

November 12, 2020

A letter from Pastor Phil

Dear OCF family,

It is with a sad heart, but an excited spirit that I write this letter because the Lord has spoken to me clearly about what he has called me to do in the next phase of my life. On December 12, 2019 the Lord spoke to me clearly about returning to the mission field as a missionary evangelist (or what I call a mobile ministry), but mainly back to serve my local ministry in Nigeria. As most dreams go, I thought this was for an appointed time in some far future, but in the past couple of months the Lord has made it very clear to me and my wife that 2021 is the year of walking into our specific calling and identities.

Another confirmation that has led to this transition was the day I walked into the office and Pastor Dan encouraged me to start my own non profit. In that moment I knew the Lord was speaking powerfully through him, because the Lord had told me the exact same thing just the evening before. I was enjoying a refreshing time with my family while God was speaking to me through that peaceful atmosphere. After that, the direction first began with me starting my own YouTube channel that would grow to become my own ministry.

The burden: At some point in life, all of us have felt a strong burden in our hearts that we just couldn't shake off, or in some cases pray away. I have taught many times, the word burden means oracle. In other words, the burden God gives you becomes God's prophetic voice to the world. Just like Nehemiah in the Bible, the Lord has given me a burden for my people and country (Nehemiah 1:3-11) ..."The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire. When I heard this, I sat down and wept. In fact, for days I mourned, fasted, and prayed to the God of heaven..."

So, as much as this is a very hard decision emotionally and even financially for me and my family to make at this time we are confident that he who called us will complete this great work he has started (Phil1:6). I don't have the full picture or fully comprehend why this call to missions cannot be fulfilled within the FMC, because I would gladly plant a church or continue in missions within the FMC. However, it is quite clear to my wife and me that with the way God is preparing to use me, I must be free to go wherever and whenever he has called me. I guess that's why he named me "Philip".

Time in OCF: My time in OCF has been nothing but a beautiful learning experience and I mean that with all sincerity. I will forever be grateful for the

opportunity to have earned the right to be one of your pastors and the amazing relationships that were formed through this time. Like any church setting, there were a few learning experiences, “sand paper” moments where God smoothed and molded me more into the man of God He wanted me to be.

Moving Forward: After much prayer, God has led me to register my own non profit called Lightbearers Ministries International. For now the focus is to grow the online ministry and raise a team to go to Nigeria for three months in February 2021. There is a lot of uncertainty, but one thing that is certain is that my mission field is ripe and ready for harvest. The demand upon my ministry and giftings are growing each day and since I may not be able to give myself fully to OCF, I believe this might be the time for a transition. However, I will always be an email, text message or phone call away!

Partnership: My heart has always been for the larger body of Christ, and even though we are being called out into the mission field, my wife and I will always consider ourselves as partners with OCF. We will be living in Spokane until the Lord says otherwise, however I foresee a lot of traveling and partnering with different churches and ministries around the world.

Final remarks: Mel and I are so grateful for the time and mentoring we both received and are continuing to receive from Pastor Dan and Paula. Literally, Melody is being mentored in the same classroom with Paula to become an elementary school teacher. And every day for the past 5 years I have been mentored by Pastor Dan to walk in the capacity of a lead Pastor. Wow, God sure knows how to order the steps of the righteous!

So thank you OCF family for receiving us with open arms and warm hearts. I look forward to a continuous partnership in and out of the church building. But until then, like Pastor Dan has said over and over again, “Let us continue to listen carefully and follow courageously.”

To Him be all the glory and honor!
Sincerely,

Pastor Phil Amene

A note from Pastor Dan
Dear OCF Family,

It is wonderful to see God’s hand at work in our lives and this has certainly been true as God has put things into place for this transition for the Amene family.

This is not a good bye, but rather a change in ministry focus. Here at OCF we strongly believe that everyone should engage their mission field, so much so that it is part of our vision statement. Phil and Melody are engaging their mission field in a new way. The Amenes are still part of us, part of our OCF Church Family, but their ministry focus is changing.

Pastor Phil's last official day on our staff will be December 31. Please take these next weeks to express your appreciation to the Amene family for their investment into God's Kingdom here at our church. But again, this is not good bye. I fully expect to see them worshipping with us in the months to come and even have Phil preach occasionally as schedules permit.

So moving forward from here, please be praying with us as to how and fill the different areas pastor Phil has been responsible for. The Lord will provide and lead us as he always does. And then also, please lift the Amene family up in prayer that God would lead and guide them as they enter this next chapter of their ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Dan