



# PastorCare

West Michigan  
Helping Pastors Soar

December 2014

**We Thank God for His gift of Bishop John Williams — Missionary to Africa!**

**Founder & President, Central Bible Ministries International**

Christmas is a wonderful time to remember that Jesus lived in Africa for a season. When God wanted to protect His only begotten son from wicked King Herod, He instructed Joseph to take Mary and baby Jesus to Africa for safe keeping. “When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up,’ he said, ‘take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt [Africa]. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’” (Matt. 2:13 NIV)

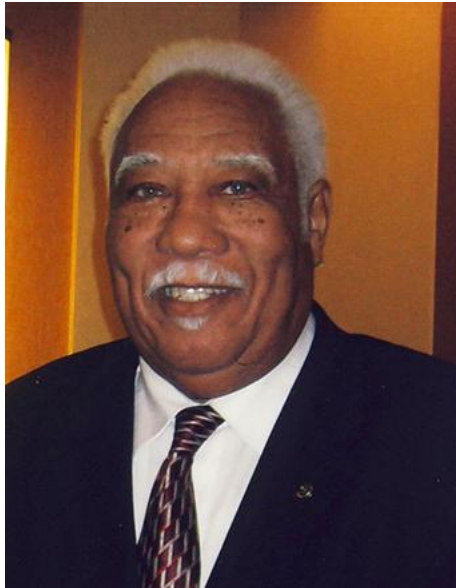


Bishop John Williams, Rev., Dr. Jones Morris, Rev., Dr. John Smith

Bishop John H. Williams began his journey of life eighty years ago in Mississippi. His mother and grandmother saved their pennies for two years, until they had enough to send John, as age eleven, on a train to Detroit to live with his relatives. They wanted his future to be better than picking cotton and slopping hogs. When he left Mississippi, he couldn't read or write. But he told his mother he would earn a college degree by age forty. When he was forty-two years old, John placed his college diploma in his mother's hands, and she wept tears of joy and gratitude to Almighty God.

When God gave Bishop Williams a vision to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world — he stepped out in faith and obedience and founded Central Bible Ministries International. There are so many amazing stories to tell about what God has done through this ministry during the past thirty-four years!

# Stepping Into All the World...



## Winning Souls, Changing Lives and Planting Churches in Tanzania, Liberia, and Kenya, Africa

"He that wins souls is wise" Proverbs 11:30

Central Bible Ministries is a Christian Ministry founded in 1981, stepping into All the World, where we are winning souls to Christ and imparting wisdom to the people by planting churches, distributing literature, providing vocational training, adult education, and stewardship training. We have 24 hour intercessory prayer, a home for orphans, and we provide AIDS care and other medical care.

Bishop John Williams

[www.CentralMinistriesInAfrica.com](http://www.CentralMinistriesInAfrica.com)

Bishop Williams was in Tanzania when his beloved wife, Catherine Barrow-Williams died suddenly on March 30, 2014. He was able to return in time for her funeral. He is still grieving this huge lose in his life.



**Catherine Barrow-Williams**, 83, was a trailblazing singer and missionary. She spent her life opening doors. The classically trained African-American singer paved the way for others to follow as performing artists, and the woman known as "Mamma Cathy" opened her home to those in need.

As a native of Detroit, she grew up surrounded by the music of Motown. She went on to sing with an all-city high school choir and appeared on a weekly TV variety show in Detroit. Catherine moved to Grand Rapids in 1959. She was active in arts and cultural circles as well as in social, civic and religious organizations. In 1967, she was in the cast of **Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro,"** the very first production by the fledgling Opera Association of Western Michigan, later renamed Opera Grand Rapids.

In 1972, Catherine sang at a banquet for the Christian mission organization, World Vision USA, and it inspired her to use music for ministry. Over the years, she traveled to 30 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas as a **singing missionary.**

Just one month before her death, Catherine was on stage with the Grand Rapids Symphony Community Chorus directed by Duane Davis for the **Grand Rapids Symphony's annual "Symphony with Soul" concert** in DeVos Performance Hall.



Dear friends are delighted to share words of appreciation and love for Bishop John H. Williams.



