



BONNY ISLAND FOUNDATION
USA & CANADA

Unity And Service

Aru bile bilem kuma mbapa bile bileghaa



ST. STEPHENS CATHEDRAL CHURCH BONNY



The Ibani people are Christians. Majority of the inhabitants of the area converted to Christianity in the early 1800's. King William Dappa Pepple of Bonny elected to become a Christian while in England, so that God will grant him power and wisdom to rule his people. King William Dappa Pepple of Bonny was baptized by Reverend G H McGill and later confirmed by Bishop Tait, the Bishop of London. At the behest of King William Dappa Pepple the Church Missionary Society in London sent Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther, the first black African Bishop to Bonny in 1864 to establish the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in Bonny.

From Bonny Christianity spread to the neighboring communities of Twon and Nembe in 1868, Kalabari and Okrika in 1878, and thereafter to Andoni, Ogoni, Ikwerre and the hinterlands of Eastern Nigeria. On 24th January 1889, Bonny Christians presented their beautiful church to Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther as his Cathedral. Students of St. Stephen's Day School also presented a throne(seat) to his Lord for use in the Church. He accepted the throne and St. Stephens Church as his Cathedral. The Church was eventually dedicated by the Bishop on 27th February, 1889. St. Stephens Cathedral thus became the first Anglican Cathedral Church in Nigeria and the second Cathedral Church in West Africa.