

Report to Nigeria Faithful Fund Contributors

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From: Jon Low, Lee Brothers Norvell, and Elaine Neil Orr Date:

December 24,2003

We appreciate each one of you for adding your gifts to ours for the Nigeria Faithful Fund, and for trusting us with your money to help our friends in Nigeria. We want to keep you fully informed about the fund, and on how and when money will be spent. Through today \$9,800 has been contributed, with indications that a few more gifts are on the way.

As the fund neared the \$10,000 level, we thought about making a gift for a modest need to the seminary and reserving most of the money for the unknown cost of solving the water needs at the hospital. However, as we've continued to communicate with people in Ogbomosho, we've been gaining a better picture of the needs and priorities there. We've learned that not only the hospital but also the seminary faces water problems on an almost daily basis. In the years since many of us lived or visited in Ogbomosho, the seminary has grown. A secondary school with dormitories has been added to that compound, meaning that many more people live there now and use a lot more water. Missionary Paul Davidson said in the past few years, he can almost count on the fingers of one hand the few days the administration has not had to make expensive and time-consuming stop-gap water decisions, including having to hire tank trucks to haul in water. It makes sense to us to look for a comprehensive solution to the water needs of both compounds now.

On January 18 and 19-the earliest it could be arranged-several of our Nigeria Faithful Fund group are meeting in Raleigh with Terri Morgan of Partnership for the Environment (PFE) to plan a fact-finding trip to Ogbomosho. There are several wells on both compounds that either don't produce or barely produce water. Unsuccessful efforts have been made to rejuvenate these wells. Our group is reluctant to spend more money trying the same ideas by the same people. Consequently, we want to bring in the best possible expertise to examine the situation first-hand and then give us their recommendations. One of the PFE scientists or technical consultants will make a site visit for assessment and evaluation purposes in February (again, the earliest it could be arranged). Only then will we learn the scope and cost of the project that will be needed. Most likely Dr. Joe Yelderman or Dr. Larry Lehr, operational faculty with hydrogeology at Baylor University, will be technical advisors on the project.

We regret that proceeding in this way isn't very fast. We're eager to have some results to put into operation in Ogbomosho, and to tell you about. However we feel this is the wisest way to approach a tough problem that a lot of other people have already tried unsuccessfully to solve. We want to be wise in how we spend the money you've entrusted to us, and to be successful. We recently heard from Burster Iyere, business manager of the hospital, and he is encouraged that we are proceeding in this way.

After our meeting on January 18-19, we'll let you know the exact dates of the fact-finding trip to Ogbomosho. You'll also hear from us at other appropriate points, such as when they have made their recommendations and have cost estimates, when work is performed, and so forth as we move forward. *Adupe a pupa* to you for making this (and possibly other) projects possible. If you have any questions at all, be assured that you are always welcome to contact Jon at (540) 552-1228 or jlow@blacksburg.net.

Please consider sharing the story of this project with other missionaries, MKs, or friends at your church. We have no way of knowing if we've raised enough money yet. Some of you have made donations in honor of others, and a recipient of a Christmas card made a donation. Thank you for being our partners in this important effort!