*Pastors Dan and Jo Oglesby and the entire Living Word Christian Center family extend our love and heart-felt gratitude to our long term friend and colleague in the gospel ministry, Bishop John Williams.*

*Thank you for wisdom and mentorship, and for always being there for us while supporting our life's work, the Living Word Ministry, and the many local ministries you've selfishly embraced as your own. We are proud of the foreign mission work you've accomplished in Liberia, Africa and the establishment of the many churches and the Bishop John Williams Christian Academy of Liberia. You are a gift to the global body of Christ that keeps on giving in spite of the setbacks and challenges you've faced over the years.*

*We have worked together since the 1980's, having successfully integrated the politics of positive growth and change in the shoreline community of Muskegon, Michigan. Our move to the Grand Rapids community continued our legacy of putting God, family and community in proper perspective. May God continue to bless your ministry and leadership as we serve His Kingdom together in Faith!*

*Love You to Life, Bishop  
Pastor and Lady O  
Living Word Christian Center Church*



*I have been acquainted with Rev John and the Late Catherine Williams for approximately 40 years. They both personify the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Also, both are strong prayer warriors, true worshippers, Bible teachers, missionaries, generous in giving wisdom, encouragement and sharing their tangible goods.*

*As parents I know the Williams' to be the ultimate encouragers who supported and inspired their children and grandchildren to pursue their dreams and was extremely proud of their accomplishments.*

*You can define Bishop, affectionately referred to as Poppa John, by his love for people, compassion, and willingness to helping the less fortunate. There are no boundaries for his love and generosity, always opening his home to someone in need. Many times this would mean an extra family to feed or house.*

*Poppa John loved Sister Catherine (his late wife). There's no greater love as the love that John and Catherine shared—much like the Songs of Solomon. He expressed his love the way Solomon expressed his love for his wife (Song of Solomon 4:9-11. Their love will last forever.*

*Brother John lives the talk of his faith. His articulate teachings reached my heart and mind with the love of our Lord. Thank you for your faithful service to our Lord & His people. You have been a spiritual father to many through the teaching of God's Holy Word.*

*Minister Veruynca C. Williams*



*I've known both Bishop John and Mother Catherine for a very long time. Mother Catherine actually worked with me at Zondervan Publishing House for many years and was an outstanding employee, adviser and friend.*

*Bishop John, you are a real Trailblazer! I really appreciate you both for your Love, Compassion and genuine care for the Kingdom of God and to others that are less fortunate and to the nations. May God continue to bless you and keep you Bishop!*

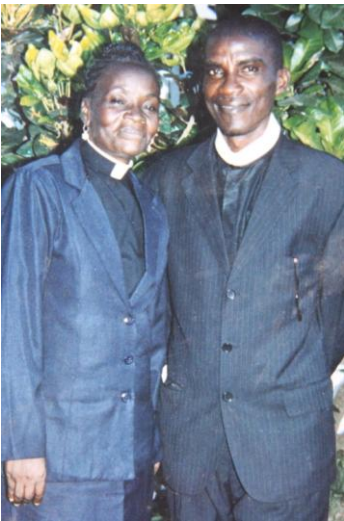
*Vicki Harris*



*My friend John Williams, 1998 was an important time in my life. I had no clue on how to start a non-profit ministry. It was my goal to be a missionary to the Philippines Islands.*

*Your direction and friendship meant a lot to me. I was new to the city of Grand Rapids and you took me under your wings and became my mentor. I love you my friend and appreciate you. I pray that you continue to be all that God has called you to be. But what you are to me, is a special friend forever.*

*Dr. Eric Price*



*Bishop John Williams: Indeed you deserve recognition of the fact that you are an Apostle to the Body of Christ in Africa. Your love for the young, youth, and old has given you a special place in the hearts of African children, the youth, the elderly, and several pastoral networks.*

*Please continue your support and visits to the church of Africa, and providing for the church, the children training, education, conducting conference sessions, until the day you are promoted by our Lord — as you were in service in Africa, when Mama was promoted.*

*Thank you. We love you!*

*Rev., Dr. Jones and Sarah Morris  
Director and Principal, John Williams Christian Academy  
Paynesville, Liberia  
West Africa*



*Dear Bishop John Williams, I remember like it was yesterday Hazel and I were at a concert when the Lord spoke to us saying “go and serve Bishop John Williams.” You had recently told us you were re-launching Central Bible Ministries Church. At the time I only knew that we would be members of a Church that had no building that I could see. No members that I could see and no resources that I could see. I honestly did not know what to expect.*

*However, over time I came to see what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ. We began worshipping in your dining room. People from all walks of life showed up to hear God’s word and be encouraged. You would preach and Mama Cathy (your wife) would sing heaven down! It was through your work and ministry that I learned the Body of Christ is alive and well regardless of what the organized church may go through. Watching you travel to Africa; start new ministries by preaching, teaching and ordaining leaders is nothing short of God’s grace in action.*

*When Hazel and I joined Central Bible Ministries (CBM) I had no idea that through CBM I would be ordained, begin formal ministry training, and eventually launch Step Of Faith Ministries.*

*Pastor Hazel and I wish you all the best as you continue to build up the Body of Christ.*

*Your son & daughter in the ministry,  
Stedford & Hazel Sims*



# Stepping Into All the World...



## Our School Project in Liberia



**The John Williams Christian Academy** in Paynesville, Liberia, West Africa was founded in 2010.

The growth and development of this academy is strategic because the illiteracy rate in Liberia is 75-80 percent.

