

## CJMR UPDATE

### REPORT ON OLASUPO OLADIPO

Many of the inmates who exit Nigeria prisons following incarceration face an immediate critical question: Where will I live How will I survive?

As a result, this MINISTRY make provision of temporary place for those coming in contact in prison who may be facing housing challenges immediately following their release either from the court or at the prison gate to provide a reentry support services. This act not only improves community safety, but it reduces the economic and human costs of ex-offenders cycling through our jails and prisons just because they do not have a safe place to live.



Mr Olasupo Oladipo was referred to CJMR by the Chief Judge of Oyo state Hon Justice Abimbola on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2015 for possible reconciliation with his family members after spending 3years and 7months in Prison on the charge of armed robbery. Olasupo was brought to the Halfway-Home by his counsel Mr. Akintola Olakunle Esq of King's Chamber.

Our chart with him revealed it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time that he (Olasupo) has been incarceration. He was incarcerated the 1<sup>st</sup> time after him and his friends went to rob his uncle who had just returned from the US, they were caught by the Police and they were sent to Prison where they spent 7months in detention awaiting Legal Advice before he was released by the former Chief Judge Hon Justice Badejoko Adeniji on health ground (Ulcer) along with his case mate during the prison visitation in 2011.



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> occasion his same case mate who is the ring leader when they went to rob his uncle called him that they should go and collect somebody's motorbike (okada), they succeeded in collecting the

motorbike but along the line luck ran against him, he alone was caught but his friend escaped and he was taken to the Police station, that was how he landed in Agodi Prisons again in 2012.

During our interaction with him in the presence of his lawyer, we asked of parents, he said his father had died a long time ago while his mother is still alive, he gave to us phone contacts of his brothers.

CJMR made contact with his siblings and informed them of his release and that he was with us in the half way home. It was at that point of our phone conversation on speaker that he got the information that his mother died 2 years ago. That same day his brother contacted his siblings and they came to rejoice with their brother whom they have lost all hope on and they expressed their deep appreciation to the Chief Judge for extending such kindness to their brother. After 3 days in the Halfway-Home, Olasupo went home with his brothers. Thereafter we arranged for a proper handing over date of Olasupo to his siblings (his elder brother, Mr. Bolarinwa Oladipo and his wife were present).

#### **FINAL RECONCILIATION MEETING HELD OVER OLASUPO ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY 2015.**

- The meeting started with short prayer from Mrs Oladipo at 3.10pm
- Pastor Kunle Samson gave us a short exhortation based on the title **“Sure mercies of David.”**
- Pastor Olujobi introduced CJMR and the member that were around and the mission of CJMR and also that of Oladipo’s family and a formal presentation of Olasupo to his elder brother.
- Acceptance of Olasupo by his elder brother and what the way forward is.
- Response from his brother (Mr. Bolarinwa).
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- Bro Monday Ogbe member of Victoria Fellowship Church Lekky Lagos, counselling Olasupo during his family brief visit to CJMR on his return from a retreat.

**Mr.Bolarinwa Oladipo** expressed his appreciation on behalf of the family to the Chief Judge and the members of CJMR for such a rare opportunity granted his brother to go and sin no more. The first born of the family and father of three children explained in detail how their father died 10 years ago and how their mother deserted them to their father almost 17 years ago and how their step mother raised them up with little affection as she also had 3 children for their father. The NCE holder and 36 year old went into details of his life story which was full of struggles on how he sponsored himself to school and how life has been in his favour through his supportive wife who was present at the meeting. Battling for daily survival with 7 people, now to add Olasupo’s burden with the existing one, he said is a great task. He commended on the good behaviour of his brother since his return from prison to live with him, but the area of great concern is how to engage him with work so that he can be free from temptation of the devil and be independent.

Concerning the way forward, he said he had discussed with his brother on what he will like to do and Supo, a 28 year old said he will learn how to make POP ceiling work, since he already know how to paint house. The brother said he knows the financial implication of learning this work and right now he cannot afford it. At this juncture he appealed and asked CJMR to help him accommodate Supo for the main time because of the numerous challenges he had.

Pastor Olujobi Hezekiah thanked Mr.Bolarinwa and commended on the cooperation of him and his wife for accepting Olasupo back. Concerning his rehabilitation especially in the area of the POP work he wants to learn; CJMR responded that POP is good but is a job that requires connection and it may take time to stabilise, as it is not a consisted money making venture. During the counseling session with him the following vocational trades were suggested;

- i. Vulcanizing
- ii. Tailoring
- iii. Shoe making and Barbing saloon

He was given time to go and think and decide on what to do.

On the area of accommodation, CJMR said she could not accommodate any inmate due to limited resources and without adequate provision for such person. CJMR promised to always check on him for progress and to give any other available support at any time.

On his own part Olasupo thanked CJMR and the Chief Judge, he promised not to go into crime again as he would not want to disappoint the judge, members of CJMR and his family. Supo appreciated his acceptance and care especially, from his brother's wife.

#### **FINAL PROPER HANDING OVER AND TAKING OF THE PICTURE**

- i. Presentation of the Holy Bible to Olasupo
- ii. Handing Olasupo over to his elder brother and his wife.
- iii. Vote of thanks
- iv. Closing prayer

Representing CJMR were Rev Kunle Samson, Sister Dorcas Haruna and Pastor Hezekiah Olujobi.

**CONCLUSION:** On 24<sup>th</sup> of July he concluded that his interest is still on the POP work, his brother promised to look for where he can learn the work.

**NOTE:** The family would not have taken us serious without speaking to them on the instruction from the Chief Judge. While this seems like a common sense strategy, programs that place housing at the forefront of prisoner reentry are actually relatively scarce in Nigeria, and have historically been driven by a handful of pioneering non-profits as CJMR.

Reporter: **Dorcas Haruna**