

NIGERIA

CORUM Africa:

(Commission For Rural and Urban Ministries) Founded in 2000 to train and equip indigenous African leaders. **More on Page 4.**



Abraham (L), refugee pastor in a camp of 10,000, holds his son while Theophilus, who evangelizes in 5 nations, plays with another child .

IMPACT MINISTRIES PARTNERS WITH CORUM AFRICA

Three-week ministry trip to Nigeria focused on training and equipping pastors who live and work among refugees and the rural and urban poor in West Africa.

By Dr. Harvey R. Brown, Jr.

During most of the month of November, I had the privilege of living with and working alongside leaders of the Church in Nigeria. These were not famous mega-church leaders (and there are many in that nation), but unsung heroes who are part of the emerging church that ministers to the suffering, struggling, and dispossessed peoples of West Africa.

My original vision for going to Nigeria came through a developing friendship with Dr. Samuel Kujiyat (see bottom of page 2), whom I met while in Lakeland, Florida, in July. Although we were planning an initial visit for early 2009, an invitation to partner with the Commission For Urban and Rural Ministries in Africa for training indigenous pastors accelerated my trip plans.

The fully-packed itinerary included ministering in 5 of the Nigeria's 36 states, as well as a

four-day pastors' training seminar—"To Know Him, And Make Him Known"—in Ibadan, the second largest city in West Africa. We were preparing for and expecting 50 attendees. But the first day we had 103 pastors, the second day 30 new attendees, and 40 new ones the third.

The presence of the Lord was especially strong, so much so that great repentance came upon attendees after I preached and taught on the healing power of forgiveness. Among those who prayed prayers of release and forgiveness was a Muslim who was "drawn" to see what was going on at the church. He told me later that as he stood in the back, he felt the love of God. As a result I was able to lead him into a commitment to Christ (see story on page 3).

The trip included four days in the north for networking and planning our return in January.



A Muslim Stronghold

Nigeria is the largest Muslim country in Africa. In 2000, violent jihadists in Kaduna killed thousands and burned churches.

REACHING THE LEAST AND THE LOST



An Uncertain Future

Oru Refugee camp (not to be confused with Oral Roberts University) faces an uncertain future as the UN has ceased basic support as of 6/2008. Accordingly, conditions in the camp have deteriorated dramatically while other non-government organizations and agencies are seeking solutions.



I was unprepared for the amazing grace I found in such austere conditions

Even though I had made two previous trips to Africa, I was still unprepared for some of what I saw and experienced during this trip to Nigeria. I had the opportunity to sit with those whose families had suffered martyrdom for Christ. I had the high privilege of sleeping on the floor in a refugee camp among brothers and sisters who have been displaced from their countries and every possession that was dear to them. And I shared meals with those who rarely have sufficient food to eat every day.


Yet even among those who have suffered extreme deprivation, I discovered great joy and trust in the Lord radiating from hearts that are filled with Christ's love.

I am so humbled to have been among these wonderful saints who



live and minister in terribly difficult conditions. And rather than complain about their lives, they are using the challenges they face to help spread the good news of Father's love through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Part of their strategy involves equipping refugee Christians to be able to evangelize and lead others to the Lord when they return to their home countries. By raising up and equipping emerging leaders, they will be much like the early church that saw the word of God spread widely and grow in power. Persecution caused believers to be scattered across the Roman empire and the church grew. Conditions in Africa may be doing the same thing. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

DR. SAM KUJIYAT, KADUNA NIGERIA	VETERINARIAN	PASTOR	FATHER	AMBASSADOR
	<p>Sam studied veterinary medicine through Kansas State University, and took an advanced degree in animal breeding.</p>	<p>In 1984 he left government service to pastor full-time in Kaduna, a city in the Muslim dominated north.</p>	<p>Many leaders in various positions in church, business, and government look to Sam as a trusted "father."</p>	<p>The Love of God radiates through Sam's life and ministry to all with whom he comes in contact.</p>

The Healing Power Of Forgiveness

One afternoon during the CORUM seminar we took testimonies from several pastors. Each shared about how God had ministered to them the previous day through my messages on forgiveness and releasing hurts.

One of them told how Father began to speak to him about a situation in his extended family where he had great pain. He said he had forgiven the parties involved, but realized during the message that he still bore some wounds and unforgiveness in his heart.

As I was leading the group through prayers of forgiveness and release, he saw an angel standing next to the pulpit that was removing the wound in his heart. He knew not only that he needed to truly forgive the offenders, but Father was also healing his heart-wound. So he left the seminar and went to be reconciled with his in-laws. The pastor was also restored to a right relationship with his heavenly Father.

