

# Christian Faith Institute Update – March 2010

## Christian Academy Starts

Last September saw the opening of the Christian Faith Academy junior school for children of CFI staff and locals. This is registered with the government and occupies a two story building adjacent to the Bible College. We thank God for the care for our children...



## Land Purchase

We have reached an agreement to buy 30 acres of land for CFI's permanent site and have paid for one of the portions. We hope to pay for the second portion soon. It is in a very good location on the outskirts of Jos. We thank God for progress in this...

## Improvements to Website

With the help of OE Design in Australia we have made many changes to our website, including an online Bible College for all believers in Nigeria and worldwide. The book *Christ in You* is also available free on our website in English, Arabic and Hausa: soon in French also: also in audio MP3 files and iTunes. You can sign up to daily devotions from the website, or post your comments to our staff to appear on our website homepage. As we send out fewer newsletters now by post, please sign up to our email updates if you can. You can do this by a link of our homepage: [www.cfaithministries.org](http://www.cfaithministries.org)



## Visitors to Jos August, September 2009

Esther (Hodge) Cheesman came with her friend Susi Liniker to do two months medical training at the Faith Alive hospital in Jos. They also taught the word of God and prayed with the sick. The hospital has a wonderful head doctor from Nigeria and the training and mentorship given by him was invaluable. Many other people also came: Tim Hodge to make desks and book shelves for CFI. Ben and John Hodge helped him and also shared the word of God in the college. Others came to help set up the children's school, to help improve our TV outreach, to teach musical instruments, to help install an improved accounting system, to help organise our library and to lecture. We now have 2,500 good books in the CFI library. Oral Roberts University also sponsored the increase of our student computer library. We have two blind students who use software that reads any book they like. Below: Esther shares the gospel with patients, including many Muslims: and the CFI library...



### **Outreach to Chad**

In December 2010 our staff Bashir Koshekai and Henry Diamond travelled to Chad for a pastor's conference with our graduate from Benin days: Ps. Didier Ronel, driving across desert without a discernable road. 170 pastors attended from Didier's ministry, whose churches spread over the nation. (Pictured below left.) We sponsor on a monthly basis HIV orphans who live with Didier.

### **Bauchi Mission Station**

In December Ps Henry Diamond and students from CFI founded a mission station in Bauchi State; about 3 hours drive from CFI. Miraculously we were given a compound to use and a church was started. This is situated near totally unreached communities and Islamic regions. Many have already come to the Lord and are receiving discipleship. In February 2010 we sent an additional pastor to the region to start another church nearby. Kent is traveling to the region in February 2010. (Pictured below centre.) (Also pictured below right: CFI leader Emmanuel Razack speaks for two days at an Anglican pastor's retreat.)



### **Jos War**

In January 2010 an attack of Muslims against Christians and indigenes of Jos city suddenly broke out. It was planned. They had guns and in some regions of the city this developed into larger battles as unarmed locals sought to defend themselves. Many died and many others lost their homes and all their property. The area near CFI was also attacked. Many buildings, including churches were destroyed by fire. The CFI premises and staff were under serious threat. Most people in the area fled. Other areas where we have churches were brutally attacked. Miraculously none of our people were hurt and we lost nothing. Thank God for what He did through our faithful staff during this time. Please see our website for an address by the Vice President of the COCIN church describing events and causes: indirectly it shows what is coming in Europe and other Western nations, although authorities do not want to talk about it. Battles occurred in different parts of the city. One pastor describes his district: "The Muslims lined up on one side of a valley with guns and the Christians on the other with none. Some police were there and they



fired blanks into the air to draw the fire of those with guns. When the antagonist's bullets were used up then the "Christians" (a mixed group in reality – non Muslims) ran upon them and chased them as far as a certain place..." He said, "God fought for us."

### **New Student Intake**

Despite living in a war zone we have had a strong return of students and intake of new students in February. Kent arrived back in Jos soon after the attack to a dusk to dawn curfew. The college was well prepared for the start of a new semester. We have employed a new lecturer from ECWA and classes are running on well. We were able to bring in more library books and in many ways the college continues to grow. We have students from Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and the Republic of Niger. Intake of new students continues until mid March. We thank God for the zeal, love, hope, faith and good spirits He has given His people...

### **French Department**

Due to the arrival of several French speaking students who do not speak English we have started a French speaking department. This means all lectures are given in the French language, enabling us to reach more people and nations in Africa. We now lecture simultaneously in three languages in separate class rooms from 8:00 am to 5:00 daily including Saturdays. We also have a mid year holiday program.



Students during a lecture



### **A Tribute to the CFI Staff**

Pictured above is Emmanuel Razack and son Michael. Michael suddenly became ill and went to be with the Lord last December, the day Emmanuel signed the contract for the CFI land. Emmanuel and Joyce loved their son dearly and cared for him faultlessly with full dedication. He is a lovely boy who endeared himself to all who knew him. Emmanuel and Joyce could have stayed in the UK where it is better for families, but knowing the risks they chose to come to Jos for the gospel. Staff Gabriel and his wife Tope have had similar experiences. They are examples to Ruth and me, for their consistent joy and dedication. We pay tribute to all the staff (for what the Lord is doing in their lives) who have chosen to risk their lives for the sake of Jesus whom they love, not foolishly or presumptuously, but open to His leading and will. This is biblical and we hold it in high esteem with thanksgiving to God from whom it comes. Emmanuel and Joyce's second son David is strong and is now 9 months.

### **Jim Holdcroft's Visit**

Despite the trouble in Jos Jim Holdcroft arrives in February to conduct a seminar on Paul's Messianic use of the Old Testament. We are opening lectures up to other pastors and to students from other schools. We believe these lectures will glorify God and encourage many pastors in this time. We pray for much expansion in evangelism and church planting in the region.

### **Ruth's Visit to Australia**

Ruth is visiting Australia from June 19 and in July 2010. She will be visiting her parents in Deniliquin and speaking in churches. If you would like Ruth to speak in your church or area please contact us and let us know. We need to get the word out as the opportunity for expansion of the gospel is tremendous.

### **Coming Up**

We have it on our heart to start a church and mission station in the Republic of Niger. We await God's direction and time and appreciate your prayer. We also have a pastor's conference coming up in Alexandria, Egypt later this year and appreciate your prayer. Another thing we would like to do is to open a half way house in Jos to care for Muslims who are genuinely converted, for discipleship and vocational training. We wait on God for this. Please pray. Thank you.

### **Support**

Our mission stations and pastor training at CFI are supported by gifts and donations from Christians. This enables us to strengthen locals in the word of God, who then go out to reach their people with the gospel and plant churches. It helps us to get the gospel out through this Islamic region on TV and radio to many millions of people. Please help by giving support through the details on the inserted slip or go to FOR SUPPORTERS on our website (for Australia and Britain). Thank you very much for your backing and love which we feel strongly. It enables us to be a team together in reaching many with the love of Jesus.

### **Prayer**

We have been much in prayer, for both the great openings in reaching people with the gospel and the Jos crisis, to be open to the Lord and to know His guiding. We continue in this way, believing there is so much opportunity this year to be a witness for Jesus and knowing that the Lord will be faithful to the name of His Son Jesus Christ and to the Great Commission He has given to His Church. ... *Love in Jesus from Kent & Ruth*