

For this cause have I sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved son and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church. (1 Cor 4:17).

But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy shortly to you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. But you know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he has served with me in the gospel. (Phil 2:19-22).

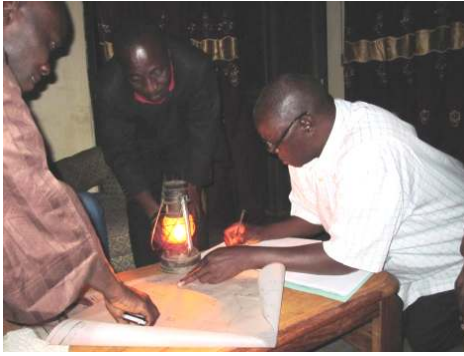


Like Paul said of Timothy, 150% faithfulness and commitment to God's kingdom does not adequately describe the way Rev. Emmanuel Razack has served the Lord rather than himself. With his committed wife Joyce and all our staff team, the greatest thing about the last few years is our journey in learning how to grow in love for each other as we serve the Lord Jesus and His body together.

Yesterday (Sunday) we were getting ready to make the first payment on CFI's permanent land near Jos – over 30 acres. Money had been designated for it by gifts – 20% of the total value to be paid as a deposit. The lawyer, landowners, chief and our staff were ready to meet at 5:00 pm to pay and sign the contract.

We received a call on Sunday morning that Emmanuel and Joyce's first son Michael had died. Michael was a very active and intelligent boy who loved his parents and all those who came to stay in their house as visitors to CFI. He gave all of us a lot of joy. His parents loved him and cared for him with total dedication. His illness was sudden and within a few hours in a good Jos hospital Michael went to be with the Lord. He was just two years old. The Razack's other son David is now six months old.

All our staff and students have gathered around them to love, care for and encourage them. Emmanuel buried Michael's body on Sunday (which is the way in Nigeria) and went to the 5:00 pm meeting as arranged. The land deposit was paid and CFI is now the owner of the land.



Though in many tears Emmanuel and Joyce's comments to me this morning were, "Michael came from the Lord and has now gone to Him. We trust God and are thankful." and "Here are the photos of the historical moment of the first instalment payment of the permanent land of the ministry. I do believe that the Lord who helped us to pay the first payment will complete the payment."

When Emmanuel's aged parents heard the news they were both hospitalized as the shock took its bearing on their health. I believe they will be ok, but it's another burden for the Razack's and the ministry to carry at this time. His parents are good people and it's not their fault.

The thing we appreciate the most is the fellowship we have together in the gospel, as our student and librarian Emmanuel Okache said in a Facebook message to me today titled *The Greatest*, "The greatest commandment is love, the greatest don is Jesus Christ and the greatest giver is God." and as our IT staff said last week, "It's really a great privilege being part of this work. In my little stay I have noticed the love and fellowship between the staff and students." This is part of God's gift and in a measure it comes through Emmanuel and Joyce and the whole team as they lead the college.



If you know Emanuel and Joyce and would like to contact them to encourage them then please do. Their phone/text number is +234 8056112917.

God bless you and thank you for your prayer and support. We all desire to grow in His grace.

... if you can help for our rent for the next year please do. We still need the \$25,000 for it this month. We thank you for your prayer and we are confident in the Lord. Our online Bible College course is almost ready to go on our website and we are very appreciative for all the help we are getting with this.

In many ways we sow in tears, but if we hold steadfast we reap a great harvest through the grace and good plans of our God. I pray this email expresses a little bit about our team and the joy and trials we grow in together. It really has been an amazingly fruitful year and Michael continues in our hearts and in heaven to be a part of that great blessing.

Yours, Kent & Ruth