



CFI Librarian Gabriel Aiso and wife Tope

Pastors Seminar at Kafanchan

We just returned from holding a Pastors Seminar in Kafanchan, about two hours west of Jos. This morning we had services in our various branches in Jos and Henry is returning to Jos after looking at a new mission station in Bauchi State. The church I was in this morning sang beautifully “Nagodai”, which in Hausa is “Thank you”. This afternoon we are going into Jos radio for this week’s on air Bible study which goes through the whole north of Nigeria.

Jos Attacks

The attacks by Fulani cattle herders last Sunday on villagers near Jos resulted in hundreds dead. This occurred just a few miles from our college – walking distance. This is not only horrible for all the people involved, but the aftermath is almost mayhem. Sporadic killings continue and rumours fly around the city of an impending jihad and of many backup Taliban/Boko-Haram coming in from nearby states. The army on red alert has permission to shoot to kill.

One of our students lives in a flat a stones throw from our college. A stray bullet hit her flat-mate in the shoulder, while they were both together in the flat. Rumours of gangs coming to our college to kill and destroy increase. Rumours that others are coming to our house increase. You go to bed at night not knowing what will happen. You wake up each morning to see what is planned for that day. On Monday at the market a stones throw from our college a stand off between large groups of Muslim and Christian youth ended peacefully. On Tuesday a march of large groups of people to the

Government office to protest “remove the army and let us settle it among ourselves finally” ended peacefully.

On Wednesday night people in flats on the same compound as our college pack their bags to flee at 2:00 am. They told the students all sorts of stories and the students were awake all night to stay on watch. The student’s families or churches call them on the phone to leave Jos. The staff families call them also and ask them to get out the city and offer air tickets. Our staff in another house finds out that her landlord have fled, the day after a Muslim “spy” runs wounded through her backyard and then is then killed. She is now alone in the house. This is all in one week.

I met with leaders and discussed events, suggesting closing for a while. I don’t think this is right, but don’t want to presume on my staff’s good faith and lives. One staff heard and said, “If you do that we will carry placards on the street and protest”. He was joking, but in love showing they would not have us close for a day. Other staff all quickly voiced the same. Gabriel pictured above received a call from his parents, “If you won’t leave at least send out your wife.” He discussed with his wife and she said she stays with him. Gabriel said, “This is not a job, it’s a calling. Each day I come to this office in the morning I thank God for being a part. It is so obviously the work of God. I am so fulfilled.”

We encouraged the students during the week to know God’s will and do it and we leave the decision to them and the Lord. They asked, “What does a Christian do in a crisis?” I answered, “Preach, teach and heal...” I am convinced that the Lord brought us here, knowing all this would happen, and that it is His plan for us to be here now. This is the closest I have been to a war situation, without a weapon or any natural protection. Even our police left. You drive home in the evening not knowing what is waiting - almost no one on the streets. You are ready in the Lord and rested in Him.

We preach, “No fear and love your enemy.” Things have settled down somewhat again. We have our largest student population. I remember years back friends in the West said “We pray for you in the dangers of the African jungles.” I said, “The wooden bench you sit on each Sunday is more dangerous.” There is nothing more dangerous than ease. In class I acted out a person snoring through a sermon and hoping it wasn’t too long so his plans for the day wouldn’t be disrupted or his lunch late, or the pastor wouldn’t get personal and disturb his rest. The students were in stitches.

Today we shared on Moses called into Egypt to tell Israel the good news of standing against Pharaoh and against all the nations across Jordan. They would rather their garlic, onions and slavery. I remembered when I prayed for Ruth to be my wife a friend said, “How do you know God will do that?” I said, “I have faith (*pistis* – knowing, assurance). If God doesn’t give me Ruth, He is righteous and He will recompense the faith He has given me”. “Cast not away your confidence that has great recompense of reward.” When He is ready to fulfil His purpose on our side “He will surely come”.

The governor is doing an excellent job and he loves the Lord. We look forward to our Mission Conference in Jos next year. What a blessing for the north!! Lots of love from us all and thank you so much for those who pray, send support and send messages to us. We appreciate them all. God bless. We are praying for you all. Kent