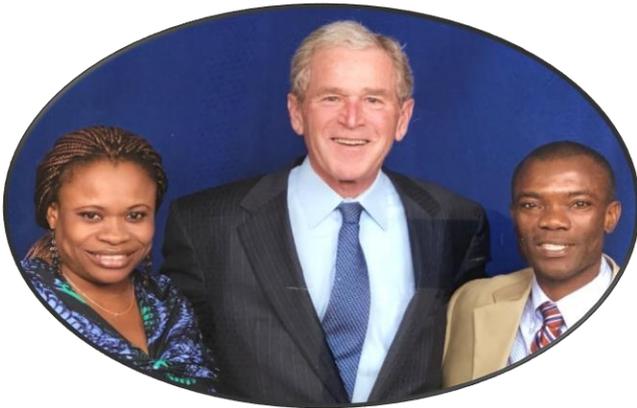


# OKURE CAMPAIGN

## FAMILY VALUES & GODLY PRINCIPLES

Ten years ago, my wife and I had the opportunity to meet former President George W. Bush. In his speech, President Bush emphasized the importance of family values and godly principles. Similarly, I perhaps may have had the opportunity to meet President Trump if an in-person Republican National Convention (RNC) were held in Charlotte. Unfortunately, the opportunity was missed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, like President Bush, during the virtual RNC, President Trump also emphasized his commitment to religious freedom, family values, and American greatness.



Likewise, as a candidate for Mecklenburg County Commission, I too uphold to conservative family values, godly principles, and American greatness. I learned about the importance of family firsthand while growing up in a rural village with my parents, grandparents, three uncles, an aunt, and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews, all living under one roof. I worked alongside my father both in the family business and in church ministry, all the while preparing for a life of service to God and humanity.

The family may be the smallest unit of government, but it is the most important and most powerful unit of every society: it is the building block of a nation. When each family works together and loves and cares for each other, it builds up the community, and eventually, it permeates

the entire world. Building the family will empower and enable dependent citizens to become independent.

Additionally, as a candidate, I am an advocate for community empowerment, believing that each person, family, and community has the potential to succeed. Furthermore, I am a proponent of lower taxes, enhanced quality education, inclusive crime solutions, affordable housing, business innovations, and the health and welfare of our citizens, especially the most vulnerable groups, such as our youths and senior citizens.

Like the family, there's a "United" before States of America, which implies that we stand and strive together - men and women, young and old, rich and poor, black and white. America is a beacon of hope to the world because of its basic freedoms, democracy, and opportunities to which it affords to those within its borders. These virtues we must embrace and cherish across political parties, gender, ethnicity, and race.

Jesus says that a divided house will not stand (Matt. 12:25). America will not remain the world's greatest country if senseless shootings and killings, looting, and destruction of properties and businesses persist within its cities. Life is precious and a gift from God, the Creator. I do not condone any unjustified unrest, shooting, or killing of any kind. Law and order must be upheld. Please pray for the healing and unity of our country. Mecklenburg County Commission and District 3 need a commissioner who supports family values, godly principles, and the rule of law. If I am elected, you could count on me to advocate on your behalf. You will have a platform to: 1). Express your voices. 2). Share your values. 3). Recommend god-fearing community leaders to the advisory board. An inclusive county commission means that you will be heard!

Friday Okure, Candidate

## OUR FUTURE - CHILDREN

Abortion was first officially legalized in the United States in 1973. In the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court struck down all restrictions states imposed on the criminalization of abortion. Prior to this decision, states were guided by conflicting abortion policies. Advocates of the new ruling celebrated this victory as a step in the right direction for woman's reproductive rights, or choice.

Women, with unwanted pregnancies, were now able to legally terminate their pregnancies at a safe medical establishment sanctioned by the state. Supporters believed, that arm with legal and medical legitimacy, more women's lives would be saved compared to the previous option of obtaining illegal abortions where women were sometimes exposed to dreadful, unsanitized, and primitive conditions.

Forty-seven years since the legal precedence of Roe v. Wade, what are the statistical, social, and moral implications of legalized abortion? The facts suggest that from 1973-2019 there were an official estimate of 61,628,584 aborted unborn babies in the U.S. This is equivalent to the current population of the country of Italy. Further, to every 100 pregnancy, per racial group, 50 black women, 25 Hispanic women, and 11 white women end their pregnancy in abortion. Moreover, it is also reported that more black babies are aborted in New York than those born in the state. Nationwide, there

are approximately 1,000 black babies aborted every day. Abortion is the number one cause of death in the African American community.

Additionally, low income and poor women are also disproportionately represented in abortion statistics. Most women who have abortion justify this act. Some suggest that they are not ready for a child. Others claim that they cannot afford to have a child at the moment. Should social and economic reasons take priority over the existence of a living being? Or should there be a pre-pregnancy mitigation process – avoiding actions that lead to dire consequences? What role does morality play in the decision to terminate a pregnancy? Statistics suggests that a low percentage of abortion seekers are religious, while many claim religious affiliation. Perhaps this fact affords the church an opportunity to seek to meet the ethical, emotional, and spiritual needs of its community. In summary, the aim of this article is not to cast dispersion on those who seek abortion as a viable alternative to life's problems. Instead, the article seeks to engage a more meaningful path that would avoid the detriment of abortion. Self-inflicted injuries, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual are the most visible and conscious reminders of our own misjudgments. Saving a child's life has far reaching joy than the alternative of aborting a life (Ps. 127:3-4).

Dr. Dathan Bodie, Advisor

**Friday Okure for County Commissioner, District 3**

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