



MARTYRS CRY!

A PUBLICATION OF THE VOICE OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS NIGERIA

AFRICAN EDITION NO. 012014

Faith

in the face of

Death

“Pray for us that
we shall die as
Christians //



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of-death

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a Christian

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mourn the
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be true?

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people free:
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U.N.



IF THIS
WAS YOUR
CHURCH
BUILDING,

AND THESE
WERE
YOUR CARS



AND THIS
IS
YOU

What Would You Want Christians To Do For YOU?

SUPPORT

The Persecuted Brethren



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from the publisher

Heroes of faith

We read of their exploits in Hebrews 11. They became famous with God not for what they received, but for what they lost in order to gain a heavenly city, whose builder and maker is God. For their heroic stand for God in their various generations, their names entered Heaven's Hall of Fame.

In our generation, we see in the midst of the rubbles of bombed church buildings, bleeding and mutilated bodies of victims of Christian persecutions, heroes of faith, towering high above other saints of God. These are ordinary believers like you and I, who, when faced with the choice of withdrawing to a safe and comfortable zone, chose to take a stand for the faith that was once delivered to all the saints. We cannot but marvel at these ordinary men and women, who have taken extra—ordinary stand for God.

To these 21st century heroes of faith, Christianity is not measured by how many miracles and breakthroughs they have received, it is measured by how many times they have laid down their lives to defend the integrity of Jesus Christ.

How can one explain a prayer request that says, "Pray for me that I shall die as a Christian"? Or, a prayer meeting in which participants are petitioning heaven that "Lord, let me die for the gospel". But, we hear these prayer requests in northern Nigeria. We meet these extra-ordinary Christians in hot zones that lesser Christian mortals would not even contemplate visiting for one day!

We have met the champions of God who daily are sending powerful signals to forces of darkness and rulers of this world that Jesus Christ is worth dying for. Through their acts of bravery and courage, Christianity in Nigeria shall survive this onslaught from hell. Christianity shall survive in Nigeria, not because of our gilded Cathedrals and silk choir robes, but because of these heroes of God who have taken the battle to the gates of the enemy. When the Lord boldly prophesied that "hell shall not prevail" against His church, He must have foreseen these heroes.

We are very humbled and privileged to be called to serve these "giants" of the Christian faith. Materially and financially, they have next to nothing, but in Christ, they have everything. From them, we have learnt that a successful Christian is not the one who receives miracles and breakthroughs, but the one who surrenders everything that he has, including his life, for the glory of the Savior.

As you go through this edition of Martyrs CRY!, we hope that you will consider it a privilege to be called upon to pray for the persecuted Christians, give generously to meet their needs, and visit them in their afflictions, as God gives you the opportunity. Above all, we ask that you join us to raise our voices on behalf of the Christians in northern Nigeria, as well as in other nations of the world where Christians are persecuted for faith in Christ Jesus.

It is a privilege, to serve the persecuted church.

Rev. Isaac Oluwole Wusu
*National Director,
The Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria*

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The Fatherless Children of JILANG



On Sunday, 5th May, 2013, members of the Boko Haram terrorist group launched a deadly attack on the Christian community in Jilang village of Maiha Local Government Area of Adamawa State. At the end of the attack, over twelve members of the EYN church had been killed.

The men killed were mostly farmers with large families. The death of the men resulted in a large number of fatherless children facing a challenging future as their mothers are not economically capable of taking care of them alone.

The Voice of Christian Martyrs visited Jilang to comfort and support the widows of the martyrs. Each of the widows was given substantial sums of money to assist them as well as foodstuffs like Rice, Beans, Maize, Noodles, Sugar and Salt. The National Director of the Voice of the Christian Martyrs assured the widows that arrangement shall be made to assist in the education of their children as well as business support for them.



In fulfilment of its promise, the Voice of Christian Martyrs has delivered grinding machines and sewing machines to the women at a relief distribution program which was held in Yola, the capital city of Adamawa State.

The widows were effusive with gratitude that the gifts they received from the Voice of Christian Martyrs were the first assistance that they have received from any individual or organization since the attack by Boko Haram on their community.



After meeting with the widows, the VCM team met with 40 people, both male and female, who were also affected by the Boko Haram attacks on Jilang village. The victims were also encouraged and comforted by the National Director of the Voice of Christian Martyrs. All the 40 identified victims of the attacks by Boko Haram were each given N40, 000 support funds as well as rice, beans, maize, noodles, sugar and salt. More than 1,000 people received the food items (rice, beans, maize, noodles, sugar and salt) from the Voice of the Christian Martyrs.

The people gave thanks to God for the gifts.

SUPPORT

A

CHILD



If you are planning for a year, sow rice

If you are planning for a decade, plant trees

If you are planning for a lifetime, educate a person — Chinese proverb

The Stephens Children Home (SCH) for the sons of martyrs was not planned by any man. It simply started as an act of compassion.

After the Kaduna religious riots of 2000, Rev. Isaac visited the refugee camp and saw sordid cases of humanitarian disaster. Scores of traumatized widows were milling around the camp in a daze. He saw little children that faced bleak future without a father in a hostile environment.

The widows heaved a sigh of relief when he suggested the possibility of taking their children down South for free education. Immediately, eight children were given to him to take to Abeokuta. He returned shortly, and took more children. From the initial eight children, they increased to fourteen, twenty, forty, seventy, and they kept increasing. As the Muslims fanatics intensified attacks on Christians in the North, so did fatherless children and orphans increased. Today, there are 450 of such children receiving free education, free accommodation, free feeding, free clothing, at the Stephens Children Home, Abeokuta.

For years, SCH was being funded through the generosity of concerned Christians. The Nigerian church owes our concerned brethren a debt of gratitude.

However, as the pressure on the Home increases through the unbridled attacks on Christians in the North, it is becoming apparent that there is the need to source for additional funding for the sons of the martyrs. The time is ripe for Nigerian Christians to come forth in large numbers and join in the funding of the Stephens Children Home.

Someone may wish to ask, “why take the children from the North and from their widowed mothers to educate in the South?”

- Anyone familiar with the North will confirm that it is a male dominated society. Once the breadwinner dies, the widow is in dire strait. Life is not easy for widows in the North.
- Apart from the problem confronting a single parent, most of these children are orphans. Both parents have been killed. In fact, some of them are the sole survivor in the entire family!
- Even where a family can afford the cost of educating a child,

the family cannot guarantee the safety of the life of the child. Schools are frequently attacked by Islamic insurgents and school children are routinely killed. The massacre of over 50 students in their dormitory in 2013 is still fresh in our memory. The environment is very hostile to education. We are calling on individuals, churches, fellowships, and Christian companies, to support the annual cost of educating these children. It costs approximately N132,720.00 ... per annum to maintain a child.

Some students in the SCH withdrew in the past. It is very unfortunate because some of them ended up as drug addicts while some converted to Islam to guarantee their survival.

In places where education can be obtained, the standard has been bastardized such that Christian children end up receiving mediocre education. We must keep the Stephens Children Home running. We cannot afford to send any child back to the North. That is why we need the support of Nigerian Christians. We are calling on individuals, churches, fellowships, Christian companies, to support the annual cost of educating these children. It costs approximately N132,720.00 (One hundred and thirty two thousand, seven hundred and twenty naira) per annum to maintain a child.

To the glory of God, some of the students are presently in the University studying medicine, law, engineering, urban planning, etc.

You can adopt one child, you can adopt two, you can adopt three or more.

As God gives you grace, support the sons of the martyrs.

For further information, please contact: Rev. Isaac 080 3308 2342

Donations can be sent to: Voice of the Christian Martyrs, Zenith Bank, 1010319966

Sons of the

Martyrs



We are calling on
Individuals, Churches, fellowships,
and Christian companies to support
the annual cost of educating these
children. It costs approximately
N132,720.00 ... per annum to
maintain a child



Could This Be True?

ABUJA DECLARATION (1989)

ISLAM IN AFRICA ORGANIZATION

The organization was founded on 28 November 1989 in Abuja, Nigeria, with the goal to win the whole of Africa for Islam. The statutes and goals are ratified in 1991 and this marks her formal definitive founding. The founding-communiqué is also called the Abuja Declaration. Starting point for the conference is the fact that Africa is the only continent with an Islamic majority and therefore Africa should become completely Islamic.

The plan contains a lot of points that are also common for Christian Missionary organizations as relief and economic progression. A battle plan was composed to Islamize Africa with some less innocent points in that decision:

- To ensure only Muslims are elected to all political posts of member nations"
- To eradicate in all its forms and ramifications all non-Muslim religions in member nations (such religions shall include Christianity, Ahmadiyya and other tribal modes of worship unacceptable to Muslim)." (the word Christianity is underlined in the declaration)
- To ensure the ultimate replacement of all western forms of legal and judicial systems with the Sharia in all member nations

8.....Martyr's CRY



before then next "Islam in Africa conference."

-To ensure the appointment of only Muslims into strategic national and international posts of member nations."

The execution of this strategy can be recognized in countries like Nigeria, Ethiopia and Sudan. In Nigeria more and more provinces choose for the Sharia leading to heavy protests of Christians, oft resulting in violence and bloodshed to both sides. In Sudan the government chose in 1983 for the Sharia, in 1991 sharpened with death punishment for apostasy from Islam.

Funds: The government of Nigeria has donated 21 billion US-dollar to confirm an IAO-communiqué as donation to this "Islamic Development Fund".

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abuja_Declaration
<http://www.nairaland.com/682118/no-wonder-blood-christains-flowing>

"To
eradicate
in all its forms
and
ramifications...

CHRISTIANITY..."

THE MOST DANGEROUS NATION TO BE A CHRISTIAN:

NIGERIA!



†
“Between November 2011 and October 2012, we recorded 1,201 killings of Christians worldwide (which gives an average of 100 killings a month!), of which 791 (66%) happened in Nigeria”, ...
†

The most dangerous country for a Christian to live during 2012 was, arguably, Nigeria. That's what research for the 2013 edition of the World Watch List shows; produced by the global Christian organisation Open Doors, its researchers monitor the persecution of Christians worldwide.

“Between November 2011 and October 2012, we recorded 1,201 killings of Christians worldwide (which gives an average of 100 killings a month!), of which 791 happened in Nigeria”, reports the World Watch List. Most of these were in church attacks - from the capital Abuja, across mid to northern Nigeria in cities such as Jos and Kaduna, and through to Sharia-law Northern states such as Borno, Bauchi, and Yobe.

Boko Haram, which has caused havoc in Africa's most populous country through a wave of violence, is fighting to overthrow the government and create an Islamic state. A former Defence Minister Theophilous Danjuma on Sunday 3rd March, 2013 described the North of Nigeria as being in the middle of a civil war declared by the religious sect. Many Christian families have fled many of the Northern states of Nigeria and the tiny minority of those who have remained live in permanent fear of attack from armed men. Despite deployment of the government's Joint Task Force, a special army-police unit, security is fragile there.

Now, Nigeria's leading para-church umbrella grouping of Christian denominations, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), is launching a fund to raise money to support victims (and their surviving relatives) of the Boko Haram militant Islamists' attacks, which have claimed the lives of more than 3,000 people since 2009, according to Human Rights Watch.

Of Nigeria's estimated 160 million population, over 80 million are Christians. CAN is their most representative umbrella group, comprising five major denominational groups: the Christian Council of Nigeria, the Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria, the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, the Organisation of African Instituted Churches, and the Evangelical Fellowship of West Africa.

“Before this donation, we'd concluded plans to formally launch the fund, especially because the government has not been forthcoming in catering for Christian victims, while it's reported it has paid 100 million Naira (\$666,400) to the family of the late leader of the Boko Haram sect”.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (IDOP)

The 2013 International Day of Prayer was conducted on Sunday 3rd November, 2013, all over the world.

The 2013 IDOP was very significant for Nigeria because the nation was adopted as the focus of prayer for persecuted Christians. In recent years, persecution of Christians in the country has assumed a more sinister dimension bringing concern to the entire body of Christ worldwide.

To mobilize support and participation for the IDOP, a five-minute documentary of an Islamic attack on

the Deeper Life Bible Church in Gombe was produced by Voice of Martyrs, USA. The documentary titled "VICTORIA" re-enacted the inhuman murder of 10 Christians as they were in church. Three Muslims wielding AK-47 assault rifles rained a deadly hail of bullets on the Christians. The father of Victoria was among those killed.

The Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria, wishes to thank Christian leaders all over the country for their support and participation for the International Day of Prayer. Of particular mention are:



- ✦ The President of CAN, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor
- ✦ The Primate of the Anglican Church, Rt. Rev. Okoh,
- ✦ All the Zonal Chairmen of CAN,
- ✦ All the State Chairmen of CAN,
- ✦ The entire leadership of PFN
- ✦ The heads of Christian denominations all over the country
- ✦ Bishop Oke, the Vice-President, PFN, (South-West)
- ✦ Apostle Alex Bamgbola, Lagos State Chairman of PFN
- ✦ Bishop Abasi Akan Daniel Otong, Christ Faith Church, Etim Ekpo, Akwa Ibom
- ✦ Dr. O Ntino, Baptist Convention, Calabar, Cross Rivers State

I Commit to **PRAY,**



Will You Pray For
Persecuted Christians?

(IDOP)

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

(Worldwide In All Christian Assemblies)

VOICE OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS NIGERIA PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS CORNER

We wish to thank all our numerous partners and supporters for the great encouragement and assistance that we have received from them for this ministry to the persecuted Church. Please feel free to call Isaac on Tel. +2348033082342
As the work expands in Nigeria, it has become necessary for us to outline specific projects for those who might wish to sponsor any while at the same time, opportunity remains for those who might wish to make donations on a regular basis. Donors should kindly note the following projects as well as the bank accounts attached to them:

| | |
|---|--|
| GENERAL DONATION (Disbursement by VOCM) One million donors initiative (minimum N500.00 monthly) Church, fellowship, organizations etc donations | Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs PRJ 1 Bank: Zenith Bank Plc Account Number: 1013482609 Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs Bank: Guaranty Trust Bank GTB Account Number: 0131101916 |
| Stephen Children Home, Abeokuta (Projects) Orphans & fatherless children of the Martyrs. Free Education, accommodation and feeding. Includes fees of those in the Universities as well as various construction and maintenance projects in the premises at Abeokuta. (Currently over 320 of the children under care. | Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs Account Number: 1010319966 Bank: Zenith Bank Plc ABEOKUTA BRANCH Acct Name: STEPHEN CHILDREN HOME ABEOKUTA Account Number: 0131231161 BANK: GUARANTY TRUST BANK ABEOKUTA BRANCH |
| Medical related projects: (Projects) Treatment of Christians injured and mutilated in the various attacks on believers. Hospital bills, medications, therapies, crutches etc. | Acct Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs (PRJ3) Account No. 1013482582 Bank: Zenith Bank Plc, Abeokuta |
| Widows Project, Churches rebuilding, Equipping Pastors Support (Projects) Reconstruction of places of worship destroyed. Grinding machines for widows Widows business support funds projects Megaphones and motor bikes/bicycles for Pastors in persecuted areas You can send sms to +2347011995009 or +2348136663939 for further information Please provide your e mail address to enable us reach you back please | Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs (PRJ2) Account Number: 1013482599 Bank: Zenith Bank Plc Nigeria |
| Pastors Appreciation Pack and Salaries of pastors and evangelists (Projects) Pastors appreciation gift pack Relief project Water well projects You can send sms to +2347011995009 or +2348136663939 for further information Please provide your e mail address to enable us reach you back please | Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs Account Number 0022017274 Bank: ECOBANK PLC |
| VOICE OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRS | Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs Bank: Guaranty Trust Bank GTB Account Number: 0131108836 Bank Sort Code: 058179077 Branch: Asero Abeokuta This Acct. is for donors overseas, If you need more help, Please call Isaac on Tel. +2348033082342 |

Please call or SMS +2347011995009 or +2348136663939 or contact info@stephensng.com If you need further clarifications,. We are committed to complete transparency and accountability of funds donated to us. Please ask for receipt for every donation. Kindly let us know whenever you pay money into our account so that we can issue receipt and appreciation. Contact or SMS +2347011995009 or +2348136663939

I Commit to **GIVE**



Will you give to support the persecuted CHRISTIANS?

