



MARTYRS CRY!

A PUBLICATION OF THE VOICE OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS NIGERIA

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Don't Stand In Silence

“ This WAR is not POLITICAL. It is RELIGIOUS. It is between MUSLIMS and UNBELIEVERS (arne) ... ”
Abubakar Shekau - 2012

FAITH
In The Face
Of **Terror**

" I will not be like my
uncle to renounce Jesus,
I am not Judas; just kill me"
-7 year old
Bone Gedaidi



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<http://stephensng.org/newletters/escape-from-sambisa>

Also Inside

Escape
From
Sambisa

Christians
must
defend
themselves

CAN
President
visits
Stephen's
Children

The
Evolution
of Boko
Haram

Nomadic
Fulanis
Embrace
Christ

BY 2019,

THIS IS HOW ISLAM SEES YOUR WORLD



IT IS TIME TO WAKE UP SUPPORT

THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS BEFORE YOU BECOME ONE

FAITH IN THE FACE OF TERROR



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In a recent paper, Mr. Tony Blair, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, sets out seven principles of understanding what he believes should underpin a comprehensive strategy to counter religious extremism:

1. What is happening in Syria, Iraq, and across the Middle East; and what is happening in Pakistan, Nigeria, Mali, or in parts of Russia or in the Xinjiang province of China or in multiple other parts of the globe, are linked. Therefore, there must be a comprehensive united response to tackle the problem.

2. The problem is getting worse, not better.

3. The Challenge is a Spectrum not Simply a Fringe. The problem is that we're facing a spectrum of opinion based on a world view which stretches far further into parts of Muslim society.

4. Fight the Fringe; Speak Out against the Spectrum. The fringe and the spectrum require different strategies. Here are certain guiding principles of analysis when devising the means of doing so. The first is that it is hard to envisage compromise with such people. They have no reasonable demands upon which we can negotiate. The second is that the moment they cease to be fought against they grow; and fast. The third is that whilst terror is upright and busy, it is impossible for any country to solve its everyday challenges and embrace with confidence the future. Fourth and hardest of all, because the enemy we're fighting is fanatical, because they are prepared both to kill and to die there is no solution that doesn't involve force applied with a willingness to take casualties in carrying the fight through to the end.

5. Support Modern-minded Muslim Opinion. They Are Our Allies.

6. East and West Should Work Together. The extremism and its attendant ideology have caused serious attacks and terror in both Russia and China to say nothing of course of India.

7. Education is a Security Issue. They teach a view of the world that warps young and unformed minds, and places them in a position of tension with those who think differently. If we do not tackle this question with the honesty and openness it demands, then all the security measures and all the fighting will count for nothing.

The core of the views of Mr. Blair is that the world is facing a global, intentional, well coordinated, ruthless and destructive ideology that is manipulating religion as its rallying force.

The unfortunate aspect of this ideological war on the world, is that its main target is the church of Jesus Christ. Islamists have demonstrated again, and again, that they have a pathological hatred for Christianity.

The bottom line is that the global church should brace itself for some stormy wind and gird up its loins to run into the "shadow of the Almighty." This is not the time to indulge in the "middle of the road" Christianity. The present challenges on the faith of Christians is calling believers to either be "hot or cold".

Unity of the church has become imperative and a goal to be pursued by every Christian. In addition to prayers, the number one ingredient that will enable Christians to overcome global terrorism is the unity of the church at whatever location it is. There must be deliberate efforts to break down every known denominational and ministry barrier that hinders believers from interacting as members of the global body of Christ. It is this unity that will propel effective prayers and support for Christians in persecuted areas of the world.

Until Christians see the terror attacks as a malignant horror unleashed upon the body of Christ worldwide, the church will not rise in oneness of spirit to mobilize support and succor for persecuted Christians. Every Christian must be aware that each day the Islamic terrorists spend in destroying one Christian community signals danger for Christians in the next community.

From a secular perspective, Mr. Blair advocates that nations of the world, long in hostility against each other must begin to close ranks and mend fences in order to confront the Islamic terrorists. How much more true is this counsel for the church! It is time for Nigerian Christians to see the persecutions of our brethren in the North as a collective threat to our faith. It is time to unite and pray together. It is time to raise our voices and speak as one.

As you go through this 4th edition of **Martyrs CRY!**, we pray that you shall be sufficiently challenged by the faith of our persecuted brethren to renew commitment to the unity and oneness of the body of Christ.

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

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Hannatu Thomas

Not Real Name

Hannatu boarded a commercial bus at Tashan Bama in Maiduguri on 15th May, 2013 on a journey that would end as a disaster. There were five other men in the vehicle when it took off from the transport terminal and she was the only female passenger.

When the commuters reached Bama Local Government, around Firgi area in Borno State, they were accosted by a band of Boko Haram terrorists. The terrorists were heavily armed and they easily took control of the vehicle and all the passengers. They took the people they had taken captive to their camp at the Sambisa Games Reserve.

The moment they arrived at the camp, right in the presence of Hannatu, all the five men in the vehicle were slaughtered like lambs. They were laid on the ground and their throats were slit. The Jihadists slaughtered the five men in cold blood without any iota of human compassion.

Hannatu was held captive in the camp for twelve days. During the period that she was there, she counted over 50 people that the Muslim Jihadists slaughtered in like manner like lambs.

Escape From Sambisa

Held captive for 12 days in Boko Haram
Camp at Sambisa Game Reserve.
15th—26th May, 2013

Whenever fresh captives arrived, the Islamic terrorists would proceed to ascertain their religion. Once a person is confirmed to be a Christian, he would be slaughtered while a Muslim would be spared, momentarily. After sparing the life of the Muslim, he would be asked to join the band of terrorists. If he agreed, he would live, but if he refused he would also be slain.

The Escape

On 26th May, 2013, it would seem that heaven smiled upon Hannatu and an opportunity emerged that enabled her to escape.

On this day, the terrorists had moved a little distance away from the camp to service their weapons as well as train the new recruits. Hannatu was already contemplating how she could escape because she had seen that female captives were also not spared the death treatment.

The terrorists had earlier informed her to prepare for her conversion to Islam the following morning. If she should refuse, the consequence would have been instant death.

When the terrorists were no longer in the camp, a young man, one of the captives waiting to be killed, summoned courage and jumped into one of the vehicles of the terrorists that had a key in the ignition. He started the vehicle and as he was about to speed out of the camp, Hannatu and six other young men scrambled into the vehicle to escape with him. When the terrorists saw from a distance what was happening, they pursued the freedom seekers and succeeded in shooting and killing most of the escapees. By a stroke of divine intervention, Hannatu and the young man who led the dash for freedom escaped. They abandoned the vehicle and ran into the bush. They were later to trek for over 62 kilometers before they could get to safety.

Escape From Gwoza Hills

Captive for 2 months
12th July, 2013—13th September 2013

Shetu was abducted by the Muslim insurgents early July 2013 and was in their custody for two months before her escape in September 2013, by the grace of God.

Fortunately, the terrorists did not sexually abuse her as she was being groomed to marry the leader of the insurgents junior brother. However, she was beaten, almost to the point of death, in their attempt to convert her to Islam. She was forced to wear the “hijab” as they kept on the move from one location to another atop the mountains of Gwoza.

Since she was being groomed to be the wife of the junior brother of their leader, she was given the privilege to accompany them on their raids. She accompanied the terrorists on their attack against the Gwoza Police Station. Her assignment was to carry the bullets the terrorists used in the attack.

It was on one of the trips that she managed to slip away from the band of terrorists.

Immediately it was discovered that she had escaped, the terrorists attacked her village and burnt her parents house as well as many houses in retaliation. They also killed two people in revenge.

Shetu never really believed that she could escape from the terrorists until she arrived safely in Abuja.



Shetu Dogo

Not Real Name

ESCAPE FROM GWOZA

Held Captive for 22 days in Boko Haram Camp at Gwoza Hills
30th Sept.—20th Oct. 2013

Around 8 p.m. on 30th September, 2013, heavily armed Boko Haram insurgents broke into the house where Halima was staying with her brother. They broke into her brother's room and shot him dead.

The insurgents dragged his wife outside and rounded up all women in the house and carried them away as captives.

When they reached their camp, Halima was compelled to become a Muslim and they changed her name to Maryam. She was later forcefully taken to the Emir, the leader of the camp, whose name was given as Ibrahim Tada Nglayire.

The Emir forcefully married her off to one of the insurgents called Abdul.

While in their captivity, she learnt that the insurgents got most of their funding from Arab nations. They mentioned nations like Iraq, Libya, etc. They also mentioned some local sponsors like the head of Ngoshe, District Head of Barawa and members of the Borno State House of Assembly. A particular name she could recall was one Babawo.

On 20th October, 2013, while the insurgents were out of the camp, the wife of the leader of the insurgents brought the women out to chat with them and Halima seized the opportunity and fled. She was able to make a successful escape.



Halima Rabi

Not Real Name

ESCAPE FROM GWOZA

Captive for 22 Days by Boko Haram at Gwoza
30th Sept.—20th Oct. 2013



Fatu Bello

Not Real Name

Fatu was kidnapped by Boko Haram Islamic insurgents on 30th September 2013. She and other women that also were taken captive were taken to their camp.

The leader of the raiding group took Fatu to the leader of the insurgents in the camp. He was called their Emir by the name he was called was Ibrahim Tada Nglayire. When the Emir saw Fatu, he immediately ordered that she should be converted to Islam, and he gave her a husband at the same time.

During the night, the “husband” came to sexually molest Fatu and she refused. When she persisted in her refusal, he brought out a knife and threatened to kill her if she should refuse him again. Eventually, he left without molesting her when he discovered that she was in her monthly period.

The insurgents normally spoke Kanuri, Arabic and Hausa languages interchangeably. They spoke much about their sponsors and supporters like District Head of Ngoshe, Hon. Babawo and District Head of Barawa, Musa Tada.

Most prominent in their conversations, apart from praising their sponsors, is their hatred for President Jonathan because he is a pagan and he sent the army to kill them.

Fatu was able to escape when she tactfully dropped her shoes at the entrance of the door. She then pretended that she was going to the toilet and from there fled. She went through many challenges in the bush, but God granted her grace and she made it to safety.

ESCAPE FROM SAMBISA

Held Captive for 22 Days by Boko Haram at Gwoza Hills
30th Sept.—20th Oct. 201

Esther was captured from her home on 28th September, 2013 by the Boko Haram insurgents. They stormed the house and asked for their names. When they discovered that they are Christians, they took Hannatu and went away with her.

They trekked uphill for 2 days till they reached a village called Kwatara. From the village, they trekked additional eight hours before they reached a cave on the top of Mandara mountains. They remained on top of the mountain for another two weeks before they proceeded to another location.

Esther was forcefully converted to Islam and was given a Muslim name called Hasiya. She was also forcefully married off, at 15 years, to a heavily bearded insurgent. He molested the young girl while pointing a gun at her. She later managed to escape from the captivity.



Esther Medugu

Not Real Name

ESCAPE FROM SAMBISA

Held Captive for 5 days by Boko Haram at Gwoza Hills
19th Nov.—23rd Nov. 2013

Jummai was accosted by the Boko Haram insurgents around the Cameroon border. Immediately they pounced on her and started beating her. One of them tore her shawl and used it to tie her hands behind her back and beat her with plastic pipe. Not content with that, they tied her with a rope and dragged her on the ground like an animal. After torturing her, she was taken to the mountains where they had to trek throughout the night until they reached a village called Hraza. It was in one of the caves in the mountains that she was forced to convert to Islam. Jummai recounted that she “sorrowfully” recited the Quranic verses when they placed a knife on her throat.

