

INTERNATIONAL COPS FOR CHRIST...Mike and Ann DiSanza Ministries

Nigeria Newsletter, March 13, 2010

Praise the Lord for an awesome Ministry in Nigeria

which is the most densely populated country in Africa located on the Western coast. There are more than 150 million people in Nigeria which is twice the size of California. There are 150 ethnic groups of which 50% Muslim and 40% "Christian." The other 10% are tribal religions. The median age is 19 and the average woman has 5 children. ONLY 3% are over the age of 65 and about 70% over the age of 15 can read and write. The main language is English since they were under British rule for such a long time with a vast history of corruption. In 1999 they became a democracy.

Included in this Newsletter are the following:

1. Arrival

2. Ministry At YWAM

3. Churches

4. Police and Prisons

1. ARRIVAL... We left our home at about 8:00 am on Tue. 2/16/2010 and met with friends who drove us to Tampa airport. From there we took a plane to Atlanta, Georgia. From there we boarded another plane to Paris, France and from there we boarded another plane to Lagos, Nigeria and then on to Pt. Harcourt. We arrived in Pt. Harcourt around 7:00 PM on Wednesday 2/17. The sight from the plane was eerie since all the lights were out in the town and there was only flickers of lanterns here and there. The airport was running on generator and was dimly lit. Before we could get through all of the checkpoints we had to pay \$200 in bribes. We were tired and a little nervous so didn't barter much. Mike did a little.

Eric Black and Femme met us outside of the gate and drove us to the base. On the road from the airport I saw a naked man walking along the roadside. Okay this is Africa! There were rough roads lots of people in the streets lots of police and military with automatic weapons and lots of shouting and music. We were happy to see that the YWAM base was behind a guarded, gated, wall. We were immediately taken to our quarters in their "hospitality house" in which Loren Cunningham had resided just two weeks prior. It was quite comfortable.

We were advised of the sporadic electricity between NAPA and the generators. After we were there a few days, we found out the generator had broken down. This lasted for about one week while we were there. This meant that with 95-110 degrees Fahrenheit it was hot and humid and fans ran only sporadically. Then the water ran out and the relief format the heat with our

cold showers was ended. We had to take bucket baths. PTL! Amen! We give you thanks in ALL THINGS LORD JESUS! The YWAM Students were awesome and Eric, Cindy and the children were a delight to be around. They could not have treated us any better.

2. MINISTRY AT YWAM. Mike had the opportunity to address the entire student body and to teach several classes in the four schools that were going on. Ann assisted by drawing on the board and making notes on the boards for the students as well as contributing here and there and especially during the Growth Groups. In all Mike was doing 3-4 meetings a day and one day had 5 meetings. Praise the Lord for the strength he gave him.

3. CHURCHES. The first church service we were to do was canceled for security reasons. We submitted to that warning. Then some FCA pastors from the surrounding areas came to meet us at the base and invited us to their churches to minister. There was a pastor who had been emailing us for years and inviting us to Nigeria, who when he found out we were coming was very excited and met with Eric to plan meetings for us in the City of ABA. These meetings were all canceled because they could not guarantee our safety and provide adequate security. Praise the Lord, though, the calendar completely filled up and we were very busy until we left.

Mike traveled to some churches which were several hours away and Ann didn't go along to provide Mike and Eric the opportunity to share a room if necessary. She then had the opportunity to minister to and have fellowship with Cindy, the children and the YWAMers. By the way that is Youth With a Mission for those of you who don't know. Cindy even learned how to make real Italian Spaghetti Sauce.



Mike and Eric with police and chaplains in Eket, Nigeria

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4. POLICE AND PRISONS Through some of these church meetings Mike and Eric were able to minister in prisons and with the police and police chaplains. The prison chaplains asked Eric to bring YWAM students on a regular basis to minister to the inmates. This is such a "Open door" for the gospel in the prisons.

In all Mike was able to establish 3 chapters of Cops for Christ in Nigeria and even got to meet the Chief of Police who invited him back in October to speak to all of his police at that time. It was unprecedented for this man to even meet with an "outsider" but when he found out Mike was a former NYPD he said he'd give him five minutes which turned into a hour and a half. PTL! Mike was the first white man to ever minister to the police there and has an "Open Door" to continue the ministry in October.

While Mike and Eric traveled, Ann spent the time with Cindy and the children. Their new baby Naomi is such a precious little one and such a blessing. She is such a good baby. Ann was able to observe first hand how hard it is on the Eric Black family. They don't have running water in their quarters and have to cook all of their own meals. Doing the dishes alone is such a chore, with having to lug the water and dispose of the dirty water. Then the laundry, oh my! Eric managed to purchase a washing machine for Cindy, but the electricity is not sufficient to run it, even their own generator isn't strong enough. Therefore, they must share the campus machine with other families, when they have electricity, but the water power isn't sufficient to fill it so that they have to have a large barrel filled at all times and fill buckets to fill the washing machine from that. Since they have so much laundry with such a large family they run the machine on the minimum cycle. The girls were helping with this. Bless their little hearts.

I suggested to Cindy to try to find outside help through one of the local churches and really kind of pushed that issue. They then spoke to Jackson who is involved in a nearby AG church who then spoke to his pastor who recommended a woman who came for an interview and is working out very well helping four hours a day three days a week (wow! what a run on sentence). The whole family was rejoicing on that one. Praise the Lord Jesus!

In summaryyou probably know that 900 Christians were killed in Nigeria in the last 3 months. We were there three of those weeks right in between the violent outbreaks. No matter how bad the situation was all around us God moved in a powerful way. We had 86 people come to salvation and 47 people baptized in the Holy Spirit. In addition we started 3 chapters of Cops for Christ in Nigeria. Mike was able to speak to

80 policemen and 50 police chaplains. He was also able to speak in two prisons with 180 inmates. The meetings went so well that the prison chaplain asked him if they could continue every week sharing the gospel with the inmates. I spent my 3 weeks with YWAM (Youth With a Mission) and some of the YWAM members who came along with him to the prison said that they would go into the prison each week as a ministry of the DTS (Discipleship Training School). Praise the Lord!

We also spoke many times at the YWAM base to the students of each of the schools going on there. Mike met the Chief of Police of Nigeria who was going to give him 5 minutes since he is such a busy man. When he heard that he was a member of NYPD he was fascinated. The 5 minute interview became 1 hour and 30 minutes. He asked Mike to come back to speak to all of the police in Nigeria and many prisons in October....Boy was that a miracle from the Lord to meet him. He will also speak at a Bible college in Lagos, Nigeria in October. What an "Open Door!" One of the churches wants to help to get started a new YWAM base in the town of Eket, Nigeria. PTL!

Since we got home, we have shared and encouraged our church members and Mike preached at the prison Friday night where 22 inmates came to Jesus. PTL

Our grandson, Tyson, turned one year old and our youngest son, Jonathan, will be 28. Where does the time go?

Upcoming Ministry:

- 1. Mid April - May 3rd** We will be ministering all over Ireland with Pasotor John McEvoy.
- 2. May 21st**, we are on our way to the Annual Missions Convention at SGT, New York (our home church)
- 3. Ministry in Virginia** with the police and churches
- 4. Back to W. Canada**
- 5. Back to Nigeria** in October, Lord willing

Thanks to all those who prayed for us while we were gone and also to those who supported us financially. You all will receive rewards in Heaven for all that was accomplished there in Nigeria, W. Africa. Praise the Lord!