



## ***NIGERIA .. FAITHFUL***

October 1, 2003

Dear Friends of Nigeria,

Greetings and happy Nigerian Independence Day! We are writing to ask that you join us in a joyful effort to raise money in support of the Baptist Medical Centre and Baptist Seminary in Ogbomosho. Nigeria is a beloved country to all of us, and to many of us Ogbomosho is a place of beloved memories. Historically Ogbomosho was the foundation for many other Baptist mission posts throughout Nigeria, and in days past all roads led to Ogbomosho for Mission Meeting.

When Elaine Neil Orr visited her home town in January, she found that Ogbomosho is also a place of beloved presences. She was greeted by seminary professor Dr. David Adeniran, whom she had known as a girl, and by Mr. Burster Iyere, the current business administrator at the hospital, as well as the chaplain; Pastor Adedokun: She visited with- Paul-and Diane Davidson in the house-some of us knew as the Humphrey/Whirley house. "I was struck by the great faithfulness of all those I met and re-met, who are working under very difficult circumstances," she said. "I was thrilled to find that I have friends in Nigeria *now*. But the hospital and the seminary need our help. The hospital is no longer operated by the government. Neither the hospital nor the seminary receive any financial support from the International Mission Board. And yet many Nigerians who have committed their lives to the service of these institutions represent the fulfillment of dreams and provide a great service to their people," she added.

Having heard about Elaine's trip, we-Lee Brothers Norvell, Jon Low, Lisa Jester, Alisa Edwards Smith, Becky Neil Albritton, and Paige Reece McCormick-are raising funds for the seminary and hospital. The hospital is the oldest, continuously-running Baptist mission hospital in the world, and will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2007. Jon has established a fund for donations to this project, including a conduit to trusted hands in Nigeria that should be beneficial to all. Lee is maintaining correspondence with our contacts in Ogbomosho. Lisa, Alisa and Becky are working on fund raising. We have laid a good foundation in terms of relationships and communication between Nigeria and the US.

Specific requests for the hospital which have been named by staff and missionaries in Ogbomosho as well as visiting professionals include the following. A reliable water supply in the form of a drilled well is badly needed. Other supplies needed range from blood pressure cuffs to suction machines and infrared lamps, to microscopes and incubators for neo-natal care. Presently there is no functioning incubator at the hospital. The facilities also need painting. We are happy to report there is a fine new generator operating which will help with the water situation if and when a new well is completed.

For the seminary, library books and periodicals in music, missions, Old Testament, and New Testament are in very short supply'. The expansion and upkeep of buildings-, especially faculty housing, library, and music building is critical. Musical instruments needed range from an electronic organ for the chapel to a drum set.

The hospital is planning its centennial celebration in 2007, and it sends heartfelt invitations to all of us to come to the party! The seminary would love to host visiting faculty who can come for any amount of time to lecture and mentor in the classroom, and will provide its best housing. Their needs range from English language teaching to lecturing in Christian ethics, religious education, and preaching.

. Our group has already sent an initial gift which has been dispersed to the two institutions and received with gladness. We hope you will consider sending a donation now, and think about making ongoing contributions to the important continuing efforts in Ogbomosho. The seminary has just installed a new president; that compound now includes an elementary and secondary school for Nigerian children. There is once again a nursing school in Ogbomosho. The hospital includes a dental clinic, and an **HIV** program (which extends to Eku) is being established.

We have put a great deal of time and effort into finding a good organization to receive gifts that is both tax-deductible for donors and can reliably transfer money to Nigeria. Please join us in being faithful to our Nigerian friends who themselves continue to be so faithful. We invite you to make a check out now to the CBF Foundation and be sure to indicate "Nigeria Faithful Fund" on the memo line of your check. Send your gift to the CBF Foundation, P. O. Box 450329, Atlanta, GA 31145-0329. All donations are tax-deductible. Dr. Keith Parks helped to set up this foundation and establish safe procedures for international money transfers. For the hospital well project, we have chosen to work with Partnership for the Environment, which has a strong track record in providing reliable wells in other countries and already has a working partnership with the CBF Foundation. We look forward to being able to talk more about this with you at the Nigerian Reunion later this month in Alabama.

It is worth pointing out that those of us who initiated this project did not expect to affiliate ourselves with either the CBF or the SBC. We did not want to alienate anyone who is partial to either group, the overriding thing being for us to work together to accomplish something good to help our Nigerian friends. The result of our somewhat long search is that the CBF Foundation and Partnership for the Environment present an effective way to do that. No slight is intended toward the SBC, nor will the CBF profit in any way from our having a fund with its foundation.

Your contribution will make a huge difference in Nigeria. Remember that the per capita income there is \$300 annually. But most importantly, remember that the Nigerian Baptist Mission took root in Ogbomosho because the people there were so welcoming of early missionaries. By remaining open to our friendship, those who work there today offer us a way to be faithful. Several missionaries have already indicated their support of this project to assist and encourage the Nigerians who continue to serve, including Don Reece, Anne Neil, David Mayhall, Edwin and Anita Low, John Tarpley and Don Meier.

Thank you for your love and support,

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