

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The year of 2023 is now history and the new year always reminds us that we need to renew our commitments to take the gospel into ALL the world sharing the GOOD NEWS with souls throughout the world. It seems an overwhelming task, but we need to remind ourselves that we have many advantages that those who went before us never had...things like World Bible School and World English Institute make it possible to teach the truth to individuals that you may never meet this side of eternity. When these are combined with radio and television efforts, it is fair to say that we are doing a better job of making the gospel available around the globe than any previous generation. However, we must never forget the influence of personal contact because the beauty of a Christian life has a reinforcing impact that must never be dismissed. That expression, "Go ye" means "Go me" says that each of us has a responsibility to share the good news where we are. However, I am thankful for those who are unable to go to other regions, yet who make it possible for those who are willing to go to other parts of the world and share the good news.

As has been reported earlier, the board of the school (Nigerians) has decided to seek independent university status because the Muslims are pressuring the University of Jos to withdraw our affiliation, which we have with them, that gives local accreditation to the degrees that are granted by our school. If we get an independent university status, they will not be able to withdraw the accreditation status from our graduates. The first major step in that direction is that national education authorities in Nigeria require ownership of 100 hectares

(approximately 247 acres) of land before applying to become an independent university. A property has been located and negotiations are underway for it to be purchased. Many of you may have participated in the challenge to let your fifth Sunday contribution in December go toward this purchase...please keep this effort in your prayers and know how grateful those of us who are involved in this work are for your participation (individuals and congregations) in this effort. The response to this appeal has been most encouraging and hopefully this will provide an adequate amount for a down payment. The coming month of June (2024) also has a fifth Sunday and I would encourage congregations and individuals to consider donating their 5th Sunday contributions to this good work. If you are able and willing to do that, please send the funds directly to Savannah Church of Christ, 1175 Pickwick Street, Savannah, TN 38372, which oversees this effort. We now have graduates working in at least 12 different African nations and continue to get very encouraging reports of the work that is being accomplished by our graduates. The African continent is home for a population that needs to hear the Good News and we can't tell you too often how grateful we are for your help as we seek to train workers for the kingdom in Africa. **Randy Baker**

Editor's Note:

Brother Randy Baker joined our work in 2014 after retiring from 45 years of full-time preaching. He visits Jos every year to speak on our lectureship and attend our graduation ceremonies. When he isn't in Nigeria, Randy can be found at most of our brotherhood lectureships in the exhibit area. Visit him for up-to-date information on the school.

BACK TO NIGERIA

It only seems like a few days ago since last February that we boarded the plane to go to Nigeria. That was my first trip back in several years. Well, here we go again. Whichever way we travel it is always to go back home. Where the heart is, is home.

Steve and I plan to spend 3 months again at Jos. I hope to be teaching the young ladies, and the adult ladies also at different meetings. One topic I have already worked on is titled: The Grace of God. I plan to do another titled: Perfection in Christ. Then I hope to create a lesson on 2 specific people in the Bible. We hope to celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary on April 16. We celebrated our 59th last year at Jos and it was a fun time for all.

Last year was hard at the beginning as far as shopping for certain food products. One staple was milk, bottled or in cartons, and some canned vegetables were scarce. Some stores were out of these, but they came back before we left. I am ready for some great yummy Nigerian and Lebanese meals, and to be with our friends and the church there. There is always fresh vegetables and fruits, even though some are more expensive, just like in the USA. With the money system being changed, it was hard to buy unless with cash in hand. We could still get chickens and eggs from the school farm.

You can be in touch with me through my email: deloresaworl@yahoo.com or messenger through Facebook. I hope to be sending our reports on our activities.. Thank yo for your support and prayers. **Mama Dee**

A WINTER DAY

While planning to start a School of Biblical Studies, Jos, back in 1989, (Wow, that was 35 years ago) we decided on two major goals for the future of the school. First, each student would receive an excellent education in Bible, and how to present its contents effectively to the church. Second, was each student would actively practice evangelism while attending SBS. We wanted our students to see the face of each person they had taught the gospel as they raised them from the watery grave of baptism as described in Romans chapter 6.

Our first goal was to find men and women dedicated to a life of teaching the scriptures and the role of a Christian. In order to obtain an excellent Bible and Language education, we needed to bring men and women, chosen by our African brethren, to America. Our first student was Brother Solomon Aguh and his family. None of the 11 students that followed Brother Solomon and his wife, Rachel, needed four years to complete their Bible Degrees. Some returned later to complete their Master's Degree. **Everyone we brought to America returned to Africa!** Of our present teaching staff of ten men and two women, all have their Master's Degree and four have obtained their PhD, while five are enrolled in their PhD programs in Africa.

Having these brethren visit our country has been an adventure both for them and myself. I am reminded today while looking out my window of one very funny story. One winter morning when I was having coffee in our kitchen, the phone rang. I answered it to hear a voice that was excited and very loud. One of our students from Africa expressed panic as he shouted, **“Brother Worley you must come quickly. The earth has disappeared!”** He repeated it over and over again. As I attempted to calm him down I looked out my window and realized what was his problem. I explained that what he was looking at was snow. Later I convince him that he should try to walk outside. As I write this article I can look out my window here in Savannah, Tennessee, and see six inches of snow with more falling. God is great!

Steve Worley

SCHOOL REPORTS / CHAD REPUBLIC

Brethren we continue to give glory to God for this great blessing. We have a Primary and a Secondary school along with a Medical Clinic located on our 15 acres of land in the village of Dono-Manga in Southern Chad Republic. There are no paved roads, electricity, or treated water in the area, yet both our schools continue to grow, being supplied with students from 32 villages. Five of our graduates of SBS are from this part of the Chad Republic.

They started the teaching of our local children in the school year 2009 - 2010, with an attendance of 142 students divided into 2 classrooms with 3 teachers. Since our beginning, our Lord continues to bless this work beyond measure. Our Primary School now has 939 children registered! The school campus consists of 15 classrooms with 20 teachers and other personnel.

Our Secondary School has 430 students being taught in 8 classrooms by 17 teachers and other personnel. This gives us a total of 1,369 students being taught by 37 teachers.

The Churches of Christ in Dono - Manga and surrounding villages are still growing, but there are many challenges, especially during the Rainy Season. We will continue to give glory to God who continues

to allow us to add more souls to the body of Christ. In September 2023, 8 people obeyed the Lord's command, being immersed, and added to the body of Christ (see the pictures below) plus we witnessed 45 restorations.

We wish to remind you about the construction of the security wall around the rest of the campus. We have already gathered the materials necessary for the foundation, but we had to stop because of the heavy rain and the need to harvest our farms. The plan is made to come back in early February, Lord willing. We also need money to purchase used clothing for our children as most come for very poor families. We are still requesting for the eventual visit of Brother Steve Worley visit to Chad Republic and Dono - Manga District if possible for this year, 2024. Please continue to pray for us.

Rimorbe, Pierre

