

SHARING *the* MISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2024



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# FROM *the* BOARD

Friends,

What a blessing it has been to serve the global church in this new organization, Sharing the Mission. We were a bit like little boys with a big wheelbarrow – we knew we didn't measure up to the task, but we were confident that obedience was the proper response to what God had laid on our hearts. We believed He would make a way. And now after a year, we can say that we have been greatly encouraged by the wonderful response from so many friends, family and folks we don't yet know. God spoke to your hearts. You have been God's provision for His plan, His work, and His servants so far away in Africa. We pray that as more American's take the opportunity to have a direct relationship with Nigerian missionaries, spiritual riches will flow this way as well. We believe this too is part of God's plan for STM.

In this Annual Report, it is impossible to convey all of the joy that came to us from a whole year's worth of testimonies and blessings that God has allowed us to see - how prayers have been answered and needs have been met. May God get all the glory and may new believers continue to come into His blessed kingdom.

We are on a steep learning curve and communication from supporters has been vital to our development. We would love to hear from you if you have any questions or ideas about this Annual Report or STM.

Please accept our deep thanks on behalf of STM and our amazing brothers and sisters persevering in Africa.

Jeff Seely - President

Lew Denney - Secretary

Dan Benoit - Treasurer



Boys at Kauna Home at Christmas, Plateau, NG

# OUR REASON *for* BEING

In our increasingly divided world, Sharing the Mission brings people together across borders and cultures for the purpose of Christian mission.



By fostering relationships between North American believers and indigenous African missionaries, we seek to create partnerships of mutual encouragement and exchange which both further and give witness to Jesus' peaceable and generous kingdom.

**Lausanne Commitment  
Cape Town 9.A**

*"A most powerfully convincing mark of the truth of the gospel is when Christian believers are united in love across the world's inveterate divisions – barriers of race, color, gender, social class, economic privilege or political alignment. . . We urgently seek a new global partnership within the body of Christ across all continents, rooted in profound mutual love, mutual submission, and dramatic economic sharing without paternalism or unhealthy dependency. And we seek this not only as a demonstration of our unity in the gospel, but also for the sake of the name of Christ and the mission of God in all the world."*

**Lausanne Commitment  
Cape Town 9.C**

*"We commit ourselves to share in the suffering of members of the body of Christ throughout the world, through information, prayer, advocacy, and other means of support. We see such sharing, however, not merely as an exercise of pity, but longing also to learn what the suffering Church can teach and give to those parts of Christ's body that are not suffering in the same way. We are warned that the Church that feels itself at ease in its wealth and self-sufficiency may, like Laodicea, be the Church that Jesus sees as the most blind to its own poverty, and from which he himself feels a stranger outside the door."*

For more information about the Lausanne Movement, go to <https://lausanne.org>

**NEW PARTNERSHIPS** *for*  
*the* **NEW KINGDOM**



# WHY NIGERIA & WEST AFRICA?

Four reasons why North American Christians should join with West African missionaries now:

