

# GARVIE GREETINGS



Issue 17

August 2017



Theological and Library Staff (including Donald and Fraser Jackson) from several African countries, meeting for June's NetACT conference in Kenya

*Give thanks to the Lord;  
proclaim his name;  
Make known among the  
nations what he has done.  
Sing to him, sing praise to  
him; tell of all his  
wonderful acts.  
Glory in his holy name;  
Let the hearts of those who  
seek the LORD rejoice.  
Look to the LORD and his  
strength; seek his face  
always.  
Remember the wonders he  
has done...  
Psalm 105: 1-5*

Greetings!

We hope August has been a refreshing month for you and that the September term has begun well. It has been lovely to see many holiday photograph posts over the past month.

We had a short break in Abuja in July, but were glad to return to Jos for the cooler temperatures and because children started school at the beginning of August. It has been a hectic 'summer' for us, as many unforeseen responsibilities fell our way. Yet, we are grateful to have known the sustaining power of God in our tiredness and busyness, and are grateful the children have settled well into their school routine.

Planning Ahead for 2018

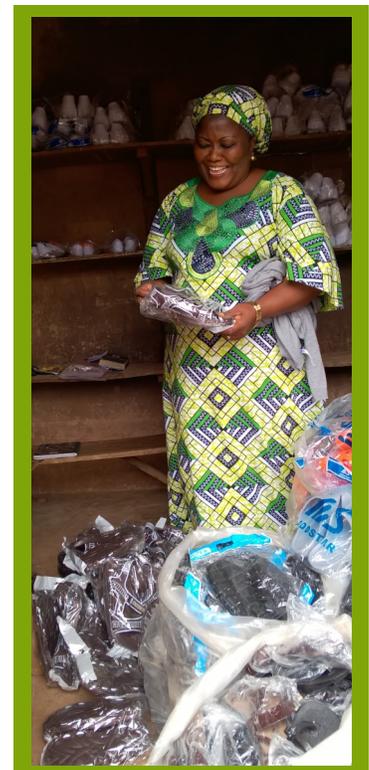
We hope to return to the UK for the month of June, 2018. We would love to come and share in person how we have experienced God at work in Jos. Please contact Ruth to arrange a slot.

Summer Teams 2018

We are beginning preparations for a 'Connect' Team to encourage and serve the children and staff of City Ministries, where Ruth works. If you would be interested in experiencing life in Jos first hand, please contact the Mission Africa office for more details: [info@missionafrica.org.uk](mailto:info@missionafrica.org.uk).

Having fun shopping in the market for school shoes and uniforms for 80 pupils, with the Educational Co-ordinator of EMS.

A strong cup of tea was needed after our four hour trip!



Look!

This is the title of the first book I use when teaching children to read. It may not seem much in terms of content, but the skills and abilities involved are more than first expect.

Firstly the child must be able to focus, to block our distractions and look carefully at what is in front of them. Many of our children at Cornerstone arrive from traumatic backgrounds. The activity and noises around them burst in on their concentration and sitting still, well, what child finds that straight forward!

Next they need to be able to see and understand what is represented on the page in front. Again, not all our children have had the privilege of coming from places where basic needs are met, let alone the provision of luxury items. A book, a soft toy, a bicycle... some of these things are foreign and unusual and they may not even have the vocabulary to describe them, yet!

Another skill needed is to communicate what is seen. Sounds, words, sentences... so much to verbalise, in a second (or third) language, to someone who does not phrase things the same way they are familiar with.

Teaching at Cornerstone is complicated, but the joy exceeds the effort and to see these children try, not only in their learning, but in facing the emotions and challenges that their lives bring makes those who work with them understand what it means to be more blessed in giving than in receiving.

Please continue to pray for our learners as they take on the challenges of delayed education for whatever reason or background. Please pray they would thrive in their studies and appreciate more of the world God has given them, in the safety and security they can find, not only within the walls of the school, but in Christ himself.



Look. The photo above may seem somewhat empty, dilapidated, boring even. Yet, focus, see and understand.

This photo is taken before the start of a normal work day at City Ministries Headquarters—Gidan Bege or 'house of hope'. Within these walls there are business and finances offices, facilitating the funds, staff and resources needed for ministry to prisoners, drug addicts, unreached people groups, the disabled and many more; a boys home for 15 boys aged 5-12, newly rescued off the streets or situations of risk; a cook house and bulk grain storeroom, feeding over 100 deprived and vulnerable people on clinic days; a place of worship and sanctuary for staff and seekers; a staff house to provide shelter for workers serving in this ministry with little salary; and an office for the manager, enabling the vision of this work to remain central to all that is going on— 'to honour God and holistically impact people in need as it preaches the Gospel, heals the sick and partners with others to do so.' (part of Gidan Bege's Vision Statement)

Please pray God would continue to help me and the staff here to see, understand and communicate the things that honour him, to his glory and praise.

## Give thanks...

- Our neighbour Grant who suffered a heart attack in May is now back to good health and back to work with SIM.
- The children have enjoyed settling back to school this month and are doing well with the new routine.

## Please pray...

- Donald would prepare quality lectures that would encourage and equip future leaders of the Evangelical Church in Nigeria.
- Ruth would be a support and encouragement to the staff at Cornerstone Academy and Gidan Bege schools.
- Our financial needs would continue to be met to enable us to live and serve in Jos.
- For wisdom, discernment and grace for ECWA leaders and administrators.
- For new children received into the orphanages at City Ministries—for trust and care to be demonstrated and received.



## A new semester at JETS

Jos ECWA Theological Seminary (JETS) started a new school year at the beginning of August with a flurry of meetings and timetable changes. It is an education learning how institutions are run and Donald continues expand his understanding of the differences in cultures in terms of management and administration. Having intermittent electricity also adds its challenges but as everyone faces the same frustrations, there is some unity and a shared sense of struggle which helps us associate with our colleagues more.

Donald has the privilege of teaching Systematic Theology and Church History this semester. This has reduced his time spent in the library, but he has appreciated being in class and getting to know the students he is working with. He also has pastoral responsibility for a fellowship group which meets weekly to reflect on what is being taught in the weekly seminary church meetings. Please pray he would be able to support these students both in their studies and in their Christian walk. Please pray he may aid their understanding of Gods Word in a fresh and applicable way that these men and women may grow in the love and knowledge of our Lord and serve him wholeheartedly in their ministry.

*We need your help*

*Is that a fact?*

Please join us in providing quality education for the orphans and vulnerable children at

**Cornerstone Academy** (primary 1-7)

by donating some

*fact and information*

books for the library.

New and quality second hand books greatly appreciated.  
Contact [ruth.garvie@missionafrica.org.uk](mailto:ruth.garvie@missionafrica.org.uk) for more details

From the photo album this month...



Backyard building,  
braids and back to  
school...

what August is all  
about!

(and thankfully only  
a bashed, not broken  
bone for Beth)



Some of the Cornerstone Academy girls in their Sunday best.



Our new arrivals at Gidan Bege, relieved to have finished their  
school entrance assessments.

## Contact Us

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