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Dear Friends,

At our first staff meeting of the year in Nigeria, we declared 2005 to be a year of “favor”, “fertility”, and even “fiancée”... reflecting our needs/desires as a ministry for the year. God has proved himself to be faithful and we have seen answers to nearly all of those proclamations. For my husband and I, “fertility” was answered with our precious daughter, Pleasant-Hope, who arrived on November 3. (Picture coming in January) “Favor” came as the Lord provided a non-immigrant visa for Bernard to make his first US trip in February, provided new sets of equipment for the Jesus Film for our region in Southeastern Nigeria, and touched people to give towards the Hope West Africa outreach held throughout October and November. Our single ladies claimed the “fiancée” portion... and are still trusting God. It seems something may be in the making for some of them, but nothing official yet.

One of the most exciting aspects of our ministry is watching God set things up. In preparation for Hope West Africa, we dreamed of how we could reach various sectors of society in Southeastern Nigeria. One vision we had was to reach out to the armed forces and police. Within weeks of our first brainstorming session, one of our staff “happened” to meet the Mobile Police Chaplain for the region. He had first learned about the Great Commission Movement in our National Headquarters in Jos and was excited to find out that we had a local office in his area. When he came to the office, and met with Bernard, he rejoiced to see that God truly had divinely sent him – matching our vision with his and his contacts. Details of the outreach are still being worked out, but we are thrilled that God laid the foundation FOR us. Bernard, in his role as Regional Coordinator, has many such moments as he plans with our staff and seeks to help resource those plans.

For me, I have had moments of one-on-one discipleship with women at the nearby university campus and at our church. I was thrilled to hear Ifeoma’s joy when she returned from a holiday to share that she really understood now what the Christian life was about... and then continued to meet with her to deepen that understanding. Another young woman was ready to start celebrating her spiritual birthday as she made a full commitment to follow Christ. She was so happy to go beyond just attending to church to begin a real friendship with our Lord.

With students, police, market-vendors, villagers, and others, Bernard and I have the privilege, both directly in personal ministry and indirectly through supervising others, to see God at work in Southeastern Nigeria. We thank YOU for making ministry possible.

We are looking forward to talking with you personally during 2006. Thank you for partnering with us to reach Southeastern Nigeria for Christ!

Until everyone hears,

Rawan Ugwuoke (for Bernard and Hope too)