

SHARING *the* MISSION

STM Newsletter - July 2024

[SUBSCRIBE & PREVIOUS ISSUES](#)



*God has given us
different gifts to use . .
If it is serving, then
serve; if it is teaching,
then teach.*

Romans 12:6-7

In this issue of the STM Newsletter, we will be highlighting one of our partner organizations - **Agape Missions and Evangelistic Network (AMEN)**. The primary goal of AMEN is to train and send missionaries for cross-cultural missions within and outside Nigeria, especially among unreached people groups. One of the practical ways they do this is by founding Christian schools in communities that have little access to educational opportunities.

Emmanuel Academy

A Christian School for Christian & Muslim students

Emmanuel Academy is a Christian school founded and sponsored by AMEN. It is open to secondary students

from neighboring rural communities, including both Christians (mostly from the Berom tribe) and Muslims (mostly from the Fulani tribe). Ms. Justina, one of the 3 missionary teachers at the school, says that the mission of the school “extends beyond academic education, as we aspire to introduce them to the transformative power of the Gospel.” Several Muslim students have recently accepted Jesus as Savior, reports Mr. Nnaji, another missionary teacher, “and by God’s grace, we will be engaging them in discipleship lessons when school resumes.”



There have been cases of theft when school is not in session and so far, there has not been funds to put a wall around the campus and hire required night security. This reality makes it difficult to keep tools and equipment, books or supplies in the school, since they may be taken any night. Still, practical learning projects are attempted using what is available, as can be seen in the link below.



According to a recent UNICEF study, only about half of rural Nigerian teenagers go to school at all, often due to lack of access, or being required to work to support their family. “A staggering 10.2 million primary school-age children and another 8.1 million at the junior secondary level do not attend school,” says a [July 2024 article in *The Africa Report*](#). So having a local option like Emmanuel Academy, is a blessing to

[Rebuilding the Latrine](#)

Another difficulty is the lack of a clean water supply. Well digging has proven unsuccessful to date, so students use a local stream, as can be seen in the “Water Supply” link.

[Water Supply](#)

Even under these difficult conditions, students still come, and teachers still carry on. Missionary teacher Ms. Blessing says “The most rewarding thing for me is that I am fulfilled

these communities. This year, about 85 of the local teens attended the school.



The school was founded to provide practical/technical education for these rural students, but the security situation in the area has proven challenging.

knowing that lives have been helped and shaped for good.”



If people don't know where their next meal is coming from, they will do things they would never otherwise imagine ~ steal, sell themselves, their children, or join the Taliban.

Dr. Jason Streubel, Senior Director of Agriculture & Food Security, Convoy of Hope

Kwali Farm Project

Land Purchase: August 2024 Development: ongoing



A burgeoning population, often inefficient agricultural practices, continual violence, and a shifting climate has left Nigeria unable to feed itself. It needs to import hundreds of thousands of tons of grain and other foodstuffs annually, paid for in dollars of course. Combined with the collapse of the Nigerian currency (naira) compared to the dollar, food has become unaffordable for many. For example, the Nigerian minimum **monthly** wage in naira was equal to \$83. Now, even after a recent minimum wage increase, it is equal to only \$43 per month.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates around 10% of Nigerians will be “food insecure” in 2024, which means they will have run out of food and gone a day or more without eating. Additionally they estimate that 9 million Nigerian

The sale of farm produce would provide needed income for the missionary organization and needed food for the population in general. The project would also serve as a demonstration farm where both missionaries and local farmers could be shown the most efficient methods of agriculture.

Dr. Jason Streubel, Senior Director of Agriculture and Food Security for Convoy of Hope (and friend of Sharing the Mission) says, “This could be our greatest hour of humanity, when food security becomes a thing the church does, or it could be our biggest blindspot.” Whether in Nigeria or Nebraska, “if people don’t know where their next meal is coming from they will do things they would never otherwise imagine.”

children are at risk of acute malnutrition leading to severe weight loss. The situation is dire and it is mirrored throughout the surrounding West African countries. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council, the crises in these surrounding states are the most neglected on the planet.