In the few days that she spent on the camp, before her escape, she saw a man called Mallam, who apparently was the overall ruler of the group. He rarely came out during the day neither was he following them for “operations”, but he gave the orders and his instructions were final.

On 21st November, 2013, the overall Mallam, came out between 5—6 p.m. and went round the camp. He was accompanied by Ibrahim who was referred to as the Emir, followed by operational commanders, and by over 80 armed insurgents walking behind them.

From the little she overheard while she was at the camp, she discovered that late Muammar Ghadafi was one of their sponsors, before he died. Weapons were supplied to them through Chad and herdsmen from Niger Republic. Much of their funding comes from Afghanistan and Iraq.

The insurgents were always grateful to the Arab countries. However, most of the people that sponsor them, particularly in Nigeria, kept their identities secret.

Most of the people that sponsored them were disguised. She was able to escape from the camp on 23rd November, 2013.



Jummai Ali

Not Real Name

ESCAPE FROM SAMBISA

Held Captive By Boko Haram in Damboa Forest For 9 Months
6th January - 1st October, 2014

Elisha Tanko

I am from Gwoza in southern Borno. My parents are also from Gwoza. I was travelling from Gwoza to Maiduguri on 6th January, 2014, when we were stopped by a band of Boko Haram terrorists. We were a short distance from Bama when they stopped us. They mounted a road block and were armed with guns.

There were 7 of us in the vehicle. Immediately we saw them, the other passengers took off and ran away. I also tried to escape but I was caught with another man. The two of us were captured and interrogated. We confirmed that we are Christians.



One of them asked me, “do you pray?”

I replied that I do pray. Then he asked me again,

“Will you like to become a Muslim?”

“Who is a Muslim?”

“Muslims are the people following the good religion so that they can enter paradise”, he answered.

I answered, “I want to follow God and enter paradise.”

When I said that, they thought I had accepted Islam. I think that is why they did not kill me.

They further told me that a Muslim without knowledge is not a Muslim, so they will teach me about the religion.

The other man happens to be a pastor from Ondo state.

TRANSFER TO DAMBOA

They first took us to Sambisa and they started teaching us about Islam. After a while, they felt that if we continued to stay in Sambisa, we might escape, so they transferred us to another camp at Damboa forest. We spent more time there and we stayed under a tree. In the morning, they used to send someone to teach us Koran in various languages — English, Hausa, and Arabic.

Even though we were left in the open, we were heavily guarded and constantly being watched. However, since they were not with us all the time, the pastor and I spent our free time to pray. We engaged in lot of prayers and fasting and prayers during the night. Praying during the night was easy since fear and anxiety did not permit us to sleep well.

ESCAPE

Our escape was as a result of our prayers. There was a heavy rainfall on 1st of October and we have noticed that they are unable to move around with their vehicles after a heavy downpour. The pastor and myself escaped through the bush and we spent three days trekking without food. We saw a man after three days near a village and he gave us some food and water. He also gave us directions on how to get to Damaturu. From there, after a lot of difficulties, we got to safety.

I give glory to God for my escape from Boko Haram and now that I am free, I want to continue my education but I need assistance.

C.A.N. PRESIDENT VISITS SONS OF THE MARTYRS

It was an emotion laden ceremony on Wednesday 23rd July, 2014, when the President of Christian Association of Nigeria, His Eminence, Pastor Ayo Oritsejafor visited the Stephens Children Home in Abeokuta to witness the graduation ceremony of the students passing out of the school. In the company of the president were, His Grace, Archbishop Magnus Atilade, the Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, South West, His Royal Highness, Oba Dokun Thompson from Eti—Oni in Osun State, the Ogun State Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, Rev. Timothy Ajibola, and a host of other leaders in the church. The Ogun State Governor who was out of the country as of the time of the ceremony, was represented by the Secretary to the Ogun State Government.

Upon seeing the children of the martyrs and the widows who travelled all the way from the North to Ogun State to witness the graduation of their children, the President of CAN wept openly. The program was filled with many eyes that shed tears. In his personal capacity, the president of CAN donated N1m to the Stephens Children Home for the upkeep of the children.

The Stephens Children Home started in 2000 after the Kaduna riots with eight children whose fathers were killed by the Muslims. Presently, it has close to 450 children who have lost either one or both parents in the various attacks on Christians in the North. The school offers full free boarding facilities for children from crèche to Senior Secondary School. Some of the students of the Stephens Children Home are now in the Universities.

Much of the funding to run the Home has been coming from Christians in Canada, USA, Australia, Holland, New Zeland, Poland, and so on. It is only of recent that the Home is beginning to witness the support of Nigerian Christians and the Nigerian church.

The Nigerian church has been challenged to come forth and take over the responsibility of taking care of the brethren affected by the Islamic attacks on Christians in the North. It is heart warming that the Nigerian church is beginning to respond positively.





THE EVOLUTION OF BOKO HARAM (1)

By Opeyemi Agbaje



Muhammed Yusuf, founder of “Boko Haram” (BH) was a devout student and follower of Sheik Jafar Mohammed, a notable and influential Islamic scholar before he encountered a radical ideology (modelled on the Afghan Taliban) which counselled a total boycott of democracy, government and Western education. Yusuf was attracted to this ‘pure’ form of Islam which led to a confrontation with his former mentor, who regarded such teachings as extremism, and who was later assassinated, probably by Yusuf’s followers in Kano in 2007. Shehu Sani claims that BH’s actual origin dates back to 1995 when it was called Sahaba and led by one Abubakar Lawan who later proceeded to the University of Medina for studies, paving way for Yusuf’s takeover. Some others trace the “Boko Haram” tendency to the Maitatsine group of the 1980’s. The group is however formally believed to have started in Maiduguri in 2002. The group’s formal name is Jama’u Ahlis Sunna Lidda’wati Wal-Jihad (People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet’s Teachings and Jihad) though observers nicknamed them “Boko Haram” (consistent with their teachings and conduct) which meant “western education is sacrilege/sin/forbidden”. They seek to abolish the secular Nigerian constitution in favour of an Islamic state, and want to establish a complete Sharia based state in the 19 Northern States and all over Nigeria. Sometimes known as “Yusuffiya” after its founder, BH also abhors banking, taxation and western jurisprudence/court systems and regarded the mixing of boys and girls in schools improper. Yusuf also rejected scientific explanations for natural phenomenon. It appears clear (and was recently admitted by the new leader, Imam Abubakar Shekau, a hard-line assistant of Yusuf now reportedly based in Qoundere, Cameroun) that the group’s membership include Chadians, Nigeriens, Cameroonians and other non-Nigerians and its organisational structure provided for “Amirs” in Chad and Niger!

Yusuf’s landlord and in-law, late Baba Fugu, allowed him to build a mosque in the railway quarters area of Maiduguri, and along with Shekau, Yusuf developed his “state-within-a-state”-including a cabinet, a ruling council (Shura Council), departments, brigade of guards, military wing (with the “armies” recruited from the large pool of “Almajiris”), Hisbah, a large farm and court with Yusuf as judge! As Yusuf’s empire expanded, there is little doubt that the security agencies and the Nigerian state were aware of these developments. But in its dysfunctional state, they either looked the other way, or when security warned their counsel was ignored! Yusuf’s message resonated with the large number of pious, poor, uneducated, unemployed and disaffected youth and even some undergraduates and University lecturers joined his ranks. As his influence expanded, Boko Haram became attractive to politicians

and soon was to form an “alliance” with the Borno State Government under Senator Ali Modu Sherriff who became governor in 2003. Sherriff appointed one of Yusuf’s associates, Alhaji Buji Foi as Commissioner for Religious Affairs and Water Resources and took the group under his wings, further expanding their influence and power and making Yusuf quite wealthy. There was a political and social context to all this. Modu Sherriff was an opposition ANPP governor who was ready to use any means possible to defend his power base from the marauding PDP. Sherriff and his fellow ANPP governors as well as their presidential candidate, then Muhammadu Buhari had championed what Obasanjo called “political Sharia” to insulate themselves from the ruling PDP onslaught. BH expanded to Bauchi, Yobe, Kano and other Northern States, and quite plausibly helped ANPP sustain their holds on Borno and

Boko Haram’s actual origin dates back to 1995 when it was called Sahaba and led by one Abubakar Lawan who later proceeded to the University of Medina for studies, paving way for Yusuf’s takeover.

Yobe and to capture Bauchi and Kano from the PDP. Then Sherriff and Yusuf fell apart! Knowing the power of his Frankenstein creation, Sherriff (and Isa Yuguda who having secured power on the ANPP platform had headed back to PDP) launched a “pre-emptive” (in Yuguda’s words) strike against BH between July 26 and 29, 2009 routing the group in Bauchi, Maiduguri, Yobe and Kano States... or so it then seemed! It was convenient to all concerned to kill Yusuf, Boi and Baba Fugu! Meanwhile, the political environment was changing in favour of BH’s narrative! President Yar’adua who gave the order to crush BH died and Northern politicians, Imams, Emirs, and elite appeared unhappy that his Vice-President, Jonathan, a Southern Christian would take-over from him. To make things worse, Jonathan proceeded to contest and win the 2011 elections against Northern threats and intimidation.

BH duly underwent a transformation. To provide troops, jail breaks were organized-on September 8, 2010 from Bauchi Prisons; and Yola Prisons on April 22, 2011-where detained members were freed. A transition in terms of funding, logistics, training, operational capabilities, intelligence and audacity was also evident. How and who oversaw these transformations? At the latest, by January 2010 when BH launched its Jihad with its first terrorist attack in Maiduguri, it may have been linked with Al Qaeda as recently confirmed by the Nigerian foreign minister. From ride-by shootings on “okadas” in Maiduguri and environs, they graduated to audacious attacks on police headquarters in Abuja; and the Christmas day bombing of the St. Theresa’s Catholic Church in Madalla, Niger State! Suicide bombings also came into the mix!

The suspicious circumstances of the “escape” of Kabiru “Sokoto” (of Biu), the alleged Madalla bomber in the custody of Zakari Biu confirms that BH may have links high up in the police, security agencies, traditional and religious establishment, and political and elite circles.

BOKO HARAM ATTACKS ON THE CHIBOK CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

First attack: 8th April, 2014

Islamic insurgents numbering around 120 invaded Takulashi Village, in Chibok Local Government chanting “Allahu Akbar”. They started shooting indiscriminately at anyone that they saw. They killed 12 people and left 24 others with terrible gunshot wounds. The survivors reported that the militants openly shouted that “we are here because you are the only Christian community that is left in Borno state. We will make sure that you do not exist any more”.

A woman who survived the attack because she hid said the insurgents shouted that they will return and attack Chibok again.

After killing and maiming the residents of Takulashi, the Muslim insurgents proceeded to raid the homes of Christians and made away with their properties, foods and valuable items that they could find.

Throughout the period of the attack, there was no intervention from any government security personnel.

Second attack: 14th April, 2014

Barely a week after the first attack, a larger group of Muslim insurgents, numbering about 400 invaded Chibok Local Government again. They came with much confidence and jubilation chanting “Allahu Akbar”. They tactically broke into three groups.

The first group that comprised of insurgents wearing the uniform of the Nigerian Army went to the Government Secondary School, Chibok. When they arrived, they pretended that they were from the Federal Government sent to protect the students. After assembling over 270 of the girls, two of the insurgents, who spoke in Hausa and broken English confirmed that they were actually Boko Haram insurgents.

The spokesperson told the girls that they have been warned to abandon western education and since they refused to listen, they would now face the consequences.

He asked the girls to show them where the block making machine was located in the school. When none of the girls responded, he threatened to spray all the girls with bullets. Out of fear and terror, one of the girls volunteered the information that the machine was located outside the school compound along Mbalala village.

