

R E P O R T

February 2005

Ogbomoso Wells Successfully Completed

It's always amazing what can be accomplished when people work together with real commitment and cooperation. This was definitely the case with the completion of two successful wells on the Baptist mission compound in Ogbomoso, Nigeria this month.

Two deep wells were drilled and now provide all the water needs of the Baptist Medical Centre compound. Assistance to the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary for its water needs is also underway.

There are many people to thank for the success of this project.

The faith and generosity of the many donors was essential. Without the financial resources that you provided, nothing would have ever happened.

The leaders of the Baptist Medical Centre were outstanding. Burster Iyere, business manager, and Dr. Idowu Oladiran, medical director, were an inspiration in their dedication to do everything they could from their end to make the project work.

Chris Strock, a volunteer engineer from the US, made two trips to Ogbomoso, one at his' own expense, to provide technical advice and consultation for the project. His ingenuity and people skills "unstuck" many problems in the field and helped guide the work to a successful completion. Chris gave valuable leadership for a year in developing the specs, searching for a



A member; of the medical center, maintenance staff inspects the yield of a new bore hole before it is capped and connected to piping. .'

qualified contractor, sharing knowledge with Nigerians, and dealing with many challenges that threatened the project. No matter what was thrown at him, Chris was always positive and enthusiastic.

Terri Morgan of Partnership for the Environment led an assessment team to Ogbomoso last year and was immensely helpful with her advice and steadfast support "of the project. PFE provides expertise and services that improve water resources for health and agriculture in environmentally disadvantaged countries.

Terri has done great deal of work to bring in other resources to help both the hospital and seminary, including arranging a visit by theological

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Photo by Elaine NeilOrr

Heartfelt Thanks

*By Mr. Burster S. Iyere
Administrator Baptist
Medical Centre*

Today is one of the happiest days in my life. We are all so glad here. The completion of the wells was an exhilarating experience for all of us. I wept with joy. The yield is amazing. It is as if we have water fountains. We give God the glory.

We have stopped buying water from water vendors in the town. This will save us much money in the strained costs of our operations.

I will ever be eternally grateful to the host of you for your generosity in remembering us. God will surely reward all of you in Jesus' name. Amen!

*"The Lord made water
come from a rock for
His people.
He split the rock open,
and water gushed out."*

Isaiah 48:21



Photo by Elaine Neil Orr

Adupe 0 Pupa

*By Dr. Idowu Oladiran Medical
Director Baptist Medical Centre*

On behalf of the staff and management of the Baptist Medical Centre, I wish to convey our deep appreciation for your sincere concern for the survival of our centre which you have all so eloquently demonstrated in practical terms.

"My brothers, what good is it for someone to say that he has faith if his actions do not prove it? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, 'God bless you! Keep warm! Eat well!' if you don't share the necessities of life. So it is with faith. If it is alone and includes no actions, it is dead." (James 2: 14-16)

The Lord God will surely reward your labour of love. "Be generous, and you will be prosperous. Help others, and you will be helped." (Proverbs 11 :25)

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to all who have embraced the NFF initiative. Thank you and God bless you!

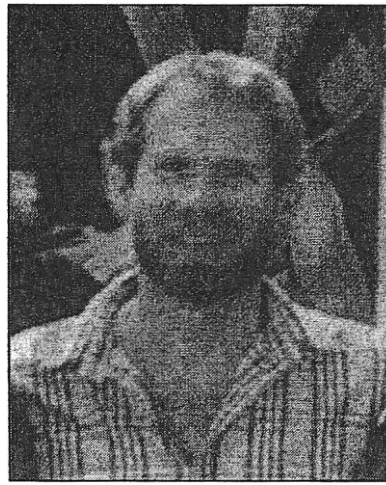
Chris's Story

*By Chris Strock of Timmons
Engineering Richmond, VA*

When I first answered the call to serve with the Nigeria Faithful Fund, I had no idea what I was getting into! Now that I have returned from my second trip, I know that my life is forever changed. I also believe we have forever changed the livelihood of those at the Baptist Mission of Ogbomoso.

During most of their lives, the people of the Ogbomoso mission have received their drinkable water from the sky. Each building is outfitted with a gutter system that captures rain run-off and carries it to underground cisterns. This supply of water was usually enough to sustain living through the dry season.

