

SHARING *the* MISSION

STM Newsletter - October 2024

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*Religion that God
accepts is this: caring
for orphans or widows
who need help . . .*

James 1:27a

*Food arriving for the August 2024
Widow's Conference*

In this issue of the STM Newsletter we will be highlighting one of our partner organizations - **Bege for Gobe** - and their work with widows and orphans in Central Nigeria. Bege for Gobe (B4G) means "Hope for Tomorrow" in the Hausa language of north and central Nigeria. It is the mission of B4G to bring both spiritual and physical hope to these often desperate people.

Biblical Outreach

B4G is forming gospel centered communities of women

This past August, a successful Widow's Conference was held in Plateau State, central Nigeria. It was sponsored by B4G, and numerous partners were privileged to help with the funding through STM. Over 400 women attended the 5 day conference, mostly widows that have been made so due to the ongoing violence against Christians in the region. The Gospel was presented frequently and many

lives were transformed during the conference. Staple foods were distributed as the women headed back home. It was amazing that so many widows were able to attend because there were both nationwide protests going on at that time, as well as many government imposed curfews that made it very difficult to travel. But the women still came and enjoyed the safety and camaraderie of the gathering.



Newly launched Bible study group

See additional information about the August 2024 Widow's Conference on the STM website Participate page.

Immediately after the conference, training of Bible Study leaders began, and as soon as the leaders were ready, new Bible study groups were launched in several villages in the area. They meet in churches, schools and other places they find that are large enough for the group. According to Mrs. Naomi, the founder of B4G, "We discovered that the strength of the Ministry of B4G was in the Bible Studies, because this is where we have very close interactions with the women and that enables us to ensure that we gently and lovingly lead them to Jesus."

Mrs. Naomi also says that "unfortunately more than 80% do not have Bibles," and of those, "many are not literate." B4G is looking into Hausa language Bibles and audio Bibles for these women.

In one village, the atmosphere was very tense. There were killings during the week including the night before the Bible Study. The market was empty, but a good number of women gathered for the Bible Study despite the risk. Sadly this is not a rare occurrence.

Women who gathered to hear the Word even though their safety was in doubt.



Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble, suffering, hardship, hunger, lack of clothing, danger or death?

Romans 8:35

Repentant Leaders

Political and religious leaders gather to pray, confess and repent

Plateau State (pop 3.2 million) in Nigeria, has been wracked by violence for many years, like much of central and northern Nigeria.

On August 17, the Plateau State Government held a special prayer meeting in the governor's chapel in Jos, Nigeria. This is not far from the AMEN Missionary Training base and Conference Center that hosts many of the missionaries and events that STM is privileged to support. The gathering lasted about 4 hours and had the theme "Healing the Land" based on 2 Chronicles 7:14.



Governor Mutfwang (front row, third right), Rev. Bayo (front row, fifth right).

The governor, Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang led the officials who gathered in the standing room only chapel, in a prayer of repentance and "affirmed that the solution to mankind's problems lies in the genuine and faithful decision to follow Jesus Christ," according to the PDP Governors' Forum. Representatives of diverse Christian organizations, government

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14



The same government and religious leaders on their knees, humbly seeking the face of God.

officials and tribal chiefs participated. Our dear friend, Rev. Bayo, founder of AMEN, was one of the organizers of the gathering, and Mrs. Naomi, founder of B4G, was one of the speakers. To see photos of government officials on their knees in prayer, confession and repentance is sadly strange to us in America. Our friends have much to teach us. May we join in praying for the peace of their land, and our own.

Situation Update

October 2024

The economic hardships in Nigeria continue unabated, with inflation hovering above 30%, and fuel prices having tripled in less than 2 years. Wages have changed very little.

The economic situation has led to a nationwide strike that shut down electricity, water and airports, and it has also led to 10 days of nationwide protests that saw 24 hour curfews and the killing of protestors as the government attempted to avoid anarchy. The end result is that not much has changed.

Recent floods in the north have displaced hundreds of thousands and many have been killed.

Mass kidnappings are still common.

Trouble is increasing throughout West and Central Africa as the major international players (USA, Russia and China) vie for access to the relatively scarce minerals needed for technology, as well as lucrative

gold and diamond mines.

Yet the gospel is preached, lives are changed and the kingdom is made visible in the lives of people.

We rejoice at the opportunity to participate in this work.

Sister Yop with the widows at her newly launched Bible study.



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