Subsequently, he pointed at 2 Muslim girls wearing a veil called “Himar” and asked them to go round the school premises and confirm that there are no more girls hiding anywhere in the school premises.

The insurgents then proceeded to the store of the school and packed all the foodstuff. They loaded all the trucks that they brought and sent for more trucks from Chibok town.



After raiding the food supply of the school, they started burning the administrative buildings, hostels, staff quarters and the school library.

While the school was on fire, they commanded the girls to enter the trucks. The girls initially refused, but when the insurgents pointed guns at the heads of the girls and one of them said, “whoever wants to die should stay, but anybody that wants to live should enter the truck”, about 200 of the girls entered the trucks.

The trucks could not contain all the girls so some of them ended up on the laps of their mates.

As they proceeded with the girls, they stopped in some villages along the way, one of the drivers, who happen to be a relative of one of the students, told the girls to jump out of the truck when it slowed down at rough portions of the road.

The other tactical group of the insurgents went to Chibok town and killed Christians in the town, burnt churches and looted properties. The survivors complained that to date, no one has paid any attention to the brutal murder of Christians in Chibok town. All the attention have been centred on the abducted girls.

Third attack: 14th June, 2014

A group of Muslim insurgents came on three motorcycles to Nchika village in Chibok Local Government on 14th June 2014, chanting “Allahu Akbar”. They wore the uniform of the Nigerian military and covered their faces with veils. They rode into the centre of the village and came suddenly on two young Christian men sitting under a tree. They interrogated the young men and discovered that they were Christians. When the two young men refused to renounce Christ and convert to Islam, they shot them dead.

After killing the two boys, they rounded up some women and informed them, “We are here to convert you to Islam.



Tell your husbands to convert to Islam or else, we shall return and destroy the whole village.” After they left, the villagers lodged complaint with the

security forces, but the military failed to come and protect them.

Some of the villager heeded the warning of the Muslim insurgents and ran away from the village but, majority of villagers lamented that how can they run away from their homes? They prayed and trusted the Lord to protect them.

Fourth Attack: 21st June, 2014

As they had earlier threatened on 14th June, one week later, the Muslim insurgents fulfilled their threat by invading 4 villages in Chibok. They came enmasse in three brand new Toyota Hilux pick-up vans and over 60 Bajaj motor cycles shooting in the air and chanting “Allhu Akbar”. They were over 300 in number. An eye witness who escaped with gun shot wounds said, they broke into four groups and attacked four villages. The villages were:

Nchiha (a & b)

Kworogilum (a & b)

The first group that went to Chiha (a) village killed 5 persons and wounded several others, mostly women and children. They burnt all their houses and looted the properties of the Christians.

The second group that went to Nchiha (b) started by attacking churches. They burnt a very large church to ashes and killed 5 Christians within the church building. They burnt the houses of Christians and threw children alive into the raging inferno. It was a sight too terrible to behold. They cursed the Christians and called them “infidels who refused to worship Allah”.

The third group which headed for Kworogilum (a) had an encounter with brave Christians who refused to renounce Christ and worship Allah. They caught 5 youths on the way to the village and gave them an option of denying their faith and converting to Islam. If they would convert to Islam, the Muslim insurgents promised to spare their lives.

The young men responded in unison, “we will never deny Christ”. In demonic rage, the insurgents beheaded 4 of the young men. The fifth young man was able to slip out of their hands and ran away. They pursued him but he was able to escape. In vengeance, they pounced on the village and killed 8 people while screaming that “whosoever does not join in fighting Jihad will be killed”. They set nearly all the houses on fire and left.

The last group invaded Kworogilum “b” and massacred the Christians mercilessly, according to an eye witness who saw

the tragedy while in hiding. He stated that most of the insurgents were speaking the Kanuri language and heard them interrogating the Christians that why should they be calling “Jesus the Son of God”.

“Is God married?”, they queried. One young Christian boldly replied them that God can do everything. In apparent rage at his answer, they shot instantly 6 people, looted the properties of the Muslims and set the houses in the village on fire.

Fifth Attack: 29th June, 2014

The Muslim insurgents came en masse on Sunday morning when the Christians would be in church worshipping. According to eyewitness report, there were over 400 of them riding in Nigerian military Toyota Hilux vans.

The villages that they attacked included: Kautikari, Ngorodina, Kwada, Kautikari, and so on. They swarmed on the villages chanting “Allahu Akbar” and went straight for the churches where the Christians were worshipping. They shot heavily and indiscriminately at the Christian worshippers.

The Jihadists killed 42 Christians worshipping in the church, they pursued and caught another 18 Christians who were attempting to escape and slaughtered all the 18 with knives like rams. Another set of 13 Christians were pursued with motorcycles and shot dead in the head. They killed over 73 Christians directly. The death toll continued to rise due to the death of many others who sustained various gunshot injuries and died in the bush. The Muslim Insurgents kept moving from house to house looting the properties of the Christians and setting their houses on fire.

During the invasion, they caught a pastor inside the church and dragged him out. The insurgents commanded him to condemn Christianity as an evil religion and renounce his faith in Jesus Christ. The pastor boldly answered, “how can I do that? Christianity remains the best religion.”

The insurgents placed a gun on his head and shot him dead. After they had killed him, they proceeded to cut his body into pieces, calling him “big infidel”.

According to the eyewitness, the pastor was repeating the name of Jesus as he was about to die.



Boko Haram Attacks On Gwoza Local Government, Borno State

Pulka village in Gwoza Local Govt., Borno State
20th Sept. 2013
10.00 a.m.— 3.00 p.m.

A group of Boko Haram Muslim insurgents, numbering over 50, attacked Pulka village and concentrated on the area where Christians were mostly populated. They divided themselves into four groups and started shooting the Christians. One group went to Kiva ward and started setting the houses of Christians on fire while at the same time, shooting the Christians. They killed 7 Christians and inflicted serious injuries on many others. The survivors were rushed to Busra Nursing Home, Pulka, in Gwoza Local Government. Among the survivors were:
KATALE DUGJE (35yrs) - He had gun shot wound on the right elbow.
MICHAEL DENIS (25yrs) - He was stabbed and had a cut on the neck.
GABRIEL KAMBA (32yrs) - He had dislocation on the right knee.
PETER TADA (28yrs) - He was shot on the right thigh.
SIMON KAMBA (34yrs) - A deep machete cut was inflicted on his head.
MARY YOHANNA (18 yrs) - She sustained a deep machete cut on the leg and upper limb.
KULKWA TADA (50yrs) - He had a sprain and a dislocation with deep machete cut on the knee.
DABAWA K. TADA (20yrs) - Compound fracture of the tibia.

BOXING DAY ATTACK

Majuwane and Kiva Villages in Gwoza LGA, Borno State
26th December, 2013
11.30 p.m.

On this night of Christian festivity, about 40 murderous Muslim fanatics stormed the village of Kiva, chanting their notorious hellish slogan “Allahu Akbar”.

At the same time, another band of 12 Muslim killers attacked another Christian community in Majuwane, Kiya, and some part of Bokko, setting the houses on fire. It was like a scene right out of hell. In addition to torching private homes, they also burnt primary school buildings and stole over 80 cows belonging to the Christians.

In exasperation, the community formed a posse to pursue the murderous bandit Muslims. Unfortunately, the Boko Haram insurgents laid an ambush for the villagers and many of them were killed.

Some of the survivors are:

Musa Kamba — 28 years. He sustained deep machete cuts on his body.



Yakubu Adamu—28 years. He sustained gun shot injury.
Kolmon Simon Manye—20 years. Sustained fire burns on his upper arm.
Ibrahim Bala—22 years. He had burns also on his arm.
John Ashifa—20 years. He had deep machete cuts on his body.
All the injured persons were rushed to a Nursing Home in Gwoza Local Government for treatments, while the more serious cases were referred to the intensive care unit in the Teaching Hospital.

DEADLY NIGHT ATTACK

Bokko, Igadala, and parts of Pulka village in Gwoza Local Government.

29th December, 2013
9.30 a.m.—12.00 noon

Three days after the deadly attack on Majuwane and Kiva villages, another band of murderous Muslims attacked the Christian communities Bokko, Igadala, and some parts of Pulka. They started their habits of destruction around 9.30 a.m. and ended it around 12 noon.

By the time the attacks ended, they had murdered many Christians, burnt over 100 houses, destroyed foodstuffs that they could not carry away, burnt all the vehicles that could see and still succeeded in stealing 50 cows and other domestic animals that belonged to the Christians.

As a result of the attack, many of the people were murdered by the Jihadists and the following survivors were rushed to a nursing home, in Gwoza Local Government. ROBECA BITRUS (19 Yrs) was cut deeply on the shoulder by the insurgents



Peter Kuvura—40 years. He sustained fractures on the left arm.

Peter Yaga—25 years. He also sustained fractures on the left arm.

Ibrahim Patrick—25 years. He sustained multiple cuts on the head and on the chest.

James Albert—25 years. He had fire burns on the neck.

Ezra Kamba—28 years. He sustained machete cuts on his shoulder.

BLOODY ATTACK ON CHRISTIANS

Ngoshe and Gavva (II) villages in Gwoza Local Govt., Borno State

4th November, 2013

8.30 p.m.— 4.00 a.m.

The insurgents angrily attacked the Christian communities, skipping the houses of Muslims. They were dressed in the uniform of the Nigerian military and were armed with dangerous weapons. As usual, they were loudly chanting “Allahu Akbar”. There were over 70 of the Muslim attackers. The Muslim insurgents burnt over 200 houses, killed 9 Christians and looted the properties of the Christians. In addition to the houses of the Christians that were burnt, every church building that was seen was also burnt down. The wounded were rushed to different hospitals in Cameroon while others were taken to the Busra Nursing Home in Pulka. Those taken to the Busra Nursing Home include:

Andara A. Zagi — Sustained a machete cut on the head.

Ishaya Jabuk Ndawaye — Had multiple cuts on the head and on the face.

Ayuba Hussa—Had multiple injuries on the shoulder and on the head.

Filiman Emthe—Had a cut on the right armpit.

Hamisu Gavva—Sustained dislocation of the knee



ATTACK ON ARBOKO VILLAGE, GWOZA LOCAL GOVT., BORNO STATE

25th November, 2013

7.40 a.m.

Arboko is one of the densely populated Christian communities in Gwoza Local Government. The Jihadists targeted the village early Sunday morning when the people were getting ready to attend church. The Christians successfully repelled the attack. Soon after, they returned in the night and surrounded the entire village. They were shooting indiscriminately and killed many of the Christians in the village. They burnt over 200 houses and inflicted serious injuries on many of the villagers.

Some of the wounded who were taken to a Nursing Home included the following:

Zakariya Bulama Musa—He was shot in the abdomen

Mathaie James Naghagiya—Had gun shot wound on the left knee

Bulama Ibrahim Aga—Had gunshot on the body.

BOKO HARAM KILLS 48 STUDENTS IN POTISKUM, YOBE STATE

Confirmed reports has pegged the current death toll of the suicide bomb attack on the government school in Potiskum in November 2014 at 48 with about 79 wounded at the moment. The gruesome event occurred in the early hours during the regular Monday morning assembly at the school. The students were waiting to be addressed by their principal at about 7.30 a.m. when the bomb exploded, killing and fatally wounding students on the

assembly queues.

It was reported that the suicide bomber was dressed as a student and the bomb was carried in a regular school bag, packed in order to make it hard for him to be detected or suspected while he joined the assembly. The wounded have been taken to a nearby hospital where they are currently receiving treatment.

The dead and wounded are between the ages of 11 and 20.





VOICE OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRS, NIGERIA

Medical Trip To Chibok: 17th—21st June, 2014

BURDEN BEARERS, ANGLICAN COMMUNION TO THE RESCUE

The medical arm of the Voice of Christian Martyrs, VOMEDICAL, visited Chibok community in Borno State, after the various attacks of Muslim insurgents on the Christians living in the area. The secondary school girls were abducted in April, 2014.

