

# Yusuf Timothy

**GOD IS STILL IN THE BUSINESS OF** answering prayers instantaneously.

I came to Andrews University from Nigeria about seven years ago to earn my Master of Divinity, but I lost my richest sponsor, a king, to death within two weeks of my arrival. The following year I lost my second sponsor, my cousin, who was working with an oil company. The following year my third sponsor fell critically ill, and so I lost his sponsorship as well. I had to become the sponsor of my education by myself.

I worked very hard and finished my MDiv in 2014, and then did a CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) residency in chaplaincy at a reputable hospital in Evansville, Indiana, where I became the best chaplain in 2015. Shortly after, I returned to Andrews to take clinical mental health counseling. It had been several years since I came to the U.S. without visiting my home country.

I prayed to God to open doors for me to visit my family in my home country last year in November and God answered that prayer *immediately* by opening a door for me to go home through the Loma Linda Health System.

I received a call from them informing me that I was chosen to serve as a guest speaker on a mission trip to Nigeria for evangelism/medical outreach with a team of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, public health workers, and other healthcare professionals from Loma Linda Hospital. Other medical personnel and students also joined us from five other countries including Egypt, India, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Mexico. Before this mission trip, I received a gift of an expensive backpack from a young Christian man at a Filipino church in Chicago where I was invited to preach. It was the exact backpack I wanted to buy in Benton Harbor a week before, but changed my mind because it was super expensive. However, the man gave me the same backpack for free and Loma Linda purchased a return ticket for me on this trip. I received gifts of clothes, shoes, bags and jackets from my church family where I worship and from friends at school to give to people in my home country.



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When we finally arrived, we were able to reach out to close to 12,000 people medically. Our surgeons performed over 28 major surgeries plus many minor surgeries, over 2,000 animals were treated, and about 24 children were taught how to write storybooks. A clinic was built and donated to the local people at Eto-Baba in Jos, a private ward was built and donated to Jengre Hospital in my village, and four people were baptized. The state government supported us with security guards who escorted us wherever we went during the two-week program, two vans, government lodging and food. We even had a live interview at the television station after the program.

The program was sponsored by Loma Linda Health System, Adventist Health International, and the Northern Nigerian Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. According to Loma Linda University this was the best mission trip they have had in the past 40 years.

The medical outreach lasted only two weeks: from June 17–24, 2017. However, I stayed after the program and enjoyed being

with my family, friends, colleagues and neighbors for almost three months before coming back to the States. I was treated with high respect and dignity and I became so popular in such a small amount of time, like a celebrity. Everywhere I went people told me they saw me on television. Some people said if I wanted to be a governor of my home state I could win.

Glory be to God for what He has done, and thanks to Loma Linda Health System and Adventist Health Services for sponsoring me to go preach in my home country, for that is my passion, in addition to other things that I like to do.

I do not know what you might be going through right now but I urge you to trust God, no matter what. He can do the same thing for you, even greater, because He cares for you and He is still in the business of answering prayers instantaneously. ■

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Yusuf Timothy is currently completing his Master of Arts in clinical mental health counseling at Andrews University. After graduation in December 2018 he will take some time off to work before pursuing his PhD.