

It happened!

For much of my life I have wanted to go to Africa. It seemed so far away (I live in Australia). I didn't see how it would come about and had decided the 'burden' I had for Africa – particularly the area around Nigeria, Cameroon and Chad was simply to pray for them.

A few years ago I started checking out countries to the West and North West of Nigeria that seemed to be a bit 'safer' with a view to visiting the area in some helpful capacity. Then last year our new church pastor commented from the pulpit he had a long term friend in Nigeria (Kent Hodge) who was involved in a Bible college there. My pastor had four copies of the 'Dispatched to Africa' book available for circulation through the church. Eagerly I read this book and then checked out the website for Christian Faith Ministries (CFI). Over the following months I was thankful to have access to Newsletters and other media. This did enable me to prepare some visual presentations on different aspects of the college for my church.

At the beginning of this year when comments came through re Esther Hodge doing a medical practicum in the area, I decided to check out the possibilities of my visiting CFI. Hence at the beginning of September I arrived in Nigeria.

The opportunity to spend some time at Faith Alive hospital was offered to me soon after I arrived. This meant I would be spending some time staying in a flat close to the hospital. At first I wasn't sure I wanted to be involved in an actual hospital but this proved to be a very valuable experience. It gave me an opportunity to see much more of the everyday life of the local people than if I was just based at the Bible College. One example of this can be seen from comparing the view from my bedroom window at both locations:-



From the Bible college accommodation



From the hospital accommodation

The area 'travelled through', mode of travel and accessibility to people while going from college or hospital to the accommodation for each was also quite different:-



Photo taken while driving between college and hostel.



Taken while walking between hospital and flat.

Prior to planning this visit, I had desired to be involved in teaching Bible college students in a developing country, but hadn't seen how this would come about. When I was speaking to Kent about coming to CFI we spoke about possible areas I could be involved in. He asked if I had any other areas of interest. I tentatively said 'teaching the students', he readily agreed. It was great to have the opportunity to speak on aspects relating to the life of Moses, David and Paul. I did appreciate the willingness of the students to participate in class.

The friendliness of the college staff and their desire to be helpful were also a blessing to me.

The photos on the following page give a glimpse of college life.



Cooking food for approximately 90 people



Lunch time

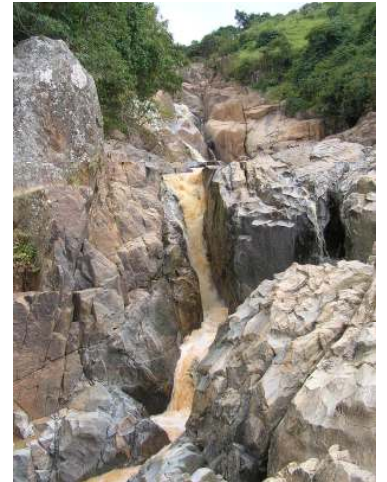


One example of the accommodation



In a lecture

Being a country girl at heart I enjoyed a trip we did into the country.



I am very thankful for the interactive glimpse I was able to have of CFI and this part of Nigeria and for the greater understanding this has given me. May God continue to bless and work out His plans for Christian Faith Institute and Nigeria.