



# NIGERIA FAITHFUL WORKS REPORT

December 2005

## Girl Going Home

by Gita Richardson Larson

**My** Yoruba is rusty, but "*Inu me dun lati re yin*" translates something like "it makes my deep insides feel sweet to see you." I spoke this greeting to people during my visit to Nigeria this summer. Needless to say, they reacted with thrilled applause, knowing what I meant.

My trip to Nigeria was that of a girl going home. Sixty years ago my parents took me to Nigeria as a one year old toddler. When we arrived in Saki, it became our home for more than a decade. It remains the home of my heart. Thirty years ago we took our children to visit my parents in Ogbomoso. My twins were three years old then.

This summer my daughter Jennie and I went back to visit. We were hosted at the Baptist Medical Centre in Ogbomoso by Buster Iyere, administrator, and Dr. Samson Adeleke, medical director, and staff; and at the Baptist Medical Centre in Saki by Dr. Theo Ojebode and his staff. We also visited Okuta and Oyo.

Our home base in Nigeria was the current guest house on the Ogbomoso BMC compound where my parents lived for their last twelve years in Nigeria before they retired in 1980. In 1975, we stayed there when we visited them. Our every need was anticipated by the administrator and staff, from food, shelter, laundry, transportation, safety, and much more. Every day we received visitors eager to talk about past and present issues.

I had never seriously considered returning to Nigeria in the past thirty years, because I did not know anyone who could help facilitate a trip. It

was through relationships forged by Elaine Neil OIT with leaders at the hospital and seminary in Ogbomoso that I even began to think about it. The work through NFW on the wells at the hospital strengthened these relationships.

We were more warmly welcomed than you can imagine by new friends and old, because we cared enough to come home. I met so many people who had worked with my parents and other missionaries, as well as people who knew me as a small girl! We were thrilled to see one another.

A constant theme wherever we went was "where is *this* missionary?" They asked and asked about many of you by name. They treasure you, miss you, and strive valiantly to carry on the work you poured your lives into. They are faithful. They remember you, and all the efforts you made to give to them and to Nigeria. They would love to have word of your lives now. They remember your love for them.

You missionaries took us MKs to Nigeria. We had no choice, you know! The gift you gave us was a country to love, people to know and care about, and a culture to enjoy. We thank you for that. You left your mark. Your work is valued. Your lives are emulated. What you gave is still treasured. NFW works to be sure our Nigerian brothers and sisters do not feel forgotten. Our encouragement is so important to them.

*Consider giving a gift this season for  
an ultrasound machine  
for the Baptist Medical Centre in Ogbomoso.*

*See page 3.*

# Mailbag

The Nigeria Faithful group did a great job at the reunion of presenting what has been done, and what needs to be done in the future. We are all very proud of you!

-Virginia

Many thanks for all you did in getting pure water to the Medical Centre and sending me the thank-you table cloth from them.

-North Carolina

We want to thank the staff of the Medical Centre for the tablecloth and napkins. This is the prettiest tie-dye I have ever seen.

-Alabama

Was I ever surprised to receive the tie-dyed tablecloth! What a sweet thing for the hospital to do. The fact that the project was successful was reward enough.

-Arkansas

We didn't expect anything in return for our small gift other than the joy of knowing our African friends had an abundance of clear water! It means a lot to see the next generation of our mission family making something happen.

-Texas

# Completed and Current Projects

**I**n January 2005 two deep wells were drilled for the Baptist Medical Centre in Ogbomosho. Prior to that, the Centre had been struggling to meet its water needs with several shallower wells that either seeped or were unproductive, until this became futile. Then they began spending about \$800 a month to buy water from local vendors and haul it in a tank truck that the hospital also had to maintain. With the successful completion of the new wells, the hospital now has an abundance of clear water.

The new wells are 180 feet deep, and with their three horsepower pumps, each is able to produce about thirty gallons a minute.

Since then, thanks to a plan by consulting engineer Chris Strock, the hospital maintenance team has updated their piping distribution system to make it more effective for the clinical areas of the compound, and are now doing the same for the residential quarters. These changes involve repiping and putting in some underground cisterns.

Chris Strock is currently working with the leadership of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho to provide it with two deep wells and to provide professional guidance to reconfigure its piping distribution system. Chris has assessed the seminary needs and met with its president, Joseph Ilori, on two trips. Funds are already on hand with NFW to carry out the NBTS project.

Medical Centre administrator Burster Iyere commented on the working relationship with NFW. "The people of NFW know what true partnership is all about," he said. "They see us as partners in progress, not in a master-servant relationship.

"They do not set agenda for us; rather they ask us about *our* needs and priorities, and work with us to achieve them. They are not patronising, but help us realise our dreams and make our institutions stronger. This gives us confidence in ourselves that we can move forward on our own," he added.

