

NIGERIA

story by Joni Meyers
photos by Jeff Kingery

The final night of the Nigerian crusade in Agbor had attracted a crowd of 3,000. Among those attending was an 18-year-old man who had been arrested earlier that day by a military official. He had been caught reaching into someone's pocket at the market where the team was ministering, attempting to steal money the Americans had donated.

"There aren't many laws about criminal punishment, and the military official was prepared to shoot him on the spot," said Pastor Jeff Kingery, CC Joplin, Missouri. Jeff led a team of twelve from his church in the Midwestern United States that had come to minister in Nigeria this past fall. The crusade was the culmination of the mission trip.

After reasoning with the authorities, the Americans were allowed to take responsibility for the young man. They took him to the church, having felt God call them to make a difference in his life. He repented and surrendered his life to Jesus Christ after hearing the Gospel message.

One of the group's military escorts wanted prayer. He bent down on his knees with



Julie Robbins invites a man to the crusade happening later that evening.

his AK-47 automatic machine gun hanging at his side and prayed alongside Jeff. They asked God to reveal Himself to the soldier through His Word. A few days later the soldier gave his heart to Christ. Several hundred people had traveled long distances on foot. They came forward during each of the three nights of the crusade.

They did not just come to preach, but to put what they preached into practice as they served.

Pastor Bernard Dada

The team had the opportunity to meet King Chukwukai who had recently converted to Christianity. After accepting Christ, the king destroyed all the idols in his courtyard and placed a Bible in front of the seat where he passes judgment on his subjects. He had just finished building a church on his property.

While Islam dominates northern Africa, Christianity is prominent in Nigeria and other countries in the south. However, Christian teaching is inadequate throughout the region. It comes primarily through Trinity Broadcasting Network and traveling evangelists soliciting money. There is an evident lack of Bible-based Christianity, and followers of the faith cling to promises of the prosperity doctrine.



The church's roof was rebuilt.

"They're in such poverty, but they're hanging their hopes on prosperity. At some point that bubble is going to burst," said Jeff.

The American team also roofed a local church and financed the digging of a well to provide the people with fresh water—a much needed commodity.

"Without water, there is no life. Our hope is to help facilitate fresh water to the people and use it as an outreach in order to show them Living Water," Jeff said.

"It was a multi-faceted mission," Jeff continued. "We were there for the lost, but we also wanted to encourage and support believers." Christians, including many pastors, often lack a Bible. Four-dollar Bibles remain in



Nigeria is a little more than double the size of California.

stock on the shelves, unable to be purchased with their meager wages.

"God can raise up men to teach the people, that is not my or America's responsibility," Jeff said. "But they do need God's Word. How can a teacher carry a message they don't even have?"

Besides the twelve from CC Joplin, Pastors Jim Morgan, CC St. Joseph, Missouri, and Paul Lester, CC Rogers, Arkansas, also made the journey. They held a conference for 300 pastors in Nigeria, tripling in size from the previous year.

"The goal was to teach line upon line, precept upon precept," Jeff said. Some men, hungry for the truth, had walked for days to attend the conference.

Bernard Dada pastors the church where the Americans ministered for ten days. Both he and Jeff feel the greatest need in Nigeria is to get Bibles into the hands of the believers. In

addition, Bernard feels it is very important for Nigerians to see Christianity modeled in the proper way.

"They did not just come to preach, but to put what they preached into practice as they

served," Bernard said of the visiting Americans. "This is what the Christians here needed to witness." ✈



Team members posed for a photo with King Chukwukai (with red cap).

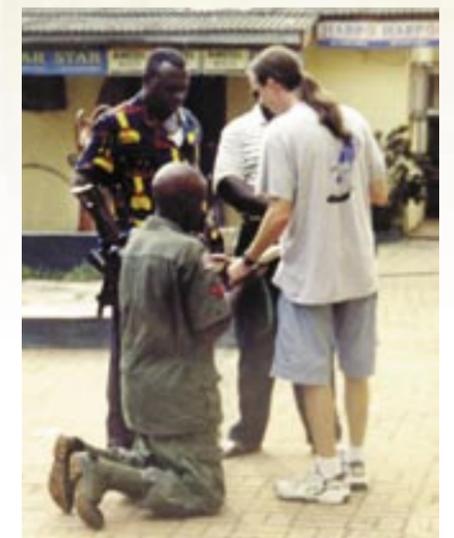


A crowd gathered to hear the Gospel in an open field.

www.calvarychapel.com/joplin
joplin@calvarychapel.com
CC Joplin
4706 Gateway Drive
Joplin, MO 64804
1-417-782-2141



Children danced to celebrate what the Lord has done.



Team member prays with a soldier.