Pastor Abraham Olaoye Oyinloye was born in 1915 to the family of late Pa. Olaoye of Igangu Compound, Omu-Aran in Kwara State. His mother was late madam Oyebola Olaoye from Ile-Oro, Ifaja, Omu-Aran. Pastor Abraham Oyinloye had brothers. They are namely Emmanuel Oyedepo who married Oyebola Dada of Oke-Esa compound. They were blessed with children namely Ojuolape and late Dele Oyedepo. Others are Daniel Atolagbe who died in 1943, Olarinkoye and Adeboye.

**HIS EARLY CAREER AND EDUCATIONAL LIFE:** Pastor Abraham Oyinloye began his career as a peasant farmer. He followed his brothers to the farm because by then that was the only possible option for young men in the community. However, on September 15, 1931 he was selected to be among the young people to obtained formal education in Omu-Aran.
This took place at the Native Authority School popularly known as 'Magaranta' which was officially opened in September 1931. Abraham O. Oyinloye stated that the first set of the school graduated in 1939 with only 6 students who finished the race. The reason was that many of them were recruited before completing standard six. The various mission schools which were in great need of teachers recruited many of them. As a result of that, only 6 students out of 40 graduated.

**HIS MARITAL LIFE:** Even though Pastor Abraham Oyinloye was always busy, and engaged himself in school activities, he felt lonely. This made him woo a young lady at Ornu-Aran and she accepted the proposal to be his wife. On December 21, 1943 he officially got married to the young lady called Hannah Oyebola.

The Lord blessed the marriage with children. His first child, a girl was born at Sare on October 21, 1944 and she was named Rhoda Ayodele. The second child was born at Osi-Ekiti, Zaccheaus was born at Ornuo-Ekiti in March 1950. The late Oladele was born at Ornu-Aran on March 7, 1953. Interestingly Michael and Ezekiel were both born at Oke-Ila on August 3, 1956 and July 23, 1959 respectively. While Olalekan was born at Aiyetoro Ekiti in 1962 and Oluwatoyin was born at Owobaale at Ibadan in 1966. Indeed the Lord blessed and rewarded his servant with the fruits of the womb and all the surviving children are happily married today. Pastor A. O. Owinloye has one
of his Sons as an ordained minister of God, who is currently the President of the West Nigeria Conference, Oke-Bola. Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria.

**HIS CONVERSION TO 'ADVENTISM' AND TEACHING CAREER:** After his graduation in 1939, he was invited to teach at UMCA Sare. He answered the call and there he worked tirelessly for the next five years from 1940-1945. Pastor A. O. Oyinloye was worshipping on Sundays while teaching with the UMCA, but his mind kept on agitating that he should look for another job where he could keep the Sabbath holy. His elder brother, Emmanuel Oyedepo was one of the pillars in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Omu-Aran, this made Pastor Oyinloye learn most of the Bible lessons from his brother. Thus, his conscience kept bordering him.

In December 1945, he made up his mind to leave the service of the UMCA. He then carned home and his brother encouraged him to apply to the SDA Church at Otun-Ekiti for teaching appointment. Then, Pastor J. B. Oriola was the manager of the SDA schools in Mobaland. He was employed instantly in January 1946. Pastor D. T. Agboola was the headmaster in charge of Oke-Ogba in Otun-Ekiti. The system by then was to have standards four to six at Oke-Ogba and standard one to three at Odo-Eleti, Otun. He taught for only a year at Otun in Ekiti State of Nigeria.

Osi-Opin needed a teacher; so, in 1947 he was transferred to Osi-Opin where he laboured with Pastor J. D. Owolabi of Oke-Ila who was the headmaster there. In 1948, he was sent to Arandu with Elder Joshua Atejioye of Ikun-Ekiti as teacher and evangelist respectively. He spent only one quarter at Arandun after which he was called upon to move to Omuo-Ekiti where he served for four years. At Omuo-Ekiti he met Pastor T. K. Olufe of Imesi-Ile and both of them worked together successfully. Some of his members were Emmanuel Popoola, Madam Fasusi, Madam Isijola and a host of others. Through the help of God he pioneered Omuo-Ekiti Primary School.
which was later approved by the Government and some of his pupils were Tunji Isijola, Adetiba Bodunde Agboola and Madam Bankole.

In January 1952, he was transferred from Omuo-Ekiti to Ikun-Ekiti. At this time Pastor J. D Hyde was the President of the West Nigeria Mission and Mr. Ola of ipoti was the Headmaster at Ikun-Ekiti as at then. The journey from Omuo to Ikun took him and his family four days, on getting to Ikun on the fourth day, they were faced with the challenge of accommodation and they were sent to another nearby village called Ikosu where they got a house. As a result of this Pastor Oyinloye had to shuttle between Ikosu and Ikun from day-to-day for about one year to meet up with his assignments. In 1953, he was later transferred back to his hometown, Omu-Aran.