While our friends at our partner organization Bege for Gobe (B4G) are providing direct assistance for widows and orphans, our friends at AMEN have launched an initiative that they have been researching and praying about for years. They are purchasing a 32 acre tract in the Kwali district, near the capital city of Abuja, and have devoted trained staff ready to develop its potential as a farm. According to Rev. Bayo, the goals of the farm are to produce food in a modern, efficient way, and to train others to do so as well.

Food insecurity/poverty is certainly a large factor in the violence and suffering in the region, so we applaud both B4G and AMEN in their efforts to address this problem both on the human-need side and on the food production side. If you would like to hear Dr. Streubel explain more about [How Agriculture is Impacting the Kingdom of God](#), just follow the link.



Even before the farm purchase has been completed, AMEN staff have already supervised the planting of the first crops. The missionary heading up the project, Ms. Beauty, says that the rains began in May/June and that rice*, cassava* and maize have been planted so far (*shown in photos). She says that one of the challenges she faces is guarding the farm “so that herdsmen do not graze their cattle on the cropland,” since the land is not yet fenced.

Terrorism and organized crime rampant in Sahel and spilling into West Africa coastal states, UN says.

Associated Press, July 12, 2024

Situation Update

July 2024

Explainer: The Sahel

The term “sahel” describes the semi-arid land between the Sahara desert in North Africa and the more tropical lands of Central Africa. The [UN more specifically defines the Sahel](#) as a 10 country region, almost identical to what has historically been called French West Africa, but now with the addition of English speaking Nigeria as the most populated hub of the region.

This region has become a flash point between cultures and religions, between herders and crop farmers, and between conflicting political ideologies, all of which have been exacerbated by changes to the always fragile climate of the region. Increasingly, the Sahel is becoming the new birthplace of global terrorism, crime and suffering. Genocide Watch, a reputable global watchdog organization, has [recently updated a timeline video](#) showing that much of the current violence originated in Central Nigeria over a decade ago and has spread throughout the region. This information was included in a [U.S. Congressional briefing which you can view recorded](#).

A [recent AP article](#) (July 2024), describes “rampant” terrorism and organized crime in the Sahel.

Finally, the AP also reports that relations between the US are at a “critical inflection point” as [US continues to reduce its military presence in the Sahel](#) and several countries in the region develop closer ties with Russia, in particular its notorious Wagner group. *The Africa Report* tags the Wagner group as “[Africa’s new looters](#),” and goes on to document Wagner now taking over gold and diamond mines in the

Sahel that had been legally granted to western companies.

Focus on Nigeria

Recently, a mass kidnapping of around 150 people at once occurred only a few hours drive from the Nigerian capital, Abuja. As usual, it didn't make western news outlets, but here is an [accurate report from World Political Hub](#).

The Wall Street Journal is takes note of the crisis in Nigeria in their article: "[The Hunting of Nigeria's Christians](#)" which notes that if you are a Christian, the most likely place for you to be killed for your faith is in Nigeria. The article is behind a paywall, but you can listen to it free at the link.

Now, Some Good News



Students and staff at Messiah College - AMEN Mission Base

The school year is just finishing up in Nigeria. But when school is in session, around 120 people live on the AMEN Mission Base in Plateau State. We thank God for the safety of all those living on the base this school year. Even with attacks in the immediate area, all have been safe on the base.



Orphan students at Kauna School who also live on the AMEN Mission Base

Gatherings for Bible study and encouragement were started during the IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) feeding program. Sharing the Mission helped fund earlier this spring. Those gatherings continue, sometimes under a tree (below), and are a great blessing to those facing very difficult circumstances.



The summer Widow's Conference is moving forward with much planning and preparation. It will take place in just a couple of weeks, August 5-10. Please remember this gathering of several hundred widows in your prayers. Pray for safety, for refreshing, and the presence of God.



[View email in browser](#) OR [printer-friendly.pdf](#)

[update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe](#)

