

SS112 FIELED ASSIGNMENT TWO

WEEK: 7

By Collins Ogechi

INTERVIEW WITH REV GIDEON ROBI

Gideon Robi was born in Bondeni Estate Nakuru County in Kenya, his ethnic background is Kikuyu subtribe of the Bantu major tribe. He moved to the United States in May 1995 after completing his studies in Moffat Bible college in Kenya. Upon arriving in the United States of America together with his wife to study at Beulah Heights University he says that he faced quite some culture shock. First of all, it was shocking to him seeing poor people, he thought that the U.S did not have poor people. He saw a man with a placard which says I WORK FOR FOOD. The second thing he says was people asking him his name and whether in Kenya they lived in houses. Thirdly when he was offered a job at a restaurant, he signed a form and was taken directly to his work station.

While in the United States he faced quite some cultural challenges, upon arrival at Beulah Heights University, he was given separate room with his wife. This was a challenge because they had been only married for nine months, it was difficult for them as young couple but simply because there were no enough houses for married students. While at this he was to undergo a driving test since his license was not recognized in this country, he had to borrow a car to use in learning a few techniques. Language was another challenge as he says that the accent was difficult for him, he could not clearly understand, he struggles with this even now since in Kenya most people use British English and in America, they use what they call American English. The other thing he says is that back in Kenya when you are new in your job you are given several months to adapt with the set up but in America there is no much time to be oriented , you start work and it is expected to

adopt. He says he felt like the Israelites in the wilderness wanting to go back to Egypt. The same knowledge has also helped him set up an organization in Kenya which sponsors over 1000 needy students and orphans.

As a student at Beulah Heights he says he gained a lot of stuff that have really helped him as an individual. The knowledge he gained helped change his thinking and gradually helped him to adjust with life not only in America but anywhere in the world. He learned a great deal of accountability, learning to say no with respect and preparedness.

Whenever he visits Kenya, he has had to make several adjustments for him to be able to connect with the people, being able to understand that he is no longer in America and so he needs to behave differently, talk differently, be patient, adjust with time since people in Kenya are not so much time oriented but event oriented

What I have learned for this interview with Rev Robi is that moving into a new environment has its equal share of challenges against what most people believe that grass is always greener on the other side. Besides these challenges, there are positive things like learning how to survive in a new environment and being able to connect people, respect them, differ with them with dignity and appreciate their culture even if I don't subscribe to their beliefs.