FAITH

THAT RESURRECTS

BRO. YAKUBU DAUDA—YOBE State



I was attacked by Boko Haram Islamic terrorists who wanted to kill me, but God by His power, rescued me. I have seen God manifest His power. They attacked me in December 2012 around 9.30 pm. I had locked my door but they came in through my Muslim neighbour's door. They came in and broke the door by force. I was asleep with my Bible beside me.

I was startled and I asked them what they wanted. They said, "Ok, where is the Pastor?" So I asked them again what they wanted? They tied my hand and they started to pilfer my room, they took all that they could take and asked me to come out of the room. They said, "Now we are going to slaughter you". I said, "No problem", because my prayer before then was, "Let the will of God be done. If God wants me to die, then I will die, but if he wants me to live, there is nobody that can take my life". Graciously, God has decided that after all they have done to me I will still live again.

They called the others that they have now surrounded the house that they can come in. Their companions were waiting outside the fence so that if I tried to escape that way they will capture me. Each of them came with guns, dagger and other weapons. Then they jumped into the compound, four of them were standing on my leg, another person was standing on my hands which were tied to my back and yet another pinned my head to the ground with his legs. One of them from the group who was going to do the slaughtering removed the knife from the sheath somewhere in his legs where he has hidden it. He started cutting from one side of my neck through to the other side; he kept cutting and cut through to my shoulder. Another person who was supervising the cutting told him to cut from the front so, as I turned my head, he put the knife through my mouth and began to tear it. I was conscious throughout this time; I was seeing and hearing everything they were saying. The jugular vein had been cut so blood was gushing out in full force, I could hear the sound of the rushing blood, so they thought that I will bleed to death. They commented that this man was already dead. The blood had drenched me and they left me there to bleed to death.

God in His amazing wonder helped me to get up. The way I got up is amazing, I cannot even explain how I got up but I was able to get up and walk through the door, the door was already opened since they broke it to come in. As I came out, I met them at the door with a motorcycle that they had taken from the compound, they were struggling to start the machine. When they saw me they were surprised that I could still be alive, despite all that they had done. So they took to their heels but when they got to a safe distance, they stopped to look at me.

I walked to my neighbour's door who was their ally and began knocking at his door and saying "please come out and loose my hands".

I said this repeatedly and very reluctantly he came out. He shone his torch on my face and saw that I was drenched in blood. Instead of loosening my hands, he went over to talk with the Boko Haram attackers. He came back after about 10 minutes and told me to go back to my room and sleep.



He knew fully well that it would have been a sleep of death. I pleaded with him to loose my hands, but he refused. His wife also pleaded on my behalf and she started shouting, "they have slaughtered our Christian neighbour, please loose his hands". It was his wife that finally compelled him to get a knife and cut the rope that was used to tie my hands. After he cut the rope, the Lord in His infinite mercy gave me grace to go into my room and I discovered that they left a shirt on my hanger. I took it and wrapped it round my neck to stop the bleeding, but the shirt was soon drenched by the blood. As I came out of my room, I saw the Boko Haram militants moving in the direction of other Christians living in the neighbourhood. God enabled me to alert them that the men should run because the militants were around. I went round the houses of the Christians before I went to the palace.

When I got to the palace, people ran away and closed the gate. The king asked me where this tragedy occurred and I told him in my room. He knows the distance from the location of my house to the palace which is about 2 kilometres. He was totally surprised how I managed to get to his palace. What shocked him more was the brutality of the cut on my neck yet I was still alive and walking. He called the Local Government headquarters and described to them the state that I was in. The people at the Local Government refused to come that night. They were sure I will die.

Eventually, we were able to get the Joint Task Force and they came around 5 a.m. When the security officers saw me, they were surprised that I was still alive. At this point the blood had stopped flowing and it seemed that all the blood in my body had flowed out, yet, I was alive and walking around. They took me to the Emergency Unit and I became a spectacle to the Muslims there. I could sit and stand, so they began to wonder how I could do that. I told them it is not by my power but the power of God, whom I serve. With all that I have gone through, I should have died but He is the One living in me. All the Muslim medical personnel ignored me.

I was unattended to till 8 a.m. when a Christian nurse resumed duty. She was able to contact my village so my people came to meet me there. Doctors from Maiduguri Teaching Hospital also came and saw me, when they examined me, they told my people that I will not live. I had not been transfused with blood and they all marvelled that I was still alive. When one of my Pastors came, he told the doctors to attend to me because I might live. He said if God wanted me dead, I should have been dead by now. but since I am still alive, I should be treated. It was only then that they commenced treatment on me and I was finally transfused with blood.

What is Brother Yakubu doing now?

I hawk medications to people and nomadic Fulanis. I am a trained teacher but in Yobe State, Christians are denied employment in the state civil service. I hope to further my studies on education while doing some work by the side so that I will not become a burden to anyone.

I also plan to become a missionary and go about telling other people what the Lord has done for me and the salvation that He has provided for them. If man misses heaven he is a loser on every side.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

1. Ensure that you pray for persecuted Christians and get your church involved in regular prayers for them.
2. Join in the financial support by donating MINIMUM N500.00 monthly. You can also ensure that all the members of your church/fellowship participate in the donation and remit to: Voice of Christians Martyrs, Zenith Bank Account No: 10 13 48 26 09
3. The children of the martyrs require educational support. You can decide to adopt one of the children and sponsor the cost of his education for a year. There are currently over 450 of such children in Stephen Children Home.
4. You can decide to sponsor grinding machine(s) for widow(s) of the martyrs or purchase a motorcycle or Bicycle for a gospel worker in the North.
5. You can join in the re-construction project for Christian places of worship destroyed by the Islamic Jihadists.
6. Selected widows are given N100,000.00 Business Support Fund. You can decide to support one or more of the widows.
7. Pastors and other gospel workers in the North in need of welfare support. You can decide to sponsor the monthly allowance of pastors/evangelists in the North.
8. Evangelism public address system are needed in the North. You can decide to sponsor or purchase and donate mega-phones for evangelists in the North.



FAITH

THAT OVERCOMES

Abubakar Salisu

Every day, the Muslims are preparing for me to be in the grave, they have done all that they could think of, but I am still alive. That is why I don't find joy in anything except in sharing my testimony that "the Lord is good all the time".

In one of their attempts, they mobilised about 2000 people one morning to attack our house; I was preparing to go to Katsina on a missionary outing. We were surrounded (with all my children) in our house, they wanted to kill all of us on that day. They were shouting, "Don't allow a fly to go out of this house."

I was living in an upstairs building. I was on the first floor and my neighbours, who were Igbos, were living on the ground floor. My neighbour was scared, he thought they came because of him, so he wanted to run away. In our presence, they caught him and slaughtered him like ram and threw his corpse on the ground. His wife too, while attempting to escape was caught, they slaughtered her also and placed her corpse on top of her husband's. Then they brought a tyre and some fuel and put it on them and burnt them. My children, my wife and other tenants were all watching from upstairs. This act of inhuman cruelty was done in broad daylight. Over 2000 people came armed with all kinds of weapons, which included guns, machete, clubs, stones and so on. They were throwing stones and all the windows in the building were broken.

The people downstairs ran upstairs for safety. I told them "what we have been hearing of, today it has come to us; we are travelling never to come back again." I pleaded with everyone to make sure that they accepted Christ that day. Six of our Igbo neighbours accepted Christ that day. They accepted Christ in the hottest part of the battle. The landlord wanted to prevent his house from being burnt, so he went and brought mobile policemen. The mob told the police, "We know who you are and if you do not go away, we will kill you too."

I was surprised that the Mobile Police could not do anything. Later, I learnt that the police came without bullets in their guns. These religious crises usually take place with the knowledge of senior police officers. The policemen came in their uniform but without bullets in their guns. Before the crisis, the fanatics would have been informed, "even if you see men in uniform, do not be afraid."

The landlord gave them a huge sum of money so that they will depart. They took the money but refused to leave. They wanted everybody in that house dead.

At a point the Landlord came to the window and told me, "you have a good jeep, try and escape, at least one or two of you will survive."

I concluded this could be the voice of God because we never thought of escaping, so if an unbeliever will tell you to "try", that could be the voice of God. All the Christians in that

building were sixteen in number. Eventually, 16 of us crammed inside a vehicle (Isuzu Trooper) and nobody complained about seat! On the day of trouble you don't look for comfort. So we all entered the vehicle but unfortunately nobody had the courage to go and open the gate. The first person to be killed will be the person who opens the gate. The mobile men were also under great duress, the Islamic insurgents were threatening to kill them, so they wanted to find a way to enter the premises. The policemen started knocking the pedestrian gate so that they could escape from being lynched. My first son who was in the University of Abuja, summoned courage and opened the pedestrian gate for the policemen and they quickly scrambled in. The mob became confused because they did not understand why the Mobile Policemen entered the premises.

The leader of the security group came to speak to us in the vehicle where we were all cramped. He said, "there is no way we can help you because our guns have no bullets." (That was how I came to know that they had no bullets.)

As we were silent inside, the mob outside did not know what was going on and suddenly, somebody shouted that we were being rescued through the window behind the house. So the entire mob rushed to the back of the house. Immediately, the mobile policemen opened the gate and told us to drive out quickly. I drove like James Bond that day but, it was the Holy Spirit who gave the wisdom to drive like I drove. Before the mob realised it we had escaped. They were so enraged that in less than ten minutes, they burnt down the whole house, the cars and all our belongings. We had nothing left.

When they realized that they could not get me, they went after my first son, who was in the University of Abuja. They did not shoot him, but they slaughtered him like ram. According to the doctor that examined him, he said the person who slaughtered my son was an expert in killing people. God has wonderfully created us; the way He made our jugular veins, when a man's

"My neighbour was scared, he thought they came because of him, so he wanted to run away. In our presence, they caught him and slaughtered him like ram and threw his corpse on the ground."

head is lifted up before being cut, the veins move to the back and so some veins may not be severed depending on the position of the head. But in the case of my son, they cut the veins in front, and moved to the back and cut the veins there too, to make sure that all the jugular veins were destroyed.

During my son's burial, a lot of high ranking government officials came. Even emissary came from the palace. How did they know what happened to my family? These are people that I had no prior association with.

Before the internment, I said, "I know that the people who killed our son are here. Because you are here, I want to tell you that we have forgiven you, my wife and I, and the entire family. We forgive you." We told them if they were willing to eat dinner with us that day they were welcomed. The Lord has given us the heart to forgive them.

I want to tell you that by that singular act of forgiveness, three Mallams (Islamic scholars) and two Muslims converted to Christianity. They said they did not understand Christianity until they witnessed it that day. How could a man whose son was brutally murdered forgive the murderers? They remain some of our secret disciples.

After our house was burnt, I had no shoe, or any form of clothing, except what I was wearing. The first person to appear to help us was the National Director of Voice of Christian Martyrs. That is why I say, whether I am invited or not, this ministry has become my ministry. He gave us money, food and other essential items. Yet, I belonged to a church and I had believers all around me but they were not sensitive to our needs. I was so delighted and the impact it made on our lives can never be forgotten.

Brethren, persecution in the North is true. We need your help. I

want to equate your gestures to the four men that were not known in the Bible, who carried the paralytic when Jesus was preaching in Capernaum. You can imagine the crowd that surrounded that place. These four men, despite the barriers and obstacles, were determined to take this invalid to Christ. When they could not get through the crowd, their only option was to dig a hole on the roof and be sure that he would be lowered right in front of Jesus.

When Jesus lifted His head and saw them, he was not angry with them that they disrupted his sermon but he commended their efforts and healed the invalid. He was dirty and unkempt but God healed him all the same. He was not considered an interruption but as somebody who needed Jesus' intervention.

Most of the Almajiris in the North are dirty and unkempt. I was one myself, when I was a child. I did not have anything, neither did I know the love of my parents. We were trying to cross to Mecca on foot from Nigeria. We trekked to Cameroon border after Maiduguri just to cross to Sudan and from Sudan we continued on foot because it was considered more blessed to get to Sudan. I have scars on my feet and legs. There were no hospitals then, we only chanted and read verses from the Koran, got some sand, spat on it and put it on the wounds; that is why I have scars on my legs. They serve as marks for me not to forget, that I was from nowhere and God brought me somewhere. If not for grace, I cannot be in the midst of the people of God.

I am appealing to you, help us in the North. We need your help. Try to do something for us in the North that will make Jesus happy.

And pray for us. Pray that we shall remain faithful to the Lord, and if we are to die, pray that we shall die as Christians.

APPRECIATION

The Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria wishes to appreciate all the kind hearted individuals, Churches, Fellowships, Companies and Government Agencies that have responded to the cry of the martyrs in Nigeria through generous donations, prayers, and visits.

We appreciate all our local and foreign donors. God bless you all.

We would have loved to publish the names of the individuals and organizations but we know that most of the individuals will object and there will be insufficient space to list the churches and corporate entities.

You have given in secret and God Who sees in secret shall reward you openly.

On behalf of the persecuted brethren in Nigeria, we say a big THANK YOU, GOD BLESS YOU.

We wish to use this medium to inform all our generous donors to kindly let us have an email address or postal address so that we can issue receipt and acknowledge your gifts accordingly. We always aim to account for every donation and ensure that it is judiciously used to fulfill its purpose.

Thank you for trusting us to deliver your gifts to the persecuted church. With your continued support, we shall do more.

Please use the telephone lines and email addresses in this publication to reach us.

Rev. Isaac Wusu

FAITH THAT TRANSFORMS

Bro. Adamu Shettima



WHAT PROGRESS HAS THE GOSPEL MADE AMONG THE KANURIS?

We have an association of Kanuri Christians in Nigeria. So far, we have about 67 Kanuris registered as members. There may be other Kanuri Christians, but so far, the ones that we have been able to identify are 67. The Kanuris find it difficult to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour. Islam entered Nigeria through the Borno area and the Kanuris claim they are the genuine custodians of Islam in the country. Because of their strong allegiance to Islam, most of them reject any form of formal education and they believe that if any Kanuri renounces Islam, he has lost touch with the society and abandoned the ways of the forefathers.

There is an unwritten law amongst the Kanuris that once you accept Christ, you must die and lose all your properties. Because of these pressures, you can hardly find a Kanuri Christian.

