

# WITCHDOCTOR BECOMES PASTOR

ABEDINEGO ABEL's father and his grandfather were witchdoctors before him. When Abel's spiritual sensitivity and ability to manipulate the spirit world was first evident, his grandfather took him under his wing to train him. Abel's practice became well-known. He was given a large area to oversee, offering cures for illnesses, blessings, protection against evil spirits, and curses for hire against enemies. He worked with spells around campfires, learned dances and manipulated spirits with charms and fetishes.

Lust of power is great within the heart of a witchdoctor. Abel had heard of healings in the Christian church. When he heard the power of Jesus Christ was casting demons out of people, he wanted to see who this God was. Tanzanians seek the most powerful god. Soon Abel began preaching while still continuing the practice of a witchdoctor.

The eventful day in his life was when Advent Christian evangelist Johnson Odoyo came to his village and conducted open-air meetings. The spirits told him not to speak with this stranger, and he would not have done so except for some troubling dreams he had. In these dreams, he (Abel) was actually preaching good news about a loving God. He was not cursing or leading them to other gods. Within this dream, there was a battle line with large crowds on both sides. One side threaten him to stop preaching. The other side encouraged him to continue

preaching while saying, "We love you!" He decided to go to the open-air meetings. For the first time, the Holy Spirit opened his eyes to the truth of the Word. He chose instantly to follow Jesus Christ.

He destroyed his charms, which angered his family. They renounced and banished him from their village. They tried to destroy him, but he had a new source of power. He went to witchdoctors and broke their charms before their eyes. They waited for punishment to be inflicted, but nothing happened to him.

Not welcome in his own village, he went to a nearby village to preach. His enemies followed and influenced the people not to receive him. He moved again, further away and started his own church. Needing more training in Christian faith, he joined the AC Conference in Tanzania and presently pastors a church under a mango tree.

His enemies recently attacked him through his marriage, but instead it brought them closer. Their church of 30-35 people grows in numbers and volume. Villagers complain because this church is so loud. Abel maintains their complaints are because prayers of righteous people are destroying the power of the household gods. Villagers complained to the village elders who commanded the church to stop, but an appeal was made to the local government who affirmed the church's right to sing and pray.



Now when Johnson Odoyo comes to a village

- Abedinego Abel testifies about what the Lord Jesus Christ has done in his life before Johnson Odoyo preaches.
- Johnson trains Abel in the essential Bible doctrines.

*"... And the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the whole earth as the waters cover the seas."*

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## PRAYER & PRAISE

Student & Kids Sunday — 9th  
Christian Education Sunday — 16th  
Women's Sunday — 30th

September 2018



"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15, KJV)

**Join in united prayer with  
other Advent Christians**

**Advent Christian  
General Conference**



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## PRAY

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1. For President of the Fellowship of Blessed Hope Churches Conference in India, Rev A. Jerald, who is still convalescing after the insertion of stents in three arteries. He is making slow progress and will be unable to carry out full duties for quite some time.
2. For Immanuel, National Missionary and Mission Manager of YJM in India, as he continues to recover from a stent insertion in one artery in late May.
3. For Director of International Missions Jeffrey Walsh, who will be a guest at the Florida Conference WHFMS on Saturday, September 15 and will also be sharing at the Advent Christian Village on Sunday, September 16.
4. For Cynthia Lee of Dunn, N.C., who will be a mission speaker at the Florida Conference WHFMS on Friday, September 14, sharing her experiences on short-term medical mission trips.
5. For Rowena and Erwin Cabrizos and Jeffrey Walsh, as they will be traveling to Indonesia at the beginning of October.
6. For Pastor Balu Nayak's ministry in India, that God will provide the resources needed to complete construction of a building that

will be a church and home for his family and orphans. He ministers among the Banjara people, an unreached people group.

7. Pray for the 2019 budget planning and preparation process.
8. Pray that God will speak to youth and adults about serving as AC missionaries.
9. Pray for Cristo Salva as their ministry leaders make plans for an upcoming trip to Honduras from October 15 – 22.
10. Pray for the Cristo Salva scholarship program and Melvin Corea as he oversees the Honduran administration of the program.
11. Pray for the leadership in our South Africa Conference.
12. Pray for safety and good health for our International ministry leaders.
13. Pray that our African pastors can boldly proclaim truth.
14. Pray with Conference President Bertin Mwanja and his pastors that the members within their conference churches in the Democratic Republic of Congo will have strong and enriching relationships with their spouses, families and friends.

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## PRAISE

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1. The Lord for the answer to prayer for the school at "Poza Verde" (Green Well) in Honduras. They were the recipients of new laptops fulfilling a long-held dream.
2. God for a successful family camp in Mexico. The time was fulfilling with physical and spiritual food.
3. The Lord for the new converts in our ministry outreaches who have received the Word.
4. The Lord for those who support missions both financially and prayerfully.
5. God for the support that the International Missions office has received for Treasures, the solar-powered Bibles.
6. The Lord for our WHFMS and missions groups that have so faithfully supported our Bread of Life mission project.
7. God for the Vacation Bible Schools held by churches in the AC Conference of India and FBHC Conference. It is likely that 13,000 or more children and young people heard the message of Jesus' love explained during a five- or six-day program.

### Please pray for the following ACGC Directors' and Coordinators' Activities

#### **Beth Larkin, Coordinator of Women's Ministries & Event Operations**

- September 13 – 14: Executive Council Meetings, Charlotte, N.C.
- September 14 – 16: Appalachian Region Women's Retreat, Blowing Rock, N.C.
- September 20 – 24: Women's Retreat at Camp Maranatha, Idyllwild, Ca.

#### **Matt Larkin, Coordinator of Leadership Development**

- September 13 – 14: Executive Council Meetings, Charlotte, N.C.

#### **Steve Lawson, Executive Director**

- September 13 – 14: Executive Council Meetings, Charlotte, N.C.
- September 16 – 24: West Bay Revival

#### **Justin Nash, Director of Communication**

- September 13 – 14: Executive Council Meetings, Charlotte, N.C.

#### **Dawn Rutan, Director of Finance**

- September 13 – 14: Executive Council Meetings, Charlotte, N.C.

#### **Jeff Walsh, Director of International Missions**

- September 13 – 14: Executive Council Meetings, Charlotte, N.C.
- September 14 – 16: Florida WHFMS Rally