

Anchored in Faith: My Journey of Compassion and Service

This article is the moving story of Angela, a supernumerary of Opus Dei, whose faith transformed her personal loss of her husband into a mission of hope. From the dark days of her husband's unjust imprisonment to the founding of a rehabilitation centre for ex-prisoners and a ministry for widows, her journey is a testimony to love, resilience, and the redeeming power of faith in action.

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I was born 66 years ago, and in 1983, I married the love of my life, Chief Okechukwu Emmanuel Chukwulozie. Our marriage was grounded not just in affection, but in shared faith and values. Life brought us joy, but it also brought trials. One of the most painful was in 2005, when my husband was unjustly detained for 11 months. That experience opened my eyes to a world many choose not to see—the inhuman conditions within our correctional centers, and the harsh realities facing prisoners after their release.

When my husband passed away, I felt the deep pain of loss—but also a strong call to do something meaningful in his memory. My Catholic faith reminded me of

Christ's words in Matthew 25: "I was in prison and you visited me." Those words stayed with me. With the strength God gave me, I founded the **Okechukwu Emmanuel Chukwulozie Memorial Foundation** in 2021, as a centre for the rehabilitation of released male prisoners.

At the centre, we offer these men temporary accommodation, help them learn vocational skills, and guide them spiritually. After a structured three-month stay, we empower them to start afresh. Watching them rebuild their lives has been one of my greatest joys. Roland Ekpa now owns a motorcycle and is happily married with a two-month-old child. Washeed Adetunji works as a driver and is studying graphic design through Open University. Taiwo Boko owns a shop for men's wear. These stories give me

hope and remind me of God's power to transform lives.

But prison ministry is only one part of my calling. Since 2005, I have also been ministering to widows in my hometown of **Nkpor**, Anambra State. I call them "**Jesus' Wives**"—because in their loneliness and hardship, I want them to know they are never truly alone. Twice a year, during **Easter and Christmas**, I send them food supplies. I also provided manual grinding machines so they can earn a daily income. They have requested a borehole to help them sell water and support themselves further. That is a project I continue to pray and plan for, trusting God to provide.

Through all of this, my deepest desire is to help women grow in their **knowledge of the Word of God**. Whether through one-on-one counselling or group sessions, I lead

women to understand God's love, His truth, and His calling on their lives. For me, faith is not a private thing—it is alive, and it must be lived out in service to others.

I don't consider what I do extraordinary. I am simply trying to be faithful to the One who has been so faithful to me. My husband's suffering was not in vain—it became a seed of mercy. My widowhood, though painful, has opened doors to comfort others. And every step I take, I take in obedience to God's call on my life.

Angela Chukwulozie