IF FEW KANURIS ARE CHRISTIANS, THEN WHO THE ARE PEOPLE BOKO HARAM IS ATTACKING?

Most of the Christians attacked by BH in Maiduguri are Marki, Baburu, and other minor tribes. These group of people are educated because they received Christ when the missionaries came. Since they are educated, they occupy most of the office positions in Borno. The members of the Boko Haram are hostile towards them because their education gives them an edge over those who only studied the Koran. This primarily is one of the reasons why BH is raging against the Christians in Borno state and also against those who have acquired Western form of education.

ARE YOU SAYING IT IS NOT ONLY CHRISTIANS THEY ARE ANGRY WITH?

No, they are angry with other tribes who are also Muslims and are educated. However, the main aim of BH is to Islamize the entire nation and secondarily destroy people in support of Western education. They are jealous of the educated people in the society so they kill educated people and target schools for destruction.

BUT YOU ARE KANURI, HOW DID YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

I was born a Muslim and only received Koranic education.

As a Muslim, I did not attend secondary school. I was so good in

Koranic education that I was one of the winners in the state contest. I was sent to an Islamic nation for further studies in the Koran. When I returned, I became one of the reputable Mallams in the state.

We went to many places to proclaim and expand Islam. I must confess that we were not using the Koran alone, but we combined it with black magic called “Yasin”. The purpose was to cast a spell on people and cause them to be blind to the truth and accept whatever we tell them. We used charms a lot. One of the things we used to do to acquire more power was to swallow a chameleon.

I was later posted to Adamawa to teach in a Koranic school. I was also chosen to teach Koran in the prison.

It was while teaching Koran in the prison that I came in contact with a Christian brother who later became my friend. I was at first very hostile towards him but because of his kindness, I softened. I invited him to my house for discussions on religion and quoted a verse from the Koran for him, meaning “the fishes in the water feed on the weakest.” This means that you should get whatever you want, even if it means cheating or killing another person.

The Christian brother said to me, “no, this is wrong. Jesus says, ‘all power in heaven and on earth has been given to me’, therefore, I do not need strange powers to get anything.” He gave me a New Testament Arabic Bible and I started reading it from Matthew 28: 16—21. I memorized it in Arabic.

At the end of our various discussions, I became restless and I had no peace. Normally, I do not sleep in the night because my Islamic mentors warned me not to sleep from 12 midnight till 4.00 am. I was meant to be counting my prayer beads at this time of the night. You are considered a powerful Mallam if you succeed in killing another Mallam who sleeps at night.

Each time I tried praying Islamic prayer at night, I will remember all my discussions with the Christian brother. The situation became so troubling for me that I left Adamawa and went to meet my Mallam in Maiduguri. He was a powerful and prominent Mallam. I explained all that has happened to me and what I was going through. To my shock, he told me, “Adamu, because I love you, I want to tell you the truth. What we are doing is mainly for our stomach. The truth is that the right way is Anabi Isah (Jesus Christ).” That is what my Sheik told me.

I was so shocked I asked him, "If you know this, why are you not following this way? Why are we deceiving people when we know that one day we shall all die? Why can't we just tell the people the truth?"

He replied, "If you do that, they will kill you."

So, I told him that I cannot continue with Islam.

I had just married a Kanuri woman and I told my wife of my new conviction. My wife told me to run away because if people should hear that I have denounced Islam, they will kill me. She helped me to establish contact with a Christian brother who ran a chemist (medicine store) and I was helped to get to the CAN leadership in Borno state in 2002. It was the CAN leadership that led me to Christ, disciplined me and taught me how to speak and read in Hausa. I could not speak Hausa before since most Kanuri do not like to speak Hausa language. From there I was sent to the Bible School for three years. After that, I was sent to Katsina to work amongst the Hausa speaking people from 2005-2007. I worked with other pastors and God helped me in the work. This made Muslim

clerics in that area to become very angry and they destroyed our house. The brethren quickly moved me out of the area. I also enrolled in a secondary school so that I could improve my knowledge of the English language. I later enrolled in the EYN Bible College for a degree program which I am currently running, in addition to my full time evangelistic duties.

WHERE IS YOUR FAMILY NOW?

I had to remarry since my first marriage lasted only one month. The moment it was clear that I was going to become a Christian, my wife was taken away from me and she was married to another man. I remarried in 2005 and we have three children.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO TO MAIDUGURI?

For now, I have to stay away from Borno state. It is not safe for me to go back there.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF THE WORK AMONGST THE KANURI?

The true situation now is that the Kanuri people are beginning to thirst for the truth, but where would they find it? The main problem we face is that of relocating new converts. Once a Kanuri accepts Christ, he must be relocated immediately. Unfortunately, we do not have the resources to relocate new converts. My brother has also received Christ. There are many other Kanuri brothers who have given their lives to Christ and the number is growing gradually all over Nigeria. However, getting safe houses for new converts is a major need.

LET US TALK AGAIN ABOUT THE SPELL THE MALLAMS CAST ON PEOPLE

Yes, it is true. In fact it was the training I received. The Kanuris are specially trained for this vice called "Yasin".

They even do it to cover the nation and to their children. Let me tell you something, those involved in this "Yasin" even project it into children. Incantation is made into the mouth and the eyes of the child. The spell will not work until the child reaches the age of 18. When the child is 18 years old, a different spirit will begin to operate in him. The incantation has the power to take over a person's reasoning faculties. That is what is working in most Boko Haram members. A lot of them have already being initiated.

IS BOKO HARAM A CULT?

Yes, it is. Boko Haram is a real cult. If you know the cult very well, blood initiation is involved. They go as far as mixing human blood with dates. Anyone who eats these dates becomes a member of Boko Haram. The fellow may not carry a gun, but he believes and supports the Boko Haram cult.



DOES THAT MEAN IT IS MORE OCCULTIC THAN RELIGIOUS?

Yes, it is.

HOW CAN IT BE BROKEN?

It can be broken through the prayer of Christians.

One of the things Christians need to remember is that the occultists use numbers more than words. For example, the code for the word "BLOOD" is 2-12-15-15-4.

Normally, most of the secret things are communicated in numbers in

Arabic. They believe that if words are spoken, it reduces the potency of the message. A retired Captain who was an effective evangelist also uses numbers to communicate the gospel message. Captain Tesser proved to the Muslims that the name J-E-S-U-S + G-O-D equals 100. No other name in Islam could match the combination. Of course, he got all the Muslims very angry and they wanted to kill him. They tried to use occultic means to kill him, but they failed each time they attempted it.

My first advise to Christians is to hold on to the faith. Christians must remain steadfast in the faith.

Second, Christians must be bold to preach everywhere.

Third, the Christians should pray seriously, because prayers do wonders. Prayers can hinder a lot of evil from coming to pass.

Finally, Christians must unite. There must be unity of purpose.

ARE THERE SPECIFIC NEEDS YOU HAVE ON THE FIELD?

Yes, I have some needs. The Voice of Christian Martyrs has given me a new motor cycle to aid my movement, but I still need a projector to show Christian films to people. I have needs for sustenance for my family and my education in the Bible College.

FAITH

THAT TAKES A STAND

Pastor James

I was working in Jos at the Accelerated Christian Education Centre, when news reached us about the terrible persecution of Christians in Yobe State. Christians started fleeing from the state and they were in great distress. When I heard the news, I applied for permission from my place of work to return to Yobe state for a week or two and see to the welfare of my people. I felt that it would not be right for me to remain in Jos while my Christian brethren in Yobe state were going through hardship.

Unknown to me, due to the intensity of the attacks, the head of our denomination in Yobe state resigned and left the state. The attacks were so brutal and inhuman that a lot of Christians left the state. The Islamists were attacking Christians ruthlessly with knives, guns and saws. They could just come in the night and massacre Christians in their homes.

After the head of the denomination left, the few Christians left in the state decided to elect me as the new leader of the denomination. While I was contemplating visiting the brethren, they had appointed me the new leader of the denomination in Yobe state.

When the information was passed to me, I was initially not happy about it. I thought that I would not accept the position but as I studied the Word of God, and prayed, I was encouraged by the lives of the early disciples of the Lord. The story of Paul challenged me and I resolved that I will return to Yobe state and identify with the Christians there. I concluded like Paul, "to live is Christ, to die is gain."

I was not unmindful of the danger that accompanied the decision that I have taken, but I cannot do otherwise. I cannot because of the fear of death abandon my Christian duty. Till now, Yobe state is not a safe place for Christians. It is like living in the midst of lions. Yes, the best way to explain the situation is like that of a he-goat living in the midst of lions. Every Christian in Yobe state fits into this description.

The situation in the state remains very unstable and unpredictable. One could assume that there is an improvement in the situation and suddenly, the Muslims will attack. It is only the grace of God that is sustaining me and the other Christians in the state.

I cannot say that I do not have fears. My house is right in the midst of the Muslims and there have been times that I felt like running away, especially during their early morning chanting. But I have this deep feeling that God has a purpose for sending me back to Yobe state. There is no other place that can be conducive for me than being where God wants me to be.

One major challenge that we have is support for the ministers of the gospel. As more and more Christians leave the state, the

support that ministers of the gospel need reduce. A church that used to cater for a pastor and other church staff can now hardly support one pastor. Yet, we must keep running the church. This is a major challenge as some of the pastors are now becoming preoccupied with earning a living rather than focusing on the work of the ministry.

We require great assistance in supporting the pastors in Yobe state as well as members of the church who have suffered losses as a result of the attacks of the Muslims on Christian homes and places of business. Many of the Christian brethren are in great distress because their businesses have been destroyed while those who possess certificates are not given employment simply because they are Christians. We need the assistance of believers in other places to sustain the few Christians that are left in Yobe state.

We are willing to take a stand for the Lord in Yobe. Our driving force is that if the missionaries were able to penetrate Sudan, then we are willing to stay. If it means death, then we are willing to die.

However, we need a lot of support for food and clothing. We do not recommend that any church should be closed down. If you close a church in Yobe, it will take about 2-3 years before you can open another one. So, it is better to fund existing churches rather than allow them to close down.

Pray for, and support Christians in Yobe State.



PROJECTS UPDATE At STEPHENS CHILDREN HOME

We wish to thank VOM-USA and all the supporters of Stephens Children Home. God bless you all. We are currently engaged in building expansion projects to accommodate the increasing number of children that the Home caters for. We have recently completed a new dormitory for the boys and we shall require additional assistance to furnish it with beds and beddings. We also have other construction projects ongoing in the premises for the children.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance as God gives you grace to give.



STANDING WITH EACH OTHER

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION TO WIDOWS IN JOS







Mr. Thomas H. Gofwan
Special Adviser, NGOs
Plateau State Government

Rev. Isaac O. Wusu
National Director
Voice of Christian Martyrs

Barrister Olivia Dazyam
Hon. Commissioner,
Min. of Women Affairs, & Soc. Dev., Plateau

PLATEAU STATE GOVERNMENT SHALL PARTNER WITH VOCM

Barrister Olivia Dazyam, Hon. Commissioner, Min. of Women Affairs & Social Development, Plateau State

A lot of good people and organizations have helped us tremendously in Plateau state, particularly, since this crisis started. However, what the Voice of Christian Martyrs has done for the persecuted Christians is outstanding. I want to thank God raising an organization like the Voice of Christian Martyrs. What I experienced at the Stephens Children Home in Abeokuta will remain indelible in my mind. For us, in Plateau State, the Voice of Christian Martyrs has surpassed our expectation. When I saw our children being taken care of in Abeokuta, I could not believe that there are people like this in this nation that will go to this extent to take care of us. I am impressed.

After visiting the Stephens Children Home in Abeokuta, I am now witnessing the support that the Voice of Christian Martyrs is giving to the widows. It is very challenging to see an organization commit into the hands of widows N100,000.00 to invest in a business. Ordinarily, if one should donate the sum of N10,000.00 or N15,000.00 to assist the women, they would have been appreciative, but to commit N100,000.00 into their hands is most impressive. Apart from the kindness and generosity that is being displayed, it also shows the extent of the trust they have in us that whatever is committed into our hands shall be well managed. Personally, I am encouraged by the integrity of our women in managing these funds. I am aware that this is not the first time that they are doing this in the northern parts of Nigeria, for widows of the martyrs. Now, if the previous recipients of this financial grant have not handled the funds faithfully, the Voice of the Christian Martyrs would not have been encouraged to continue. It is not only financial grant alone that is given to our women, some of them received grinding machines to start a small business. This simply means that lack and financial difficulty have been tremendously removed from the widows. Every day, the women are able to generate some money to meet immediate needs. For a

mother, that is a lot of relief. They will not be idle and they are assured of daily income to meet basic needs of the family.

To add to all of this, their children are freely accommodated, educated, fed and clothed in the Stephens Children Home. It is a tremendous help.

State Government Support

The government has orphanages in the state but we do not have this classified orphanage like the Stephens Children Home. What we saw in Abeokuta is now challenging us to look in the direction of replicating it in Plateau state. It is apparent that we need an institution like this.

As a result of the religious crises, we have many orphans and widows that we never had before.

Bearing in mind that this conflict has been on for over 13 years, the people that are adversely affected have increased beyond imagination. A classified home for children affected by the crisis is definitely going to be considered by the State Government. We shall consider ways of partnering with the Stephen's Children Home and explore the possibility of replicating it in Plateau State. Not only that, we shall also work towards mobilizing support for the Home that is currently running in Abeokuta.

VOICE OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRS HAS ENCOURAGED US

Thomas H. Gofwan, Special Adviser (NGOs), Plateau State Government

I want to join the Commissioner for Women Affairs to appreciate the intervention of the Voice of Christian Martyrs in taking care of the victims of the persecution of Christians. The projects of the VOCM fall in line with the restoration programmes that the State Government has outlined for those affected by the religious crisis in the state.

Not only is the VOCM providing free education for the children and support for the widows, but it also pays the medical bills of those injured in the various attacks on Christians in the state.

We appreciate the economic development programmes of the Voice of Christian Martyrs for the affected women in Plateau State and in other states in northern Nigeria.

We are also encouraged by the various projects of the VOCM and we want to replicate some of those projects in Plateau State, particularly the Stephens Children Home in Abeokuta. As we go along, we are certain that the State Government shall participate actively in some of the programmes of the VOCM.

I wish to encourage other ministries in the nation to emulate the Voice of Christian Martyrs. All the faith based Christian ministries should be active in the areas that the Voice of Christian Martyrs is working amongst the persecuted Christians in Nigeria.

Once again, we thank the Voice of Christian Martyrs for the good work that it is doing among the persecuted Christians in Nigeria.

5000 Islamists Launch Brutal Attack on Nigerian Christians

ICC Notes:

What originally appeared to be a weekend raid by Fulani Islamists against a Christian village has seemingly developed into a sustained offensive, with over 5000 jihadists cutting a swath through East-Central Nigeria. Almost 40 persons have been reported killed thus far, and thousands displaced as the outmatched Nigerian security forces are unable to slow the rampage.



11/11/2013 Nigeria (Vanguard) - No fewer than 36 persons were, yesterday, feared killed while seven villages were overrun by suspected Fulani herdsmen in an outbreak of fighting between the invaders and native farmers in Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State.

