

DEKINA – (PRON. DEKEENA) FEBRUARY 2009



Dekina is situated in the Middle-Belt of Nigeria. It is off the beaten track, hours along a rather bad road that does not go anywhere in particular, on which I have never travelled before. It is part of the Igala region. Over the years we have helped train about 100 pastors for this wider Igala area, on scholarships mainly from Australia. It really was a joy meeting some of them and hearing of their enthusiasm in the ministry and their churches. *(Pictured left – Emmanuel overlooking Dekina, with a large mosque at centre.)*

good can happen there. At the Pastors Seminar I said that it is a lie and there is no curse by virtue of Jesus Christ and that the pastors should be bold and declare it and do great works in faith in the Lord if the community is to have hope. I thought this was just normal preaching, but they took it as a great deliverance and there was talk and joy in the town. It opened their eyes. They said never before had someone dared to declare this from a pulpit in Dekina. *(Pictured right – Pastors Seminar.)*



It is commonly said that Dekina was cursed by an ancient king. Even pastors have said that nothing

We chose to visit this town because of its remoteness. At many programmes like this people are bussed in and food and accommodation are provided to cater for people from a wider region. But we provided none of this due to the cost and ministered only to those in the Dekina Township.

The night outdoor meetings were very powerful. The word of God was very easy to preach and was received with a lot of response. On the Sunday we moved to a nearby town and spoke at a church of a graduate I have known since the 80's. He looks after hundreds of orphans (some in the picture below) and schools them through to high school. He has 'inherited' these orphans through many rural evangelistic outreaches. Some live in a home he built but most are shared out among Christians in the community to look after. This way they live in caring families. *(Below – Praying for people at Dekina. Many from the town came out to hear God's word.)*



We prayed over several pastors who are just starting off in ministry. We have also received many more students from this area to train in Jos. Due to the outback and underdeveloped nature of this place we offered them all a scholarship. I really felt for the people and saw their keen love for the Lord.

We spoke with people who have such aspiration to fulfil their differing purposes in God and prayed for hundreds of these at the night meetings. An aspiring song writer who sang at a meeting saw people with a guitar when he was a boy. He then made his own by hand out of local materials and taught himself to play. He has such a hunger to learn, but not even any music books to read. He sang a beautiful song on “Thy will be done.”

Their simple faith is seen in their faces and the incredible way they improvise in the face of unusual need. They are more than worth training, as mighty vessels in the hand of God.



We spoke to a young husband and wife who do challenging dramas to revive unbelievers. They said the dramas are not done to entertain, but to minister the word of God. They are bold and care not for men’s’ opinion. I offered them a room in Jos in our new accommodation so they can minister in the north for a month in April. They will reach many with the gospel.



It struck me strongly while we were there how many ambassadors we have a part in raising up through the gospel. Areas like this were not long ago barren with regard to gospel ministry. Here is just one place, unknown to most people, even to most Nigerians, where I have never been before, but where many graduates are overcoming and blessing many souls, virtually cut off from the rest of the world. It shows us that most of what the work is helping to produce is unknown to us and encourages us that the Lord is the one doing this. *(Left – Pastors we help train, giving birth to new pastors in a gospel needy and responsive area of Islam and idol worship.)*

Bill and Helen Driessen from Tasmania were with us in Dekina. On this their 7th trip to us in Africa, they have spent a while in Uganda and a month in remote regions of Cameroon with graduates we have helped train. Today we have been busy getting their guest accommodation in Jos fitted out for them.

We thank God for the team we are working with, that makes all this possible. The dedication of the team in Nigeria is such a blessing. Each one works and no one cares who gets this part or that. We all just do what needs to be done. And to those of you who pray for, love and help practically towards this work, we are so thankful for. God bless you and thank you. *(Pictured right – Children dancing at a church service in Igala Land.)*

God bless, *Kent & Ruth*

