

Relief Network News

Volume 4, Issue 1, Spring - Early Summer 2003

A project based outreach of

Relief Network Ministries, Inc.

Think water save life. Share what you know or have to bring relief to thousands!

What can be as refreshing as cold water in the desert?

Updates for March - June '03

Mixing faith, works, & love as we labor for "the best that is yet to come!"

*From the President,
Dr. A. Sunny Okorie*

*"But the needy will not always be forgotten,
nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish..."
(Psalm 9:18)*

Thus far the Lord has been good to us! In our short 2 plus years of existence, God has helped us to focus on our goals and produce some great results.

Water well drilling and development is a tough undertaking by itself. Working in a third World country like Nigeria where nothing is guaranteed has extreme challenges. Yet we have had two major trips there, drilled 7 wells, 3 of which are very successful and continue to yield water to serve thousands on the poor and needy in Eastern Nigeria. We also reached out in medical mission to over 1000 people in 2 villages and a semi-urban section of Owerri. Further, we trained over 33 people in our V-TEN program with computer utilization and Internet skills to empower them for better job prospects or efficiency at their present jobs. During many of these activities, we had the opportunity to minister and to mentor people, adults and school children alike leading to over 1,200 professions of faith and to the understanding of the Living Water of Life.

This year, we have partnered with 4HIM International based in Oklahoma to provide medical aid to Nigeria. With help of our partners in Ghana, APF Ministries, led by Allan & Patsy Fulton, we are

developing a V-TEN curriculum for computer training of teachers in their ARE (Action for Rural Education) program. We shall also be assisting a community based vocational training center in Accra and a Pastor in Tekoradi / Sekondi in the Western Region of Ghana near the boarder with Ivory Coast as we bring medical and physical relief to the people of Ghana and minister to their spiritual needs.

We thank God for using a few of our partners to sponsor the purchase of a good 2.5 ton Army truck on which our new GEMCO mid-sized rotary drill rig (shown top right corner) is being mounted. It is also being fitted with an air-compressor to support air hammer drilling for hard or rocky formations down to a depth of 400 feet or more.

(See photo of Military Vehicle (MV) on back cover).

In Nigeria we hope to complete two water wells on this trip, and conduct about 2 or 3 medical outreaches. Each event or program will be supported in the evening hours with big screen Jesus film shows in villages we work in. The film shows will be managed by the local team of Campus Crusade for Christ which is sponsored by the Jesus Film organization.

In all endeavor we strive to be all things to all men that we might by all means win some!



T O P :

Our GEMCO rotary drill rig purchased in Bentonville Arkansas

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(Gino & Darlene Lopez, Clarence Joseph)
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Meeting human needs with the love of Christ!



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Mission #3 Goals & Schedule

The team leaves Houston the weekend of May 24th en route to Lagos Nigeria via Amsterdam. The trip into Ghana is between June 4 and 7th returning to Houston via Lagos and Amsterdam on June 9th. Prayer point – remember the team as we prepare to leave and as we work and witness in Nigeria and Ghana.

Medical

4 Him Ministries International in Oklahoma is collaborating with Relief Network Ministries, Inc. for the next Medical outreach in Nigeria. They donated medical supplies in excess of four thousand dollars (4,000). Tentative venues for the medical out reaches are Ogberuru, Amaigbo, and Umuezumezu villages. The first two are within Imo State while the other is at the boarder of Imo and Abia States of Nigeria.

Water Well News

The water well drilling project at Nkwesi was successful after drilling two dry holes in the area. We are still awaiting some pictures that will illustrate this endeavor. The commissioning ceremony is planned for mid May 2003 following the erection of an overhead tank to facilitate the distribution of this essential commodity. The reticulation / distribution system will consists of a 5000 gallon overhead tank, and several piping & plumbing networks that takes water to the community market square, the Anglican Church premises and a community primary school. The population it serves is a little over 6000 people plus animals.

The next well development effort started is at St Barnabas Foundation near Owerri, the home and trade center for handicapped young people, mostly polio victims. Water was first encountered at 100 foot level, but the crew thought it might not produce sufficiently around the year. As the drilling went further to 170 feet, the drill pipes got stuck. The drillers are making every effort to recover the bit and pipes or purchase a new set – a Prayer Point!