The massacre came barely two days after some assailants struck at Ikpele and Okpopolo communities in the state, killing seven farmers and displacing over 6,000 inhabitants.

Sunday Vanguard gathered, at the time of this report, that heavy fighting was still going on between the warring parties who only recently engaged in bloodletting.

A native of one of the affected communities, who escaped the assault, narrated that "they (Fulani herdsmen) took us unawares this time; they invaded our villages from Loco in Nasarawa State and Omola Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The victim told Sunday Vanguard in Makurdi, Benue State capital, yesterday, "But as I speak to you, well over 36 persons must have been killed on our own side while many are still missing; the situation on ground is horrible because fighting is still going on while women, children and the elderly are fleeing to safety."

When contacted, the Benue State Commissioner for Works and Transport, John Ngbede, who is an indigene of the area, confirmed the massacre.

Ngbede said, "Heavy fighting is still going on in Agatu. The attackers are burning down houses, farmlands, economic trees and many are also being killed but i cannot confirm the number of deaths. All I can say is that Agatu is boiling".

Member representing Agatu Constituency at the Benue State House of Assembly, Sule Audu, also confirmed that seven villages had been attacked while many were killed and several persons missing. According to him, the villages under siege include Ello, Okpagabi, Ogwule-Ankpa, Ogbangede, Ekwo, Enogaje and Okpanchenyi. While lamenting inadequate security presence on ground in the affected communities, the lawmaker said, "As I speak to you, only few soldiers are on ground who don't even have mobility to match the strength of the invaders.

The attackers are over 5,000 spread across all the communities and unleashing terror on my people without resistance.

"They are moving towards Oshugbudu now and I ask, what can less than 40 soldiers on ground do to stop armed invaders numbering up to 5,000?"



Widows of Martyrs - KANO

Mrs. Chinelo Okeke

I was married to late Mr Anthony Chinedu Okeke who was killed by Boko Haram militants in Kano on the 20th January 2012, when he was returning home after work. I was carrying a one month pregnancy of my son Chidomini Emmanuel Okeke when the incident occurred. I have since delivered the baby and my son is here with me. I thank God for all He has been doing in my life, and the help I have been receiving through the VCM and the Widows Business Support fund of 100,000.00 naira which I received today. I pray that, may the good God reward them in Jesus name. As I have received this money, I promise that I will invest the money well.



Mrs Victoria Onu

On 20th January 2012, my husband was killed by Boko Haram in Bompai Kano state, leaving me with five children. On that day in the evening as I was coming to Sabon-Gari, I saw the insurgents in military uniform. At first, I thought they were soldiers coming for an assignment. Along the way, I heard a bomb blast, and I quickly told the motorcyclist to take me back. We suddenly saw them shooting at motorcyclists that were ahead of us. So, we went to Brigade, another area. From there I called by husband and he told me he was in Sabon-Gari. I begged him not to come to the road because shooting was going on.

When it was evening, he decided to start coming home. According to an eye witness, he was apprehended and asked if he was a Muslim or Christian, he said he was a Christian and they told him to lie down and they shot him in the head six times. We found his corpse the following day. That is how I lost my husband. After my husband died, I was introduced to Voice of Christian Martyrs and we have been receiving help from them. My husband was a motorcyclist transporter. I pray that God will give me the wisdom and power on how to use this 100,000.00 naira wisely. I also pray that God will bless Voice Of Christian Martyrs and those who are helping the widows.



Mrs. Mary Audu

I am thanking you for all that you have done for me since my husband died, I did not expected to receive such assistance. My husband was killed on the 20th January, 2012 in Kano by the Boko Haram Militants.

During that period we were praying and fasting in the ECWA. My husband went to buy JAMB form for my son, he dropped my son at home and told him he was going to church since we were fasting and praying. He told me to try and prepare food for him so that he can come back home and break the fast at home.

The Boko Haram terrorists met him and killed him. When we heard a loud bomb blast I tried to reassure myself that my husband was in the church. I quickly called my husband but he did not pick the call. So I started calling his friends, telling them that I believed my husband was in church not knowing that he had already been killed. At home that night, I could not sleep, not knowing that they had killed my husband and removed everything from his pocket. He was killed at the back of the Islamic school in the area. He was asked if he was a Christian. My husband did not deny God so he was killed.

The following day was Sunday and people in the neighbourhood were moving around. My first son said "I have not seen my father, let me go out and look for him"; I also went out with him.

We saw so many corpses on the way. When we got to our church and I saw them holding something like my husband's shoes, I said is this my husband? I felt very sad.

I want to thank you for helping us in the suffering we are going through because we are the followers of Christ. We cannot say much, but we appreciate all that you have given us and what you are doing.

I will use the 100,000.00 naira I have received today to continue with my husband's business.



Mrs. Charwa Musa

I greet you all in Jesus Name!

My husband works on night duty and he returned home on this fateful day after his night shift. When he woke up, I made lunch for him and served him. After eating, he said he will go to the side of road and relax and from there go to resume his night duty, we bade each other goodbye and that was all. After a while we heard gun-shots. At this time, I was in the room with my youngest son and suddenly we heard another loud sound and my children said “mama, this is the second gunshot we are hearing.” I told them to be careful not to go out. Then we heard again the gun-shot the third time and my body became numb with fear and my children were frightened. I did not know what to do and I said, “Oh Lord, whom have they shot outside on the road?”

Then somebody ran into our house calling my name, she said, “is your husband at home?” I said, “no, he has gone to relax by the road side and from there, he will go to work”. The person turned around and walked away. Then another lady ran in calling my name, she shouted, “your husband is dead, he was shot and he is now by the side of the road.”

My son who was sick fell from my hand as I was crying and wailing for the news I just heard. I put my son on my back and went to the road, when I got there, I saw my husband sprawled on the ground. He had been shot three times, he was shot in three places, on the head, on the lap and in the stomach.

The following day, his company came with three vehicles and we took him to the village and buried him.

I started struggling to bring up the seven children all alone. I want to thank the Voice of Christian Martyrs who have accepted us as believers and have been assisting us in feeding and in many other areas. We cannot tell you how much burden you have taken off our shoulders. We pray that God will reward you all.



Fatima Ishaya

I lost my husband on the 20th January 2012, during the operations carried out by Boko Haram Islamic terrorists in Bompai, Kano. He was both a painter and motorcyclist transporter. Our EYN (The Brethrens Church) pastor's house needed painting so he went to finish it.

As he left, I also went to Brigade to visit my sisters. Shortly after I came back, I heard that there were killings going on in Bompai, I thought that he will pass through Brigade and come home. When the pastor heard what was happening, they told him to leave the job and go home. As he was on his way home, he was shot. I waited till 8 p.m. but he was still not back; usually he does stay out later than 6 p.m.

We could not asleep at home. In the morning, I went to see his uncle to report that my husband went out for work since yesterday and he is not yet back. I was told to go home and calm down that people went into hiding yesterday and some of them will return home when the situations get under control. We waited for his return till evening but we still did not see him.

On the following day which was Sunday, we continued our search for him. Around 3 p.m., my elder brother and my sister's husband went to the Murtala Mohamed Hospital and they found his corpse there.

I want to thank God for what He is doing to keep us. Since the death of my husband, I have witnessed the assistance of Voice of Christian Martyrs in so many ways, God has sent people to us and we are surviving by His mercies. I pray particularly for VCM that God will reward you for what you have done for us and what you have been giving us. I pray that we will be able to use this money (100,000.00). May God almighty reward you.



Mrs. Josephine Emmanuel

I married Mr. Emmanuel not too long ago, he was a business man selling electronics. He went out on Friday morning and on his way back from where he went to purchase items for his shop, around 5pm, he called to find out if I was back from work. I told him I was already at home and he told me not to go out, that he was on his way home. I told him to be careful.

Around 6 p.m., I called his telephone but there was no response. I called his brother to find out if he knows about my husband's where about. He told me he spoke to him earlier but he could not hear him well, since he (the brother) was on a motorcycle. He promised to call my husband when he got home. Unfortunately, when my husband got to Bompai Police station, he was shot in three places, his neck, head and on the shoulders.

We did not see or hear about him throughout Friday and Saturday, we all hoped that he must have taken refuge somewhere and will come home when the terrorists are gone. By Sunday people were able to move about freely, so people went in search for him and they found his corpse at Nasarawa Hospital. We arranged to take his corpse home and he was buried in the village in Cross River. I was about 8 months pregnant when he died. Today, I have the given birth to the baby and I thank Voice of Christian Martyrs for the physical and spiritual support given to us. May God reward their labour of love.



KANO

TAKING A STAND

MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL ON THE FRONT LINE

My name is Pastor Paul of Heaven and Earth Bible Church. I have been in the North for 29 years and I have been a pastor in this church for 22 years. I have witnessed so many religious crises here in the North, and through it all, God has preserved my life and He has helped me to maintain my faith in Christ.

I want to appreciate VOCM for what they have been doing in the North and in Kano state in particular. VOCM has been a blessing to me. This is the second time I am privileged to benefit from their gifts and it has helped me so much in the ministry. I want to commend the courage of this organisation to enter this hostile and volatile area in order to respond to the needs of the brethren.

At the same time, I want to encourage the pastors that are here in the North not to be discouraged. We know that a lot of people and pastors have left, but those of us who believe that we have a calling to the North are still here. We know it is possible for a Hausa/Fulani who is Muslim to become converted. We pray that God will continue to give us the grace to continue this work.



Evangelist Queen Esther

I am the daughter of a Chief Imam in Edo State. My father was the first person to introduce Islamic religion to my land. Being a very fervent Imam of that land, people find it difficult to believe that one of his daughters can become a Christian evangelist. My



first visit to Kano was to see my boyfriend but today I am an evangelist here in the same land, preaching the gospel. I have witnessed many religious riots in this land, but God has sustained me. During the 2011 riot, God delivered me from their hands.

I want to use this opportunity to thank VOCM. Many widows and orphans have benefited tremendously from their generosity.

In 2011, they organised a relief distribution for victims of the 2011 crises, there were various needs that were met. They gave out money, foodstuffs and treated those that were injured.

Last year, they also arranged relief distribution for the widows and ministers. I was also a beneficiary - I received a mega phone and half bag of rice.

I can see a lot of ministers from the villages here today. We appreciate the assistance the Pastors are receiving like motorcycles, bicycles and megaphone just to encourage them in

the work of evangelism and preaching of the gospel. This shows that they are not left alone in this work. We also want to say a big thank you to the donors of these gifts. We pray that the Almighty God will count it as righteousness to the donors and volunteers.

Last week as I visited home (Edo State), people were alarmed that I am still living in Kano. When I requested that they uphold me in prayer, they said their only prayer is that I should relocate from Kano. I asked them that if all the ministers should relocate, who will be the voice of the Lord in Kano? With the gesture of VOCM, we are encouraged to go out and do more. God bless VOCM in Jesus name.

Testimony (Name withheld on request)

I want to thank God for VOCM. I read the book Tortured for Christ many years ago. When I read the book, I did not quite understand the storyline, then. But today, I know better. Persecution of Christians is a reality.

I received the call to missions, to reach out to the Maguzawa tribe in northern Nigeria, but when I am in the city, I reach out to the prostitutes and alcoholics. The Bible says since the time of John the Baptist, the Kingdom of God suffers violence, and only the violent take it by force. I believe it is only the cowards who will run away from where there are crises; I believe where there are crises God is at work there.

God is at work in Kano State. For the past five years, I have been in the interior in one of the Local Governments where I work as a missionary. VOCM supports me quarterly and based on the support, the work is moving forward.

We have a discipleship school that has graduated about 8 people; there are still some indigenous pastors in training from various ministries. Some of them are being trained as pastors and others as missionaries. God has helped me to pioneer a primary school and to start a church where there was no church before in Maguzawa land. We are thinking of starting a secondary school to cater for the Christian children that are being discriminated against in the Islamic school. We are trusting God that in the next 10-15 years, Kano state will produce a Christian governor. We have some secret disciples that we also assist with the support we receive.

I am a single parent; I left my marriage because I got married to somebody who was already married. I decided to separate from the man peacefully so that I can win heaven.

God has been faithful, I have known VOCM since 1996 and God has also raised people after His own heart to support me. I also pray that God will reward them and my supporter Peterson whom I have never met.

My name is Rev. Canon Edwin of the Anglican Church. I appreciate the relief distribution by the Voice of Christian Martyrs. We need such encouragement in the North. Ministry in the North is not easy but the grace of God is sustaining His people. Most of our pastors in the rural areas were invited to receive various gifts and they came. As you can see, we have hundreds of pastors here and what we have received today is enormous encouragement.

One of our pastors that work in the remote village has been complaining of his need to get mobile to ease his soul winning work, today he received a brand new motorcycle and another one received a new bicycle. Real ministry in Kano is actually in the rural areas not in the town. From our visit to the mission fields recently, we discovered that the children of these missionaries are denied a lot of privileges like schooling. The Muslims are trying to snuff out life from these people but God will continue to give us victory. We have had to make arrangement for some of the children to attend schools in other towns.



We discovered that whenever we visit mission fields and win souls, after our departure, the Muslims will come offer the people gift in an attempt to lure them back into Islam. When they do not succeed, they deny them education and many other privileges and sometimes try to kill them but God intervenes.

I am Prince Nnamdi and I am a gospel worker in the North.

I am witnessing this great gesture for the first time; I never thought this kind of thing can happen in Nigeria, where the less privileged are catered for or the persecuted brethren are taken care of. I want to commend the efforts of VOCM who are comforting those that are persecuted in the North. I want to assure you that people are encouraged to continue in the work God has called them to do in the North.

For example, the widows that were given business support funds will be encouraged to move on with their life.

My prayer for this ministry is that God will give you more wisdom on how to support people and raise more sponsors for this work so that more persecuted Christians can be supported. God bless you all.



PASTOR'S APPRECIATION - JIGAWA STATE



JIGAWA – TAKING A STAND

REV. UBOCHI NWAMUOH

I was transferred to Kazaure in Jigawa state to pastor a church. Not long after I resumed duties, the Muslims started a religious crisis and they burnt 7 churches. Some of the churches were compensated with about N800,000 but the church I pastor was given N1.3 million, possibly because I am the Chairman of CAN, in the area.



Surprisingly, after giving us the financial compensation, the state government informed us not to rebuild the places of worship because arrangement was being made to relocate the churches. This incident took place three years ago, in 2010.

Since then all the seven affected churches have been worshipping in the open on the same plot of land on which the burnt churches once stood. We tried to raised poles and provide temporary cover with some old roofing sheets, but now that the rains are here, we

worship in the rain. We were told not to build there again since the church was burnt down three years ago.

EVANG. AMOS FEMI OLUWABUSUYI

We want to thank God for what He is using Voice of Christian Martyrs to do and how it is assisting CAN in Jigawa State. I am based in Gumel and we are facing a lot of challenges in the town.

We are facing security challenges and the state security seems unable do anything for us. Some vandals have been breaking into churches and stealing church properties. Also, mosques are deliberately built close to churches. For the past 25 years, I have been the CAN chairman in Gumel; it is not a position many people want to occupy.