Over the years the mission has grown to include more people than ever before on its two compounds. The Baptist Medical Centre houses a 20-bed hospital, various support buildings, staff housing, a nursing and midwifery school, and primary school. The Baptist Theological Seminary houses several hundred seminary students, many with families, plus a large boarding school. Taken all together, the water needs can no longer be met by the rain water collection system.



For much of the 1980s and into the 90s, water was provided by the local water

works. Unfortunately this source can no longer be relied on. Several years ago, the mission leadership drilled several wells. Some of them do not produce any water, while those that do only produce a minimal amount. The hospital has been obtaining most of its water via a tanker truck service from a nearby well in the city. This is very expensive, and the staff can only buy enough water to meet their most immediate needs. For this reason, the Nigeria Faithful Fund was determined to provide a sustainable solution to the problem.

As a civil engineer, I lent my expertise to providing technical recommendations and direct field oversight in Ogbomoso. Various options were considered, ranging from completely overhauling the rain water collection systems to helping the city rehabilitate its water works. The most viable

option was to hire a competent contractor to drill two deep water wells—twice as deep as any in all of Ogbomoso. From the start, our journey has been an answer to prayer. Our project had its share of glitches and hurdles throughout the planning and implementation phases, but it was always reassuring to know that we were not the ones in control—God was and still is!

I have been amazed by the faith and generosity of the Nigerian people at the mission and the work ethic of the crew that drilled the wells. We had a wild ride out into the bush to negotiate the drilling rig out of the hands of some replanted Zimbabwe farmers. Because of this, our work was delayed but as soon as the crews hit our site, they went right to work—quite a feat when you consider that they arrived at six o' clock in the evening!

The drilling had its own problems, but ultimately those problems were all overcome. There are now two productive wells serving the hospital, and for the first time in recent years they are self-reliant for clean water!

I am honored to have served the people of the mission who, at times, have very little but their faith. We have played a key role in bringing a sustainable water system to these folks and in return I have received a greater faith. For that, I am forever grateful.

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and medical leaders from the US to set up exchanges of personnel and donations of equipment.

If there is one quality that characterized this project, it was the faithfulness of every-one

involved--donors, volunteers, and our Nigerian friends.

The Nigerians inspired us with their strong prayer support. Many of them fasted for weeks leading up to the start of the work.

Many things could have gone wrong and derailed the project. The day Chris was to leave Richmond, his flight was cancelled because of a snowstorm. When he arrived in Ogbomoso, despite daily assurances, the drilling crew did not arrive for five days. Once on the job, however, they worked around the clock but progress was frequently interrupted by broken parts or the need for replacement equipment. The first well was completed successfully, only to have the drive shaft collapse and jam into the bottom of the borehole. It could not be retrieved, and a replacement well



NO LONGER NEEDED! This tank truck was formerly used to haul water that had to be purchased from a vendor in Ogbomoso. Photo by Elaine Neil Orr

had to be drilled. The success of the project came from battles fought and won with your prayers.

Chris and Dr. Ifori worked together to review the seminary's water system needs; They have some functioning wells. The main problem is distribution-coming up with a more effective system of overhead tanks and piping distribution. One deep well is also needed. Chris is designing

this system now.

We believe the seminary can raise the money for the distribution system. The Nigeria Faithful Fund received several gifts after we reached our goal, and with this surplus we anticipate having the same company that drilled the wells for the hospital return to drill a deep well for the seminary.

NFF Project Honored With Awards

The Ogbomoso wells project has been honored with recognition for two of the volunteers involved as an example of collaborative assistance to developing countries.

Chris Strock and Jon Low have been chosen to receive President's Volunteer Service Awards. They were nominated by Terri Morgan, president of Partnership for the Environment.

The awards will be presented by Dr. Joe Duggan, senior policy advisor of US AID, at a meeting of Partnership for the Environment's board of directors on March 4 in Dallas.

In May 2004 President Bush introduced an initiative to promote volunteerism by establishing Volunteers for Prosperity, a division of USA Freedom Corps. VFP supports volunteer participation by Americans in both domestic and foreign development activities, and assists in humanitarian efforts to educate and build institutional capacity in the developing world.