

NEWLIFE BEHAVIOR NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2009



MEN AND WOMEN WHO ATTENDED THE NLB SEMINAR.



Trip Report for Nigeria, February 2009

Landing first in Lagos and then taking a short flight over to Aba was a positive and gratifying experience that I shall not forget. Nigerian Airline employees and passengers gave of their care and concern about my ease and trouble-free flight. Again, it proved to me the importance of being friendly and polite.

On the first leg of the trip, I allowed a lady next to me to put her bags in my seat and I took another seat. As we made our way out of the plane she asked where I was from. I said, "Dallas, Texas, USA." She replied, "Oh, the new home for Mr. and Mrs. Bush." I could not help but tell her that their house is just a few miles from mine.

She wanted to know where I was going and stayed with me all the way through getting my bags. Then she and her

husband took me in their car to the national airport. She paid tips to the police and the man getting me a "baggage buggy." Then took me up to the airline counter and made sure I was not charged for the extra weight. Later she e-mailed to see if I made the trip to Aba in one piece. That was truly Nigerian "customer service."

While I sat in the airport awaiting my flight to Aba, I noticed an older couple lying down and sleeping on the metal benches. When they awoke, I went over to meet them – they might missionaries! As I approached and said hello, the man responded, "Hello, you must be Motsinger." Was I surprised to learn that this couple was Henry and Grace Farrar, MD, founders of the Nigerian Christian Hospital.

When we arrived at the Aba airport I rode in a van with the Farrars, George Robertson, MD and Robert Bone, MD. (Dr. Robertson and Dr. Bone had come to donate their services in the hospital for two weeks.) It was here, too, that I met up with Friday Adima, our national director for NLBI and lead trainer.

The van trip to Aba took about two hours due to soldiers with AKA-47s stopping all big trucks, many cars and collecting their unofficial toll fees. Grace Farrar was well experienced with this type of shake down, even though our van had the church sign and address on it. Grace always handed the soldiers small packets of hotel soap and she was rewarded with smiles and nods of gratitude each time.

ONE YOUNG MAN NAMED AMOS, CAME TO ME AND SAID THAT HE WAS BARACK OBAMA'S COUSIN. SO I TOLD HIM I WAS GEORGE BUSH'S COUSIN!

Sunday morning Don Thompson, an engineer and volunteer from Tennessee, went with Friday and me to the MCC church of Christ in Aba. Again, I experienced a worship service like none other. The floor of the auditorium was flat and about the size of a basketball court. There was one Bible class in the auditorium and four classes for youth and children on the porches around the outside of the building. As the worship service began all 400 plus people came inside the building and it lasted from 10:30 until 12:45. The singing was without equal. Since visitors are usually asked to preach, I agreed to share a lesson. There were two collections: one for needy causes and one for the general church fund. Children came up to a box and dropped in their money; adults followed depositing their money. I saw great value in that process. Next was the communion service, which utilized red wine ordered from London. I felt it all the way down into my chest!

I did not offer the invitation, so the men led songs and made pleas until 15 people came forward for baptism. They asked me to take their confessions, and from what little I understood, the baptisms were to be in a nearby river and I was to do the baptizing. Now I was in a dither as to what to do. Well, I misunderstood and some one else went to the river to perform the baptisms. Needless to say, I was relieved.

Another unique aspect of the church is a 3x4 inch membership card for all baptized members. On one side is your name, date of registration, home village, current address and who authorized your membership. On the other side is a color picture of the front of the church building and four expectations of

members. It ends with two words in bold red print, "BE WARNED!"

The people were very friendly. The children crowded around me, especially once they saw me taking pictures. The ladies were dressed in beautiful bold colored dresses with either their traditional, or Biblical, head dresses. Even though it was summertime and very hot, the men wore suits, ties or their tribal attire.

The first day of the seminar was off to a great start with 52 people in attendance. This was a very friendly and talkative group. On the first day there were so many questions I was only able to cover one lesson. One of the questions that drew a different answer from the men than from the three females was, "Should a man who is having an affair, tell his wife even though she does not know about the affair?" By the way they sang and asked questions, you could tell everyone had a love for the Lord and a thirst for His word.

We held classes at the Nigerian Institute of Arts and Theology (NIAT) in the countryside outside of Aba which is on property adjoining the Nigerian Christian Hospital. (NIAT had been in operation since the 1950's except for ten years during the Biafra War.) Friday Adima, the lead trainer and institute director, and Jacob Achinefu, Ph. D. had organized the activities so the training seminar went very well. In all, we certified 59 NLBI instructors and three NLBI trainers.

After the seminar, the area ministers attending the seminar asked for a meeting with me. They wanted help in becoming organized so that the NLBI program could be taken to all the congregations in Nigeria.

LOVELY CHRISTIANS!



Engineer who delivered this baby!



Children's Bible Class on porch



NLB Director, Friday Adima & wife Sandra



The kids crowd around when you get out your camera!