Recently God gave us respite and breakthrough in Gumel. Two weeks ago we meet with the Emir of Gumel, and reported to him what we have been passing through. We were surprised when he informed us that the security agents have not reported such incidents to him. We hope that he will be able to caution the agents of destruction.



MRS RUTH NDANDOK

I am from First Baptist church Dutse. We have experienced a lot of religious riots here in Dutse. Our greatest need here is that of prayers from the people of God. We want to thank them for praying because each time the insurgents enter Jigawa, they are arrested before they can commit any atrocity.



A lot of Christians are living in a state of fear of the Boko Haram menace but we pray that God will continue to keep us.

We are appealing to Christian parents to allow their children come to Jigawa State for their NYSC. A lot of the Youth Corpers posted here relocate to other peaceful states. They should have the courage to come and see what is happening here. They should remember that God is everywhere, and we are the apple of His eyes.

There are women who left their husbands here and left for safer abode. We encourage them to come back and join hands with us to finish this work.

My concern is the way we are treated by some people when we come to the South for meetings. Not all northerners are Muslim, and not all northerners are Boko Haram. We are northern indigenes, we cannot leave the north because there is no peace here presently.

REV. DR. DUTSE

By the grace of God, I am as I am. I thank God for preserving me since 1965 that I became a Christian. Today, I am over 70 years old. My family and I have been the only indigenous Christians in Dutse, Jigawa State for a long time. I have gone through a lot of persecutions and even till now, I am still being persecuted. I am dying with the Christians here. We have started having some indigenes who show interest in becoming Christians. Unfortunately, the church is not keen on raising new believers. That uncaring attitude of the church is also one of my sufferings. Someone came from the rural area and said he wanted to become a Christian. Immediately I had a serious problem on my hand. I so much wanted to convert the man but I could not convert him. If I should get him converted, I must immediately relocate him from Jigawa State to a safe place and get him properly disciplined. If I do not do that, he will become a problem to the other believers here. It is either the Muslims will kill him or he will become a spy for them. We do not have the resources to relocate new converts so we cannot convert them. Many of the Muslims here are showing interest in knowing more about Christianity, but we are afraid to convert them. The church is not willing to help us and the Christians seem not interested in seeing new converts enter the church.



I have a convert in a Revival School in Gombe state. I have had to raise the resources all by myself to get him there and sustain him. Unfortunately, I do not have the resources to relocate the new converts but I have some of them ready to accept Jesus Christ. I have explained to the Christians that I see around that any church that does not have indigenes is a dead church.

Another issue that causes me pain is the lack of true believers. With genuine disciples of Jesus Christ, we can breakthrough any situation or circumstances. Unfortunately, from what I observe, most people seem to take to the preaching of the gospel for its benefits.

Presently, in Dutse, there are very few indigenous Christians but we are praying that in the near future, we shall increase. We are in a new era and there is bound to be a change. We have many young indigenes who want to become believers but we also have the challenge of relocating them in order to properly disciple them.

The church today has become like the coconut. You know that you use the water of the coconut to wash it. That is what the church is like. The resources of the church are spent on the church to build cathedrals, pastorate, and take care of amenities that benefit the members of the church. By the time all these are done, there is little or nothing left for evangelism and discipleship. This is our greatest challenge.

Our greatest needs now are for resources to care for the new converts, pay the school fees of their children, take care of their needs and show them real love.

We do not want converts from this state to remain here because they may not be able to withstand the persecution that will come upon them. In addition, their presence here can trigger a riot.

Our first need is for sponsors to support the new converts. If we can get sponsors, a lot of things will change in Jigawa State, within a short time.

To estimate how much it will cost for their welfare is difficult. Take for example the convert I sent to Gombe, his school fees is about N300,000 per annum. This does not include feeding and other welfare needs. I have 5 people waiting to be converted but I cannot proceed. If we are sure of getting assistance to relocate and disciple them, we have the capacity to raise a minimum of 5 converts every year.

In Matt. 12: 43—45, Jesus Christ warned us that when an evil spirit departs and finds its house swept clean, it returns with 7 other spirits worse than itself. We do not want to convert people without the ability to get them filled with the Word of God and faith in God. They can become a problem that we cannot manage. That is the reason we are not making new converts until we are sure that they can be properly disciplined.

Boko Haram now a 'foreign terrorist organization' (FTO)

NIGERIA | Lawmakers and advocates say the State Department's decision to make the designation took too long
By J.C. DERRICK

Posted Nov. 14, 2013, 12:55 p.m.

WASHINGTON—Lawmakers from both parties lauded the Obama administration on Wednesday after the State Department announced it is designating the Nigerian terror group Boko Haram as a foreign terrorist organization. The official announcement came ahead of a joint hearing on Boko Haram in the House subcommittees on Africa and Terrorism Wednesday afternoon. The terrorist designation, which the State Department also assigned to the splinter group Ansaru, means the United States can freeze assets, prohibit members to travel, and bar anyone from providing material support to the organization.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., chairman of the subcommittee on Africa, called the decision “historic” and “monumental” in the battle to defeat Boko Haram.

“The entire effort to combat this cancer called Boko Haram—and Ansaru—will be taken to a new level, because it's always about the funding,” Smith told me. “These groups cannot exist without a flow of AK-47s and munitions of all kinds.

... Now we'll do the kind of research that will make the difference.”

Boko Haram—whose name translates into English as “Western education is sinful”—started in 2003 as the “Nigerian Taliban,” but it has experienced a resurgence since 2009, killing thousands of mostly Christian Nigerians in hundreds of attacks across the country. The human rights

group Jubilee Campaign reported Boko Haram killed more than 500 people in the month of September alone, including 150 Christians in a single highway massacre.

“This is a reprehensible organization that has attacked Christians at Christmas and Easter and Muslims who do not adhere to their bloody philosophy,” said Brad Sherman, D-Calif.

Nigeria and Great Britain both designated Boko Haram a terrorist organization earlier this year, but the State Department for years resisted calls for it to do the same. Last month Smith filed H.R. 3209, which called for the United States to label the terror group a foreign terrorist organization.

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the State Department's assistant secretary of state for African affairs, defended the administration's decision to wait, telling the committees the United States only made the decision after much deliberation. “I know you think we took too long,” she said. “But we made sure we got it right.”

After her testimony I asked Thomas-Greenfield what pitfalls the State Department was trying to avoid with a quicker decision, but she directed me to the communications department. She said it was a complicated legal decision

involving State Department legal counsel.

According to Rep. Smith, it's not that complicated. During the hearing he read the three criteria needed for foreign terrorist organization designation: A group must be foreign, engaged in terrorist activity, and be a threat to the United States or its interests.

Over at the State Department, spokeswoman Jen Psaki on Wednesday told reporters the designation was slow in coming because the United States was “trying to understand how Boko Haram is organized in order to be able to effectively target the group and its assets.” She said the United States is confident Boko Haram has ties to al-Qaeda. Emmanuel Ogebe, a human rights attorney who testified at the hearing, told me he was “underwhelmed” by the State Department's late action.

“A lot of the time and resources that we would have dedicated to victim care we used to try and nudge the administration to concede the truth,” he said. “The victims

that we deal with know and recognized terror. They've lived it for a decade.

Somehow the State Department just got the memo that the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, and the international community [already] got.”

Thomas-Greenfield, who in August became the top U.S. diplomat to Africa, repeated a common assertion of her predecessor, Johnnie Carson, saying Boko Haram has killed more Muslims than

Christians. Ogebe disputed the statement, noting Thomas-Greenfield didn't produce any statistics to back her claim. Still, he praised her as “a breath of fresh air” compared to Carson, who retired earlier this year and whom most advocacy groups believe was too sympathetic to the Muslim jihadists fueling Boko Haram's terror spree. Carson maintained the violence was due to lack of economic opportunities in Muslim-dominated northern Nigeria. “There is no grievance on the planet that justifies someone taking a chainsaw to cut off the head of an innocent person,” Ogebe said.

Lawmakers agreed that Boko Haram has killed Muslims, government officials, and others, but Smith pressed Thomas-Greenfield to acknowledge the terrorists kill Muslims who speak out against the group, while they kill Christians just because of who they are. Thomas-Greenfield conceded that is true.

If there was any doubt, Habila Adamu put it to rest with riveting testimony about his encounter with Boko Haram on Nov. 28, 2012. Gunman wearing robes and masks came to his home in the northern Yobe state and told him they were doing the work of Allah.



VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

Presenting The Case
of The
Persecuted Church



CAN, APAPA CHAPTER

GUIDING LIGHT ASSEMBLY, IKOYI



WOMB OF INTERCESSION
INT'L, LAGOS

PFN, IKEJA



WEST AFRICAN THEOLOGICAL
TRAINING INSTITUTE, (WATTS)



With Primate of Anglican
Church, Rt. Rev. Okoh

CAN CENTRE, ABUJA



TRINITY HOUSE, LAGOS



BAPTIST MEN CONGRESS, CALABAR



GOMBE

Pastors & Widows

Pastor Gambo Garba

I am thanking God for the provision He has made for me through you for this bicycle. I received this bike so that I will further the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the villages in my area. I am praying that God will reward you and strengthen you and also bless you just like He has blessed us in everything. I will use this bicycle to preach the gospel for people to receive Christ as their Saviour. I pray that God will help us.



Pastor William Ishaya:

I appreciate God for this programme, and for His goodness and kindness. I stay in Katungun LGA in Gombe state. I received a bicycle today to ease my job of preaching the gospel in the field where I am working. Visitation, follow-up and evangelism which used to be done on foot will be done more effectively with this bicycle.

There are some places we could not visit on foot before because one needed a motor cycle or a bicycle. But today, I can use the bicycle I have received to get there to tell the people about Christ. Once again I am grateful for all that VOCM has done by presenting me with this bicycle.



Pastor Mohammed Manu Yahaya

I received a motorcycle today. I will want to say thank you to God and also appreciate the efforts of VOCM. I pray that God will help them in the work they are doing. I am also thankful because God knows I could not afford a motorcycle but he has used His servants to meet that need so that I can preach the gospel with it. I pray that God will help me to ride this motor bike safely and use it in a manner that will make the people around me receive Jesus as their Lord and personal saviour. I am happy that they have us in mind understanding what is going on here in the North. I pray that God will open their eyes to see more of the problems we are going through. I pray that God will reward them for their help and may He also help us to judiciously use this gift.



Widows In Gombe

Mrs Victoria Hamma

My husband brought me back home on this fateful day and he went away. Just as he left me, we began to hear gunshots I ran to see what was happening and sadly, I found my husband lying among the dead. This happened on the 22nd of February, 2013.

I want to thank you for how you have been helping us. We are doing well in the Lord today because of the assistance God is given us through Voice of Christian Martyrs.. Today, God has been helping me and the pregnancy is growing well. I pray that God will reward you.

Please pray for us too so that we will continue to follow God and may all our needs be met according to His riches in glory. We are saying that we are very grateful to you once again.



Martyr's CRY.....37

GOMBE RELIEF DISTRIBUTION



Mrs Tamar Yohanna

My husband was killed on the 22nd of February, by Boko Haram insurgents. We were in the room together and he told me he had to get to town since he went shopping for me two days ago. Later in the evening, I got a telephone call relating to me what has happened. My husband has been killed. I went to the village to mourn him for some few months. When I came back from the village, we were invited by the officials of VOCM who listened to us and gave us forms to fill. Today we are being empowered as widows of the martyrs. Since I have my parents in the village, we will invest some of what we have received today into farming so that we spread our resources. God bless you all.



Mrs. Susan Joseph

We are grateful to God and to you. As you have remembered the widows today, it shows that you truly understand what we are going through. May God remember your labours and bless you in it. We appreciate the grinding machine we have received today, this will serve as a source of income for the education of our children, and we hope that their training will benefit posterity.



Mrs Patu Manu

I give praise to God that He has brought you here safely. I praise God for this visit of yours because you have come to check on our well being. My prayer is that the work of preaching the gospel will prosper in your hands. May He help you and strengthen you to continue to help those who have no hope.



Mrs Naomi Adamu Umar

My husband went to be with the Lord on the 25th of February, 2013 in the hands of Islamic extremist Boko Haram. He went out on this fateful day to shop for us. He stayed back to chat with his brothers. Suddenly, I heard gunshots. I dialled his number twice and he did not pick my calls. I ran out in desperation because if nothing had happened to him, he would have picked my calls. My neighbour came to me and said, "where are you going, can't you hear gunshots." I told her I have to go because my husband has not picked my calls, it means he has been gunned down. When I got to the scene, I saw the corpses of men who were shot and had died on the spot but I could not find my husband. I started to cry and shout and I was told that he was somewhere in a house. I got to where he was and I saw that he was shot and he was bleeding seriously. He was taken to the hospital.

This happened on the 22nd of February and on the 25th of February he passed on at the Medical Centre. His days on earth were over.

We say thank you for what you have done for us. My husband was the only Christian in his family and in his entire village.



Mrs Ruth Mark

The murder of my husband happened in Zaria in July, 2012. He was a policeman by profession. The Boko Haram militants came to the house, we were lying down when they came and shot him suddenly. I have three children to look after now, one girl and two boys. At the moment I am not engaged in any form of work, I am looking after my children.

I need your prayers for wisdom on how to bring up my children and prayers also that God will cause doors to open for me to train up these children.



Boko Haram under investigation for crimes against humanity

Published: August 08, 2013

International Criminal Court report blames Islamic sect for 1,200 deaths
At least 1,200 people have been killed in the last four years in Northern Nigeria by the militant Islamist group Boko Haram, according to a preliminary investigation by the International Criminal Court.

The Court's chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, said on Monday (August 5) the ICC is investigating Boko Haram for "crimes against humanity" through "widespread and systematic attacks", the scale and intensity of which have increased over time.

The initial ICC report is based on statistics leading up to December 2012. The ICC is now considering whether it merits further investigation.

The International Criminal Court, based in The Hague, tries cases of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide when a country's own courts fail to prosecute. Nigeria agreed in 2001 to subject itself to the jurisdiction of the ICC. Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor, president of the Christian Association of Nigeria, agreed that the rate of attacks is intensifying.

In a recent speech, he said: "In my first term, about 3000 Christians were killed.

Last year alone averaged over 100 every month. In March 2010, about 500 Christians were slaughtered in one night on an attack on their villages. In April 2011, our members lost over 500 churches, thousands of homes and businesses in a 48 hour period, and in 2012 about 70 per cent of all Christians killed worldwide were in northern Nigeria alone."

Oritsejafor added that he doubted Boko Haram were ready for constructive dialogue and called upon Nigeria's Islamic leaders to condemn recent attacks and redress misinterpretations of the Qu'ran.

"The real Islam that CAN knows [about] should make true leaders of the faith to rectify the contradictions of arbitrary knowledge of the Qur'an to remind those pushed out of the line to seek the good of all," he said.

Boko Haram, which among other demands wants the imposition of Sharia law in Nigeria, has claimed responsibility for many of the attacks across the country.

Despite the imposition of a curfew and a declaration of a "state of emergency" by the federal government in affected states, Boko Haram and affiliated terrorist groups have continued their attacks, especially in the north-eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Kano.