Between 1953 -1956 Pastor A. Oyinloye performed very well in his hometown as a teacher. Some of his colleagues who served as fellow teachers were Mr. Arigbede and Madam Comfort Dare. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized in 1953 at Omu-Aran while Pastor Oyinloye was working there as a teacher. After contributing his quota to his hometown as a teacher he then moved to Oke-Ila where he served until 1960. During this period, Mr. J. D. Awoniyi (now retired Prof/Pastor J. D. Awoniyi) was his headmaster. Other teachers who worked together with him were J. A. Popoola, the late Joseph O. Ajiboye and late Zaccheaus Jekayinoluwa. He left Oke-Ila for Otun-Ekiti in 1960 and laboured there until 1961. Shortly after that, in January 1962, he was posted to Aiyetoro-Ekiti and the headmaster was Mr. Arogundade of Ipoti-Ekiti. Pastor Oyinloye worked faithfully at Aiyetoro until the end of 1963. In 1964, he was transferred to SDA School Oke-Bola Ibadan where he completed his teaching Career.

**HIS MINISTERIAL CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS:**

In January 1965, Pastor A. Oyinloye entered full time gospel ministry. His first field of labour was Owobaale in the present Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State.
He worked throughout the district successfully. His district by then was still under Erunmu district. His area of assignment covered Mbiti Idogun, Aba Odan and others. During his ministry at Owobale, the father of Pastor J. A. Adeniji got converted and was baptized. From Owobale, Pastor A. Oyinloye was transferred to Ikire Apomu. While he was at Ikire, a church was built at Aba Karimu near Ago-Owu (now Orile-Owu). He also witnessed to the people of Sokole, Ikoyi and other communities in Aiyedade Area of Osun State for several years. It was during the ministry of Pastor A. Oyinloye that the Church at Rore was organized in 1977 and it was recorded that over 204 children were born and also dedicated to the Lord during his stay there.

**ORDINATION TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY:** In 1979 he was transferred to Sao and in February 1980, he was ordained to the full gospel ministry with other four ministers at SDA Church Ile-Ife. The others included: Samuel A. Ayinla, David Babalola, S. A. Adesina and Joseph A. Ola. This ordination was to set him apart to a life of soul winning. It was also a recognition of his dedication to the gospel ministry.

**SOME OF HIS MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- In March 1982, he was transferred to Oke-Ila. One of the major accomplishments was the prohibition of house burial, among the church members. It was then made mandatory for any dead members of the church to be buried at the church cemetery.

- While pastoring at Sao, the pastor's house was built. In addition, the church building was made more sacred. Before he left Sao, there were 32 candidates ready for baptism. His territory covered Offa, Oke-Ode. Oro and Apa Ola

- When pastor Oyinloye was transferred back to Ajase-Ipo, he was not operating on a new ground. Even though, he had retired in 1988, he kept on working and as a result, a piece of land was secured for a church building and the construction of the building began in 1995.

- In addition, it was during his tenure as the district leader that a piece of land was secured at Offa where the present church was built.
HIS NOTED ADMONITIONS: Pastor A. Oyinloye had the following pieces of advice for the Church then and for us all today:

- Marriage should be within Seventh-day Adventists.
- Remain in the Seventh-day Adventist Church at all cost
- Don't receive the mark of the beast because of job, position or popularity
- Church members should not fight their pastor whatever the situation
- Church members should also endeavour to visit their pastor and the pastor must equally visit the members.

SHEPHERDESS HANNAH OYEBOLA OYINLOYE CONTRIBUTIONS: Madam Hannah Oyebola Oyinloye will forever be remembered for her house to house evangelism, her visitations and her unflinching support for the husband's ministry. According to Adedeji Awoniyi, Mama was a mother–in-Israel indeed. He went further to say that she was a true Dorcas leader to the core. She was very active in the Dorcas Society to the extent that on Sabbaths, she would send information all the way from Omu-Aran to Oke-Ode in order for the women there to be active. He said she was a very strong and dedicated mother. She organized the Dorcas Welfare Societies (now Adventist Women’s Ministry) wherever they were transferred.
**HIS RETirement DAYS:** By August 1983 he left for Ajase-Ipo, Kwara State where he served until his retirement in 1988. He has since moved to settle at his own house in his home town, Omu-Aran. Though he is advanced in years, he still treks to church every Sabbath.

**EXPECTING THE KING’S CORONATION:** Pastor Abraham Olaoye Oyinloye has fough the good fight of faith, he has gone on the King’s errands, and he is now awaiting the coronation of the King of kings and the Lord of lords. In the words of Ellen G. White:

> You must fight the good fight of faith. You must be wrestlers for the crown of life. Strive, for the grasp of Satan is upon you; and if you do not wrench yourselves from him, you will be palsied and ruined. The foe is on the right hand, and on the left, before you, and behind you; and you must trample him under your feet. Strive, for there is a crown to be won. Soon we shall witness the coronation of our King. Those whose lives have been hidden with Christ, those who on this earth have fought the good fight of faith; will shine forth with the Redeemer's glory in the kingdom of God. *(The Faith I Live By, p. 124)*

**SOURCES:**

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