There were 70 students enrolled before all the schools in Liberia were closed because of the Ebola virus epidemic.

Central Bible Ministries International is a 501(c)(3) non-profit Christian Ministry.

[www.CentralMinistriesInAfrica.com](http://www.CentralMinistriesInAfrica.com)



Rev., Dr. Jones Morris serves as the Director of the John Williams Christian Academy. Dr. Morris is the pastor of Bethel Royal Church, which is the third church he has planted in Liberia. Dr. Morris also serves as the National Training Director, Liberia District, for Bethel World Outreach Ministries International.

Dr. Morris came to the U.S. in July for several teaching and preaching assignments in New York, Georgia, North Dakota, and Minnesota. He was in the U.S. before the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Epidemic. The U.S. Immigration department granted him an extension on his visa.



Sarah Morris serves as the Principal of the John Williams Christian Academy. She remains in Liberia with their five adult children and one grandchild. She calls her husband on the phone every other day. They miss each other so much! But Sarah told him to stay in America for now. All the schools, colleges, and universities are closed in Liberia. He would have no place to teach or lecture or work.

They have no running water or electricity. A gas operated generator is their only source of power. Sarah also operates a small grocery store. Most of the food supply comes from the northern section of Liberia. But it has been quarantined off. So the cost of food in their area has tripled and quadrupled in price.

Dr. Morris will apply for the visa extension and work permit with the hope of getting a job here. His plan is to raise money and gather supplies to ship to Liberia, so they will be ready and well prepared for the influx of students once the school reopens.

**Bishop Williams plans to purchase, or receive by donation, two 20' Steel Shipping Containers.**



**One container is for school supplies:** Bibles, commentaries, books, dictionaries, school stationary materials, children's bibles, book bags, black shoes for girls and boys, sneakers, slippers, clothing, socks, writing pads, pens, pencils, teddy bears, play toys, phonic materials, drawing materials, sheets, chalk, markers, paints, visual aids, library materials, school materials for nursery and beginners, plastic plates and cups, spoons, canned food, juices, bicycles, computers, printers, photo copiers, scanner, digital cameras, generators, musical band set, amplifier, speakers, guitars, P.A. system, T.V., video players, tape players, radios, games, toys, movies for kids, text books for all subjects, office furniture, tooth paste and tooth brushes, personal hygiene items, ETC.



Bishop Williams plans to fill the other Steel Shipping Container with a used 15 passenger van that he hopes will be donated.

There is very limited public transportation in Liberia. Pastor Morris will use the van to provide taxi service in the community. It will provide an additional revenue stream for the school to be sustainable and able to pay the teachers.



Pastor Dan Oglesby has graciously agreed to provide warehouse space to store all of the supplies until the containers are ready to be shipped to Liberia.

1445 Fuller Ave. Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Next door to Living Worship Christian Center Church, in Boston Square.

**Bishop John Williams Contact Information: Phone: 616-243-9085 Email: [williamsjohn100@yahoo.com](mailto:williamsjohn100@yahoo.com)**



I have been highly privileged to spend so many hours building a relationship with Bishop Williams. I have been a guest in his home several times. When I expressed my commitment to come alongside him, and help in every way I can with Central Bible Ministries International — Bishop Williams got tears in his eyes. He was emotionally choked up to the point he could barely talk.

He said, "It has been so lonely for so long. I have been praying for so many years for someone to come alongside me and take a personal interest in this ministry to Africa. And now, God brought you to me."

**The PastorCare West Michigan Board of Directors decided to give a tithe (10%) of all contributions received during December 2014, to Central Bible Ministries International.**



We thank God for this opportunity to honor and bless Bishop John Williams!

We are trusting God for generous year end contributions. Every gift makes a difference!

Make checks payable to: **PastorCare West Michigan  
1632 Waterbury Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508.**

**Online contributions** can be made through the PastorCare West Michigan website, using our secure **PayPal account.**

**Pastor John and Sue Smith, Executive Director, PastorCare West Michigan**

**Mobile: 616-304-8543**

**Email: [jsmith@pastorcare.org](mailto:jsmith@pastorcare.org)**

**[www.pastorcarewm.org](http://www.pastorcarewm.org)**