## NFW Board Members

Jon Low, Chair (540) 552-1228/ [jlow@blacksburg.net](mailto:jlow@blacksburg.net)  
Elaine Orr, Treasurer (919) 782-6310 / [elaine@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:elaine@unity.ncsu.edu)  
Becky Albritton, Secretary (919) 876-7012/  
[albrittonbecky@aol.com](mailto:albrittonbecky@aol.com) Gita Larson, Liaison to Other Groups  
(803) 765-0135 / [gitalarson@aol.com](mailto:gitalarson@aol.com)  
Phil Whirley (843) 225-1500/ [phil@whirley.org](mailto:phil@whirley.org)

## Upcoming Projects

NFW has approved three new projects for the coming year.

The Baptist Medical Centre in Ogbomoso needs to generate more revenue. One way they can accomplish this-in addition to providing better care-is to have a working ultrasound machine. They tell us that a good used machine from the US would be more reliable than one purchased in Nigeria. NFW is working to provide one, to be taken by someone going to Nigeria soon. If we can obtain a second machine, we will send it to Eku. Saki has an old one that is still working. Funds need to be raised for this.

The hospital compound in Saki needs a new piping system. It has a good water supply, but needs changes in its piping to have a system that supplies adequate amounts of water at the places it is needed. (NFW has funds on hand for this.)

One of the biggest needs of the hospitals in Eku, Saki and Ogbomoso is to increase their business to produce more revenue. Now most people only turn to Baptist hospitals as a last resort because other options are cheaper. We want to help Nigerians create a marketing/promotion plan that tells of their service and ministry to wider audiences more effectively. For this, a US marketing professional would visit the hospitals and work with the staff teams there to develop these plans. A possible add-on would be to work with hospital teams to create a culture of appreciation, recognizing employees and building morale. Funds are needed for this.

## News of Related Efforts

Fred and Mary Kay (Howell) Posey visit Nigeria about three times a year for a few weeks each time. Their next trip will be in February or March. They will go to Eku with a volunteer doctor. Upgrading the quality of the hospital's 1970s-era equipment is one of their goals. On this trip they will be taking medical supplies and portable equipment to improve patient care and generate income, and encouraging the staff to build morale.

The Baptist General Convention of Texas has been providing short-term faculty for assignments at the seminary in Ogbomoso, and most recently made \$10,000 grants to both the seminary and hospital there for VSA T systems that allow high speed downloading. This will enable the opening of cybercafes, which both institutions have sought to diversify their revenue. BGCT is also shipping 73 desktop pentium computers for the Nigerian Baptist Convention to distribute where needed. The BGCT partnership was initiated by Terri Morgan of Partnership for the Environment, who worked with NFW on the assessments that led to the wells in Ogbomoso.

## Traveling to Nigeria

Dr. Andy Norman and his daughter Catherine will be traveling Dec. 25 - Jan. 8, briefly to Ogbomoso and then for a longer stay in Jos.

Don and Gwen Reece, Jan. 25 to the end of May, to teach for a semester at the seminary in Eku.

Peter Gilliland, Jan. 31 - Feb. 23, to the seminary in Ogbomoso and then the Jos area.

Dr. John and Maggie Tarpley, Feb. 4-17, first to Ghana and then Ogbomoso.

Fred and Mary Kay Posey, in February or March, to Eku.

## How to Help

Gifts to NFW are tax-deductible.

Support of these projects is deeply appreciated by people in Nigeria, and encourages them as they continue to serve under difficult circumstances.

Gifts in memory or in honor of ones who served in Nigeria are especially meaningful.

Consider approaching your church about a gift from their missions budget.

Make checks payable to CBF Foundation and be sure to write Nigeria Faithful Fund in the memo line.

Mail gifts to CBF Foundation, Attn: Sally Saffer, P. O. Box 450329, Atlanta, GA 31145-0329.

# NIGERIA FAITHFUL WORKS

2710 Old Fort Road  
Blacksburg, V A 24060

## NIGERIA FAITHFUL WORKS

### **Mission Statement**

*Nigeria Faithful Works is a network uniting Nigerian Baptist missionaries and adult MKs, Baptists in Nigeria, and other friends of Nigeria, bringing sustainable solutions to practical needs in Nigeria.*

*NFW was formed to honor the faithfulness of Nigerian Baptists who are carrying on ministries and services to their fellow countrymen and women.*

### **Guiding Principles**

Share knowledge  
Build capacity  
Foster autonomy  
Seek linkages with other resource groups and organizations with similar goals  
Exclude personal gain for any individuals involved

### **Our Model for Partnership**

- o Requests for projects are initiated by, and carried out in association with, Nigerian partners.
- o Projects are encouraged that can serve as effective models and be carried out at minimal expense.
- o Nigerians invest a share of financial and other equity in projects.
- o Once completed, projects are to be sustained by Nigerian partners.