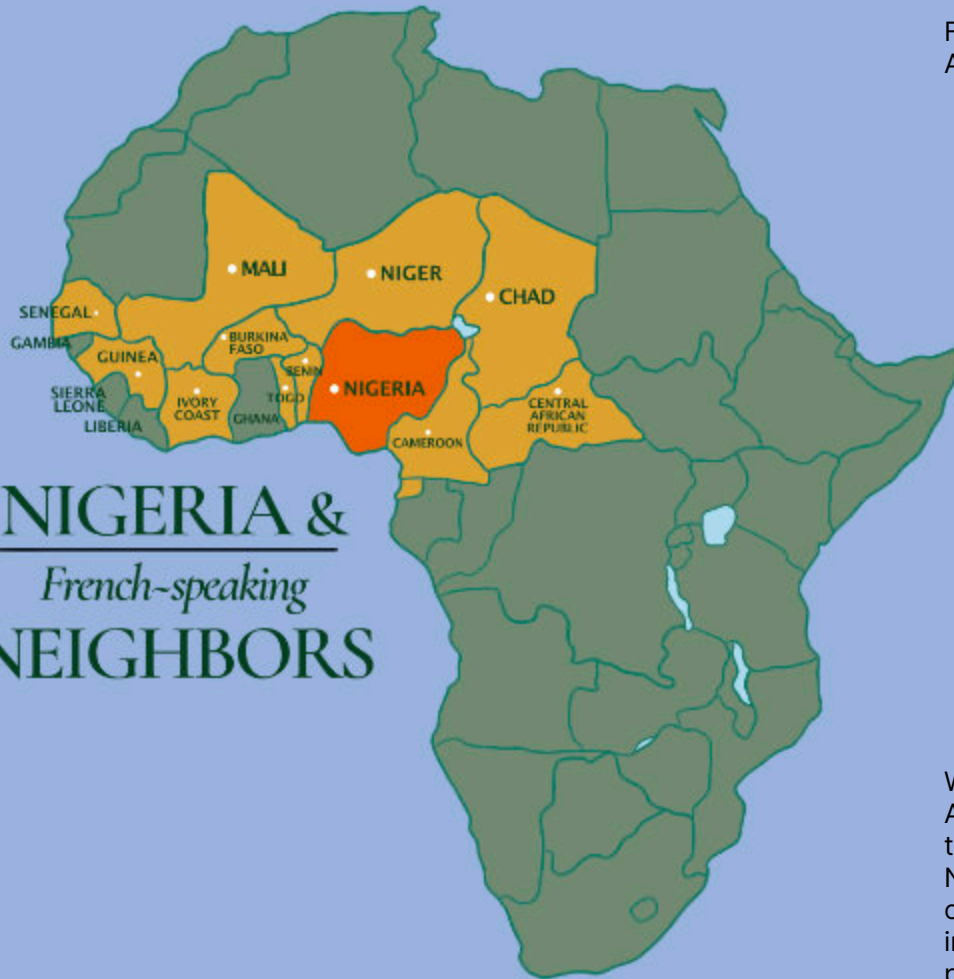
**Poverty:** By every measure, West Africa is one of the poorest regions in the world. Nigeria's economy is now the worst it has been in a generation and still in "free fall." West Africa has the lowest life expectancy of any major global region: 58 yrs.

**Persecution:** Christian martyrdom is more frequent in Nigeria than anywhere else in the world, with other West African nations not far behind.

**Opportunity:** The increasing political instability in West Africa, and the incursion of Islamist militants makes the future of West Africa tenuous. The doors are open now, but there have been 8 military coups in this region since 2020.

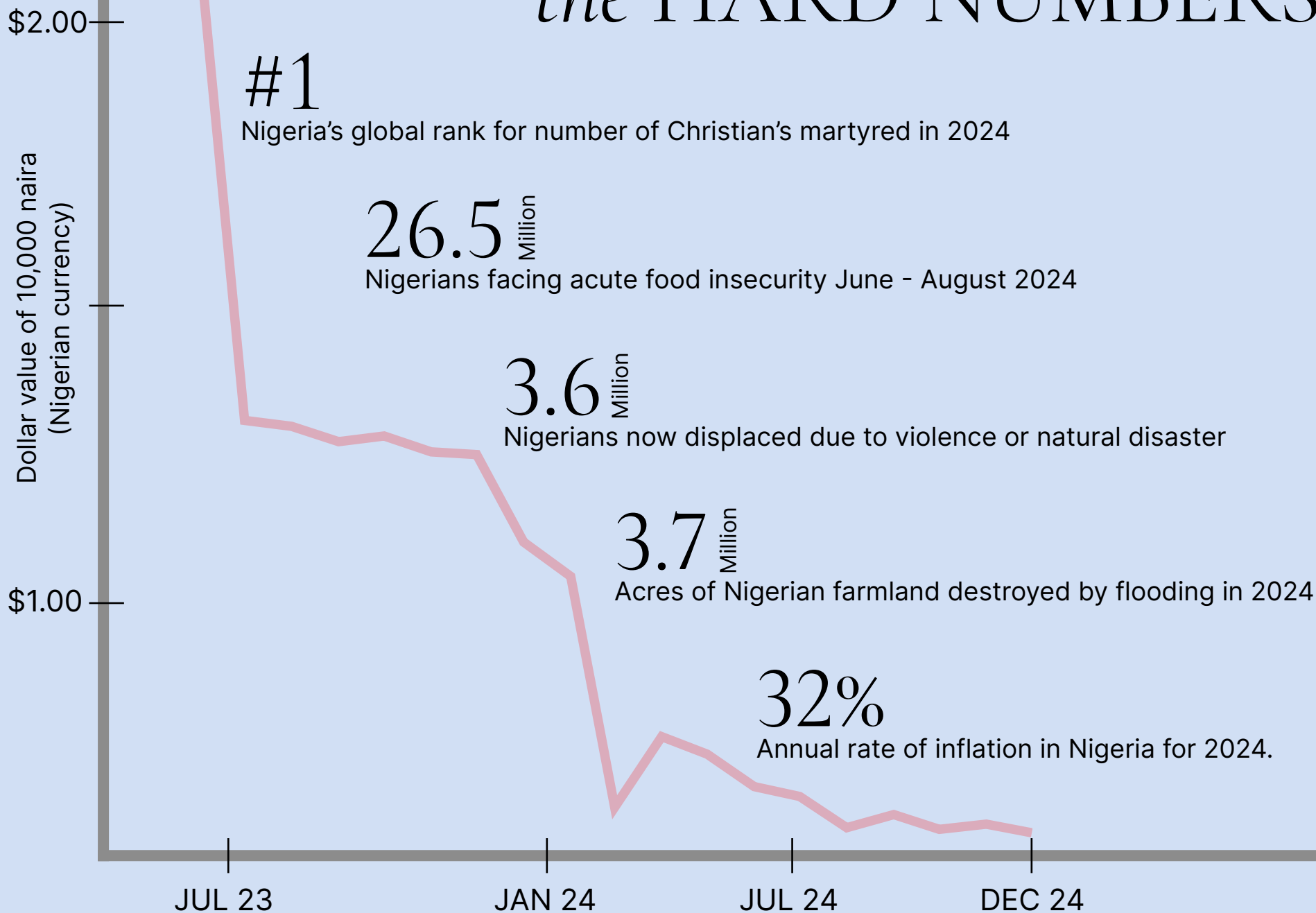
**It's What Christians Do:** Christians have a long history of assisting our brothers and sisters in need, even when they are far away.

