News 18 November 2026 | English article

Today: Fountain of Life Church in Crisis as Trustees Remove Pastor Jimmy Odukoya in Lagos

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Respected Fathers of the Faith"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

The board of trustees of the Fountain of Life Church in Lagos announced on Tuesday 17 November 2026 that Pastor Jimmy Odukoya has been removed as Senior Pastor with immediate effect. The board named Pastor Rotimi Okpaise as interim spiritual and administrative leader. But within hours, Odukoya's camp rejected the removal as constitutionally invalid, and the church now has two sides telling two very different stories about who is in charge.

It is a stunning fall for a man who has led the church for just over three years. Odukoya is the son of the church's founders, the late Pastors Taiwo and Bimbo Odukoya, and he took over as Senior Pastor in September 2023 after his father's death. Now the board says a video recorded by his father in December 2021 changes everything - and Odukoya says the board has no power to do what it claims.

The Fountain of Life Church was founded in 1992 by Taiwo and Bimbo Odukoya and grew into one of the most recognisable congregations in Lagos, based in Ilupeju. Taiwo Odukoya died in August 2023, and his son Jimmy - an actor who became a pastor - was appointed Senior Pastor the following month. The board says that appointment was unanimous at the time.

At the centre of the dispute is a recording the board says Taiwo Odukoya made in December 2021, nearly two years before his death. According to the board, the late founder named a preferred successor in that video - and it was not Jimmy. The successor's name is reported as Pastor Kunle Areogun, according to PUNCH, and the board says Jimmy was to serve as administrative assistant to that successor and head of the youth church.

The board also says Jimmy Odukoya was present when the video was recorded, and that his elder brother, Pastor John Odukoya, witnessed it. The video was withheld, the board claims, and only brought to its attention in late December 2025. That claim has not been independently verified - this article presents the video as the board's claim, not as proven fact.

The board said the decision followed a constitution review and a prolonged internal leadership dispute. It also pointed to a second reason: Odukoya's recent remarriage and its public blessing. On Sunday 1 November 2026, Odukoya introduced his new wife, Pastor Mo Odukoya, to the congregation. The board called the remarriage contrary to the church's teachings, the founders' values and its leadership standards.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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