



THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, OGBOMOSO

**FRATERNAL GREETINGS AT THE GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY
OF OAKONSULTS DISABILITY OUTREACH AT OOLO
BY REV. PROF. OLUSOLA AYO-OBIREMI,
DEPUTY PRESIDENT ADVANCEMENT, NBTS
ON BEHALF OF REV. PROF. S. OLA AYANKEYE, PRESIDENT NBTS
ON APRIL 22, 2025**

PROTOCOLS

Lords spiritual and temporal

Lords Spiritual represented by Rt Rev. Onalekem Methodist Church Nigeria

Lords temporal

The Oyo State Governor, Engineer Oluseyi Makinde ably represented by Rev. Dr Paul O. Oyedokun, The Education Permanent Secretary Ogbomosho Zone 1 and Mrs Kayode, Director of Ogbomosho Zone II;

The Soun of Ogbomosoland, His Imperial Majesty Oba Ghandi Olaoye Orumogege III

The Olooolo of Oolo, our chief host and all other royal highnesses

All other protocols duly observed,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I bring you greetings in the Name of the Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth – the One who made us and cares about every single strand of hair on our head; the One who made us all in His image; who makes one seeing and the other seeing differently; and in the name of Jesus Christ, the risen Lord, the One who gives us hope. Glory to His name!

On behalf of the President of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Ogbomosho, the first degree granting institution in West Africa; Rev. Prof. S. Ola Ayankeye, I greet you all and congratulate you, standing on existing protocols.

The journey of Olufunke Adeloye Konsults Disabilities Outreach with NBTS began somewhere around 2020 when she contacted Dr Yinka Adewuni of Bowen University Teaching Hospital (BUTH) who contacted Rev. Akinwale Akinsola, Chaplain of BUTH and who in turn contacted Prof. Ayo-Obiremi, the Dean of Faculty of Education in NBTS at the time. After series of conversations and letters; the Lord chose to make history through NBTS as the first institution to embrace the landmark programme¹ 'Beyond Suffering' in Nigeria. 'Beyond Suffering is a

¹ Adeloye, Olufunke. Letter of Appreciation to the NBTS President on June 24, 2021 after the 1st set of 'Beyond Suffering' in NBTS

training programme on disability ministry and Mrs Olufunke Adeloye has done well to train ministers in training through this course to enable them understand, relate with and know how to help families with members living with disability. The perspective of many have been broadened through this and some skills honed in the process.

Four sets have taken this course as directly led by OAK in NBTS. The 1st set of Beyond Suffering in NBTS held June 7 – 19, 2021 as a voluntary experience and drew a denominational leader – the current Christian Education (CED) Director of the Nigerian Baptist Convention (NBC), Theological educators in NBTS and beyond, Church Pastors, Associate Pastors and Pastors in training. They were 14 in all. From the 2023 set on, the training has been for ministers in training especially at the doctoral level.

In these four years, a ***total of 142 people*** have been trained at levels of participation and of completion using the Beyond Suffering manual. What began with a lone facilitator grew to a pair and then to team teaching with our own people, Rev. Dr Ruth M. Oyeniyi, current Dean, Faculty of Education and Dr Foluke Ola, current CED Director, having undergone training and now serving as part of the facilitators.

Today, we are here to celebrate and witness the physical breaking of grounds that God had already done years before we were aware of it. Even before the birth of OAK which celebrated her 4th anniversary on April 11th this year. On this occasion of Groundbreaking on April 22, 2025; we are joining God at work by breaking ground for a future of inclusion, making history for children with disabilities.

We are here to celebrate a DREAM.

D - Divine hand of God at work; celebrating the differences in people with disabilities

R - Resilience in spite of all odds- Oluwatoyitan Abigail Adeloye called Home on Oct 5, 2024 at the tender age of 16 is an epitome of this. Her resilience, and positive fighting spirit are commendable and part of the impetus for this project. We celebrate relationships also because Mrs Adeloye is one who has kept good relationships to pull this crowd here.

E - Evangelical commitment to reach everyone (Matt 28:19 – 20 & Mark 16:15)

A – Attitude of gratitude, forgiveness and true love. The Adeloyes didn't stay angry, bitter, run away, turn back and throw up their arms in despair but have come back to the place of hurt and avoidable mistake to make some others smile.

M – Malleability in making the most of every situation by the Adeloyes, carers, trainers and trainees through God-centred monthly prayers and worship, publicity for this programme.

We appreciate Mrs Olufunke Adeloye as Chief Responsibility Officer (instead of Chief Executive Officer) and her husband, the co-CRO; showing her commitment to responsibility under God & her family – Mr Jisola Adeloye, Miss Teniola and Miss Fikunmi Adeloye; the Oolo leadership and the good people of Oolo, as well as Good people of God from all over the world who share in this vision.

I say back to you the words Mrs Adeloye wrote in the letter to the President of NBTS on June 24, 2021

Thank you very much for your willingness to be a beacon of light, heralding the cause of people with disabilities and yielding to Our Lord's Luke 14 Mandate, to bring in everyone into the kingdom of Christ!

Our prayer is that as God said to Zerubbabel, "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of his house and his hands will finish it . . ." Zechariah 4:9 (NASB) that all who have seen the beginning of this good work will live to see the end in Jesus' name.

Thank you.