While it is beautiful and rich in culture and natural resources, West Africa struggles with a complex history of exploitation and political turmoil, often leading to poverty and violence. West Africa, and Nigeria in particular, are experiencing some of the worst economic challenges, governmental instability and persecution they have seen in a generation or more. There is no better time to demonstrate the principles of Jesus' Kingdom than now.



**NIGERIA &**  
*French-speaking*  
**NEIGHBORS**

# *the* HARD NUMBERS



# the STM APPROACH

As a sign of Jesus' global kingdom, STM works to foster human relationships across cultural and national boundaries. While forming such relationships may seem daunting, we have personally grown and been enriched by these experiences and believe they are well worth the effort. To that end, we have made the following strategic decisions:

**1 We prioritize building the two-way street of cross-cultural relationships** by promoting direct and routine communication between North Americans and their African missionary partners. Sharing personal stories, hopes and prayers with each other leads to mutual understanding and preserves the dignity of both parties. We find that we each have something to contribute to the other and that while our circumstances may be very different, those differences offer opportunities to be inspired, to be challenged, and to grow in our faith and practice.

**2 We follow the lead of African missionaries** and local interests. Our partners are mature and tested followers of Christ with far more experience in their setting than we will ever have. Our decision making comes into play when we consider alignment with the mission of STM and our capacity to communicate these opportunities for sharing in the North American context. We approve projects that are in line with our



Girls at Kauna Home, Plateau, NG





Food distribution at IDP Camp, Plateau, NG

STM mission and that we believe we can find donors to support.

**3** We share in missions that are co-funded by African believers and churches. This ensures that we are aligning with the priorities of African Christians when providing support in their region. We recognize that their resources may be small, but we believe that everyone can give something towards goals they believe are important.

- We work with trusted African Christian organizations to identify effective missionaries who are in need of support beyond what they have already raised from local African partners.

- We provide opportunities to share in mission-minded outreach projects and provide donors with detailed updates as those projects progress. Donors know exactly what their gifts are being used for and what has resulted. We believe this leads to specific and consistent prayer for God's blessing and greater engagement with the work.

**4** We ensure that 100% of donor contributions go directly to their intended purposes in West Africa. We are able to do this because **A)** our overhead is minimal and is covered by contributions from STM board members,

**B)** we have reliable relationships with local missionaries and organizations on the ground in West Africa, and

**C)** we carefully monitor project expenditures to ensure that funds get to those who need them and that projects get completed.

# AGAPE MISSIONS *and* EVANGELISTIC NETWORK

For 35 years, Agape Missions and Evangelistic Network (AMEN) has been recruiting and training African men and women to serve as missionaries in West Africa. It is an interdenominational ministry that emphasizes cross-cultural evangelism among unreached people groups, and ministry areas of crisis.

