

BERNARD AND RAWN'S BRIEFINGS

SERVING THE GREAT COMMISSION MOVEMENT OF NIGERIA

June, 2006

ADDRESS for July-Dec 2006
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LESSONS FROM OUR DAUGHTER

Praise the Lord! It is with great pleasure that we write to you as a UNITED family again. God brought us through our time of being separated for 8 months and Bernard arrived to join Rawn and Pleasant-Hope on May 30, 2006. We are trusting God to return to Nigeria by the end of the year, after completing training and partnership-development here in the US. God is teaching us so much about Himself and our walk with Him as we begin our lives as parents. We want to share two of those lessons with you here.

BERNARD

I wondered how I could connect to my daughter whom I had not seen for seven months after birth. When the day I arrived came, little happened until we were all back in the house. Then, while I was looking at her and observing resemblances to me, Hope was looking straight into my face. It was as if there was this inward witness in her. So, in less than an hour, our initial bond was established. To me, this is a spiritual reality. Every child of God has an inward witness that he or she is a child of God.

As I observe improvement in her crawling style and the appearance of a second tooth, I am filled with an unspeakable joy. Surely our heavenly Father is joyful to have us as His children. God's joy is even more so, as we grow in His knowledge. Oh that we may know the magnitude of God's joy and love to us who believe.



*Pleasant-Hope Ifeoma Ugwuoke
in June, 2006 (7 months old)*

I JOHN 3:1A

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

FULLFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION IN THIS GENERATION

RAWN

As a new-born, and even now when she is tired, Hope will sometimes push away from me while nursing and then get upset. Initially, I was worried— “Is she wet?” “Is something hurting her?” Then I began to realize that the very thing she needed and wanted was still me... via breastmilk.

I was struck by how much we do that with God. We push away and then get frustrated and even angry. Sometimes we are angry at Him for not providing what we need. We don't realize that all we need to do is turn back and rest in His arms, drinking in all we need for all of life's challenges.

For Hope, she does not always like being re-directed and may struggle as I re-position her. However, once there, she sighs with contentment and takes in nourishment. I have been praying that God will help me to relax in Him rather than struggle against Him. After all, He is a good God desiring to give us what we need. We can be as ignorant as a baby—thinking we know the solution when we are actually going in the opposite direction. May God help each one of us.



TENTATIVE ITINERARY FOR 2006

July, 2006: Living in Lakewood, OH and finalizing details for the rest of the year. Also, we will attend Mark's (Rawn's brother) wedding in Portland, OR.

August, 2006: Begin a road-trip south, going through North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia en route to Orlando, FL where our training will be.

September, 2006: Celebrate Rawn's Mom's 70th birthday in Arizona (we'll fly for that!), attend Staff Training in Florida, and drive back North, going through Baltimore/ D.C.

October, 2006: See supporters and seek new ones in Boston and New Jersey.

November and December, 2006: Go back to our "home" in Ohio, complete our partner and fund-raising goals, make plans to return to Nigeria.