

# PURE RELIGION

## Even According to Their Faith

Orji and Angela Ogukwe's lives changed the day they responded to a television ad for a free copy of the Book of Mormon.

Originally from Nigeria, Orji and Angela came to the United States to further their education. After Orji received a master's degree in electrical and computer engineering from Syracuse University, the family moved to Northern California, where they could have greater access to high-tech job opportunities. But the job market was tougher to break into than they had anticipated. To make things even more challenging, Angela had given birth to their first child. The Ogukwes struggled with how they were going to earn sufficient funds to support their growing family. Eventually, Orji settled for a low-tech job that required him to work nights and Angela found a job as a nurse at a local hospital. Unfortunately, Angela was required to work nights as well, and so the couple had little choice but to hire a sitter to watch the baby while they were away.

When the Book of Mormon arrived, so did the missionaries. And with the missionaries, so did the employment program of the Church. Not long after the Ogukwes started taking the discussions, they were introduced to Brother and Sister Bigelow, employment specialists in the Cambrian Park Ward in San Jose. The Bigelows introduced Orji to LDS Employment Services.



“Orji is the kind of person who listens to what you say and does it,” Joel Kasparian, manager of the San Jose LDS Employment Center says. “He is like the stripling warriors who observed ‘to perform every word of command with exactness’ “ (Alma 57:21). Orji was a willing student and devoured every word from his employment counselors. He learned from them how he should dress, how to prepare his resume, and what to say in an interview. Even though he had felt discouraged and disheartened in the past, he trusted his newly found friends and put his faith in their words.

A few days later, Orji called. “You will not believe this,” he said. “I have a job! In two weeks, they’re flying me to Germany for training.” Not only was this new position a perfect fit for Orji’s background and interests, but it would pay enough so the family could live without a second income.

The next Sunday, as the Bigelows drove the Okugwes to church, Angela said, “I have received a testimony of the truthfulness of the Church. I think I’m ready to join the Church.” And Orji said he felt the same way.

A week later, Angela and Orji stepped into the waters of baptism. The day after, Orji stepped onto a plane bound for Germany where he would begin training for his new career.