

BERNARD AND RAWN'S BRIEFINGS

SERVING THE GREAT COMMISSION MOVEMENT OF NIGERIA

August, 2006

US Address through Dec, 2006

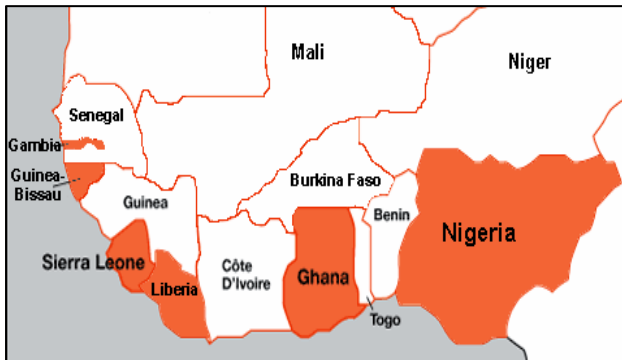
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We use this newsletter to brief you on Hope West Africa (HWA) as you prayed for it earlier.

Doubtless there are overwhelming spiritual and physical challenges in West Africa such as HIV/AIDS, great infant mortality, tribal and religious wars, armed robbery, fraud, idolatry, poverty, and ignorance to mention a few.

It was as if West Africa was asking the question in Psalm 121 verse 1: "I lift up my eyes to the hills-from where comes my help?" The answer in the scripture is: "My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth." It was indeed out of this strong conviction that only Jesus is the Hope of West Africa and mankind that the campaign "Hope West Africa" was born.

HWA was a success story. God answered prayers. In the 7 states of the Southeast region that we cover, with a population of about 30 million people, various strategies were used to share Christ. These were Jesus Film shows, medical outreaches, seminars, video distribution and prison ministry. 193,400 people were presented with the gospel and out of this number 56,000 of them prayed to receive Christ. More than one tenth of this number started follow up lessons. In addition, we partnered with many churches, non-governmental organizations and Christian organizations to do outreaches. 12 churches were planted in our region of Nigeria.



Women choosing to receive Christ in Anambra State.

FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION IN THIS GENERATION

God answered prayers in delivering us from the hands of aggressive natives who nearly killed us. Some of our people in the northern part of the country met with resistance and open opposition among the Muslims. They threatened our staff and hurled stones, but nobody sustained injury.

It was amazing to see how God brought people together to form a significant team! There were Christian medical doctors ready to volunteer their practice in the mission field. At that time also UNICEF had just donated drugs worth more than \$30,000 to a prominent church in our region. Equipped spiritually and materially, we headed to various sites for ministry in partnership with local churches and the result was simply amazing.

Tears of joy flowed freely from people's eyes as they received both spiritual and physical help. There was this woman who had abandoned her son to fate. The son had a lethal tumor around the groin and there was no money to seek medical help. The medical team performed surgery on the boy and he became well. The woman exclaimed, "You mean this is free?! This must be God!"



Medical doctors volunteering in the Anambra State outreach.

PHYSICAL HARVEST ACCOMPANIES SPIRITUAL HARVEST

Hope West Africa also featured the additions of babies. At Inyima village in Cross-River state 3 women were delivered of babies on the night of our arrival. Despite not having any hospital, or maternity clinic, they gave birth with no hassles at all. This simply boosted our message in the village. Also, the Regional Coordinator for the Southwest region in Nigeria had a baby boy. On the same day, our own baby, a baby girl, arrived. We named her Pleasant-Hope after the Hope West Africa campaign. Our hope for our nations is Jesus Christ.

Beloved, we have a cause to rejoice. I encourage you never to relent. The task is by no means accomplished, no, not in a single campaign. I do know that as we join hands in prayers, nothing is too hard for the Lord.