The team met the pastor of the EYN church in Chibok, as well as the local Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria in Chibok. The pastor informed the team, “two of my daughters are still missing. I have no hope in the government, but I am hoping and trusting in God.”

The head of VOMedical spoke directly with 68 parents whose daughters were still missing in the Sambisa Games Reserve. All the parents he spoke with are Christians. The parents were still emotionally distraught and many of them could hardly sleep since the abduction of the girls in April. Most of the men and women who were deprived of their children had developed high blood pressure. The parents blamed the State Government for its total neglect of Chibok community simply because the residents are mostly Christians. They also condemned the inactivity of the Federal Government and its failure to rescue the girls. They urged Christians worldwide not to relent in prayers for them and for the safety of the abducted girls. Due to the risk of another attack by the rampaging Muslims, most of the people no longer sleep at home at night; the villagers, including the pastor, spend the night in the bush.

ESCAPEES

30 of the girls that were able to escape from the Boko Haram camp at Sambisa Games Reserve shared with VOMedical a compelling testimony of how they escaped and the challenges that they faced before they could reach safety. Most of the young girls confessed that they have nightmares about the deadly occurrence. Some are still nursing injuries sustained as they jumped from the moving trucks that was conveying them to Sambisa. The escapees were in two categories. Some jumped down from the truck and escaped while another set escaped from Sambisa.

It was decided that it was not safe for the young girls to remain in Chibok. They prefer to relocate to a safer region where they could continue their education since all the girls are under 19 years.

The Christians in Chibok lamented that even though the Federal Government made many promises to them, none has been fulfilled.

The elders in the community analyzed the problems of the community as follows:

Relocation of Affected Families: The entire community in Chibok are no longer safe. Since the abduction, there has been consistent attacks on the Christians in the area. The federal security forces have not been able to provide adequate security, prompting the community to arrange a vigilante group for its protection. The people insisted that even if all the community cannot be relocated, the families of the girls that escaped from Boko Haram should be relocated.

Education of their children: Majority of the residents in Chibok complained bitterly about the education of their children. Following the abduction, most of the children have stayed away from schools. Hundreds of the children now sit at home without going to school. It has become very difficult for the people to send their children to school in the area. They were of the opinion that schools should be arranged for their children in Taraba state.

Food Relief Materials: The Christians lamented that none of the Federal and State governments' relief agency sent any food or relief materials to Chibok, because it is a Christian community. The marauding Muslim band destroyed the houses and their food stuff. This is after they had stolen what they could carry. The people in Chibok require emergency food relief.

Medical Needs: As a result of the constant attack by the Muslims on the Chibok Community, many of the Christians have sustained various forms of injuries. Due to inadequate medical attention, many of the wounded people died in the hospital, as a result of the stress and the tension caused by the Islamic invasion.

ATTAGARA Village: After departing from Chibok, the VOMedical team headed for Attagara village and met many Christians requiring medical treatment. The team met over thirty Christians who expressed their gratitude for the gift of foods and money from Voice of Christian Martyrs. They acknowledged that the gifts came when they were in desperate need.

“Two of my daughters are still missing. I have no hope in the government, but I am hoping and trusting in God.”
- Pastor, Chibok

MICHIKA: The team met 16 victims with various medical needs. So many of the Christians that the VOMedical team met have become refugees. Members of the VOMedical were not able to reach the base of over 500 displaced Christians from Gwoza Local Government who were taking refuge in Adamawa state. According to reports from other Christians in the area, the displaced Christians were without food and accommodation. Some escaped bare foot with nothing in their hands. It was a sad case.

Some of the refugees they met in Michika, still maintained their resolve to follow Christ irrespective of the persecution that they go through.

MARARABA and MUBI: The VOMedical team met over 100 refugees who had no place to sleep. The team saw 14 people sleeping in one room, while another group had two rooms that was occupied by 22 people. One Christian brother stated that he sleeps in a dilapidated toilet anytime it rained at night. If it did not rain, he would sleep under the stars.

Some members of the VOMedical team broke down emotionally when they saw the scene.

RELIEF: After reporting the humanitarian needs that they had seen, the National Director of Voice of Christian Martyrs immediately sent one million naira to purchase food stuff and meet other needs of the displaced Christians starting from Chibok.

The one million naira sent to Chibok was taken from the

over three million naira (N3m), donated by the Burden Bearers of the Anglican Communion, Lagos Diocese, to meet the needs of persecuted Christians in northern Nigeria. The affected communities received the gifts with gratitude and acknowledged that as of the time it was presented, Voice of Christian Martyrs was the only mission that has come to help them.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria, wishes to thank all our donors and supporters worldwide. Of particular mention are:

- VOM United States of America
- VOM Canada
- VOM Australia
- VOM New Zealand
- SDOK Holland

We also gratefully acknowledge the increasing support of the Nigerian Church and kind hearted individual Nigerian Christians too numerous to mention.

We also thank Foursquare Gospel Church, New Covenant Church, Nigeria, RCCG, etc.
God bless you all.



Building project at the Stephens Children Home supported by SDOK Holland and Victoria Fellowship Church, Lekki, Lagos



Faith in the face of TERROR

ATTACKS ON ATTAGARA, GWOZA L/G



Ibrahim Musa

This little boy was returning from church, still singing Christian songs when the insurgents suddenly surrounded him. His mother and three of his brothers were able to escape through the backyard door.

Before Ibrahim could escape, the insurgents shot him. After shooting the helpless child, they deliberately inflicted on him machete cuts on his hand, back and leg. His head was brutally cut, that his brain was exposed. Then they dragged him away and dumped him into a bush. Everybody thought that he was dead when he could not be found for 5 days. Even his mother had given up hope that he survived the attack. To the glory of God, the young child was found after 5 days, by a group of women who were looking for corpses in the bush. He was immediately rushed to a hospital in Koza and miraculously, he survived.

Bala Danasabe

The 29 year old young man prepared for church on 15th June, 2014 and picked his friend and together rode a motorcycle to church. They were accosted by a group of Muslim Jihadists at a road junction.

As they tried to escape, the Jihadists descended on them with cutlasses, sticks and daggers. They were brutally attacked but miraculously, they escaped being killed.



Nuhu Tsoken

Nuhu is 20 years, and a member of ECWA. As he prepared for church on Sunday morning, he heard gunshots. As he came out to see what was happening, he saw Muslim Jihadists running towards his house with guns and other dangerous weapons. As he was trying to escape, the Jihadists shot him in the stomach and his intestine spilled out. God sent help to him through another Christian that was equally fleeing when he saw him in his pool of blood and carried him to the hospital.

Richard J. Emmanuel

22 year old Richard had just finished taking a bath and was preparing for the Sunday worship service when he heard gun shots from the back of his house. Before he knew what was happening, his house had been surrounded by Jihadists and they were going to burn it down. As he fled, he was shot in the head and also sustained other forms of injury. He was able to escape, but the Jihadists succeeded in burning down his house.



Achani Joseph Elisha

The children of 50 year old Elisha Achani were on the way to church on Sunday 15th June, 2014 when they started hearing gunshots. As they stood perplexed, they saw a group of Muslims rushing towards them shouting "Allahu Akbar"

As all the children scattered and ran in different directions, one of them from hiding quickly called his father, who was going to the next village that the town was under attack.

He rushed back home in his car with the intention of rescuing his children. On getting home, he did not see any of them. As he came outside the house, a group of Muslim insurgents attacked him. They shot him and the bullet passed through his leg. With the deadly injury, he still managed to limp away to safety from where he found his way to Kwararafa Hospital and was later transferred to FMC hospital in Makurdi.

At the hospital, he was informed that the leg would have to be amputated, but he refused and chose to receive treatment from a traditional doctor.



SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria
wishes all our supporters and donors

A Merry Christmas

And

A Happy New Year

The Church of Jesus Christ shall triumph
over its enemies

FAITH IN THE FACE OF TERROR

Plateau State

33 year old Jacob Dauda from Rakun village in Barkin Ladi Local Government area of Plateau state, was working on his farm when he heard gunshots. Before he could run away, the Jihadists shot him. He fell down and pretended to be dead. They destroyed his crops and left him, thinking he was dead. As they left, they were chanting “Allah Akbar”. He lay there for some hours until some villagers came and took him to the hospital.



Jacob Mwannap is 35 year old from Madagariya, in Wase, Plateau state. He was at home on 25th August around 9.30 p.m. when he heard gunshots around his house. Before he knew what was happening, Fulani Jihadists had broken into his house and shot him on the thigh. When he fell to the ground and remained motionless, they assumed that they had killed him. They proceeded to search the house to see if there was anyone else there. After they left people who had ran away returned and took him to the hospital where he was given some treatment before he was taken to a hospital in Jos.



17 years old Nimjul Jacob from Wase/Langtang, was also at home on 4th September, 2014 when he heard gunshots in his neighborhood. As he ran out, he was shot. The bullet that was aimed for his head, hit his right shoulder. As he fell down, he dragged himself into a bush and hid. He came out of hiding when the Fulani Muslims had gone and went by himself to Daisyland hospital for treatment.



Samila Alapa, 28 years, was also at home on 4th September 2014 when the Fulani Muslims attacked Wase.

As he ran to escape, the Fulani Muslims shot him on the left thigh and the second bullet hit him on the left feet. He too, was one of the few that survived. He was later taken to a hospital for treatment.



Papka Dali is 68 year old from Mildiu, Adamawa state. He suffered an attack on 1st September 2014 at the hand of Boko Haram.

He went to the next street to charge the battery of his mobile phone when he saw children running down the street shouting that Boko Haram was attacking the town and everyone should run. The old man quickly mounted his motor cycle and fled. As he tried to get away from the area, bullets were rained on him and his motorcycle caught fire. He was also shot on the left shoulder and his arm went limp. Though blood was now gushing out of the gunshot wound, he fell from the motorcycle and was still able to disengage himself from the burning machine before he passed out. Some women rescued him and took him to a house because the Boko Haram insurgents blocked the road and prevented anyone from being taken to the hospital. The following day, neighbors managed to sneak him out to the hospital.



TRIBUTE

Sunday Luka fled from Gwoza in southern Borno to escape an attempt on his life by Boko Haram. He sought refuge in Mubi, Adamawa state with a friend who accommodated him for about three months.

Bro. Luka, who was over 60 years old left behind at home his wife and children looking for a better place so that the entire family could relocate in due course.

During the distribution of relief materials to persecuted Christians by the Voice of Christian Martyrs in Mubi on Saturday 21st September, 2013, Sunday was one of the beneficiaries of the food and cash items. Having received some support, he proceeded to quickly return home on Monday 23rd September and deliver the relief items to his family back home at Gwoza.

Unknowingly, Boko Haram members were looking out for him. The moment they learnt that he was in town, they invaded the house, trapped him inside and set the house on fire. Brother Sunday Luka suffocated to death when they burnt the house down.

May his soul rest in peace.

24.....Martyr's CRY



FAITH IN THE FACE OF TERROR

Bone Gedaidi—7 years

"I will not be like my uncle to renounce Jesus, I am not Judas; just kill me."

His uncle is 43 years old, a fine example of a politically correct Christian. His 7 year old nephew, taught him, and by extension every politically correct Christian, to take a stand for Christ even if it means death. As it turned out, Christ preserved the life of Bone Gedaidi. He was willing to lose his life, but he ended up saving it, according to the scriptures. His story is so amazing that his uncle learnt a lesson from the brave 7 year old child.

The Islamic insurgents caught 5 Christians on 3rd July, 2014 in Attagara village and gave them an option of either renouncing Christ or be killed. Bone and his uncle were also given the option of renouncing Christ and live.

