



“I HAVE A BURDEN FOR WOMEN..”

THE STORY OF TOTAL WOMAN AT TEN

Interview with Yemi Adeleke

The Total Woman ministry is 10! And to celebrate this huge achievement, Praisereel spoke to the President of the Total Woman Ministry, Pastor ‘Yemi Adeleke on what has driven her on these past 10 years.

Pastor ‘Yemi, fondly called Mama by her loving congregation is a very experienced pastor who God has taken through a journey full of intrigues, challenges and many triumphs. She never fails to give gratitude to God for giving her the opportunities she has had to make an impact. She is a woman who carries a burden for other women, and this was dominant throughout our interview with her.

Going down memory lane, she gave an insight into how Total Woman started; “In 1997, I got a burden to do something for women in leadership, being in leadership myself, I realise that it can be lonely at the top, especially as women. There is an overwhelming desire to see women Pastors and Pastors’ wives come together and network, bearing each other’s burdens.” She continued, “I saw a conference organised by Joy Strang in Florida which I attended. At the meeting, God spoke to me and the burden within me increased. So I came back determined to do something about the mandate God has given me for women”.

Pastor Yemi went on to describe how prophesies had gone out before now to describe how God will use her among women. At that time though, she thought God was going to use her among women in the House of praise (her local congregation). However after she returned from Florida, she wrote to all Pastor’s wives and female pastors that she knew, inviting them for a meeting. The reaction was fantastic; her invitation couldn’t have been timelier. Thank God more especially for the support and encouragement of her husband (Pastor Andrew Adeleke). “This led to the very

first leaders’ dinner we had, holding in February 1998 at the Marriot hotel, Bexleyheath. I invited Ruth Monroe to be our first ever speaker at the one day dinner.” She said. Immediately after this meeting, all the women that attended were asking her when the next one would be. It was like a divine set up.

After this event, Pastor Yemi wrote to the leaders to be part of the planning committee for the next event, in response to the demand. Twenty three of the leaders indicated their intention to be part of the event and all of them incidentally have their own women ministries today. “Just before the next meeting in June that year, I was sleeping on a Thursday when I woke up with a startle, it was like someone woke me up and I started to shiver, saying ‘Lord I will do it’.

“There is an overwhelming desire to see women Pastors and Pastors’ wives come together and network, bearing each other’s burdens”

The voice of the Lord then said, get a pen and write. I started to write that day and what has now become the Total Woman Ministry Vision and Mandate information came from that night of encounter.” She continued “I was weeping that night and that powerful encounter has kept me going” she said emphatically. “It reminds me that God called me, so I never get discouraged. Since then we have had 17 conferences and the one in July 2008 is the 18th one.

We wanted to know where the name Total Woman came from, and Pastor Yemi responded by saying, the name came from God. “God dropped it in my heart” she said.

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