



by *Kunle Falodun*

One fine Sunday Morning, RCCG House of Praise was treated to music ministration from the legendary Vinesong. Personally, I have eagerly looked forward to this day since the announcement was made as I have always admired this group since I was a young boy. The name 'Vinesong' brought back memories, sweet memories of my early years.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"He wants me to deal with the woman in total. This has a two-fold meaning; one is dealing with the whole person of women (spiritually, physically, mentally and financially) while the other meaning is dealing with networking and the bringing together of women from all nations and churches i.e. creating a total togetherness among women."

Total woman, a charitable organisation, which is non-profit making in anyway have over the past 10 years made great impact in the society, despite the fact that it has not been officially launched. "God laid it on my heart to officially and unusually launch the ministry even though we are already 10 years in existence. He told me that what we are about to see is so great that it will make the past 10 years a child's play and in fact we are just starting. All we have been doing, as good as it may have seem has been a rehearsal for the next phase of the assignment. It is now time to practically bless womanhood" she stated authoritatively.

When we asked her what has been Total woman's greatest achievement to date, she said "It is the challenge we have given to other women ministries and female pastors/pastors' wives, the motivation, the challenge and the friendship. Total woman has

When Pastor John Watson, the ageless leader of the group invited me for a quick chat after their ministration, I rushed to meet him and enjoyed the few moments I spent with him going down memory lane.

Vinesong was formed in Africa, way back in 1982. It was then made up of Pastor John, Sylvia & James Twine and Pam, Sylvia's sister. Pastor John left his home in Southern Africa in 1977 to come to the United Kingdom as a Missionary. He started a church in London before going to Holland and then on to America. He returned to Africa in 1982 where the Vinesong group started.

Vinesong was named after the Vineyard churches in Africa; it was founded by John Wilburn and Ken Gulliksen. His father, "a huge missionary", in Pastor John's words; led a church on the coast of Durban, South Africa in a small town called Tongaat. This church was established in an old Hindu Cinema. The man fondly known as Doc Watson (real name Revd Reid Watson) rested in the lord in 1983.

After his fathers' death, Pastor John spent a further four years in Africa working with the world renowned evangelist; Reinhardt Bonnke before God told him to move his ministry base to England. He has been in England now for 22 years, travelling all over the world from his new home.

Vinesong have released about 15 albums to date. Some of their most popular songs are: let your living Water Flow, Holy Spirit Moving On, Peace like a river and Lift up the name of Jesus. A new album is out this year called: I behold your glory; "God told us this album will be massive in the world" said Pastor John.

"I have been ordained a full pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God by the General Overseer, Pastor EA Adebayo, a man who I am privileged to have a great relationship with. He re-named me after the ordination eight years ago in Lagos Nigeria; Pastor Akinwande Oluwale Watson. The GO is my father in the Lord and personal mentor", he concluded.

built a platform for women leaders, where everyone relates outside denominational boundaries and other hitherto existing barriers."

With a countenance full of satisfaction as well as desire for more, she said, "The future is in the hand of God, but we thank God for the achievements of the past. One of the major projects we are trying to undertake is "the women's Refuge", a place where troubled and abused women can run to for help. The orphanage in Rwanda would also have started before the Conference by God's grace.

Finally we asked Pastor Yemi what the experience of running Total Woman has been so far. She thought for a minute and said "it has expanded me. I cannot go back to my former size. It has also given me a greater passion to Love. Ordinarily I like keeping to myself and that made me wonder why God called me to do this when I would have preferred to stay in my church/little corner. I have had to go out of my normal temperament which is yet a proof that this call is divine". In conclusion, she thanked God for her church family; her children and the biggest thank you went to her husband of 20 years whose regular encouragement and advise she would not have been able to do without.

*THE TOTAL WOMAN 18TH CONFERENCE AND 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY HOLDS FROM THE 2ND TO THE 6TH OF JULY 2008. VISIT: WWW.TOTALWOMANMINISTRIES.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.