Boko Haram has also rejected a proposed ceasefire by the Nigerian government. Bensouda said the ICC is considering whether the government has done enough to prevent the attacks and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

World Watch Monitor reported last week that at least twelve people were killed in a bomb blast in the Christian-dominated Sabon Geri area of Kano on July 29. The death count has now been doubled.

At least 20 people were killed on July 27 in an attack in the northeastern state of Borno. Boko Haram is suspected to have carried out both attacks.

In response, some of Borno's youths have joined together to form a vigilante group to thwart attacks, while the establishment of a similar group has been proposed in Kano state, in Nigeria's north.

Tobias Idika, president of community group Ohanaeze Ndi-Igbo in Kano, told World Watch Monitor a vigilante group would guard areas especially likely to be targeted by terrorists, such as public spaces and places of worship.

"We are fine-tuning the arrangement and reaching out to all stakeholders and the government to stop the endless blood-letting," he said.

"The vigilante will include professionals and will work with other security agents. Our goal is to protect the people within the ambit of the law," Idiaka said.

He said the vigilante group would work in conjunction with the police, carrying weapons approved by the police and providing them with intelligence.

The intervention of the Borno Vigilance Youth Group, which carries sticks and knives but not guns, in preventing attacks by Boko Haram has been hailed by both the state government and tribal leaders.

Governor Kashim Shettima, who said the military task force and police support the youth initiative, said it is "divine intervention in bringing an end to the incessant massive attacks and killing in the state".

Tribal leader Abubakar El-Kanemi, the 'Shehu' (meaning sultan) of Borno, also praised the efforts of the youths, but cautioned them not to take the law into their hands.

Bishop Ransom Bello, chairman of the Kano chapter of CAN, said the formation of the community vigilante group will be a positive development, but that they should not carry guns.

"What we are against is arming them with guns and ammunition," Bello said. "As Christians, we don't believe in retaliatory attacks or any form of violence. The truth is that what we have is not a case of the Muslims fighting Christians. It is an Islamic group that is fighting everybody. We are doing our best to educate the people to be vigilant, keep praying and be patient as we all collaborate to ward off the attackers."

Thousands of people are fleeing north-eastern Nigeria. In June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reported that more than 6,000 have left for neighbouring Niger.



ISSUES OF THE MOMENT

CHRISTIAN LEADER RAISES ALARM ON PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA

Declares 31-day prayers and fasting



The leader of Christians in South West Nigeria, Archbishop Magnus Attilade, addressed a press conference on 13th January, 2014 to draw attention of the whole world to the inhuman persecution of Christians in northern Nigeria. The press conference was well attended by members of the press and it received adequate coverage in the media. Below are excerpts from the press conference —

I am compelled, as a Christian and as the President of the Christian Welfare Initiative (CWI), and also as the Chairman of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), South West Zone, to draw the attention of the entire citizenry of this country, as well as other nations in the world, to the growing threat to the lives and properties of Christians in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

We affirm that Nigeria is a secular society in which all the citizens have free right to live, work, and express their faith according to their individual convictions. If the secularity of Nigeria has in any way been reviewed or modified, we are not aware. The Constitution of Nigeria guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of movement, and the right to worship God according to individual conviction.

We are however disturbed, and very alarmed, at the rate and consistency with which Christians are being slaughtered in northern Nigeria, in a manner similar to the genocide in Rwanda. The brutality, cruelty and inhuman manner in which Nigerian Christians are being systematically and consistently slaughtered by individuals claiming to be adherents of the Islamic faith has reached an alarming proportion that we are compelled to speak out. THIS IS 40.....Martyr's CRY

INHUMAN!

In the northern parts of the country, these individuals and groups of individuals have been operating for years with reckless impunity and without regard to law and order, or respect to the right of other Nigerians to live and express their faith in God according to their choice.

To mention but a few of such instances:

● On 10th March, 2010, Islamic terrorists slaughtered 501 Christians in the village of Dogo Nahawa, Jos.

● On 7th July, 2012, Fulani Islamic terrorists slaughtered 67 Christians around 7.00 a.m. in Wase, Riyom Local Government, Plateau State.

● On 14th May, 2013, Rev. Faye Pama, the Secretary of Christian Association of Nigeria in Borno State, was shot and killed by members of the Boko Haram inside his house in Maiduguri.

● On 6th July, 2013, Boko Haram militants attacked Government Secondary School, Mamudo, Yobe state and killed over 42 students as they slept in the dormitory.

● Again on Sunday 29th September, 2013, Boko Haram insurgents attacked College of Agriculture in Gujba, Yobe state and killed over 40 students as they slept in the dormitory.

● In Nasarawa state, over 90 Christians were killed by

Fulani herdsmen in 2013 in various attacks in Doma and Lafia Local Governments.

● On 10th November, 2013, over 36 Christians were killed in the Agatu Local Government Area of Benue state while over 6,000 Christians were displaced.

As Boko Haram causes mayhem all over the North killing Christians and destroying Christian properties, the Fulani herdsmen are on rampage all over the nation killing people at will, with a high concentration of their atrocities in the Middle Belt. The Fulani herdsmen are fast becoming notorious as harbinger of destruction wherever they lead their cattle to, in the Middle Belt, South West and in the South East. It is quite amazing that these Fulani herdsmen are yet to be convicted of mass murder. It is equally disheartening that even moderate Muslims that do not seem to support these agents of death and destruction are also targeted and killed by members of the Boko Haram terrorist group. It is very unfortunate that innocent students are also massacred by these terrorists. While attacks have been reported against moderate Muslims that do not support these insurgents, it is clear to the whole world that the main target of these terrorist attacks by both Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsmen are the Christians in Nigeria. While some mischievous elements in the media have attempted portraying these killings as ethnic or socio-economic related clashes, the patterns of the attacks confirm that it is a religious war, patterned after the Islamic Jihad. According to the World Watch List, "The majority of the incidents of conflicts that have been reported in the international media as 'clashes' between Muslims and Christians in actual fact have been one-sided violence against Christians."

As a result of these crises, thousands of Christian men, women and children have been murdered, thousands of children have become orphans, thousands of women are widowed, thousands of children are fatherless, while innumerable Christian men and women have been maimed and mutilated. It is unbelievable that in this age and period, human beings could descend to such level of inhuman barbarity and cruelty while claiming divine mandate. Nigerian citizens have been hacked to death with machete, their throats have been slit with knives like rams, their heads have been severed from their necks with the saw carpenters use on wood, the barrel of AK 47 has been placed on their nose before being fired, the stomach of pregnant women were ripped open with knives, they have been burnt alive, and all manners of unprintable atrocities have been committed by some Nigerian citizens against other Nigerian citizens all in the name of expanding a religion.

In the states of Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Plateau, Benue, Bauchi, Kogi, Niger, Nassarawa, Taraba, Kano, Kaduna, Gombe, and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, individuals and groups of individuals, claiming Islamic injunction, have been routinely killing, bombing, maiming and mutilating Christians. Properties of Christians are being destroyed and their places of worship as well as business locations are routinely burnt and destroyed. The situation reached a crescendo that the Federal Government was compelled to impose a State of Emergency in the states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa on 14th May, 2013. Despite the State of Emergency, the Islamic terrorists did not relent in their attacks.

According to 2013 World Watch List report, 66% of Christians killed globally, were Nigerian Christians killed in Nigeria.

Therefore, at the Christian Welfare Initiative (CWI) and the Christians Association of Nigeria, (CAN), South West, we recommend as follows:

● Christians all over Nigeria and in the South West in particular, should embark on prayer and fasting from 14th January – 14th February, 2014 for the church in Nigeria and for the nation. Prayers should be mobilized that every conspiracy that has been conceived against Christians in Nigeria shall fail. We are aware that some denominations are already running prayer and fasting program. We simply request that prayers for the church and for the issues raised in this press conference should be included in their prayers.

● Christians all over Nigeria should pray fervently that the religious carnage in the North of Nigeria shall be eliminated rather than it being replicated in other parts of the nation.

● We call on Nigeria's President, the Inspector General of Police and the Governors of the states where mass murders are being committed to come up with effective and proactive policing strategies to ensure that no Nigerian Citizen or village becomes a soft target for the harbingers of terror. The use of technology, (Drones and CCTV) for surveillance and rapid response purposes by Security agents should be employed.

Signed
Archbishop Magnus Atilade
President, Christian Welfare Initiative (CWI)
Chairman, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), South-West Zone

BORNO BIBLE DISTRIBUTION



BAUCHI STATE

EDUCATIONAL JIHAD



Government Girls' Secondary School, Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi State has been arbitrarily closed down by Governor Isa Yuguda since February 2011.

Tafawa Balewa Local Government and Bogoro Local Government are Christian areas in Bauchi state and both Local Governments have been the target of intensive religious persecution. Islamic Jihadists have been attacking both localities and killing Christians in large numbers. Islamic jihadists have often mounted ambush on the road leading to Tafawa Balewa and indiscriminately killing the innocent Christian travellers.

In February 2011, the State Government sent buses to the Government Girls' Secondary School, Tafawa Balewa and transported all the Muslim girls to another school in Yana, which is a predominantly Muslim area. A few days later, the State Government went on air and announced on the Radio that the Government Girls' Secondary School in Tafawa Balewa has been closed down. The State Government advised all the students that were interested in continuing their education to move to Yana, in the Muslim dominated area. It was clear that the students being referred to are all Christian girls, since all the Muslim students had earlier being transported to Yana by Governor Isa Yuguda.

As a result of the arbitrary closure of the school, all the students that were expected to write the WAEC examination could not write it in 2011. The saving grace for the students is the Perfect Memorial Secondary School operated by Church of Christ in Nigeria, (COCIN), where the girls were able to write NECO examinations.

Governor Yuguda stated that his reason for closing down the school was because of insecurity. However, before he closed down the school, he evacuated the Muslim girls and relocated them to another school in Yana. The Zayawa (Zaar) Council of Elders has taken up the case against the State Government in court. Unfortunately, the case is being

frustrated and it has been

dragging in court since 2011. The Christians in Tafawa Balewa require assistance and support from Christian brethren to redress this injustice and discrimination. When pressure started mounting on the State Government to re-open the school, Governor Isa Yuguda was to claim again that the school was closed down for renovation. From 2011 to date, no renovation work has been undertaken in the school. The claim of the State Government of closing down the school for renovation is a poor argument because another secondary school in Toro, Bauchi State was not closed down, while it was being renovated.

The closure of the Girls' Secondary School is not the first attempt at educational discrimination by the Bauchi State Government. The Boys' Secondary School in Bogoro, also a Christian area, was closed down for four years. After the closure of the school, the students went to Burunu to write WAEC examination and discovered that their names were not on the register.

In that case also, the Bauchi State Government claimed it was going to renovate the school. After four years, and much pressure, the Boys' School in Bogoro, was reopened last year. There were about 3,000 students in the Girls' Secondary School, Tafawa Balewa; the majority of the students are Christians.

As of August 2013 when the Voice of Christian Martyrs visited The Girls' Secondary School is totally deserted. Not even a security man is on the premises.



BAUCHI STATE

WATER WELL PROJECTS FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

AT

TAFAWA BALEWA AND BOGORO LGAs

I am the Public Relations Officer of CAN Tafawa Balewa Branch, Bauchi State. Both Tafawa Balewa Local Government and Bogoro Local Government are Christian areas and we have been facing serious persecution because of our faith in Christ.

We are grateful that over the years, the Voice of Christian Martyrs has been consistently supporting the persecuted Christians in these areas, as well as in other parts of Bauchi state where Christians are being persecuted.

VOCM gave motorcycles to our people, food stuffs to families and gifts to our children. In addition, some of our children have been taken to Abeokuta for free education, free accommodation and free clothing.

VOCM has also been treating the victims of the attacks on Christians. The cost of these treatments run into millions of naira. The widows of the martyrs are given business support funds to start business after the murder of their husbands by the Muslims. Some other widows received grinding machines to enable them generate daily income.

That is not all, VOCM also encourages the ministers of the gospel. The mission gives mega-phones to pastors to aid village evangelism, bicycles and motorcycles to aid their movements to various mission stations.

During one religious riot in Tafawa Balewa, the church building of ECWA 2 was destroyed. VOCM donated N2.9m to rebuild the place of worship. Today, the building has been completed. As we express gratitude for this completed church building, we also require assistance to rebuild another church that was destroyed in Kutaru village. Barely one month after it was completed, Boko Haram terrorists came and destroyed

it.

Today (10th August, 2013), we are dedicating a water-well in Kutaru village and another one shall be dedicated today in Bogoro village. We are very grateful for these two water-wells. We still require another water-well in a nearby village. This village acts as a refugee camp for the village of Kutaru and there is no water there. Whenever Muslim fanatics attack Kutaru village, the people would flee to the next village for refuge until the situation normalizes. We shall appreciate a water-well there, also. Presently, people have to dig into the ground before they can get water.

We need to mention that we are not receiving any form of assistance or social amenities from the government, both the state and local governments. The reason is simply because the people here refuse to become Muslims and they insist on remaining Christians.

We are very grateful for the support that we receive from Christians from all over the world. God bless you all.

Pastor Tumi



BAUCHI STATE - KUTARU WATER WELL PROJECT, TAFAWA BALEWA L.G.



BAUCHI STATE: BOGORO WATER WELL PROJECT, BOGORO L.G.



JTF : WHERE ARE THE CHRISTIAN MEN ABDUCTED IN BARAWA, GWOZA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF BORNO STATE?

The Gwoza Christian Community Association (GCCA) wishes to draw the attention of Security Agencies, Civil Liberties Organization, Human Right Organizations, World Council of Churches (WCC), Human Rights Watch, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), National Assembly, other Religious Organizations and the entire Nigerian public at large to the disappearance of the following Christian men abducted at Barawa Village in Gwoza local Government Area of Borno State. The said men were last seen on 30th July 2013 about five months ago.

They include:-

1. Mr. Bukar Musa Barawa (Former elected Vice-chairman, Gwoza Local Govt)
3. Mr. Samaila Ayuba Tangwaya –Business man/Farmer
2. Mr. Samaila Dama Ayuba – An active youth leader
4. Mr. Mathias Ibrahim – A primary school teacher
5. Obadiah Wasuwe – A trader in Maiduguri

The first four on the list were abducted at Barawa by 10 young men posing as Civilian JTF whom we later discovered were sponsored by some politicians and traditional leaders purely on religious revenge missions against the Christian community in the area. The fifth was abducted in his shop at Wulari, Maiduguri. Our investigation has revealed that the above named persons have been arrested by the group while other Christian men and a woman who escaped their grasp have had their houses destroyed as the insurgent activities resurfaced.

The so-called civilian JTF that carried out the said “arrest” include:-

- (1) Kalakwa Gwasa (2) Hamza Mamuda (3) Boss Mamuda Mbasuwe (4) Audu Gujengo (5) Usman Buba Gadaya (6) Hamman Tada Mbira (7) Arushe Ibrahim Ngwalighe (8) Manu Usman Drawa (9) Dauda Spa and (10) Hamidu Ibrahim Dugje.