Bone's uncle renounced Christ when he saw the brutality with which those who refused were killed. He silently whispered to Bone to do the same so that he could save his life. When the insurgents came to Bone and asked him if he was a Christian, the small boy replied:

"I will not be like my uncle to renounce Christ, I am not Judas; just kill me."

His bold response infuriated the Muslim insurgents so much that they took the young boy's hand and placed it on a piece of wood in order to hack it off. Bone fell down and went straight into a coma. Thinking he would die, they threw him into a ditch and left. He was later taken to the hospital. He survived.



Samuel— 30 years

On the 1st July, 2014, Samuel narrowly escaped death when Boko Haram attacked a church in Attagara village in Borno state. He was the sole survivor in an attack mounted on the church. There were 8 people in the church when the insurgents rained bullets on the worshippers and 7 of the Christians were killed. Samuel alone escaped.

He was still under great trauma when at home, another group of Muslim insurgents attacked him and his brother who was 18 years old. The Muslim insurgents, about 13 of them, surrounded Samuel and his brother at home and told them, "we know you are brave infidels, we will recruit you and your brother to join Boko Haram and fight for Allah".

"We will never renounce Christ", replied Samuel's brother.

"We shall never work for Allah", added Samuel.

These statements infuriated the insurgents and they attacked Samuel's younger brother. They neatly cut off his hand and threw it into the fire. Then proceed to cut his leg and the young man refused to renounce Christ. After cutting off his legs, they threw him into the fire.

After brutally killing the young man, they turned again to Samuel and gave him another chance to renounce Christ.

"I saw my brother roasting in fire but God gave me strength" he said.

Samuel pretended that he has given up and suddenly summoned strength and pushed the insurgent that was holding him and ran. The insurgents pursued him for many kilometers but could not catch up with him. He ran uphill and hid himself in a cave.

Unfortunately the experience traumatized him and he became paralyzed inside the cave. He was there for 2 days before he finally crawled downhill. He was brought to the hospital by a farmer who saw him.



OYEDEPO FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SONS OF THE MARTYRS



In addition to the material support for the Stephens Children Home, the Oyedepo Foundation also gave full academic scholarship to two of the students at the Stephens Children Home, Nanpal Kumzumwan and Esther Luka. The two students were given scholarship by the Oyedepo Foundation to study Microbiology at Landmark University, Omuaran, Kwara State.

Below is a short testimony from Esther Luka.

LUKA ESTHER NVOU

In 2001, a terrible disaster occurred in Plateau state. A religious crisis started when the Muslim Jihadists attacked the Christians. During the crisis, a lot of lives were lost which included my father's. It all started on 7th September, 2001. We were informed at home that the Muslim Jihadists had started a religious crisis and we should all escape to safety. My father evacuated us from the danger zone to a safe place.

The following day, on Saturday, my father heard that some of his friends were injured so he went out to help in the rescue efforts. He came back later that night with his clothes covered with the blood of the wounded people they were able to rescue.

On Sunday, he went out again to help the Christians who were affected in the crisis. That was the last time we saw him.

When a search was mobilized for him, his corpse was found in a drainage.

A friend whom he had earlier saved, was later to inform us that, on his way back home he was attacked by members of the Muslim rioters dressed in the uniform of the Nigerian Army. He was commanded to renounce Christ and live, but he refused. He informed them that he would rather die than renounce Christ., so the Muslims shot him in the head.

He was buried the following day, on 10th September 2001 when I was four years old. My mother now had to cater for four children.

One day, in 2004, I was in the primary school when my uncle came and took me to the Chairman of Christian Association of Nigeria, Plateau State. That was the first time I heard of Voice of Christian Martyrs and the Stephens Children Home, Abeokuta.

I was brought to Stephens Children Home for free education, free clothing, free accommodation and free feeding. I started from Primary 1 until I completed the Senior Secondary School, (SSS).

I must admit, that it was not easy for me then to adjust to the new environment, but by the grace of God, I was able to overcome the challenges. I have been greatly encouraged by the people who come to visit us and encourage us in so many ways.

After my secondary school, God performed another miracle for me. I was offered scholarship into the Landmark University to study Microbiology by a Christian Foundation, The David Oyedepo Foundation.

I really give God the glory for His mercy and kindness towards me and my family. I also wish to thank God for the Voice of Christian Martyrs, particularly, for the National Director who stood as a father for all the children here.

God bless you all.



I COMMIT TO GIVE

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 project, while at the same time, opportunity remains for those who might wish to make donations.

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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. Donors in foreign countries should kindly use the contacts below to reach us.

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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.

THE EVOLUTION OF BOKO HARAM (2)

By Opeyemi Agbaje

It seems Bauchi State Governor, Isa Yuguda was instrumental in persuading late President Yar'adua to curtail the menace of "Boko Haram". Yuguda having decamped from PDP to ANPP, duly won the governorship in 2007. He subsequently became Yar'adua's son-in-law, and returned to the PDP, possibly losing some political goodwill in the process. He may have dreaded returning to the electorate in 2011 with "Boko Haram" roaming free in Bauchi! I have previously noted that having fallen out with the sect, then Borno governor Modu Sherriff was also eager to see off Boko Haram. When security forces turned on "Boko Haram", between July 26 and 29, they responded in a surprising manner- in Maiduguri, they exacted "revenge" in a perverse manner by turning on the nearest Christians!

While under attack from the army and the police, Muhammed Yusuf ordered his followers to capture hundreds of Christians. The male captives had a simple choice- renounce your faith or die! For the females, it was renounce your faith or stay as captives, meaning slavery, servitude or worse! The worst treatment was reserved for Christian clergymen- three pastors were beheaded with the executioners shouting "Allah Akbar" in wild celebrations accompanied by celebratory gunfire. Pastor George Orjih of Goodnews Church, Wulari, Maiduguri was one of the three. Muhammed Yusuf personally urged him to renounce his faith and live, to which the Pastor rejected and instead, actually preached to Yusuf to accept the Christian salvation! Incensed, Yusuf ordered his immediate slaughter! Fortunately for most of the captives, the government prevailed in that confrontation and most of them were released after Yusuf's capture.

Once it launched its Jihad in 2010, Boko Haram has had four categories of targets—specific Islamic clerics who disagreed with its teachings or methods; government and security institutions and personnel; institutions which they considered abhorrent to Islam-particularly hotels and beer parlours; and Christians and/Churches. It is easy to understand why they would attack the first three groups-opposing Islamic clerics could potentially undermine their theology and legitimacy; government and security agencies had attacked and killed their leaders; the disdain Moslems are supposed to have for alcohol and prostitution is well-known. The resort to targeting Churches and Christians who till then had played no part whatsoever in this essentially intra-Muslim quarrel was inexplicable- the then president, governors of all states in which BH were attacked, the then National Security Adviser, etc., all being Muslims. The trend of BH attacking Churches and Christians has since accelerated, rather than declined, culminating in the Christmas Day 2010 attacks on Churches in Jos; 2011 bombing of the Madalla Church and killings in Yobe, Adamawa, Gombe, Borno, Bauchi, Niger and Plateau States.

As previously stated, one can observe a clear transition from BH when it was pre-occupied with local politics in the North-East and Kano, and the newer version which seems to have a national or even international agenda (evidenced by the attack on the UN headquarters). It is clear that BH has been influenced by Nigerian politics in general, and the North-South power struggle that ensued after Yar'adua's death in particular. Indeed, it is possible to interpret their January 2, 2012 ultimatum on Southerners to leave the North

in explicit political terms-perhaps an attempt to reverse the April 2011 scenario in which a Christian Southerner obtained twenty-five per cent of the votes or more in most Northern States! One could also draw a parallel between the objectives of this ultimatum and the post-election violence which erupted across Northern Nigeria last April. Northern politicians such as Adamu Ciroma, Lawal Kaita, Yahaya Kwande, Muhammadu Buhari and Atiku Abubakar had made statements which may have contributed towards creating an environment conducive to or indifferent to political violence. Changes in Boko Haram's methods and activities (such as suicide bombing) also suggest a link-up with Al Qaeda.

The body language of some Northern leaders (such as Borno elders who spoke out only whenever government took military action and the initially tepid response of the Northern establishment) while not establishing complicity with BH, indicated at least mixed emotions! The Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) very recently issued a shocking statement claiming falsely that BH's ultimatum was in response to an earlier one issued by the "South-South" in effect justifying same! The most blatant justification of BH has however been the one by CBN governor Sanusi Lamido who claimed to the

Financial Times, that the phenomenon was a consequence of divergent federal resource flows to the South-South and

North-East since 13 per cent derivations principle in

1999! Sanusi ignored any facts that contradicted his

logic-Cross-River and Edo States (both in South-South) which get next-to-nothing from derivation should then be consumed by terrorism; South-West and North-Central States who do not benefit from derivation haven't shown the same tendency; the South-East zone actually receives lower federal allocations than North-East; and how does Sanusi explain the pre-1999 religious riots in the North (when Northern States took the highest allocations based on population figures) including the Maitstine crisis, or the 1995 beheading of Gideon Akaluka in Kano?

I recommend that anyone interested in resolving the crisis of poverty, unemployment and ignorance in the North, should seek the solution in education, skills acquisition, focus on economic development and avoidance of extremist religious philosophy! The BH crisis has its roots in a dangerous combination of extremist religious ideology, abysmal social conditions and political brinkmanship!!!

Northern politicians such as Adamu Ciroma, Lawal Kaita, Yahaya Kwande, Muhammadu Buhari and Atiku Abubakar had made statements which may have contributed towards creating an environment conducive to or indifferent to political violence.



TRIBUTE

The father of a member of the Voice of Christian Martyrs team was killed by Boko Haram on 27th May, 2014

Mr Zaina Sakanama

Zaina came from a family of great magicians, who were also animists. He got converted to Christ after he escaped death from his uncles that wanted to inherit his father's wealth. He traveled to Northern Nigeria when he was very young and stayed in a community of Muslims and animists because there was no single Christian in the city, then. While he was deeply worshiping his idols, God converted him through the Missionaries that came to the land.

He received Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and God started using him to spread the Good News of the gospel. He was able to plant over 20 churches in the rural areas and raised several pastors and evangelists that went through the rural areas to evangelize the Muslims hostile to Christianity, mostly the KANURI and SHUWA ARABS.

One of the churches he planted was destroyed in the night by 10 volatile Muslims. Amazingly, 9 among the attackers died mysteriously after they returned to their houses and the tenth person was infected with leprosy, so he confessed.

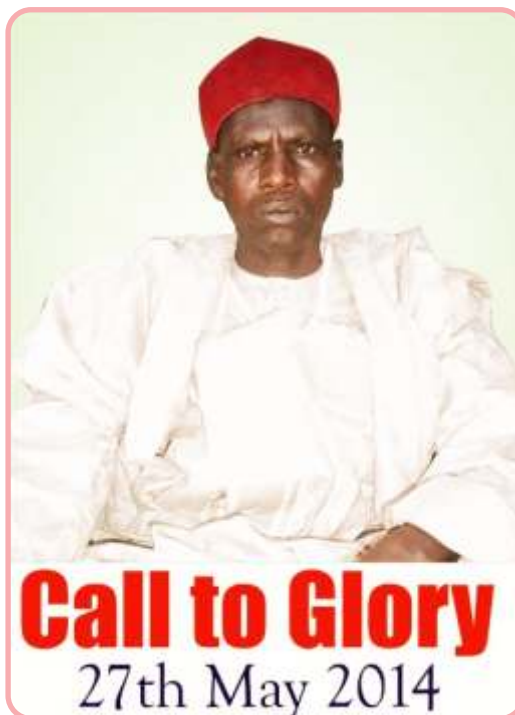
This story went round the community and it angered the Muslim clerics who started persecuting him. They started by collecting all his farmlands and they arrested him for building churches illegally but he was later set free. They forced his daughter to convert to Islam and married her to a Muslim without his consent, then they converted 3 of his children to Islam by violence, thereby tempting him to respond with the same violence. Out of the 9 children he had, 4 were converted to Islam by force. But one of his sons, Ibrahim, just 7 years old, refused to get converted to Islam; God used the boy to explain to a high Muslim cleric about salvation in Christ and the waywardness of Islam.

