

## One on One with Joshua Ologe

*Joshua Ologe isn't a man to predict by facial expression. When our crew member, David Olaoye approached him for an interview, he didn't seem to be in mood for any such thing but it took less than few minutes to peep into the thoughts of an International health Consultant who outside his profession pours tonnes of resources into the satisfaction of "a passion for young people".*

*In 2001, he initiated what is today known as Christian Youth Forum Ministry (CYF). Many are not aware he's the founder due to the way he slips into the background hardly giving any talks at the camp meetings. Such is consistent with his character as his dressing and speech do not exhume much. We began by discussing his academic background. Here are excerpts:*

### **Your academic background?**

I obtained a B.Sc in Microbiology then proceeded to UK for my Masters and other postgraduate studies, later I obtained a Ph.D in Medical Parasitology from the University of Ilorin.

### **So you've always wanted to be a Microbiologist?**

I wanted to study pharmacy but ended up studying Microbiology. My love for pharmacy was triggered by the vital role Chemists played at certain periods in my life. I studied Microbiology because of some circumstances beyond my control.

### **What of your Career experiences?**

Started some 25 years ago. Since then I've served the Government, UNICEF, and I currently consult for The Carter Center (An International Health Organization founded by former US President, Jimmy Carter).

### **So what's your advice to youths in making a career choice?**

Besides flair, you need to consider your abilities and the opportunities associated with different professions and ultimately, divine direction. Simply put, what do you want to spend your life doing and what is God saying about that?

### **Have your rich professional experiences, exposures and wide travels contributed to your ministry?**

I believe God gave me those opportunities to equip me for this task. I have worked in every part of this country and related with youths here and abroad. I know their challenges and I want them to find *the way*.

### **Give us a brief history of the ministry.**

My passion for this work was born many years ago but I did little or nothing till the Holy Spirit propelled me and arranged many circumstances to confirm the calling. So I decided to get started with an annual camp meeting (Christian Youth Forum) which has kept growing since 2001 when it started. We now reach youths through the internet, audio messages on tapes and CDs, newsletters, magazines and presently we're about starting up a Christian Youth Training Institute to be called Rehoboth Institute.

### **What influenced the name Rehoboth?**

The first and second pieces of land we acquired for the project were unjustly taken from us and we let them go without protest. God later directed us to where we are using today and we enjoy the place without contention. This is synonymous to the Bible Story about how two wells were snatched from Isaac by the Philistines till he dug a third well and there was no more contention so he named it *Rehoboth* – "because the Lord has made room for us here." The same Lord has also promised to establish us and give us rest where we now are.

### **What were the start-up-challenges for CYF?**

There were a number of them but we overcame. The first was apprehension as to how youths would respond to the whole thing and another was how to accommodate the camp participants which is still not fully settled as the number of participants keeps increasing.

### **What's the #1 tip for a successful courtship?**

Keep sex out of it! Sex has become an idol in the society. God made it a gift for married people but singles are getting involved in it. Every sexual contact outside marriage lowers the standing of the lady especially.

### **The present state of Nigeria is not conducive for youths to thrive. What do you think?**

Well, we need all round reform. We need leaders who can manage our vast resources. We need infrastructural development. See what's happening; during this interview there was power failure and we had to stop. We need change in every sector.

### **Where do you see Rehoboth Institute in the next 10 years?**

In the next 10 years, I see it as the best provider of quality education in Nigeria.

### **How have your wife and children contributed to the progress of your ministry?**

My family members are the number one partners in this mission. They are totally sold out and committed to it.

### **Thanks for your time.**

Thank you too