The Borno State House of Assembly member representing Gwoza was mandated by HE the Deputy Governor of Borno state to select suitable men to serve as civilian JTF for the area but, used that opportunity to recruit the above criminally oriented youths from the village of Barawa and environs. The 10 young men are members of the dreaded sect, Boko Haram, who ran away to Maiduguri in April and May 2013 when the military JTF entered Barawa to confront the insurgents operating in the area. They disguised as members of the genuine Civilian JTF for the purposes of picking up Christian men who either volunteered to serve as guides to the JTF or are prominent in the society marked for elimination.



After 'arresting' 3 of the above persons, the former vice-Chairman, Mr. Bukar Musa Barawa went to the military JTF at Chinene to explain to the army that the arrested men were not Boko Haram suspects but Christians; the fake Civilian JTF went ahead to arrest him for defending the innocent right in the JTF camp.

When the news filtered in that the former Vice- Chairman was also arrested, over 300 members of the Woman Fellowship drawn from different churches in their uniform organized a peaceful march to protest the arrests of the above with songs of 'Jesus is my light and salvation' and walked for 2 kilometer, till they reached the army JTF post at Chinene where the badly beaten Christian men were being detained.

It must be noted that when the unarmed protesting women approached the military post, one soldier cocked his gun threatening to shoot any woman that ventured closer. That action provoked one Mrs. Rahila Jacob Kwiza whose pastor-husband and her brother-in law were killed by the insurgents a few days earlier, went and grabbed the soldier by his collars and dared him to shoot her since she has nothing to loose. It took the intervention of other soldiers for the aggrieved widow to let go and the women were persuaded to go home with a promise of releasing the arrested Christians shortly. That did not happen till date.

They were instead transferred to Maiduguri by the JTF in the name of keeping them safe for security reasons and have not been seen since then. Several visits to the JTF commander by the Borno State and Gwoza Local Government CAN leaders have not yielded any result as none among them has either seen them nor knew their where about; but they were told by Sagir Musa (the JTF spokesman) that 'politics has taken them away'. Whatever, that means.

We can still recall the agony we went through when the same set of so-called Civilian JTF went and arrested four of our prominent Christians in Adamawa State on 17th September 2013 labeling them as Boko Haram, until we stood our ground through the leadership of CAN Adamawa State and some good individuals before the Adamawa JTF released them on 19th September 2013. The same group of people went to

Ngoshe village in Gwoza local government and arrested 7 faithful Christians brothers on 4th November, 2013 naming them as Boko Haram, after tireless effort from different organs of Christian bodies they were finally released on 14th November 2013 after being tortured.

We also have facts to present about the murder of a vibrant dedicated Christian youth called Ali Ishaku who was killed by the same imitators of Civilian JTF on 30th August 2013, it was also alleged that he too was a member of Boko Haram, after painstaking effort to locate his remains by friends and relations, his remains was found in the mortuary amidst Boko Haram corpses, when the Army discovered that he was a Christian through church Baptismal ID card found in his pocket before the body was released for burial. He was buried according to Christian injunctions at COCIN church Kirkasama, Maiduguri.

As we write this, we want the general public to know that the so-called Civilian JTF are not only harmful to Christian community in Gwoza, but to the nation at large. For instance, on 2nd December 2013, a so called Civilian JTF went and killed Yohanna Salihu (FAAN Staff) they met him in FAAN Quarters at Maiduguri, murdered him, burnt his remains and tossed him away as Boko Haram. It took vigorous assessment to obtain the release of his remains for burial. Finally, his family members took the matter to the Police commissioner in Maiduguri. It was then discovered that the young man was completely innocent and a dedicated Christian.

Later, the ECWA church was allowed to take the remains to his village in a coffin bought by Nigerian Air force in Maiduguri. When his remains reached the church premises in Maiduguri from the mortuary, his local pastor who was to conduct the internment prayers, fainted and was rushed to hospital because of the level of torture and burns on the body.

In spite of all these happenings, the security could not bring these mischievous atrocities to book. Rather, more attacks on Christian communities are being recorded. When these incidences started against Christians in Gwoza we published an open letter to HE The President Federal Republic of Nigeria on advertorial page (52) in The Nation Newspaper on 13th May 2013.

We wrote another letter to HE President Good Luck Jonathan on the illegal arrest of these five Christian men, dated 6th August 2013. A copy was also sent to the Presidential Committee on Boko Haram Amnesty and to the CAN president of Nigeria, but we are yet to get positive response.

Another letter was written to His Excellency Governor Kashim Shettima on 9th August 2013 signed by CAN coordinator in Gwoza Local Government through the State CAN chairman, on behalf of the Christian community in Gwoza to look into the illegal detention of these men. Copy of the letter was also sent to the Borno state Police Commissioner, Director SSS, JTF Commander, Gwoza local

council and the Police DPO Gwoza, but to date none among the said agencies responded to our letter.

The GCCA wishes to stress that certain individuals against the Christian Community in particular sponsor the insurgency in Gwoza. We had stated this earlier in our publication of 11th November, 2013, page 25 of the Daily Trust Newspapers. We reiterate here that the plan to annihilate the Christians have been hatched over the years and has the active support of the so-called political and traditional leaders both within and outside the state. Now, the GCCA wants to know the whereabouts of our Christian brethren who were wrongfully abducted by identified Boko Haram members disguising as Civilian JTF and handed over to the Military JTF for custody. "How can politics take someone away?"

How can a trained army officer posted to contain insurgency in Borno State make such unguarded statement to Christians over the lives of innocent citizens whom he knows are not Boko-Haram. With such attitude, one will guess why the insurgent activities are still on the increase.

“...they were told by Sagir Musa (the JTF spokesman) that 'politics has taken them away'. Whatever, that means.”

Human rights are the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled to such as: the right to life, liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equal treatment before the law, among others. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is generally agreed to be the foundation of international human rights law. Adopted in 1948, the UDHR has inspired a rich body of legally binding international human rights treaties. It continues to be an inspiration to us all whether in addressing injustices, in times of conflicts, in societies suffering repression, and in our efforts towards achieving universal enjoyment of human rights.

It represents the universal recognition that basic rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to all human beings, inalienable and equally applicable to everyone, and that every one of us is born free and equal in dignity and rights. Whatever our nationality, place of residence, gender, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, language, or any other status, the international community on December 10, 1948 made a commitment to upholding dignity and justice for all of us. Therefore we ask, where are our brothers being kept? We want to know.

Thank you.

Elder, Ayuba J. Bassa



GCCA National Coordinator
(For Chairman BOT)

Nassarawa: Jihad in Agyaragu, Lafia.



Queen Ehi



Janet Peter's back



Joshua Samuel

On 23rd April, 2012, a band of Fulani Islamic Jihadist attacked Agyaragu village in Lafia, Nasarawa State. Agyaragu is a Christian dominated settlement with 98% of the people adhering to the Christian faith.

About 50 of the insurgents attacked the village with guns, machetes and clubs.

Below are highlights of some of the inhuman atrocities that they committed against innocent Christians:

Daniel Aiya is 26 years old and a member of the Faith Heals Church in Agyaragu. He was in front of his house with his friends when the Fulanis attacked them. One of his friends was shot dead while Daniel was shot in the back. Miraculously he survived.

Ishaya Musa is 22 years old and he was accosted by the Fulani jihadists while he was on his motorcycle. They queried him about his religion and when he confirmed that he is a Christian, they attacked him with machetes. His left leg was severely cut with machete and there was an attempt to split his head open with the machete. The attackers burnt his motorcycle and abandoned him to certain death. He was rushed to the Major hospital for first aid before he was transferred to a specialist hospital.

Polycarp Doga was inside the house when he heard the gunshots. While trying to escape, he ran into the band of murderous Fulani Muslims. He was machete on his hands, chest and legs.

32 years old Obed Agada was coming back from work when he met the jihadists. Knowing instinctively that they were evil, he attempted running away but they pursued him and injured him in the head and on his hands. He ran straight away to the Major hospital for treatment.

Janet Peter is the 25 year old wife of the pastor of ERCC church in Agyaragu. As she ran out of the house upon hearing the gunshots, she fell and the jihadists attacked her where she fell. She was mercilessly sliced with machete on her back and hands. They abandoned her thinking that she was dead.

9 year old Mary Daniel heard the gunshots and ran out of

the house after her parents. A dilapidated building fell on her leg and injured her. She spent a month in the hospital before the leg was eventually amputated.

17 year old Ayuba Simon was in the First Baptist church when the Fulanis attacked. As he fled one of the the Fulani men went after him and cut his left hand with the machete.

Emmanuel Hudu Kabo was also in the First Baptist Church when the Fulanis attacked. He used his hand to block the machete and his fingers were almost sliced off. The injury on his fingers is yet to heal, as of the time this report was being filed.

Ajeh Toshi sustained machete injury at the back of his head.

The arm of Kaba David Philip was cut off during the attack. He shall require an artificial arm.

Abari Friday was in his uncle's house when the attack took place. His left hand was cut off while his uncle lost a leg.

When Emmanuel Kaba Agya heard the gunshots, he proceeded to run out of the house not knowing that the Fulanis were waiting for him outside the door. He was severely injured on the head, hands, and on the back of the neck. Miraculously, he survived.

15 year old Philibus Agid was with his brother when they were attacked. The machete hit his head but he survived.



Polycarp Doga

ATTACKS ON 21st Nov. 2012

Not content with the attack on 23rd April, 2012, the Fulanis returned to the same Agyaragu village. It was patterned after the earlier attack on April 2012. They shot randomly in the air to create panic in people and make them run out of the house. As the people came out in panic, the Fulani Jihadists attacked them.

➔ 28 year old Yohanna Joshua is a member of the village vigilante group. When he noticed that the village chief's house was on fire, he rushed there to help. On seeing a group of people in front of the chief's house, he asked them what was going on. He was unaware that he was talking to the Fulani insurgents. They attacked him, shot him and abandoned him, thinking he was dead. He was later resuscitated and taken to the hospital for treatment.

➔ Another victim of the attack was 43 year old Nuhu Angolo. He was attacked while returning from a neighboring village back to Agyaragu with his friend on a motorcycle. Both of them sustained serious injuries.

➔ 70 year old Baba Agu Iwa was in the family house with his elder brother when they heard the gunshots. Two of the Fulani Jihadists entered the house with the intention of killing them. He was able to escape but his elder brother was killed. Baba Agu was seriously injured as he tried to escape.

➔ Samiya Ozhegu (34) was on his way to the nearby village when he was informed that the Fulanis were attacking Agyaragu again. He returned to the village because of his family members. The Fulanis attacked him and cut his hand with a machete.

➔ Ayuba D. Otukpo was returning from his farm when he saw people running helter-skelter and the Fulanis shooting them as if it was a game. He ran to his house to rescue his father. Unfortunately, his father was killed while his face was severely injured with machete.



Agu Iwa



Ajeh Toshi



Kaba David Philip



Omaligba Hosea



Polycarp Doga

Jihad in Nassarawa Village

15th December, 2013

The family of Odeh joyfully left church after the thanksgiving service for the wedding of their daughter. The young woman got wedded the previous day at the Methodist Church in Ogufa, in Nasarawa State.

As members of the family entered the car to drive back to Jos, some Fulani Jihadists ran out of the bush where they had been hiding and started shooting the unsuspecting Christians.

Sunday Odeh was shot at the side of the right eye and the bullet came out from the left eye.

His younger brother, 30 year old Isaac Odeh sustained injury on the leg and on the hand.

23 year old Abigail Osu was shot on the chest and she died immediately.

The 70 year old uncle, Yahaya Ajedu was shot at the left breast and the bullet came out of his side.

30 year old Musa Odu was shot in the stomach

The attack on Ogufa signaled the commencement of brutal attacks on 10 Christian villages which were not reported by the media.



Jihad Attacks on Bakin-Kogi

10th October, 2013

Bakin-Kogi village is located in Fan District of Barkin Ladi Local Government in Plateau State. The community is made up of about 500 residents and they all adhere to the Christian faith.

At 2.00 a.m. on 10th October, 2013, Islamic Jihadists numbering between 100—150 attacked the innocent and defenseless villagers.

One of the survivors confessed that he was woken out of sleep with Islamic chanting as they massacred the Christians. Their first victim was a woman who came out in the night to ease herself.

By the time the rampage ended, they had killed 43 people while scores of people were taken to the hospital for treatment.



Jihad in Gwoza

Over 53 Villages Attacked

Gwoza Local Government is located in Borno state and it borders Adamawa state. Boko Haram insurgents use the hills of Gwoza as a refuge.

The population of Gwoza is over 80% Christians and the entire area has been under an intensive attack by Islamic terrorists. From 2012 to January 2014, over 53 villages were attacked at different times. One particular village that used to have a large number of Christians was attacked 11 times forcing the entire population of the village to relocate to Cameroun for refuge.

Several other villages in the area have relocated due to the intensity of the attacks. A lot of lives have been lost in this mindless and inhuman attacks against innocent citizens of Nigeria. Many of the victims of these attacks have lost their homes while some find it difficult to locate members of their families.



Jihad in Shonong Village

6th January 2014.

Shonong village is a Christian village and it has been attacked twice by Islamic insurgents. Towards the end of 2013, the villagers were informed by the insurgents to expect a “Christmas gift”. Apprehensively, the villagers in Shonong approached Christmas 2013, but there was no attack. On 5th January, three women went to a farmland close to the village, taking with them a 25 year old young man. They were attacked by the Islamic militants and the young man was killed. As the entire village gathered on the evening of 5th January 2014 to mourn the death of the young man, the Muslim fanatics attacked the village from 11pm of 5th January till 2am of 6th January. The insurgents were in excess of 200 militants and they took over the entire village using cutlass to kill the members of the Christian community, setting fire to their houses and burning all the harvested food crops in the village. They set houses on fire and burnt many women and children alive. As the women and the children ran into rooms and locked the doors, the Islamic militants set the house on fire and waited outside the door for anyone trying to escape. All those who tried to escape were either shot or machete was used to kill them. At the end of the attack, over 50 people were killed during the 3 hour operation of the militants while about 28 people were rushed to the hospital.



ADAMAWA STATE

The living are left... To mourn the dead

Mrs. Saratu Ibrahim – Widow of Bro. Umar Ibrahim



Late Bro. Umar Ibrahim

Bro. Ibrahim Umar was a Fulani convert to Christianity. While he was attending the EYN Bible School in Chibok, Borno State, in order to further his education as a teacher of Christian Religion Knowledge at the Fulani Centre in Yola, the school was attacked by Boko Haram terrorists. All the people in the school fled for safety. Unfortunately, Bro. Ibrahim Umar was caught and slaughtered like a ram for the name of Christ. Bro. Umar died and left behind a widow, Saratu and two children. One is a 100 level student with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi and the younger child is in Margret Neils Primary School, Mbamba Yola. The National Director of Voice of Christian Martyrs visited Mrs. Saratu Umar on 20th Sept, 2013 and gave her a cash gift of 40,000 and Rice, Beans, Maize (Corn) indomie noodles, sugar and salt, on behalf of the mission and assured her of further assistance from the Voice of Christian Martyrs.

