



Fanice Omimo Joshua
Woman of Faith

The picture above was taken in July 2014. Believe it or not, this sister in the Lord is 80 years old this year. Fanice worked for Church of God missionaries and/or cottage industries sponsored by the Church of God in Kenya since the 1950s (she thinks). She has also been a lay preacher/pastor in her home church in the village of Ibubi. Fanice has never been ordained by the Church of God in Kenya, and most missionaries living in and around Kenya have thought of Fanice as “house help.” The reason that I introduce you to Fanice is because she is a clergywoman who has lived out her *call to ministry* without ever receiving the recognition or position of *pastor*. Those around her would agree that she has the *spiritual authority* of a pastor/mentor.

Many of us (clergywomen) here in the States struggle with feeling unused because we do not have a formal “position” in ministry. I’ve been there, maybe you have too. There is a sense that without a position we (corporately and individually) do not have spiritual authority. Fanice helped me understand that it isn’t the position that matters, it is your relationship with God ... a relationship that is lived out as “available” for God’s use in any arena that God may choose.

I became acquainted with Fanice as she worked as house help for missionary Caroline Ackerman in 1990. Caroline was preparing to leave Kenya for a new assignment in Tanzania and since we were just arriving in Kenya, Fanice came to work for us. No matter what you think of missionaries employing house help I want you to understand that Fanice, (with an eighth-grade education and eight children, reads and writes three languages and speaks several more) is a woman of prayer who proclaims the love and grace of Jesus the Christ. Yes, Fanice worked for me, but I am in her debt: she showed me how to love others, unconditionally, even when your way is blocked for ministry.

Fanice told me in July that she still preaches “from time-to-time.” She continues to pray and love others — even as she lives in a poverty most of us cannot even imagine. Fanice would say: “Do not be discouraged! Minister where you can, every time you can and God will be with you each step of the way.”

Christian Women Connection Conference Daytona Beach: October 29 through November 2 will include a conference “track” for clergywomen. Conference leaders there are Cheryl Sanders, Diana Swoop, and Rebecca New-Edson. There will also be a women clergy luncheon that you need to sign up for when you register. You need to register soon for this excellent event. Go to the following webpage and register today! <http://www.christianwomenconnection.org/2014-church-of-god-womens-convention.html>

Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook and check out the Qara blog. Join the conversation!!

MaryAnn Hawkins, Convener- Qara:
CHOG Clergy Women
765.641.4535
mahawkins@anderson.edu



I don’t usually say much about continuing education, but I want to share the exciting things that are happening at the Anderson University School of Theology. Seminary education has never been easier to do with multiple ATS accredited online Master’s Degrees and a newly designed Doctor of ministry program. Check us out at:
<http://anderson.edu/sot>

~MaryAnn



ELEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
APRIL 16-19, 2015
CHARLOTTE, NC

WESLEYAN HOLINESS WOMEN CLERGY

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS:
JUNE 15, 2014

FOR MORE INFO:
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The Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy conference will be April 16-19, 2015. The website for registration is now available — yes! I will remind you again. It is that important for spiritual renewal and continuing education! <http://www.wesleyanholinesswomenclergy.org/>

Church of God Women's Convention

2014

Christian Women connection

Waves of Grace

"From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." John 1:16 NRSV

October 30 - November 2, 2014

Hilton Oceanfront Resort,
Daytona Beach, Florida