Grant Proposal Writing

Our directors, Dr. A. Sunny and Florence Ochi-Okorie attended a training workshop on Grant Writing organized by The United Way in March. This was an intensive half-day workshop that exposed them to better grant writing techniques and sources of good information for potential project funding. We were made aware of what donors expect in proposals for sponsorship. The need to concisely map out the focus of our

organization in terms of how people are being helped or impacted by what we do and directly tie that to the money we are asking for from the donor was emphasized. Further, we learned that our goals and objectives for the future have to be backed with concrete evidence of success in past accomplishments and money spent.

If you wish to volunteer your time to help us develop grant proposals, we'd be more than happy to provide you with the information and some guidance.

We are planning on developing and submitting at least three grant proposals by the end of 2003.

RNM POST CARDS

We now have our own postcards designed and produced from our ministry / mission photo albums. The front of the postcard is a colorful photo of some elated women and children pressing their way through crowds to greet our missionaries as we were leaving Ogberuru, one of the village communities we drilled some wells and done medical & ministry out-

reaches in the past two years. The postcards are suitable for sending greetings, thank you notes, and reminders, etc. Equivalent postcard designs retails for at least \$1 each. However, you may get these R.N.M. pictorial cards at substantial savings, depending on your order quantity.

To get our postcards and promote our projects please order a minimum of 20 cards for \$10. Feel free to donate an extra amount if you wish, but be sure to add \$1.50 for postage, or call 281-538-0687 to determine postage for larger quantities.

Relief Ambassadors' Profiles

Gino & Darlene Lopez are Founders and directors of Love for the Nations, a non-profit organization with lots of ministry experience in Mexico and South American countries.

This year, they sensed the call of God to go across the Atlantic into Africa for the first time in their lives and to work with us in Nigeria and Ghana. They are members of Gulf Meadows Church in Houston and they presently attend All Nations Bible Institute in League City, Texas. Gino is looking forward to exercise his PhD (Power over Host of Darkness) degree as he ministers to the sick while Darlene will help with health and sanitation hygiene training as well as minister to hundreds of women in special sessions for ladies. (See photo of Gino & Darlene on back cover)

Rev. Clarence Joseph (CJ as he is often affectionately called) is the Founder and President of



Above:

Oge' Flo Ochi-Okorie (Mrs.) and Mrs. Patsy Fulton (APF Ministries / LWI Ghana) helps out at the medical outreach in NKWESI

Meeting human needs as we joyfully serve the Lord together in new ventures and regions beyond!

Editorial Team

Oge' F. Ochi-Okorie
(Editor in Chief)
David L. Bernhard
(Assoc. Editor)
Dr. A. Sunny Okorie
(Editor)

Changed Hearts Changed Lives Int'l, a non-profit organization. He is a minister of music and a fully ordained gospel preacher. Rev. Clarence traveled with RNM on our first mission trip in 2001 to Nigeria and has had opportunities earlier to minister in Zimbabwe and South Africa. He will be helping us with HIV/AIDs education among the rural and semi-urban people as well as ministering in some Churches and mentoring some Church leaders. He loves Africa and we all look forward to the great times of serving together in Africa.

(See photo of Rev. Clarence on back cover)

Judy Cady – Life and Healing to the Nations

Judy & Rick Cady are friends of RNM and have collaborated with us in 2002 during several medical outreaches. She is an EMT Nurse / medical missionary, whose ministry focuses on establishing medical clinics, teaching basic hygiene, and helping the poor and needy through food banks and care centers. With Rick's assistance they plan to add water well drilling to the ministry. This Summer, Judy will do a short term mission trip to Zambia, South Africa.

Muslim Riots in Nigeria

An abridged Report from **Rev. Dr. Clement C. Amadi** (Gen. Secretary, Nigerian Baptist Convention, Ibadan)

On November 21-23 of 2002 the Muslims in the Northern part of Nigeria attacked the Christian churches without warning and destroyed lives and property which prompted the organizers of the Miss World Beauty Pageant to move the event to London.

On December 10 – 12th of 2002, Rev. Amadi personally visited a number of affected churches with a team of pastors and held meetings with senior leaders of the Christian Association of Nigeria to find ways to ameliorate the problem. The reports showed that 100 churches were burnt, or partially destroyed. Four ordained gospel ministers were killed, 106 Christians were hospitalized with serious injuries and 600 homes belonging to Christians were burnt down. Further 38 Christians were arrested by their police for trail and a lot of other atrocities perpetrated against the Christians living in this part of Nigeria. Of the 100 Churches destroyed, about 16 of them were Baptist Churches – many of which have been attacked over four times in the last four years.