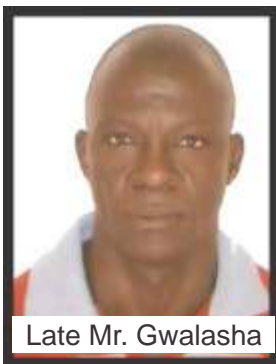


Rev. Isaac With Family of Late Bro. Umar Ibrahim

Widows of WAEC Officials

On 19th April, 2013, three officials of the West African Examination Council (WAEC) on official assignment to Maiduguri were killed by Boko Haram insurgents. Their stories are as follows:

Mrs. Fibi Peter Gwalasha



Late Mr. Gwalasha

My husband, Mr. Peter Gwalasha, was killed at Maiduguri while on an official assignment for WAEC.

On that fateful day, I was on the way for an evangelical work at Bali Local Government Area in Taraba State, when I received SMS from my husband that he was going to Maiduguri on an official assignment. I wished him safe journey, not knowing that would be the last time I would hear from him.

When I did not hear from him again, I called his mobile phone but it was switched off. This is something he never did. Later, I was informed that my husband was shot on the head by Boko Haram members.

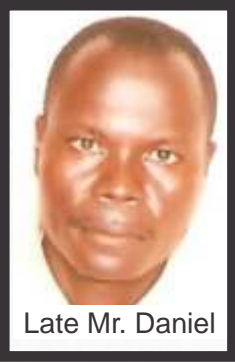
They, (he and his colleagues) were killed in a remote area and before the corpse was discovered, it had started decaying.

I have forgiven those who killed my husband and I pray that God will forgive them and call them to repentance. I will continue to serve Christ until I die, because that is what my husband taught me when he was alive.

I am using this medium to call upon Christians in the South, particularly in the South West to pray for Christians in the North. We need your prayers.

Mr. Gwalasha left behind a widow and one child, aged 18.





Late Mr. Daniel

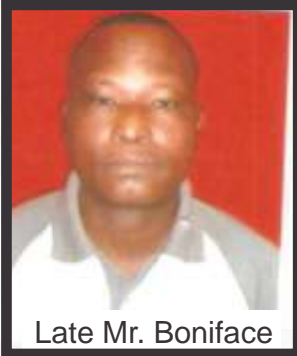
Mrs. H. Daniel is the widow of Mr. Daniel Alexander, a Police Officer posted to the WAEC board, Yola, to serve as security escort. He was killed by Boko Haram on 19th April, 2013, while on official assignment to Maiduguri by Boko Haram members.

He left behind his wife with five children; one of the children was four days old when Mr. Daniel was killed.

"On 19th April, 2013, my husband went to the office and later called me that he was on his way to Maiduguri for an official duty. I did not hear from him again after that call.

Later, his friend called to inform me that my husband was killed by Boko Haram insurgents around Maiduguri."

"I need help to take care of these five children. My late husband's relatives are not helping at all, rather, they insist on sharing their brother's properties."



Late Mr. Boniface

Sis. Ngyanasiknyi is the widow of late Mr. Boniface, a driver with the WAEC Board, Yola. She is aged 39 and the mother of five children. Her husband was one of the three WAEC officials killed by Boko Haram members of 19th April, 2013.

Tearfully, she narrated her ordeal.

"I thank God, because in all things, we are taught to give thanks. I have forgiven those that killed my husband and all I am praying for is that God should help me to take care of the children, since I have nobody to help. My first daughter has just finished the Senior Secondary School and I have no one to sponsor her University education. I just pray that God will send help to us."



RELIEF

To each of the widows, the National Director of Voice of Christian Martyrs gave 40,000.00, and food item such as Rice, Beans, Maize,

VISIT TO E. Y.N...

After visiting the widows of the martyrs, the VCM team proceeded to Mubi via Kwarhi. They were received by Rev. Adamu, a Kanuri convert to Christianity. At Kwarhi, he introduced the team to the General Secretary of Ekkliisiyar Yan'uwa a Nijeriya (E. Y.N.) (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) Rev. J. The General Secretary thanked the Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria for the great support that the mission renders to the persecuted Christians in the North.

In Mubi, the VCM team met the District Church Council Secretary, Rev. James K. M.. He also appreciated the support of the Voice of Christian Martyrs for the widows as well as the victims of the Boko Haram attacks.



Rev. Adamu, Rev. Isaac & Rev. J. W.

Mr. Filibus was killed at Bama L.G.A. of Borno State just before the declaration of the state of emergency by the Federal Government of Nigeria.



Late Mr. Godwin Filibus

Mr. Filibus was a lecturer at the College of Education, Hong, in Adamawa State. He was undergoing his PhD program at the University of Maiduguri before he was killed by Boko Haram.

On the day that he was killed, he had called his wife that he was on his way home. On the way, he encountered the members of Boko Haram dressed in the uniform of the Joint Task Force, the official security personnel operating in the area. Mr. Filibus and the people with him did not know that they were Boko Haram militants, masquerading as soldiers of the Nigerian Army.

They separated the people into two groups, Christians on one side and Muslims on the other side. The Christians were commanded to lie face down on the ground and Mr. Filibus was shot on the head.

When Mrs. Filibus could not reach him again on the phone, she called his friend who informed her that they parted ways in the morning. In the evening, it was confirmed that he had been killed. Late Mr. Godwin Filibus left three children who are still University undergraduates.

The National Director of Voice of Christian Martyrs gave her 40,000 and presented her also with Rice, Beans, Maize, Noodles, Salt and Sugar. Responding to the gift, Mrs. Filibus expressed her deep appreciation that it was the first gift that she has received since she lost her husband on 7th May, 2013.



ADAMAWA WIDOWS

On 22nd September, 2013, the VCM team visited 5 widows of the martyrs. After comforting and encouraging them, he assured them that in two weeks, they shall receive grinding machine that will help them generate daily income to sustain their families. Each of the 5 widows were given N15, 000 with beans, rice, maize (corn), Indomie noodles, salt and sugar. The widows narrated their stories as follows:

Mrs. Grace G. Shawari

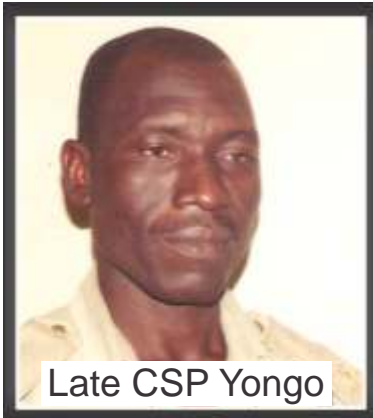
Her husband, Pastor Gabriel Elias Shawari, was the resident pastor of regional church of the Christ Apostolic Church, Jos. He was killed with his 27 year old son, Stephen, on 29th August, 2011.

On that day, we were all in the living room, when we started hearing an unusual banging on our gate. Someone called my husband to quickly summon the security operatives. While he was putting the call through, the insurgents forced their way into the house and started attacking my son, Stephen, with cutlass and axe. On seeing that our son was being attacked, my husband could no longer stay in hiding. When he came out, they pounced on him also and machete him to death. That was how I lost my son and my husband. Mrs. Shawari confirmed that since the attack in 2011, the only assistance she received was some food items from the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Jos chapter. She thanked the Voice of Christian Martyrs for the kind assistance and support that they have given her.

Mrs. Hannatu George

Her husband, Mr. George Yohanna was killed by Boko Haram on 2nd May, 2013.

Late Mr. George entered a supermarket to make some purchases and the Islamic insurgents invaded the supermarket. They commanded everyone to lie down and seized their mobile phones and stole all their money. After raiding them, they started shooting them one by one. The victims were rushed to the hospital but they did not survive.



Late CSP Yongo

Mr. George left 5 children behind; the eldest of the children is 10 years old. The only assistance the family has received came from CAN in Adamawa that gave rice and groundnut oil. The only substantial help they are receiving is coming from the Voice of the Christian

Martyrs.

Mrs. Patricia W. Yongo

Late C.S.P. Wonoamwo M.D. Yongo was the officer-in-charge of Bama Prisons, in Borno State. He was killed on 7th May, 2013 by Boko Haram terrorists.

Mr. Yongo was slaughtered like a ram and his corpse could not be retrieved. By the time his corpse was discovered, it had started to decay.

Mrs. Yongo thanked the Voice of Christian Martyrs for the support and the gifts that she received. She confirmed that the Voice of Christian Martyrs is the first organization to render such help to them.

She prayed for further assistance to educate her 5 children.

MRS. ESTHER MUSA

Late Mr. Markus Musa was killed on 30th January, 2013 at about 1.00 a.m. in his house at Girei Local Government Area of Adamawa state.

The Boko Haram insurgents forced their way into the house and shot Mr. Musa in the presence of his wife. She was 5 months pregnant, then. The couple had just gotten married. Mrs. Musa said she has forgiven the murderers of her husband but she needs help.

"I need help to bring up my baby girl and to send her to school."

MRS. LOVELINE JOB

Late Mr. Job was killed on 6th January, 2012 at the Christ Apostolic Church, Yola.

Mr. Job was the Church Secretary and he died when Boko Haram militants invaded the church on that fateful evening, as members of the church were rounding up prayer and fasting. In the attack, 16 members of the church were killed.



Late Rev. Shawari

Late Stephen Shawari

ATTACKS ON EYN, JILANG, ADAMAWA

Ekklisiyar Yan'uwa a Nijeriya (E.Y.N.) (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria)

Solomon Joshua tells his story:



Solomon Joshua.
His leg where the bullet entered

On Sunday 5th May 2013, I left home around 9am for church. At the Market Square, I saw the Islamic militants on a motorcycle, moving from one point to the other. There were three of them on the motorcycle and they wore the uniform of the Nigerian military. I assumed that they were members of the Joint Task Force sent to protect the village from any form of attack.

As I approached the church, I heard several gunshots behind me in two different directions which indicated that they were many. I did not know that they were already killing some Christian brethren on their way to the church. Upon entering the church, I met the other brethren in a state of agitation, but I managed to calm them down that I saw some soldiers on the way and they have come to arrest criminals. I was so sure that they were genuine law enforcement officers since I saw them in the uniform of the Nigerian Army.

Not quite five minutes after, we heard gunshots right in front of the church building. The Muslims came on three motorbikes and covered two doors to prevent the worshippers from escaping. They left one door uncovered which people were using to escape. Some of the murderers started shooting from the windows at the defenseless people still inside the church building. They focused more on the men. The gunshot continued for about ten minutes.

After they stopped shooting, one of them said in Hausa, "have you shot that man wearing sneakers?" The other killer responded, "I am not sure."

I was wearing sneakers so I knew they were referring to me. I just prayed and said, "Lord, please, receive my soul."

Two of them concentrated gunfire on me and they shot over sixteen bullets at me but only four hit me. Two of the bullets entered my buttocks, one hit my thigh and the fourth my knee. As I jerked at the impact of each bullet on my body, the Muslim jihadists thought they had killed me. I heard one of them say to the other in Hausa, "let's go, he is dead."

I tried to get up but I could not. I noticed that I was in a pool of blood and the entire church was splattered with the blood of the dead and the wounded. After that I passed out.

I regained consciousness at the General Hospital in Mubi. We were deliberately not given good treatment because over 90% of the nurses were Muslim. In fact, those who had the financial means left the hospital for private hospitals, but those of us who could not afford good hospitals had to endure the ill-treatment. We not only bought all our medications outside, but we had to treat our wounds ourselves.

At the moment, the wounds have healed but I limp from the injury to my knee. Since the attack, I have not been able to farm to support myself. It has not been easy fending for myself since then.

Nicodemus Joshua tells his story:

It was during the worship service on Sunday 5th May, 2013 that we started hearing gunshots in the market square close to the church. We were all afraid when my elder brother, Solomon, entered and calmed us down that it was Nigerian soldiers on an operation in the village.

We had barely calmed down to resume the worship when we heard gunshot very close to the church and we saw the murderers targeting the brethren from the windows. Immediately, everyone started running away to escape. The attackers blocked two doors while some of them manned the windows and were shooting at the brethren. They concentrated on the men and five of them died instantly. As they died, they fell on top of me and I was under the corpses. As the shooting continued, I was struck by a bullet on the leg.

Assuming that we were dead, the attackers left.

We were taken to the General Hospital at Mubi where I spent about 9 days before I left on my own, due to neglect and ill-treatment by the Muslim nurses.



Nicodemus Joshua

SET MY PEOPLE

Join The Protest

Objective:

To raise 1,000,000 signatories
to compel United Nations to take
action
against global Islamic intolerance

Article 18 in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights declares that *"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance"*.

Unfortunately, 1.3 billion Muslims, globally, are stripped of their freedom and right to choose their belief. Muslims who want to leave Islam are forced to remain Muslims against their will and do not have the right to exist as non-Muslims. OIC needs to implement Article 18 in the UDHR in their member states and stop violating the right of individuals for freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

Set My People Free is a network of individuals, churches and organizations working for the freedom of converts from Islam to live and practice their new faith, to experience equality and justice in their home countries. It is a nonviolent movement seeking

FREE



freedom, justice and equality for converts reconciliation – not victory, and is committed to the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. SMPF wishes to raise 1,000,000 signatories to compel the United Nations to demand compliance with Article 18 by OIC member nations. The more the number of people who will sign the petition the greater the impact will be. The petition will also be sent to the Human Right Council of the African Union.

SIGN UP RIGHT AWAY! (<http://freedom2worship.org>)

REMEMBER THEM...

I thought of Mahmoud Mohammed Taha, (1909 - 1985) also known as Ustaz Mahmoud Mohammed Taha, a Sudanese thinker, leader and engineer. He has revolutionary ideas about the second message of Islam. The regime of Sudanese President Gaafar Nimeiry executed him for his views, for which he had been accused of apostasy. He was executed in Sudan at the age of 76.

I thought of Al Fakhi who was in prison in Sudan for 18 months, only released after he got a stroke and was left half-paralyzed. He was not able to raise his family of seven children who also followed his new faith.

I thought of Lena Joy, a former Muslim from Malaysia, who is in hiding because of death threats. The Malaysian government forbids her to change her religion on her identity card.

I thought of my two nieces, whose father is a Muslim, who were moved as refugees to other countries because they married Christians.

I thought about the convert who was abused and raped in prison in Egypt as she was stopped from leaving the country. She used a forged passport since they are not allowed to change religion

58.....Martyr's CRY

in their identity cards so they have to use deceased Christian's identities.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

ZAWANGEL — a Sudanese stripped of his nationality. He was in prison since Oct. 26 2013 for his Christian ministry, but, praise the Lord! On December 14, he was released. Continue to pray for him, his wife and daughter.

SAEED an Iranian-American, has been in prison in Iran since August 2012. He has a wife and two children.

HEJAZI, an Egyptian, was imprisoned on December 5, for Evangelism and converting from Islam some years ago. He has a wife and two children.

NIDJM EL DIN a Sudanese refugee in Egypt. His wife, Hannan, and their daughter were abducted by her family and taken back to Sudan. Both are converts from Islam.

Your brother,
Kamal..

For thy sake we are killed all the day long;
we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.
Rom. 8: 36



Mass Grave of 501 Christians massacred by Muslims Jihadist in
Dogo Nahawa, Jos, on 10th March, 2010

LORD,
WHERE ARE OUR BRETHREN?

SUPPORT

THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

WE SHARE THE SAME FAITH
BUT NOT THE SAME LIBERTY
TO WORSHIP



SUPPORT
THE PERSECUTED CHURCH
Pray. Give. Visit.