



Women on the move: Her Story!



Name: Parmata Abasu Ishaya
Country of Origin: Nigeria.
Date of Birth: 12- 01-1948
Church: Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria, Gongola State
Period of Mandate: 1997-2003 LWF Vice President for Africa.

Short biography: When I was nominated by my church to serve as an advisor to LWF at the LWF Assembly in Curitiba in 1990, little did I know that I will rise to the position of a Council member and a Vice president. I give God the glory for making that possible. I hold a bachelor of science degree in botany and a postgraduate diploma in education. I worked as principal of a government girls school in Gerei, Nigeria, principal of a Women's Teachers' College in Numan, assistant director of Technical and Vocational Education and at the time of my LWF election as deputy director of the Post Education at the Ministry of Education Headquarters, in Yola, Nigeria. Together with her pastor husband, they accepted a call to move to Sierra Leone where they became the first missionaries to the newly founded Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone.

During the period I served as an advisor, I was assigned to serve on the World Service committee. My years of service were an eye opener because I came face to face with the many humanitarian problems facing people around the world. It also widened my scope on the needs of people as we reviewed the many programmes and projects of LWF around the world. I had the opportunity to visit some of these projects in Ethiopia, India, and Mauritania. I thank God Almighty for the opportunity to serve on the World Service committee, an assignment I carried out with zeal and dedication.

In 1997, at the LWF Assembly in Hong Kong, I was nominated and elected to be a member of the LWF council and later elected as the Vice President for the Africa region. As a vice president, I was a member of the Executive Committee along with the LWF President, the other Vice Presidents, the General Secretary and Directors of the various departments. It is here that we discussed issues affecting the workings of LWF and recruitment of staff to fill vacant positions. I was also nominated in 1997 to service on the Executive committee of Act international.

As a Vice President, I always chaired the meetings of the Africa region during Council meetings throughout the period of my mandate. Issues affecting our region were discussed and solutions sought.

The most memorable occasion during my tenure was my participation in the signing of the document on the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ), in 1999 at Augsburg Germany. I was selected to read the text for that occasion from 1 Cor. 3:12-16. The text was read from the Hausa Bible. The whole occasion was historic and memorable. I still cherish the day and feel the experience till today. In 2002 I chaired the meeting of Lutheran church leaders in Nairobi Kenya.

In 2002, I was on a delegation to visit Yasser Arafat and the president of Israel to discuss the position of Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) on Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. In 2002 again, I was in Garoua, Cameroon to attend a seminar on women Empowerment in Church and society organised by LWF/WICAS Geneva.

At the LWF Assembly in 2003 in Winnipeg Canada, I chaired the plenary session on the third day of the Assembly, the whole day. The keynote speaker that day was Bishop Margot Kässmann from Germany. It was a "womens' Day ". My Mandate was wrapped up in Winnipeg when Bishop Kameeta from Namibia was elected as the new LWF Vice President for Africa.

I look back with great sense of gratitude to God for using me to serve the Lutheran family worldwide. After Winnipeg, I continued with my work in government and rose to the rank of a Permanent secretary from which I retired in 2008. I continue with voluntary services in my church working with the Women Fellowship (Zumunta Mata). At the centenary celebration of my church in 2013, I was among recipients of an award for voluntary service to the church. Presently, I am running a school for internally displaced children from ages 3-16 yrs.

I am married to Rt. Rev. Dr Edward R. Ishaya and we have 4 children and 2 grand children.