

Plenary Speakers Biographies



Simon Peter Emiau

Born in 1951 to a polygamous family the church was part of his life even though his parents were only religious followers. But this little light helped to shape Simon's life as he went to school. All schools were missionary founded, but still at a religious level there was no personal commitment to God. However, Simon found more meaning at primary level of education. He met a blind lay reader who became his hero in Christian life. Bartholomew could read the Bible from memory. This blind man's relationship with God impressed Simon and

later when pursuing higher levels of education, Simon Peter gave his life to Jesus as Lord and personal savior. Then the Lord brought Rose into his life. Simon and Rose began to feel God's call into ministry as pastors to the youth in a small church congregation they attended. Rose and Simon now have five children, two boys and three girls.

Simon graduated with a certificate at Glad Tidings Bible School in Kampala. In 1978 He joined the Pentecostal Bible College at Nyangori Kenya and graduated with a Diploma in theology. He returned to Uganda and planted a church that he pastored for one year before returning to study at Pan Africa Christian College Nairobi in 1982. He enrolled for a BA in theology and graduated in 1984.

After this Simon received an appointment from the leadership of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Uganda to teach at the Pentecostal Bible Training Center the same year. He and his wife dedicated their lives to serve at PTC where he later became the principal. In 1992, Simon served as National Coordinator with Mission Moving Mountains a program that worked with community

discipleship and development.

In August of 1995 the General Conference of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God Uganda elected Simon Peter Emiau as the General Superintendent of the fellowship an office he currently holds. With his passion for missions and church planting, Simon has by the grace of God seen the PAG grow to 4,000 local congregations and given a dynamic transformational leadership to the fellowship.

He is also a founding member and coordinator of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Africa (PAOA) an alliance of the Pentecostal Movement and Leadership in Africa. In this position he serves over 16,000 Pentecostal churches in Africa. Simon Peter's leadership and charisma has touched many spiritual leaders and help emerging leaders gain confidence in serving the Lord and the communities of their potential influence.

Simon Peter is also a candidate of the Masters of Arts in Leadership program at Pan Africa Christian University in Nairobi , Kenya.



Bekele Shanko

Bekele was born in Ethiopia and is currently living in Pretoria, South Africa. He is married to Shewaye with four children, two boys and two girls. He holds a B.Sc. degree in Statistics from Addis Ababa University and an MA degree in Organizational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University, USA. Bekele pursued further studies in Biostatistics and Epidemiology and was involved in medical research in Ethiopia during 1988-1992. He also worked as a head of information management department of National HIV/AIDS Control Program in Ethiopia.

In 1993 left his professional work because God had called him for a full-time Christian ministry with Campus Crusade for Christ. He then served as a Campus Ministry Director for a few months in 1994 in Ethiopia. He then served as the National Director for Campus Crusade for Christ in Ethiopia during 1994-1999.

Bekele is currently serving as a Regional Director for Campus Crusade for Christ for Southern and Eastern Africa (22 countries), since 1999. His greatest passion is to help accelerate Africa's holistic transformation in this generation by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ in words and in deeds.

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