

September News 2008

Christian Faith Institute, Africa's Sahel

We began a weekly TV outreach to Jos in July. We were virtually given the cameras to continue the production.

Pastor's Seminars

CFI held its first Pastors Seminar last May in Jos. Pastors came from every denomination in Jos. In August we held Pastors Seminars in Kano and Maiduguri in the far north, along with Pastor Steve Blake from Australia. There has been much persecution in these areas, but Christians are standing strong. Students are coming into the college in Jos from these Islamic areas. We visited villages where new churches are starting. We are training pastors who come from these un-reached places. Steve, Kent and our team preached and held seminars in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, Maiduguri and Jos. (Pictured left – *Former graduate's church in Maiduguri.*)



Jos

In August Steve visited Jos and spoke to our students for four days. He is pictured below playing a guitar and worshipping with the students. We are receiving new students throughout August and are expecting about 120 in total. The college is becoming known in the Sahel. We have bought new beds and desks and other facilities to equip the work. We are printing and selling pastoral teaching materials and CD's all through northern Nigeria. In every way we can think of we are getting the gospel out.

Land

Steve visited land we are looking to buy. It is ideally situated for the future of Jos and growth of the college. We have part of the funds needed. Steve and Helen Blake are standing with us to believe for the needed funds. Pictured below are Steve, Kent and Emmanuel Razack on *our land*. Emmanuel is a converted Moslem who was studying to be an Islamic cleric. He is now the leading staff of the college. He and the other team leaders are working hard and effectively with joy and passion for the Lord. We are a team working in the African culture which we love, with one gospel of the faith of Jesus Christ.



Ruth

In early August Ruth prepared for our daughter Esther's wedding, including making the bridesmaids dresses herself. She then arrived in Nigeria to visit the new college for the first time and to teach the students and some church leaders in our region. While Ruth is in Nigeria, Esther and the older boys are looking after the household. The oldest three have passed their respective university courses and go onto their next year this September. Esther will come to Nigeria next July for medical practice in Jos and village outreaches. Daniel will be attending a

college to learn work skills. Esther will be married (Sep 6th) by the time you receive this letter. Right, Ruth with staff Faith Diamond.



Steve Blake

Steve kindly put together some reflections: *The nation of Nigeria, with its massive population quickly approaching 150 million, is home to nearly 1/4 of all Africans. Nigeria sits on the front line between Islam and Christianity. We see the majority Islamic States dominating and suppressing the huge mass of people. Ministering in Abuja, Kaduna, Kano, Maiduguri and Jos with Kent and Emmanuel Razack was a powerful experience. I met some of the most wonderful men and women of God.*

They minister with joy in the most volatile environments. There are thousands in the field today who are fruit of Kent and Ruth's years of work. The churches they have established number in the thousands. The vision of Kent and Ruth, to provide bible school training scholarships is totally strategic. This allows the indigenous North Nigerians, who typically have no financial resources, to be trained in their own language for affective preaching, church planting and pastoral ministry among their own people. This college in Jos is outstanding. Everything I observed gave testimony to the purest dedication to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every resource is maximized. Strong theology in an environment of spiritual freedom and dynamic worship is producing great men and women of God. I stand with Kent and Ruth. I love them and admire the work already done in raising up literally thousands of pastors. Now we should stand with them for the fulfilment of this next chapter in God's story of the gospel triumphant in Africa.



Kano State Villages

We travelled through village communities in one of the strongest Islamic regions of Nigeria. There so many are coming to Jesus. Eight churches have been started in the last year. We saw several of the churches. Pictured right are 8 pastors from this area now training with us in Jos. Pictured below is Steve ministering to pastors and church members who are all indigenous Moslem converts. Community



members in the region are asking for churches to be planted in their villages. We salute their courage, even to ask us to visit.

Real Change

God turns hearts from darkness to light. He changes the heart by His gospel. People then become agents of change and development that lasts because it comes from them and is entirely sustainable. "We are not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God to salvation ..." We stand with them in their trial and say, "You are our brother and sister in Christ." We gain immensely as we fellowship in word and deed with those on this battle front.

Thank you for your prayers and support and for standing with us to reach out with the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please send gifts to Kent & Ruth Hodge Ministries C/ Len & Ruth Goulding, 8A Lonsdale Av, Pymble, NSW 2073, Australia Ph: 0294400969, 0296395555 len@hometeam.com.au Bank details Ministry funds - Kent & Ruth Hodge Ministries Commonwealth Bank BSB: 062533 Acc: 28001475. Hodge's personal gifts - Kent & Ruth Hodge (do not write "Ministries") Westpac Bank BSB: 732870 Acc: 557885 **Financial accountability - Contact Pastor Bill Driessen 0362971899, David Loxley 0299187008, Pastor Pat Antcliff 0299728688. Kent & Ruth kent.hodge@cfaithministries.org WEB www.cfaithministries.org**