

The Panegyric



Bishop David Whitfield Greaves: A Man of Integrity

As with King David, Bishop David Whitfield Greaves shepherded his people with integrity of heart and guided them with skilful hands. David came to faith in 1972 and was catapulted to ministry within a few years. He is revered for his recognition and service to the marginalised, the less fortunate and those who fall outside the boundaries of societal norms. He was a great spiritual leader with a passion for Christ to be made known to the people around him and the salvation of souls. His greatest desire was to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

His spiritual attributes, fervour for God's work and willingness to become involved attracted national attention, and having served as Choir Director and Superintendent of the Leyton Sunday School he was ordained as a New Testament Assembly Minister. To adequately prepare, and in keeping with his ambition for leadership, David attended and gained his diploma in Ministry at the London School of Theology. Shortly after this achievement he transferred membership to the Tooting New Testament Assembly where his qualities were immediately recognised and he became an intuitive member of the Pastoral Team and authored its first strategic plan.

David was committed to the advancement and personal development of NTA members and was intricately involved in the inception and development of the Institute of Theology & Christian Counselling (then known as the Institute of Christian Training). He served as a Board member and as accredited lecturer by the University of Wales Lampeter from which ITCC gained its Accreditation. David was strategic in his thinking and helped to shape the Institute which offered accredited Certificate and Diploma courses in Ministerial Theology.

With a special place in his heart for Mission, he visited and positively impacted the Churches in India, Ghana, and the Republic of South Africa and engaged well with the NTA churches in Canada, the USA, and Jamaica. He was a passionate teacher of the Word and these churches benefited from his uncompromising preaching and teaching. He was also an active member of the NTA International Executive Board from its genesis in 1994 to August 2016

David was a social engineer and was attracted to like organisation for employment, namely, Tear-Fund, The evangelical Alliance, and was also the Director of the NTA Community Flagship Project - The Neighbourhood Centre, for the Elderly and the Recovering Mental Health clients. This position he held for a number of years and was responsible for the yearly Business Plan, managing staff, the facilities and most importantly negotiating service procurements with Local Authorities.

History attests that David was the youngest National Executive Board member to be appointed. His devotion, attention to details and financial acumen lent itself to his appointment as the Organisation's National Treasurer; a position he held until he was appointed in 1999 as the

National Presiding Bishop to succeed the late Bishop Donald Bernard. He was the third National Presiding Bishop of the New Testament Assembly, England and served faithfully for 14 years. At the onset of his tenure as Bishop he published his vision in the form of “The Jordon Journey”. This document succinctly outlined the leadership transition, the incorporation of younger Ministers into management and leadership of the Organisation and some key stepping stones, and areas for development. This was indeed a defining and strategic document which galvanised the members of the NTA and brought about a smooth transition. Other defining events during his tenure as Bishop, as he worked in tandem with the National Executive Board (now the Trustee Board) were:

- The in-corporation of the South Croydon NTA church;
- the planting of the NTA New Generation Church in Nottingham;
- the purchase of the New Generation Church in Davids Lane – Nottingham;
- the purchase of the Akwaaba Centre - Deptford;
- the appointment of 72 Emerging Leaders (2011) and participating in their training; and
- master minding the celebration of the NTA’s 50th Anniversary in 2011;

From 2004 until his transition, Bishop David was Senior Pastor of the Leyton New Testament Assembly. He worked tirelessly as an Evangelist, Teacher, Mentor and Pastor; edifying, encouraging and caring for the flock. As a local Pastor he never lost the common touch and was much respected and endeared by young and old alike. Bishop Greaves epitomised the servant leader and modelled what it meant to lead with diligence, sacrificially and with integrity.

The New Testament Assembly International, Bishop Executive Council and Board of Trustees pays tribute to Bishop David Whitfield Greaves a man after God’s own heart.