

Kefentse Chike, Ph. D.



Kefentse Chike, Ph.D., was born in Inkster, Michigan and raised in Detroit, Michigan. Kefentse, the oldest of four children and was educated in the Detroit public schools. Kefentse was strongly influenced by the political air of the sixties and seventies and participated in the 1967 rebellion and other political activities of the time. During his adolescent years Kefentse sought other influences which proved to be much less productive. Kefentse graduated from the Oakland Preparatory School (for adjudicated youth) in 1976 (1 year ahead of schedule).

After several encounters with esteemed elder Bwagilou Hairson, Kefentse found his way home in the spring of 1980 when he joined the Shrine of the Black Madonna Church. Kefentse came to the church zealous, fervent, and eager to serve, in a short time he was a confirmed member, received his African name, and became a member of the Advance Leadership Training Group (ATG). As a member of ATG Kefentse was drafted into the Maccabees and ordained as a Missionary. Kefentse served in both capacities for several years.

In an effort to serve the church and the broader Black Nationalist community Kefentse has continuously enhanced his ability to serve African people. Viewing African drumming as a means to educate others about the African Experience Kefentse began studying African drumming in 1983. For the past 28 years Kefentse has served the African community as a drummer. Keeping with his commitment to African people Kefentse entered Wayne State University's Africana Studies program in 1989. With the guidance of his friend and mentor Bishop Akili, Kefentse completed his studies and received the undergraduate degree in 1995. Kefentse obtained a Master of Arts in African American Studies from Temple University in 1998, and completed his doctoral studies in African American and African Studies at Michigan State University May 2011.

As an educator/activist Kefentse has served in a plethora of settings informally and formally. Informally, as an African drummer for the past 28 years he has presented in churches, schools, community centers and numerous other venues. Formally during the past 16 years Kefentse has held teaching positions at the Aisha Shule and Nsoroma Institute as a teacher of social studies and language arts. During the past 13 years Kefentse has been a college lecturer. He has taught at four institutions of higher learning; Lewis College of Business, Marygrove College, Michigan State University and Wayne State University. Kefentse also holds membership in several national organizations, The Association for the Study of Classical African Civilization (ASCAC), the Council of Independent Black Institutions (CIBI), and the National Council of Black Studies. Kefentse is also the co-founder of the Detroit chapter of the African Diaspora Ancestor Commemoration Institute (ADACI).

Kefentse is the father of one son and currently teaches at Wayne State University and Aisha Shule. He attributes his successes and life accomplishments to the life transforming experiences and programs of the Shrine of the Black Madonna.