Francophone West Africa is a region of particular need both for the gospel and for relief from poverty and violent oppression. Currently there are AMEN missionaries serving in Central and Northern Nigeria, Benin, Ivory Coast and Cameroon. The founder of AMEN, Bayo Famonure, served for 14 years as the Executive Secretary of the Evangelism and Mission Commission of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa, and also founded the mission organization, CAPRO, in 1975.



## From the founder of AMEN

Whenever STM comes to my mind, i remember the story of Hur and Aaron holding up the hands of Moses while Joshua fought on the battlefield against the Amalekites. All of them together were involved in the battle and together, they won the victory. Many of our battle weary staff, ten actually, were encouraged by a monthly support from STM. When fuel and gas became too expensive for us to continue powering our pump to get water in the Mission Base, we opted for a solar powered pump, and STM came along and completed the money to buy the pump and install the solar.

2024 was a particularly difficult year in terms of health for a number of our staff. Many of them benefited from the Staff Medical Support Fund to which STM was a huge contributor. We almost lost 3 staff but with prayers and availability of funds from partners especially STM, they are all back in the trenches, ready to soldier on! The timely intervention of STM, made it possible to both acquire our farm site in Kwali Area Council of Abuja as well as go into the first farming activity on the site.

What more shall we say? We are immensely grateful that STM came along our chariot and encouraged us along the way. God bless you all.

Rev. Bayo Famonure  
Founder-Chairman  
Agape Mission and Evangelistic Network



# BEGE *for* GOBE

## B4G - “Hope for Tomorrow”

Bege for Gobe was founded in 2016. For the last 8 years it has been dedicated to “impacting communities one life at a time by helping to care for orphans and to uplift vulnerable women to be self-reliant and self-supporting.” It has been especially focused on widows who have lost their husbands, homes and livelihood, as a result of the relentless attacks of bandits, Fulani herdsmen and Islamic militants. They provide staple food supplies, medical outreach, safe houses for endangered women, skills, small business grants, counseling and reconciliation, and spiritual development through regular bible studies. They take in orphans from IDP camps and provide them shelter, food and education in a home with a Christian house parent.

### From the founder of B4G

Bege for Gobe is profoundly grateful to God for bringing STM our way and to our Ministry to widows, orphans and vulnerable women in Nigeria. B4G, because of STM, has experienced a great leap in 2024 and has touched the lives of hundreds of widows in IDP camps, especially of those whose husbands were killed by Fulani jihadists. Hundreds of these widows have continued to get food support and help in other areas. This practical demonstration of the love of Jesus has drawn many to salvation in Jesus and are being taught scriptures. We praise God for this Kingdom partnership between B4G and STM. We pray that the fruit of all our labours will abide for eternity.

Naomi Famonure  
Founder-Director  
Bege for Gobe Foundation



Naomi Famonure teaching, Kaduna, NG

# FIRST YEAR in REVIEW

Sharing the Mission (STM) was imagined in the Fall of 2023, and began operation in January of 2024. Although we had no website and no publicity at the beginning, we were blessed with generous friends and family. The learning curve was steep, but we sensed God was compelling us to begin.

**JAN** Our first action was to provide support for 10 missionaries working with AMEN (Agape Missions and Evangelistic Network) in Nigeria. These **missionaries** had local Nigerian support, but with the economic crisis in the country, the support had become insufficient.

**FEB** Attacks in Central Nigeria beginning on Christmas Eve, 2023 resulted in 30,000 people being displaced into IDP camps. They were in desperate need of food and encouragement. We began supporting the efforts of Bege for Gobe (B4G) as they provided **meals to the thousands of children** living in the camps. In all we were able to fund around 14,000 meals. This support continued through May 2024.

**JUN** In June we began accepting funds in support of **fatherless children** who were in the care of B4G staff. These children live at a facility called Kauna Home which is located on the main AMEN Missionary training base in Central Nigeria. These children have lost one or both parents usually as a result of the ongoing violent attacks against Christian villages in the area. At Kauna Home, they are cared for by a Christian house parent, they are provided food, clothing and a Christian



education. While an orphanage may not always be the best option for orphaned children, the crisis situation that currently exists in Central Nigeria makes Kauna Home the one best option for the several dozen children currently living there.