One of the Churches, First Baptist Church Ibrahim Taiwo Road witnessed a miracle. There were people praying in the church when they were attacked. Children were also in the church primary school building studying when the assailants poured gasoline on the buildings, threw in locally made bombs, and struck their matches to burn the

church. By God's protection they only succeeded in breaking some glass windows before soldiers came to the rescue of the church.

In a related development in February (*from Religion Today*), Muslim extremists attacked Christian mission schools in the city of Ibadan injuring hundreds of students and teachers. The violence spread rapidly across the city bringing economic life to a near stand still before police intervention. The National Council of Muslim Youth Organizations of Nigeria which organized the attacks said in a press statement that its objective was to press administrators to require female students to wear the hijap, a customary Muslim head covering. The Police arrested 51 of the assailants. It is to be noted that since 1977, the government had seized all private Christian Schools without compensation in Ondo State and have still not headed calls by Christian teachers to return them to their original mission owners. The Muslims argue that returning such schools to them would mean commercializing education.

V-TEN: Computer Donation

We recently donated four computers to two groups of immigrant minorities in the Houston area.

These are – ORSU United and IKWUANO Family Meeting with membership in excess of 25 families, respectively.

These two groups originally come from Imo and Abia States of Nigeria, respectively, but are based in Houston with interest in helping promote the Igbo language and culture in the community as well as among their children born here in the USA. They are also interested in community development in

their home towns back in Nigeria.

(Photo below shows the ORSU group receiving their own computer from Relief Network Ministries, Inc. President, Dr. A. Sunny Okorie during our first V-TEN

Water is life - we use it to bless the rural poor with a more priceless gift - the 'Living Water'



Above: Our winner Post card picture - showing some jubilant Ogberuru Women & children greating our team.

Below: The President of ORSU United, Mr. Chris Odume of Houston Texas heartly receiving two computer systems donated to the group by RNM, Inc. President, Dr. A. S. Okorie while his wife, Eucharía rejoices along (with other ORSU members not in shown)



program launched for them in April 2003).
(...continued from page 3)

The ORSU V-TEN program is a Saturday Academy for Computer literacy training, Igbo Language & Cultural education for children.

The computers donated would be used by the ORSU group to train their children and adults who are still computer illiterate in the understanding of how to use computer technology to their advantage in the new society they find themselves.

During the opening minutes of the program, Dr. Okorie used the opportunity to share with families the other work of RNM, Inc. and

about the H₂O Project lead by Brenda and Steve Koinis who run this non-profit program to help the poor and needy in Third World countries have access to sanitary drinking water. The H₂O Projects encourages people to forgo their usual beverages for two weeks and then donate the money so saved from such deliberate denial of sodas, coffee, etc. consumption. About 25 kids and their parents got the H₂O cups to be used for collecting their coins after watching some video clips of our water well projects

The IKWUANO group plans to use the system in their proposed community maternity clinic back in Nigeria.

Medical Supplies

4HIM Int'l (www.4-Him.net) under the leadership of Steve Hollingsworth recently provided us with the 7 feet high stack of medical supplies in photo (right) following our initial Macedonian Call for help / collaboration work in West Africa.

Sandra Orchard of the ministry & our treasurer Physician, Dr. Samson Otuwa were very instrumental in putting these items together. The gift consists of gloves, syringes, sutures, two clinical blood pressure monitors, clutches, etc.

What to Donate:

1. Jesus Videos in African Languages - \$25 for two
2. Water well for a village \$2,500
3. Water filter bottle for babies with no wells in their village - \$35 each
4. Help offset the cost to mount our Gemco rig on the MV truck above - \$15,000
5. Buy an electric pump for a well \$550
6. Buy a bush hand-pump for a well \$300
7. Personal hygiene stuff, tooth brushes, paste, soap, etc.



The love of Christ constrains us!



We dare to network!



Top:
Relief Ambassadors.
Rev. Clarence Joseph (Left);
Gino & Darlene Lopez (Right)

Center: Susan & Joel
Smith beside the Army truck
they sold to us (Licking
Missouri); purchased for
mounting the GEMCO rig
shown on front cover.

Below: Dr. A. Sunny
Okorie touching the Medical
supplies donated by 4HIM Int'l
to RNM for work in West
Africa presently stored at
Living Water Int'l warehouse in
Sugar Land Texas.



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