When they discovered God's power in Ibrahim, they put a chemical in his eyes in school and made him blind. After three days of blindness God stretched forth his healing hand and opened the eyes of the little boy. After regaining his sight, the boy began preaching the gospel, following Pastors to villages to show the JESUS film in Kanuri. He also converted his Muslims friends to Christianity secretly.

Zaina's family continued to face terrible persecutions from the Muslims, so he re-located his family back to his home in the village to ease the persecution. Nevertheless, Boko

Haram followed him, kidnapped his daughter who was returning from school and took her to SAMBISA forest where she saw over 50 people that were slain in her presence. The girl became insane as a result of the experience but God healed her. His son who was active in evangelism and serving the persecuted Christians also escaped death several times, and so he decided to move to a refugee camp in Cameroon after his village was displaced by Boko Haram. On 27th May 2014, the Boko Haram insurgents killed Zaina with a close range shot on his neck with AK 47. He died serving his people.

According to the man who was with him at the time of his death, they had crossed from the Cameroonian side where Zaina had fled to with his family, back to Nigeria to purchase foodstuff for the Christian refugees. As they entered Nigeria again, two young men on a motorcycle pounced on them. The Boko Haram members said, "we know your name, your family, and your son Ibrahim who helps the Christian religion, but all of you will see, unless you follow Islam". Then, the insurgents shot the 80 year old man in the neck. The companion was able to escape while attention was focused on Zaina.



May the Lord bless you as you pray for Ibrahim and his family.

CHRISTIANS MUST DEFEND THEMSELVES

Elder Samuel Biu is an 80 year old indigene of Southern Borno, a predominantly Christian area in the North East. In this short interview with Martyrs CRY!, he provides a deep insight into the religious crisis that is ravaging the North eastern zone of Nigeria.

How did we get to this point?

Persecution of Christians did not just commence in the North. It has always been there, even before the amalgamation of the two Protectorates. The early missionaries were equally persecuted and they did not find ministry work easy in the North. Even though there were no killings of the missionaries then, but they were denied land to build places of worship and efforts were consciously made to restrict their activities. It was part of the persecutions that led to the designation of certain areas as Sabon Gari, Christians were confined to specific areas and were restricted. Most of the early Christians in the North met in private homes; even till today, churches are still denied access to land to build places of worship.

Over the years, Christians would experience some peaceful respite and when they have developed and flourished, the Muslims would destroy their properties, destroy their lives and burn their places of worship. That has been the pattern in the North.

The attacks against Christians have taken place all over the North, from Kano to Yola, Maiduguri, and so on. I am sure you remember the era of Maitatsine? Now there is no Maitatsine, but we now have Boko Haram. Boko Haram started in Maiduguri and the State Government established Boko Haram, nurtured it and supplied the insurgents with arms and ammunitions. Now, Christians are murdered inside churches in Maiduguri.

Which Governor started Boko Haram?

It was Modu Sheriff. It was under him that Boko Haram was established. It is not a lie, it is the truth. You see, something is seriously wrong, because all this happened during the period when Obasanjo was the President. Mohammed Yussuf, the founder of Boko Haram was brought to Abuja several times for interrogation but he was released each time. This was very unfortunate.

32.....Martyr's CRY

Now, Modu Sheriff has left office but Boko Haram has continued unabated.

Initially, it was designed as a plot against the Christians but it has now gone out of hand. Three, four years ago, did you hear the Muslims complain about Boko Haram? No, they did not. Because then, Boko Haram was only killing Christians, and burning churches. The Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs did not say anything against Boko Haram.

But, now that the boys have gone out of control and they are killing Mallams and Imams and throwing bombs into markets and bus stops, and the bombs do not ask whether you are a Christian or Muslim, they are saying it is un-Islamic. Even now that Muslim leaders say Boko Haram is un-Islamic, what are they doing about it? They only condemn it but they are doing nothing about it.



I am from Southern Borno and I can tell you that Boko Haram goes from village to village and from house to house slaughtering Christians. Women are burying their dead husbands in large numbers. It is sad, very sad.

What is the situation now? It is terrible. They have almost sacked all the Local

Governments in Borno State. As I am talking to you, (August 2014) only three Local Governments are not under the control of Boko Haram.

What about Maiduguri city?

Is Maiduguri really safe? It is only the presence of the security forces that prevent Boko Haram from taking over the city. Pull out the army and the police out of Maiduguri, and the whole city will go on fire by Boko Haram.

They attacked a church in Maiduguri and forced people to convert to Islam. Those that refuse to convert were killed and the church was burnt. Around four weeks ago, big churches that used to sit 500—1000 worshippers were burnt to ashes. Now, the survivors worship under trees. In my own village, Christians do not sleep in the house again. Once it is 6pm, all the Christians will enter the bush for fear of the attacks by night. They sleep in the bush, without any cover from rain, snakes, or other dangerous animals. In the morning, they will return to their houses only to enter the bush again by 6pm. I am talking about my own village, not another one. What kind of life is that?

Where?

I am talking about Bui and Hawul Local Governments in southern Borno. The killings and maiming of people is concentrated in all of southern Borno. There are nine Local Governments in southern Borno where Christianity is very strong. Unfortunately, genocide is going on in the area.

The attack is not only religious, but it is also politically motivated because the Christians voted for Goodluck Jonathan. Therefore, the Muslims say, “kill them, so they will not vote again”.

The Christians are in the majority in southern Borno. What is going on is a deliberate plan to eliminate Christianity by destroying the minority groups in Borno state. You can call it ethnic or religious cleansing. It is part of the deliberate plan to destroy education so that everyone will become illiterate. Students are kidnapped and killed and girls have been abducted up till today.

Chibok is in southern Borno. There are nine local governments in southern Borno. They are Askira/Uba, Bayo, Chibok, Damboa, Gwoza, Biu, Hawul, Shani, and Kwaya Kusar. These are the local governments where the persecutions are going on daily.

Have the girls abducted in Chibok been located?

My friend, people do not seem to understand the secrecy of the abduction of the Chibok girls. If people carefully compare the statements of the state government, the Minister of Education, the statement of the Principal of the college, they will understand that the state government must be behind the abduction of these girls.

The Minister of Education argued that the WAEC examination should not take place in Chibok because of insecurity. The state government said it must take place in Chibok. In a Local Government in which there are only 10 policemen, what can they do when Boko Haram arrives in hundreds with machine guns and AK 47?

We believe that the girls were abducted with the knowledge of the state government and they know where they are keeping them. The women that were paraded were most likely not all the girls. These were Christian girls, how could they in a matter of days begin to recite Arabic?

The government needs to explain why Nigerian troops have

been sent to Mali to help Malians yet the same Nigerian army cannot rescue girls held captive in one local government. Hundreds of millions of Naira are being spent in the name of security yet there is no positive result on the ground. Some people somewhere are benefiting from this calamity.

My fear is that if Boko Haram is not stopped now, one day it would raise its flag over Aso Rock, then it would be too late for anyone to do anything about it.

They are operating like ISIS. Those ones have overran Iraq, and they are overrunning Syria. Hezbollah is doing the same in Lebanon. They all belong to the same group and they are linked. As they grow, they acquire more sophisticated weapons, more resources and at the same time are becoming more vicious.

If the Nigerian army can end a full scale civil war in the South East in 30 months, how come the same army cannot take care of a group of insurgents in one state? There is something definitely wrong somewhere. Jonathan is a good president, but he is a bad president in the time of war. If Boko Haram is not dismantled before the end of 2014, I am afraid something stronger than Boko Haram will emerge in 2015. May God deliver us.

What do you suggest should be done?

There are two things that can be done.

One is prayer, which is being done. However, prayer alone is not sufficient. Faith without works is useless. The Israelis are fighting for their lives. If we sit down here without fighting and only keep on praying, while people are being slaughtered, every body will be killed. Christians must demonstrate courage and fight. Christians have to decide to end this crisis. I believe that Christians must find avenues to come out and fight for their security, their land, and their religion. That is the only way. We have reached the point that Christians must come out, raise funds and acquire arms to defend themselves. This is the only way.

It is naïve for Christians to fold their hands. Let us begin to protect ourselves. Christians should arm themselves, since it is clear that the government has failed.

If government is sincere in this affair, let them send intelligence agents into the villages and pick those committing these atrocities. Government must also fish out the financiers of Boko Haram. The government cannot say that in five years, it has not been able to ascertain the trouble makers in my area. In my area, we do not report to the police or the army anymore.

For the past two years, I have not even seen policemen in my village and I am on the high way. I challenge anybody to show me one police officer there. There is none.

Even if you give quality information to the security agents, they will not act on it. Let me give you one example. Before the Emir of Gwoza was killed, I told the security agents that it would happen and mentioned the exact spot. The three Emirs passed the front of my house that day, and at the exact place that I mentioned, they were ambushed and the Emir of



Gwoza was killed. What did the security agents do? Look, you can only stop Boko Haram by arresting the brains behind them and execute them. If they are emirs, politicians, military personnel, or clerics, fish them out and execute judgment on them. Then there will be no more Boko Haram.

Muslim Leaders have been heard to say Boko Haram is un-Islamic

And so? What have they done about it? They have done nothing! If they say it is un-Islamic, what are their plans to dismantle it? It is not enough to mount propaganda and do nothing.

The Muslims will not do anything. It is the Christians that should come out and train their youths and take steps to defend themselves.

Today, I cannot go to the village, because if I do, they will come after me. The day before yesterday, they rained bullets from AK47 in front of my house. This is one of the shells. It was brought to me. Fortunately, there was nobody in the house. All the members of my family had been evacuated before they arrived.



Today, village after village is being sacked by Boko Haram and nobody is doing anything. My friend, it is a pity. God will help us but we need to stand in faith.

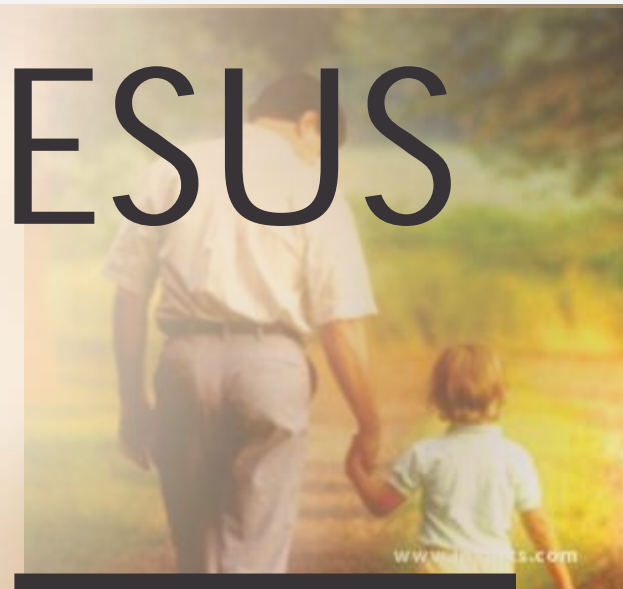


Friends of JESUS

We aim to raise ONE MILLION Christians who will faithfully donate minimum N500.00 monthly to support persecuted Christians in northern Nigeria.