**JUL** In July we raised funds for a **Widow's Conference** to be held early in August. Since August is one of the most difficult months for widow's to find adequate food for themselves and their families, B4G gathers several hundred of them for 4 days of safety, spiritual encouragement, medical care, singing, dancing and good food. At the end they are provided with staple food items and clothing to get them through this most difficult time of the year.

**AUG** One of the goals of AMEN is to improve the agricultural practices of the rural populations that it serves. To that end, AMEN has purchased a 30+ acre farm in the **Kwali** region to be used as a **training facility** for missionaries and villagers, as well as a source of income for the organization. STM was able to help AMEN pay off the portion of the purchase price that they had not been able to raise locally in Nigeria.

**OCT** Missionaries working with AMEN use various strategies for outreach to communities, but education and agriculture are perhaps the main ones. Several AMEN missionaries teach at a Christian secondary school called **Emmanuel Academy**. It is the only secondary school in the area and about 80 students attend. Most are nominally Christian, but there are also



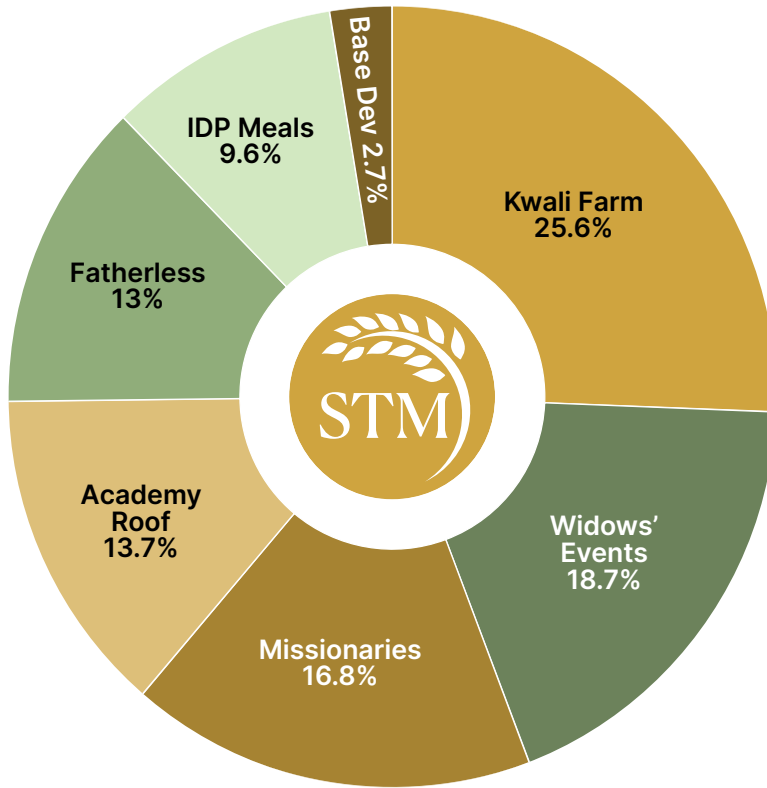
Muslim students. The school has been a successful point of outreach for more than 20 years, but termites had severely damaged the beams holding up the roof and safety was a concern. STM was able to raise funds to replace the roof structure. That work is in progress now.

**NOV** A key mission strategy for AMEN is the development of mission bases in strategic locations. These bases serve as the center of outreach for a the area. In November, STM had the opportunity to assist in the **development of 2 bases**. A solar pump was purchased to complete a new well system providing water for a base in Plateau State, and we also provided funds for a new base in Benue

State. At that location, funds were used to set up living quarters for a missionary couple and to help purchase land for a school which is already serving several dozen students, although it has no building yet.

**DEC** For several years, B4G has been gathering **widows at Christmas** for a day of encouragement, a good meal and to provide cloth and supplies for the Christmas season. This year events were held in both Kaduna State and Plateau state and served around 1000 women. STM was pleased to help. It was a wonderful way to wrap up our first year of operation.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY



**Kwali Farm 25.6%**

The goal of this farm is to provide income for the mission and to teach missionaries and farmers better agricultural practices.

**Widows Events 18.7%**

This consists of gatherings for widows during lean times that provide meals, spiritual and medical care, and basic supplies of food and clothing to take home.

**Missionary Support 16.8%**

These funds supplement the support of AMEN missionaries.

**Emmanuel Academy Roof 13.7%**

These funds went toward replacing the roof on a community outreach school staffed by AMEN missionaries.

