BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

The founder and first Primate of "THE CHURCH OF THE LORD" - Prophet General Josiah Olunowo Ositelu of blessed memory was born on Wednesday, 15th day of May, 1900 in Ogere, Ijebu-Remo Division, Ogun State in Nigeria.

Late Pa. Ositelu received his calling on the night of 17th day of May, 1925 at the age of 25-years-old. From then on, he received many divine messages through dreams, voices (audio) and visions, which he properly documented. Most of these documents are still with the premier university of Nigeria - University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria. Ositelu started to evangelize the towns and villages around Ogere, Yoruba Land, other parts of Nigeria and overseas countries. He continued his person-to-person evangelism in 1925 and conducted his first Open-Air-Revival in June of 1929, which sent signal of spiritual authority all around the South-West of Nigeria, other parts of Nigeria and overseas countries.

THE NAME OF THE CHURCH:
As mentioned earlier, "The Church of the Lord" was founded on the 17th May, 1925. The next branch of the Church was established at Olorisa-Oko, Ibadan in the month of May, 1930. The Church was ceremoniously inaugurated on the 27th day of July, 1930 during a worship service at 10.00am in the Lisa Chieftaincy Compound at Ogere, Ijebu-Remo District, Ogun State, Nigeria.

On the 18th of August, 1925 he heard a voice saying: As Elijah and Elisha were anointed, so thou has been anointed". On the 29th of August, 1928 he heard the voice of the **LORD** saying: "Zion and the salvation shall be - '**THE CHURCH OF THE LORD**'" So therefore, the name of the Church Late Prophet General Josiah Olunowo founded, according to Divine Revelation is: "The Church of the Lord".

One may then ask: how come we are known as "**ALADURA CHURCH**"?

The answer to that question is related to the revival of 1930. There was a great revival in 1930 in Nigeria, which was organized by the indigenous churches in Nigeria around the major towns in the South-West of Nigeria, particularly by the "Faith Tabernacle" in collaboration with "Precious Stone", of Elder J. B. Sadare based in Ijebu-Ode and others, including Daniel Orekoya and Abimbolu of the Faith Tabernacle. David Odubanjo was the leader of the Precious Stone in Lagos. Through David Odubanjo, the Precious Stone became linked with the Faith Tabernacle in Philadelphia, USA. Precious Stone eventually became part of the Faith Tabernacle and culminated in the establishment of the Apostolic Church in the 1930s.

By that time (1930), Ositelu had become very popular as a true man of God filled with the Holy Spirit all over Africa and distant Europe. Two of such revivals were conducted in Ibadan in May and September, 1930.

During the May, 1930 Revival in Ibadan, Ositelu was invited to Minister during the programme. After his ministration, people went to him and asked: Man of God, we are interested in attending your church, what is the name of your Church?" In his bid to operate at their level, Ositelu simply answered in the Yoruba language, thus: "Ijo Aladura", which may be translated to mean "Aladura Church" or "Prayer Fellowship". This led to the establishment of the Church of the Lord, Olorisa-Oko, Ibadan Oyo State in May, 1930.

According to the founder's record (Journal entries from June 1929 to September 1953), and according to the research conducted by late Professor Harold William Turner, who wrote:

"History of an African Church - Independent Churches in Nigeria, published in 1967 - in a typescript: 'The Silver Jubilee of the establishment of the Aladura Church in Ibadan', the warden to Ositelu - Disciple Ajayi and six disciples who escorted Late Prophet General Josiah Olunowo Ositelu of blessed memory recorded thus: On the 25th of September, 1930 we left Ogere for Ibadan accompanied by many young men, and I (Ajayi) brought them to the house of Akinyele (for the second revival in the year), in Ibadan.

In the evening of the same day, they came to the midst of this revival service, it was said through Daniel Orekoya (of the Faith Tabernacle) on the podium while introducing Josiah Olunowo Ositelu that: This is a great prophet of the LORD God of Glory, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to untie'. At once, Orekoya descended from the podium and asked Ositelu to speak. The sermon was very inspiring. After this, many people demanded again for the name of his Church to which Ositelu responded: 'Aladura Church,' and many people immediately registered to stay with this new Church".

Many leading figures of the Faith Tabernacle decided to join the new Church and began to visit Ositelu in Ogere. Seven of the leading figures of the Faith Tabernacle who had joined The Church of the Lord, included Joseph Babalola, Daniel Orekoya, Odubanjo, Akinyele who later sent his son to become a disciple of Ositelu. According to Ositelu's diary, both Joseph Babalola and Akinyele (Junior) first met Ositelu of blessed memory on the 25th July, 1929. Some of these pilgrims to Ogere, especially those mentioned above later decided to part ways with Ositelu mainly because of these issues:

- Healing of people possessed with demonic spirits by Ositelu - Our Lord, Christ Jesus did same as recorded in Mark 5:8-20; Matthew 12:43-45.
- Speaking in tongues and the use of Holy Names - Speaking in tongues and the use of Holy Names are biblical (1 Corinthians 14:6-25; Exodus 6:3; Ezekiel 43:7).

This rejection by the Faith Tabernacle elements was reinforced through their association with their sponsors in the Western World - "Faith Tabernacle" of Philadelphia, in the United States of America and the British Apostolic Church, in the United Kingdom. Only Aina and Abimbolu from the Faith Tabernacle stood firm and remained to give support of any consequence to Prophet General Josiah Olunowo Ositelu of blessed memory.