The fund is needed to support widows, orphans, the fatherless, the maimed and mutilated, rebuild critical Christian infrastructure, pay gospel ministers and so on. Please, be persuaded to support and encourage other Christians, too.

God bless you.



The Voice of Christian Martyrs
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ATTACK ON CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN WUKARI

15TH JUNE, 2014.

Wukari in Taraba state has a population of 95% Christians. Nevertheless, it has been undergoing series of attacks since 2012 from Muslims whose aim is to turn the Local Government into an Islamic area. The attack on 15th June would be the 5th attack on the area in two years.

On Sunday, 15th June, 2014, around 7.00 a.m., Christians were preparing to go to church when they heard that Muslim Jihadists were attacking a Christian, Mr. Bala Danasabe was riding a motorcycle to church, with a friend, when they were attacked by Muslim fanatics. They were falsely attacked for burning a telephone call center which belonged to a Muslim man.

It was later ascertained that the Jihadists themselves set the call centre on fire so as to establish a ground for attacking the Christians. Bala and his friend were attacked with machetes and clubs and were seriously injured. Fortunately for them, they were able to escape. They narrowly escaped with their lives.

While the two Christians sought to make their way to a hospital, other Jihadists started shooting Christians on their way to the church. At the end of the attacks, over 70 Christians were injured while about 18 were killed. A number of Christian houses were also burnt.



Ishaya Akuki

Aji Ibrahim was shot on the leg and stomach.

Allahde Luka was shot on the leg.

Ishaku Daniel was shot on the right knee.

Sunday Bala was shot on the thigh.

Miki Danji, 25 years old, started running home the moment he heard of the attacks so that he could go and help his parents. He was shot on the neck and he started bleeding profusely. All he could do was to pray silently in his heart. Some people came to his rescue and took him to the Federal Medical Centre in Makurdi, in Benue state.



Allande Luka



Aji Ibrahim

RELIEF DISTRIBUTION AT CHIBOK



RELIEF DISTRIBUTION AT CHIBOK

There was a lot of security concern that had to be taken into consideration when the trip to Chibok was planned. The first suggestion was to solicit for military escort, but that approach was quickly discarded as it would attract a lot of attention. Such attention could provoke an attack from the insurgents. Eventually, the team from the Voice of Christian Martyrs opted to enter the town quietly without drawing attention. Of course, that was a risk as the insurgents could attack any moment, but such is the nature of the work of the mission. The VOCM team proceeded to the EYN (The Brethrens Church) to meet the pastor and commence with the relief distribution. They met the pastor and many of the Christian elders in the town whose daughters were included in the abduction of the school girls in April. The pastor who welcomed the team of Voice of Christian Martyrs had two of his daughters included in the abduction.

After a lot of words of encouragement and exhortation, relief materials were distributed to the various families. The relief package for each family included a bag of rice, bag of corn, bag of beans, carton of noodles, sugar, salt, cloth, t-shirts and rain boots.

It was a moment of respite for the troubled community that some people somewhere were thinking of them. It was shocking for the VOCM

team to hear that government relief effort has not reached the community since the abduction. As the distribution commenced, word began to spread and Christians

from adjoining communities started streaming into Chibok. Unfortunately, the package was not sufficient to cater for the unexpected crowd. The pastor of the church explained that, because it was the rainy season, they were able to sleep indoors. The moment the rains abate and the ground begins to get firm and could support a convoy of vehicles, they would have to sleep in the bush for fear of the attack of Boko Haram members. Nevertheless, they still pray that no evil will occur again in Chibok.

All the recipients expressed gratitude for the gifts.



DIARY OF TERROR

Kano, 2012

Escapees from the northern Nigerian state of Kano paint a disturbing picture of the massive killings of Christians by jihadist terror group Boko Haram.

Sefia (name changed for her protection) says she fled after many friends, acquaintances and neighbors were killed around her.

She recalls a neighbor who stepped outside his door to brush his teeth and was brutally gunned down by the terrorists last year.

This year, another neighbor was killed as he watched football in a sport club. This time, the terrorists came back a couple of days later to apologize to his parents.

It was a case of mistaken identity, they said. They had written to another man to notify him that they were going to kill him. That fellow fled the town immediately.

Unfortunately Sefia's neighbor who was a well-liked college grad on national service was mistaken for him and murdered by the terrorists.

This, says Sefia, was the turning point. In times past, the killers would be masked. Now, they come in broad daylight and total impunity.

One day, a bike rode past her with 4 men on it. It struck her as curious why they all piled on like that.

Moments later, she heard gunshots. She watched as one of the men calmly took off his blood stained robes and changed to another in full public view before getting on the bike and riding away.

Sefia says she suspects other Muslims who have generally attacked Christians and churches over the decades are joining in on the terrorists' bandwagon to kill Christians with impunity.

One Sunday, two prominent Christian brothers were on their way home from church when they were stopped by gun men who threatened to kill them. The boys pleaded with the captors – the eldest negotiated with them to kill him and spare his younger brother as their mother was a widow.

A passerby also entreated them to have mercy. The gunmen shot all three of them – both brothers died.

Sefia herself survived the horrendous January 20, 2012 massacre in Kano which was the worst single day casualty in any global conflict that year alongside Syria.

Boko Haram attacked multiple locations in carefully coordinated attacks.

Unlike her colleagues, Sefia decided to remain in her office after her brother phoned her to stay put. A married male colleague decided to head out to search for his family. A female coworker followed him in his car.

At midnight, Sefia finally left her office, the sole remaining occupant after its roof caved in from the bomb blasts around town. Fortunately she wasn't injured.

She trekked for miles on her way home passing by mounds of corpses by the side of the road. It was like a "movie set", she says, so surreal.

Those who moved around it seems were the prime casualties. She later learnt that Boko Haram had stopped her two colleagues at a checkpoint. He pleaded for his life as did his lady colleague telling them he had children. The terrorists shot him in the head and his brains were splattered all over her clothes where she sat in the front passenger seat.

One terrorist pointed his gun at her, but another stopped him from pulling the trigger saying, "we don't kill women".

It was the latest close shave for Sefia. In 2011, Muslim rioters came to burn her home while she and her mum were in it during the so-called "post election" violence. Her Muslim neighbors lied to the mob that the occupants were Muslims so she escaped being burnt alive – regardless of whether she were female or not.

Those neighbors have themselves now moved. Sefia doesn't know if the new ones would lie to protect her life. She has fled, leaving behind family too old to relocate.

No state of emergency has been declared in Kano and Boko Haram's capacity has not been downgraded. The killings continue till this day, mostly unreported and undocumented but for interviews with survivors such as this. The US had planned to open a consulate in Kano but the new Assistant secretary for Africa told congress this month that this is on hold. The US only recently designated Boko Haram a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

Pasted from <<http://justiceforjos.org/>>

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE VOICE OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRS

My husband died as a result of the riot that happened in Kano. We were all at home when the rioters broke into our house and killed my husband. They said it was because he was a pastor but this not true because he was actually an elder in church.

I got to hear about Stephens Centre through my church's Pastor and since then, they have helped me and my family in many ways.

Firstly, by giving my children free education (scholarship), I want to use this opportunity to appreciate this organization for what they have done for me. I was opportuned to be given a grinding machine and a sewing machine and I was also given money to boost up my business. From the profit I make, I have been able to send some of my children to the University - paying their school fees, accommodation, feeding and other necessary things.

Even though my finance isn't yet what I would like it to be, I would still say this mission is really trying for me. They have always been there to help and they should never get tired of good deeds because the devil also has said he will not be tired of persecuting the children of God. So, the children of God should also never be tired of doing good.



PASTOR ZAKKA

ERCC N/EGGON, NASARAWA STATE

I want to thank the Voice of Christian Martyrs for this wonderful gift. May God bless you and reward you abundantly.

This motorcycle will help me and the church a lot. I now have the ability to cover more ground and reach more people in my duties as a pastor.

MRS. ROSE THEMOTHY

LAFIA - LCC RAFAN KUDI

I thank God for this grinding machine. It will help me generate money to take care of my family. I say thank you so much.

In 2013, on the 6th of February, my husband was returning from work when the Fulani Muslims killed him.

I have two children, one is 7 years and the other is 3 years old.

ASABE AGBADO IBRAHIM

LAFIA

ROMAN CHATHOLIC

I thank God for this grinding machine, it will help me very well to send my children to school.

My husband was killed during the religious crisis. He was killed inside his house in Basa. Since that time, I have not been feeling well. My children stopped going to school since I did not have money. Whatever I got was spent on my health. But with this grinding machine, I can get regular income for us. Thank you very much and God bless you for remembering us.

LILATU YAKUBU AKOLA

ERCC, DOMA YAWA, NASARAWA

My husband was killed in the religious crisis that the Muslims started.

I want to thank the Voice of Christian Martyr for helping me in this condition that I am in. This grinding machine will help me to look after my children.

PASTOR JAPHET BALA

ECWA, NASARAWA

This motorcycle will help me, help my family, and help the church. My station is based far from the headquarter and it used to be difficult for me to move around. But now, I can easily do my work and reach more people with the gospel. I am going to find this motorcycle very useful in doing visitations.

DISTRIBUTION AT GWOZA THROUGH CAMEROUN

The Voice of Christian Martyrs team had to go through Cameroun before it could reach the displaced Christians from Gwoza, in Borno State to get relief materials to them. Boko Haram blocked access to them from Nigeria.





GIFTS FROM JESUS

A big thank you for all our donors for being the channels.

The team of Voice of Christian Martyrs led by the National Coordinator conducted relief distribution at Nasarawa state to displaced Christians.

John Biti Wasiri

I am very happy for the gift that I am receiving today. I have been thinking of how I would get corn to plant this year after the Fulani Muslims came to our village in Agbasha in January and destroyed all my farm produce. What I had in the barn was totally burnt down including my car, which I used to support my farming. I have been so worried since I do not have money to purchase anything.

I had to relocate to Doma since the attack, but today, I am going back to Agbasha after the gifts that I have received from Jesus. I pray that God will continue to bless the Voice of Christian Martyrs and all the people who have sent these gifts.

In fact, I did not believe when I was informed that some Christians are coming here today to give gifts to people affected by the attacks of the Muslims. Not until I received the rice, beans, Indomie, and the corn was I fully convinced that it is true. Thank you, Jesus.



Audu Sabo

My name is Audu Sabo, with a family of 10 children attending the Roman Catholic, Agbashi under Doma local government, Lafia in Nasarawa State in Nigeria. I am living in Agbashi.

On the 17th of May 2012 (17/05/2012), I was working on my farm then I saw Fulani herdsmen encroaching on my farm with their cattles. I pleaded with them to send the cattle out of my farm which were destroying my crops; they argued about where the cattle should be sent to. I insisted that the crops were useful for both of us therefore, they should please listen and comply. They removed their machet, and I raised my hand in defense when he mercilessly severed my left hand. On the 14th of January 2013, they attacked our village and burnt our houses. My father died due to hypertension/shock. Now I am living in a neighbor's house with my family. I would like to advise everyone to be faithful and close to GOD. Also I would like to thank the organization for the money we received (A gift from JESUS) through them (Voice of the Christian Martyrs) and also our brethren around the world for their prayers and concerns.



Solomon Allu

My name is Solomon Allu with a family of 11 children, attending ECWA 3 Tudun Gwandara Lafia. Town\ village: Amaku.

I reside in Lafia and do carry out my farming activities at Amaku. On the 5th of May 2013, Fulani herdsmen attacked me on my way to the farm. They cut me with machet all around my body and left me bleeding. They thought I had died. I thank God some people passed along the road saw me and took me to the hospital. I was revived and today, I am alive. Since then, I have not been able to return to my farm because of my health condition. I like to testify that there is GOD and He has power to deliver us from any sort of tribulation.



