

**Denise (Oyin) Mason** was born Denise Curry in Augusta Georgia. The oldest of three children, she would often accompany her mother, Martha when she worked in “white folks” homes as a maid to help support her family. Watching her mom in those situations made her understand her mother’s willingness to do all within her power to help provide for her family. Seeing her mother work so hard helped her develop a strong work ethic.

Music has always been a part of her upbringing. Her father, Robert, sang professionally with the Golden Trumpets when they lived in Georgia and her mother sang in the choir. Denise was in the Children’s Choir and had her first solo at the age of eight.

Oyin attended the Immaculate Conception Academy in Georgia before her parents made the decision to move to Detroit. That educational foundation prepared her to be able to excel in her classes at Durfee Jr. High and Mumford High School. She attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, MI for a year.

Upon returning from college, she got a call from a friend who asked her “if she was into “black stuff.” She picked her up for church the next Sunday and from that point on Oyin was into that “black stuff” like never before: Missionary Outreach; choir experiences, group meetings until 1am –all of which were “fun” back then.

She was always active in choirs, ensembles, acting groups even playing the role of Ruth in an excerpt of A Raisin In The Sun at a Wayne State dramatic presentation event while in high school.

Oyin truly appreciates the church family who was there for her during the worst time of her life when she lost her only child, Adisa.

Now, on her job at Henry Ford Health System, she is developing a program that seniors in nursing homes can enjoy. In her community work, through her Social Action Group, she is working with coalitions that want to effect positive change throughout the city; support food, clothing and back to school drives; she works with other churches, representing our church with other congregations; gives freely of the gift God has given her in the choir, at home-going services, at nursing homes, at numerous churches throughout the Tri-County Area. She considers all of these opportunities and experiences a “Holy Ghost Blessing.”

Our church honored Oyin, with an all-expense trip to our PAOCC in Liberia, Africa. She calls that blessing “A baptism of rebirth.” She was privileged to be able to bond with our brothers and sisters in that cadre, to be a part of spirit filled worship services and worked to be a part of beneficial solutions through education and job development. She felt **that** experience was like seeing our Founder’s teachings play out before her eyes.

She returned home even more committed to help redirect the lives of our young people. She is active in the Prison Ministry, in Choir Leadership and willingly gives of her talents and gifts whenever called upon. Her energy is contagious and when she prays, sings and directs the choir, you can’t help but be “caught up” and “carried away” by her dynamic spirit.