast if they were both raised from the dead and baptized in the same week!

In September, Thompson received word that his beloved mother had died. He broke down and wept over the loss. He further lamented, knowing his mother would never see or hold his first child, due to be born in October. Thompson questioned God, for he well remembered his mother urging him to marry so she could enjoy grandchildren. Now it appeared that that would never happen

Arriving at the hospital, Thompson witnessed his mother's corpse lying on a table. He questioned the doctor about why the body had not been removed from the hospital and taken to the mortuary. The doctor demanded that the mother's bill be settled before any further action would be taken regarding the body. In his grief Thompson left the hospital to gather the necessary funds. Once payment was made, his mother was wheeled off to the mortuary.

The next day, the mortuary demanded payment to embalm the body. Once again Thompson had to beg and borrow to raise more money. With funds in hand he returned to the hospital, but as the hour was late, no receipt could be issued, so he was instructed him to come back the next day.

The following morning, Thompson went directly to the doctor's house to pay the embalming fee. Before the matter was settled, the doctor received an emergency call from the hospital, and he ran out of the house with Thompson in tow. The men parted upon arriving at the hospital, Thompson to make his payment, and the doctor to answer a call from the mortuary. Minutes later the doctor and several staff members were pushing a gurney from the mortuary back into the hospital. Thompson stopped to observe this curious behavior and, as the gurney passed by, he realized it held his mother!

Inexplicably, after two days in the mortuary, Thompson's mother had begun to show signs of life. The mortuary attendant discovered this when he came to wash the body in preparation for the embalming process. The woman's lips began to quiver, her right hand began to shake, and tears streamed down her cheeks.

Imagine how unsettling it was for the mortuary attendant assigned to prepare a woman's body for embalming. She had been lifeless and cold for two days. The attendant went about his lonely work with no reason to fear, when suddenly, he saw the woman's lips began to quiver, her right hand to shake, and tears streaming down her cheeks!

Thompson's reviving mother was wheeled into the operating theater for immediate treatment. Though she was not responding to verbal commands, Thompson's faith prompted him to do what he always does, he prayed. He knelt down at the entrance to the theater and prayed for one hour and fifty minutes. At the end of that period he switched from prayer to praise and continued on for another one hour and thirty minutes.

Finally the doctor exited the theater. Finding Thompson still on his knees, he shouted, "Man of God, man of God, you are surely a servant of the Lord. Your mother lives!"

Before Thompson's mother died, she had suffered a debilitating stroke and was paralyzed on her left side. Nearly blind from glaucoma, she needed assistance just to move about. After God raised her from the dead, the paralysis was gone and her eyesight was restored. God had not only raised her from the dead, but completely restored her body in the process! Today, Thompson's mother enjoys holding her granddaughter and is thankful to God for a second chance at life!

As a missionary, people often ask, "Why don't miracles like this happen in North America?" I am certain many miracles do occur in North America, but we are just unaware of them. But if you are asking, "Why don't I see these miracles in my life?" I think the key may be found in Thompson's testimony. In each of these cases, he prayed for more than three hours against what most would say was already a lost cause, a settled matter. Thompson did not approach any of these three instances as the final word. He believed God and God responded. God is no respecter of persons. If God can work through Thompson, He can work through you. But, are you willing to pray in faith, for however long it takes, to get the desired result?