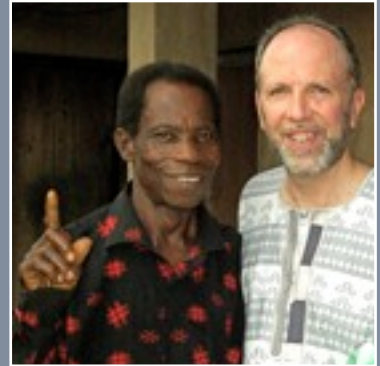
At the conclusion of the third day, a young man whom I met the previous day at the conference came into the house to talk to Pastor Dennis. He shared that he had come to the meeting because he was in the area and was "drawn" to

where the people were going. He was not a pastor. In fact, he was a Muslim who regularly made haj (pilgrimage) to Mecca. He also had lived and studied Arabic there. He remained at the conference through the day, and when I taught on God's forgiveness and testified to how Father has touched my life, he felt God's love. He told me that when I led the pastors through forgiveness prayers, he prayed along with us, experienced God's presence, and felt love and forgiveness that he had never known before.

So while he and Pastor Dennis were talking, I joined the conversation and guided him in acting upon the love he had felt. Abi formalized his response to Father's forgiveness and love by committing his life to Jesus. I can't describe the joy in the room.

Afterward, I played the Father's Love Letter (www.fathersloveletter.com) on my laptop for him. It was precious watching him talk back to "God" as the recorded voice of "Father" was speaking. He would say, "Yes, my Father!" "I do, yes, I do!" We laughed and cried together as Abi realized that he had found something in Christ that Islam could never offer—love and forgiveness. "There is no forgiveness in Islam," he declared. "But now there is in Jesus."

FACES OF HOPE



Glimpses of God's Grace

TOP: Solomon has pastored for 25 years, but our seminar in Ibadan, Nigeria was the first training he has ever received.

MIDDLE: Group photo shows some of the over 175 pastors and leaders who were trained.

BOTTOM: Abi, a Muslim who had studied in Mecca, was converted to Christ after hearing a message on the power of forgiveness.

Best friends
Margaret (Sierra Leone) & Beatrice (Liberia) in Oru Refugee Camp



THE STORY OF CORUM AFRICA

How an illiterate pastor and his Muslim friend were used to cast a life-changing vision

C. Brown Dennis is a Liberian Christian who God is using to change the face of the Church in Africa one pastor at a time. In 1996, when he felt God calling him to pastor, he was working for the Firestone Rubber Plantation Company in Liberia.

"The first thing the Lord did was put a desire in me to know more about Himself—a burning desire to study His word." This was amplified in the year 2000 when Brown was able to attend a week-long training program in Monrovia sponsored by the Liberian Cross Cultural Mission.

"Originally, this was intended to be the first of many training events, but the increasing strife of our civil war made it an impossibility," according to Dennis.

The trip that changed everything

"Barely a month after the training, I went on an extended business trip to the south-eastern region of Liberia (I was still a coordinator with Firestone while pastoring at the same time). In the area where they stationed me, there was a small church—the only one in a village of over 75 persons. The pastor of this little church was illiterate. The only person who could read and write in the whole village was a Muslim man.

"That village pastor's sole resource was an old Bible, but he was zealous to work for the Lord. The strange thing was that whenever the pastor of the church wanted to prepare his sermon for Sunday, he would go to this Muslim

man so that the Muslim brother could read and explain the passage of scripture the pastor would use to preach to his members.

"I watched this continue for the whole month I was in that village until my assignment was ended. After this, the Lord began to lay on my heart a burden to see pastors and Christian leaders trained. I believe the Lord took me to that village to show me what He wanted me to do for Him."

As a result, Brown formed the Commission For Rural And Urban Ministries (CORUM) Africa. The work is not a large ministry organization, but rather a grass roots effort targeting pastors and Christian leaders who labor in small, rural settings or among the marginalized urban poor.

The Dennis family had to flee Liberia in 2003, and they brought to Nigeria the work of CORUM and the vision for training and equipping leaders of the church.

The work of CORUM today

One of the avenues for expanding the work and vision of CORUM has come through its ministry at the International Refugee Camp located in Oru-Ijebu, Nigeria, which has nine churches and over 150 Christian leaders. The camp is comprised of almost 10,000 refugees from eight nations.



Oliver has lived in Oru Refugee Camp all his life

The Camp began with all Liberian inhabitants, many of whom were brought up in Christian families. Later, upon inception of hostilities in various crisis areas across Africa, the camp saw the arrival of nationals from Sierra Leone, DR Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau and Cote d'Ivoire.

"Although we have built partnerships with all these pastors and help train and encourage them in their ministries, we now have selected ten who are returning to their respective countries as our representatives. In this way we are broadening our reach into nations beyond Nigeria and Liberia.

"Someday, most of these refugees will return to no home, no properties, and little future. What is their hope? The answer is in Jesus Christ, knowing Him and his love, and finding their place as a member of His body. The Church needs to be an instrument of light. And by God's grace, CORUM will help equip leaders to carry that message."

How You Can Help

Dr. Harvey Brown will be returning to Nigeria in January 2009 to focus on carrying the message of Father's love through the Lord Jesus into the Muslim-dominated northern part of the country. Your gifts to Impact Ministries will enable this message to go into places that have yet to know how much God the Father really loves them.

Please Pray For

- Sufficient finances for the trip
- God-appointments and open doors
- Dr. Kujiyat who will host in Nigeria

Battle not against flesh & blood

Also pray for safety and health. During this past trip there was fire in my hotel room, auto accidents, and emergency aircraft landing. PTL for the enemy's defeat!

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