**Fatherless Support 13%**

These funds are used for housing, food, clothing, medical and educational expenses of fatherless children

**IDP Camp Meals 9.6%**

This was to provide for meals in IDP camps after the Christmas attacks of 2023. The large majority of meals went to children.

**Base Development 2.6%**

These funds went toward the development of mission bases in Plateau and Benue States.

100%

of donor contributions get to the people who need them in Nigeria/West Africa. We can do this due to our low (3%) overhead that is covered by our board members.

\$67,210

was the total amount of funds contributed to Sharing the Mission in 2024. We are small, but we believe STM has been very effective in getting funds to actual people and beneficial projects that matter in Jesus' Kingdom.

\$6,932

is our cash balance going into 2025. These funds were either not designated for a particular purpose or were received after our final December transfer to our Nigerian partners. We will get them to where they need to go early in 2025.

**Sharing the Mission** is committed to financial transparency and accountability. We are grateful to all who believe in the work we are doing and have contributed so generously. This is a final but unaudited report.

### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2024

Total Assets (Cash)	6,932.61
Total Liabilities	0.00
Net Assets	
Restricted (Program Funds)	-13,175.33
Unrestricted (General Fund)	20,107.94
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	6,932.61

**Notes:**

*The beginning balance January 1, 2024 was \$20.00, making this total consistent with Net Revenue.*

*The negative balance in Restricted (Program Funds) is the amount from the General Fund that was directed to AMEN and B4G causes beyond the amount of designated contributions received.*

### Statement of Activities January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024

Total Revenue (Contributions)	67,210.35
Expenditures	
Operating Expenses	
FX Transfer & Payment Processing Fees	895.78
Operational Expenses	891.96
Total Operating Expenses	1,787.74
Program Expenses	
AMEN Programs	34,350.00
B4G Programs	24,160.00
Total Program Expenses	58,510.00
Total Expenditures	60,297.74
Net Revenue	6,912.61

# NEXT STEPS

We are thrilled with what has been done in our first year and we have a number of new projects that are in the works.

We would love to **increase the number of missionaries that are supported by individual Americans**. There is much to be gained by the relationship. It isn't just about sending money to help, spiritual riches come back to us as relationships with these intrepid missionaries grow. Having a direct line of communication with missionaries on the front line can change your life. Let us know if you are interested.

There are many widows gathering for Bible Studies who have no bible, often because they left it behind while fleeing from an attack on their village. Others can't read, so we are working on a source of audio bibles in their language. **We hope to announce a funding drive early in 2025 for both audio and print bibles.**

The Kwali Training Farm is already producing crops but **significant amounts of infrastructure must be built** to make it able to accommodate trainees and staff. This is not a short term project, but one that will take time and resources to be brought to fruition.

We also know that there are plans to **expand Kauna Home to accommodate more of the fatherless** in Plateau and Kaduna States that are ending up on the streets. Statistics indicate that there are over 3,000 in Plateau State alone. Their situation is dire - most are stuck in IDP Camps with no options, their farms



having been destroyed or still occupied by raiders, or their father's killed so there is nobody able to work the farm. To get a sense of the complexities, imagine this recent conversation with a 7-year old boy, as told by Naomi Famonure, founder of Bege for Gobe (Hope for Tomorrow):

"I came to the IDP camp to fetch him and gleefully told him he would have a bed of his own and he would eat 3 times a day and be able to go to school. Thinking he would be excited, I was dismayed to see him bend his head down and begin to cry."

"Aren't you happy about going to school?" I asked.

With tears in his eyes he looked at me and said, "I'm thinking about Mother. If I go, who will help her? When they killed Father, my twin brothers were only 3-months old. I am the one who looks after them while Mother goes out to find for food for us. If I go, who will help her?"

In this Annual Report we have emphasized successes and praised God for the opportunity to share in this work. But the human misery continues to mount in the face of unabated economic hardship and violence. We pray



that God would release **more aid to our brothers and sisters** so far away, and that He would be pleased to send it through us. Unlike some places in the world, it's easy to get the aid to where it is needed in Nigeria, and we have learned to do it efficiently.

Finally, we are looking forward to another Central Nigerian **site visit** in the fall of 2025 to see this ongoing work first hand. We will communicate much in the days ahead via our website, the quarterly STM Newsletter, and the more detailed STM Updates for supporters.

Thanks again to all of our generous supporters, we are privileged to have this partnership with you. May God bless you in all of your endeavors.





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High School, Plateau, NG

