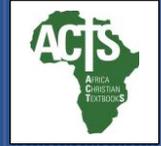




Garland Update



Mission Africa and ACTS

April 2019

Prayer Letter No. 96

Former students ably serving the Lord



Sid with former students now serving on faculty of TCNN

On my visit to Nigeria in November 2018, I was very happy for renewed fellowship with 8 former students now serving on the faculty of the Theological College of Northern Nigeria. God has also answered prayers for one of them, a Belfast Bible College graduate and COCIN minister, Rev Elisha Gufwan.



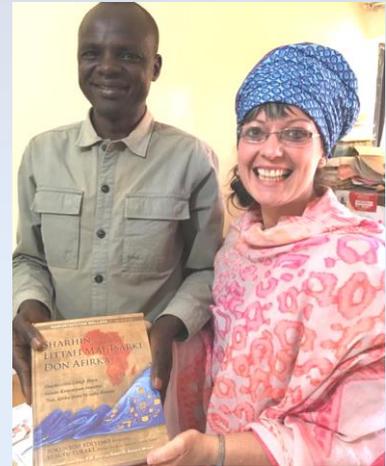
Sid with Rev Dr Elisha Gufwan

In the face of many difficulties, including the loss of his wife to cancer in 2017, Elisha has been able to FINISH his doctoral studies in missiology at Fuller Theological Seminary, TRAIN students in TCNN and at the same time KEEP his zeal for evangelism.

We are also proud of another former student **Rev Dr Jerry Kulah, Dean of Gbarnga School of Theology in Liberia**. Jerry gained worldwide publicity in February 2019 by speaking up at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church: "We are grounded in God's word and the gracious and clear teachings of our church. On that we will not yield! We will not take a road that leads us away from the truth! We will take the road that leads to the making of disciples of Jesus Christ for transformation of the world! . . . The vast majority of African United Methodists will never, ever trade Jesus and the truth of the Bible for money."

News of suffering

It would not be right to minimize the evils being perpetrated against Christians in Nigeria and our hearts are heavy for them. Loved ones have been brutally murdered, children kidnapped (like Leah Sharibu, over a year in captivity), homes and churches destroyed. Many are displaced including dear friends of Mission Africa (Qua Iboe) among the Bassa tribe - Rev Jacob Moses and also Rev David Onuche. Vulnerable



Luka Vandi and Pamela Gaiya with an advance copy of Hausa edition of the Africa Bible Commentary

Did you know?

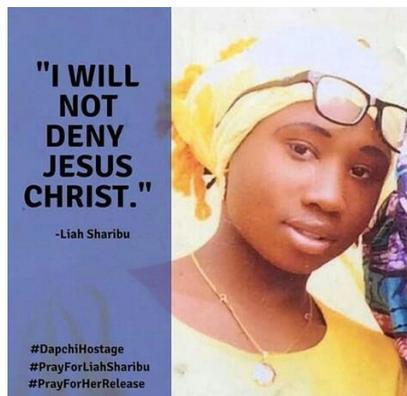


Nigeria's population has been estimated at 195 million. By 2047 Nigeria will overtake the USA to become the world's third-largest nation with 387m people (according to UN projections). Nigeria is also a very young nation with more than 40% of population under the age of 14. Half live below the poverty line (surviving on less than £1.50 per day). That makes Nigeria home to more very poor people than any other nation in the world.

ACTS Kenya

Sid continues to assist ACTS Kenya. We are glad that a new Manager is in charge of the ACTS Bookshop in AIU (NEGST), Nairobi – Kepha Sakwa - who has proved himself to be a faithful worker over some years.

communities have suffered regular attacks, for example, in Kaduna State, parts of Plateau State and also the home area of Rev Luka Vandi – Michika in Adamawa State.



However, let us be aware of those who are spreading fake news. Some reports they share are out of date or fail to tell “the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.” They will not tell you that Muslim communities are also suffering - often at the hands of Boko Haram and sometimes at the hands of nominal Christians who are certainly not acting for the Jesus of the Bible who tells us to love our enemies and pray for them (Matt 5:44).

The Nigerian elections are over and we believe that the Lord answered prayer for a reduction in violence. Refugees are grateful for help and some are getting on their feet to take care of themselves and their families. In the north east some churches have been re-built with assistance of the Nigerian Government.

Let us not lose heart but rather renew our prayers and support for our Nigerian brothers and sisters who (by-and-large) are remarkably prayerful, patient and resilient.

Resources for Evangelism and theological education

We are grateful for partnership with Revival Movement who give us opportunity to share in shipping containers to Nigeria and Kenya. Samuel Adams (CEO of RMA) reports that a container to Nigeria Nov 2018 shipped 100,000 Gospels of John in Hausa, 100,000 Gospels of John in English, 1.5 million gospel tracts, 8,000 CEF flashcard Bible lessons.



Samuel Adams w ACTS Kenya

To such literature, we add many serious theological books ordered by ACTS from various UK and US publishers. We are also grateful for books donated through Mission Africa by several ministers on entering their retirement. We thank God for the increasing range of relevant books available to ACTS through Langham Literature including those published by ICETE (International Council for Evangelical Theological Education). Together we are raising the standards of theological education in Africa.



Sakwa and Sid in Kenya 2015



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**“You help us by
your prayers”**

(2 Cor 1:11)

Reasons for praise for

1. Encouraging visit to Nigeria
2. Relatively peaceful elections in most areas.
3. Fruitful meetings at the London Book Fair
4. Jean’s gradual recovery after recent illness

Requesting prayer for

1. The Bassas and Leah Sharibu still in captivity
2. Preparations for the launching of the Hausa Africa Bible Commentary.
3. Funds to help those who cannot afford this vital tool.
4. Rev Luka Vandi ACTS MD and his wife need visa to visit NI end of April – early May
5. Peter and Karen and family returning to Belfast in July after five years in N Africa.