Name: Joshua Agabi / Marital Status: Married

No of Children: Five (5) / Residence: DOMA

Church Attending: ECWA Bishara 1, DOMA

It all happened on the 7th of July 2013. Fulani herdsmen came around our farm after they had attacked Danba Village. They asked for a Muslim among us and we replied there was none - we are Christians. And they said that Christians were the set of people they were looking for. They started using their cutlasses to cut us and we started running. In the process of running I tried to defend my brother. When I saw a cutlass close to his neck, I used my hand to protect him and the cutlass chopped my hand off. It was then I started crying because blood was gushing out of my hand. I ran after them and I started to feel dizzy but they decided to run-away. I was rushed to the hospital for medical attention. If not for Christ Jesus, I would have been gone. I believe GOD has a reason for sparing my life. If I had denied knowing Jesus, I may not be alive. I am calling on people whether in joy or pain (Suffering); every believer should trust in GOD all the way and they will see the result. It is good to trust in GOD.



Joshua Atoshi - 27 years old

Joshua Atoshi - 27 years old, was going to church on Sunday morning. When he was close to the church, he started hearing gunshots everywhere. As he was running back home, he realised the Muslim Jihadists had made a road block to hinder Christians from escaping. Before he knew it, he was shot on the hand and he fell down. His cousin was the one who took him to the hospital.



I COMMIT TO PRAY

DID YOU PARTICIPATE
IN THE 2014
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER?
DON'T STAND IN SILENCE



PRAY FOR PASTOR UMAR MULINDE

After spending more than two years in Israel receiving treatment for severe acid burns, Pastor Umar Mulinde was welcomed home to Uganda by his family and church on May 25. On Christmas Eve 2011, Pastor Umar was walking to his church when he was attacked by a group of Muslim men. One man poured acid on his face while others poured it down his back. The men shouted "Allahu Akbar!" (God is great!) as they ran from the scene. Pastor Umar lost his right eye in the attack and underwent extensive facial reconstruction at a hospital in Israel before returning home to Uganda. Pastor Umar said his recovery is "a turn of events for a wonderful testimony."

GLOBAL PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS

PRAY FOR TOU LY AND FAI CHO

Two Hmong Christian men, "Tou Ly" and "Fai Cho," were forced by relatives to leave their homes because they refused to renounce Christ and return to ancestral worship. They were then arrested by local authorities and detained for two weeks. After their release on Aug. 25, the men rented a place to live, outside the village, but their struggles continued when Fai Cho's father died on Sept. 27. Local authorities issued Fai Cho's family a large fine, claiming they had not obtained the proper burial permit. The two men are being helped by their church, but they have little or no food or clothing and are in desperate need.

PRAY FOR MERIAM IBRAHIM'S LAWYERS

Five lawyers who defended Meriam Ibrahim (a Christian woman who was sentenced to death for apostasy in Sudan) have been accused of tarnishing "the image of Sudan by allowing human rights organizations to put pressure on the government." On Sept. 15, they were prohibited from leaving Sudan and face the possibility of having their licenses revoked. Since Meriam Ibrahim's death penalty was overturned in June, the lawyers have received threats from extremist groups accusing the attorneys of being un-Islamic. The lawyers are not Christians, but they defend Christians and other minorities in Sudan.

PRAY FOR BELIEVERS ATTACKED BY BOKO HARAM

In late August, more than 100 Boko Haram insurgents stormed a church in Adamawa state, Nigeria, killing more than 70 people and kidnapping an unknown number of teenage girls. The insurgents charged into the church in the village of Madagali during Sunday morning worship, ordered women and children to get out and began firing on worshipers. The gunmen then left the church, continuing to shoot those fleeing, and set fire to several houses. They also kidnapped a number of teenage girls and stole food, livestock and a large amount of cash from the villagers.

PRAY FOR PASTOR NTHURIMA FABIAN WHOSE HOUSE AND CHURCH WERE BURNT TO THE GROUND

The Full Gospel Church in Marsabit, Kenya, was burned by unknown arsonists in the early hours of Sunday, Aug. 24, along with Rev. Nthurima Fabian's home adjacent to the church. Although the church is located in a Muslim community, the pastor and congregation were surprised by the attack because there had been no threats or previous animosity between Christians and Muslims in the area. Earlier this year, someone threw stones at the church during a prayer service, but members did not see the event as noteworthy.

PRAY FOR "KOLLOL", CHRISTIAN FORCED TO PERFORM HINDU RITUAL

"Kollol" and his wife were attacked by 15 radical Hindus during a June 4 prayer meeting in their home. The couple were beaten and then dragged to a Hindu temple, where they were forced to undergo a ritual cleansing. The Hindus poured water on them to symbolize outward cleansing and put red powder on their foreheads to mark them as devout Hindus. When the Hindus force-fed the couple with food sacrificed to idols, Kollol's two teenage daughters protested. They were then beaten, too, and they were all later treated at a hospital. Community members evicted the family from the village, threatening to kill them if they return.

For more information, please visit:
www.icommittoprayer.com

EGYPTIAN CHRISTIAN JAILED FOR “LIKING” A PAGE ON FACEBOOK!

International Christian Concern
2020 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, #941
Washington, DC 20006
301-585-5915 / icc@persecution.org

PETITION CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE DROPPING OF ALL CHARGES AGAINST KIROLLOS SHAWQI ATALLAH

Ambassador Mohamed M. Tawfik
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
3521 International Ct, NW,
Washington, D.C. 20008
September 24, 2014,

Dear Ambassador Tawfik,

It is with great concern that we petition your government for an immediate end to the prosecution of Mr. Kirolos Shawqi Atallah. Mr. Atallah, a 29-year-old Coptic Christian from Al-Mahamid, Egypt, was wrongfully arrested in May of this year and sentenced to an unfathomable six years of imprisonment for nothing more than “liking” a page on Facebook.

In late May, 2014, Mr. Atallah used the “like” feature on Facebook to mark an item published on the Knights of the Cross Facebook page. A Muslim neighbor of Mr. Atallah noticed this “like” online and began to accuse Mr. Atallah of posting pictures and quotes insulting to Islam. On May 28th, the situation in Al-Mahamid deteriorated rapidly when locals began to publish leaflets calling for Mr. Atallah to be driven from the city. On Monday morning, June 2nd, several Coptic Christian homes and shops were vandalized or set on fire, allegedly by radical Muslim attackers. Mr. Atallah, who had voluntarily reported to the Luxor security directorate on May 28th, was detained on May 29th and referred to misdemeanor court by Luxor Public Solicitor Walid al-Biali on June 1st for “defaming Islam” and “publishing defamatory images.”

During his initial detention in late May and early June, Mr. Atallah was held for four days and questioned by authorities without the presence of an attorney. Police reportedly treated Mr. Atallah with contempt and assaulted him at least once, slapping him across the face and forcing him to stand against the wall with arms raised for long periods of time.

At his first hearing, a large group of radical Islamists appeared at the court in Armant with approximately 20 attorneys in an attempt to support their claims that Mr. Atallah had committed “blasphemy.” The case was postponed and Mr. Atallah was held illegally for an additional 15 days until, on June 24th, Judge Hazim Hany of the Armant Criminal Court found Mr. Atallah guilty of violating Article 98F, “defaming a divinely revealed religion” and Article 176, “inciting sectarian violence” of the Egyptian Penal Code. Mr. Atallah was subsequently sentenced to six years in prison, but is currently out on bail pending appeal.

Sadly, blasphemy cases in Egypt overwhelmingly target the Christian minority. One study of cases from January 2011 through December 2012 found that 41 percent of blasphemy cases taken to court in Egypt were filed against Christians, who make up less than ten percent of the total population.

Mr. Ambassador, the signers of this petition urge you in the strongest possible terms to do everything in your power to stop the prosecution of Mr. Kirolos Shawqi Atallah. No Egyptian citizen should fear arrest, much less six years of imprisonment, simply for “liking” a page on Facebook. Mr. Atallah’s case is absurd in the extreme and should be considered offensive to any nation that purports to respect the rule of law and defend the fundamental rights of its citizens to believe in and express whatever faith they choose. The dropping of charges against Mr. Atallah will send a strong message to the world that the government of Egypt respects these fundamental rights and is committed to upholding them for all citizens, regardless of faith or ethnicity.

Sincerely,

International Christian Concern (and attached)

CC:

Secretary of State John Kerry
Senator Robert Menendez, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Senator Bob Corker, Ranking Republican Member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
Congressman Ed Royce, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Congresswoman Elliot Engel, Ranking Democratic Member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

To sign this petition, please visit: <http://info.persecution.org/FreedomToLike>

SET MY PEOPLE FREE 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 of individuals, churches and organizations working for the freedom from Islam to live and practice their new faith, to experience equality and justice in their home countries. It is a non-violent movement seeking freedom, justice and equality for converts reconciliation – not victory, and is committed to the life and teachings 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 had 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 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 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 in their identity card, they have to use Christian 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,

K.

SIGN UP AT:

<http://freedom2worship.org>

INFORM OTHERS



FAITH IN THE FACE OF TERROR

Bro. Adamu Shetima

I have been greatly encouraged by the Voice of Christian Martyrs from my first contact with the mission. I came in contact with the mission due to a crisis I could not handle. The young son of a Kanuri convert ran to my house after his father was killed by Boko Haram on 5th May, 2011. Before he escaped, Baba Useni (Not real name) had spent 7 months in prison. His uncles tried to force him to convert to Islam, but the little boy chose to run away, rather than deny his faith in Jesus Christ. He was not up to 10 years then. I kept him in my house for a while, but I realized that it was too risky for him and for me, so we travelled to Jos to locate Voice of Christian Martyrs. From there, the mission took over and gave Baba Useni protective custody.

Not long after, my brother converted to Christianity on 2nd April, 2012. When members of the Boko Haram ascertained that he had become a Christian, they came to our house and shot him on the thigh. As they left, they threatened him that they would return and if they found him still in the faith, he would be killed. I quickly contacted the Voice of Christian Martyrs again and without delay, they mobilized themselves to come into Maiduguri and evacuated my brother. By this time, I had fled from Maiduguri because they were already searching for me.

Through the help of the mission, I am now in a Bible College working on a degree program in Theology.

In December 2013, I received a brand new motorcycle from the Voice of Christian Martyrs to aid my evangelism work among the Kanuris. The materials that I regularly received from the mission have been sustaining the work.



THE NATURE OF THE WORK

God called me from Islam into Christianity from the Kanuri tribe that people did not believe could have a Christian. I received Christ on 2nd Feb. 2002. I used to be a teacher in an Arabic school. From the moment I became a Christian, I started preaching the gospel. I suddenly realized the enormous love God has for me through Jesus, that I could not keep quiet about it. My immediate hunger was how to increase in the knowledge of the Word of God so that I can reach my people.

Many churches started inviting me to preach and as I continued, the persecutions started. I was beaten a number of times, once to the point of death. On another occasion, I was beaten and dragged out of the city, but God spared my life.

I have been filled with a deep hunger to reach the Kanuris with the gospel so that they can escape from the bondage that they are in. As I was thinking of how to go about this work, I met Rev. M., another Kanuri evangelist who is ready to die because of the gospel of Christ. Together, we started evangelism in Borno and Yobe states from 2008—2012. However, we have moved the evangelistic work across the border due to the insecurity in the region. As we preach the gospel, many Kanuri people are giving their lives to Christ. In Nigeria we have about 60—70 converts and across the border between 200-300 converts.

In January 2014, I went to Madagali for evangelism and more than 30 people accepted Christ. Unfortunately, Boko Haram attacked them the following Sunday killing about 80 people including children.

We need the prayers of the church to sustain this work, and for our protection also, so that we can do all that Christ has called us to do.



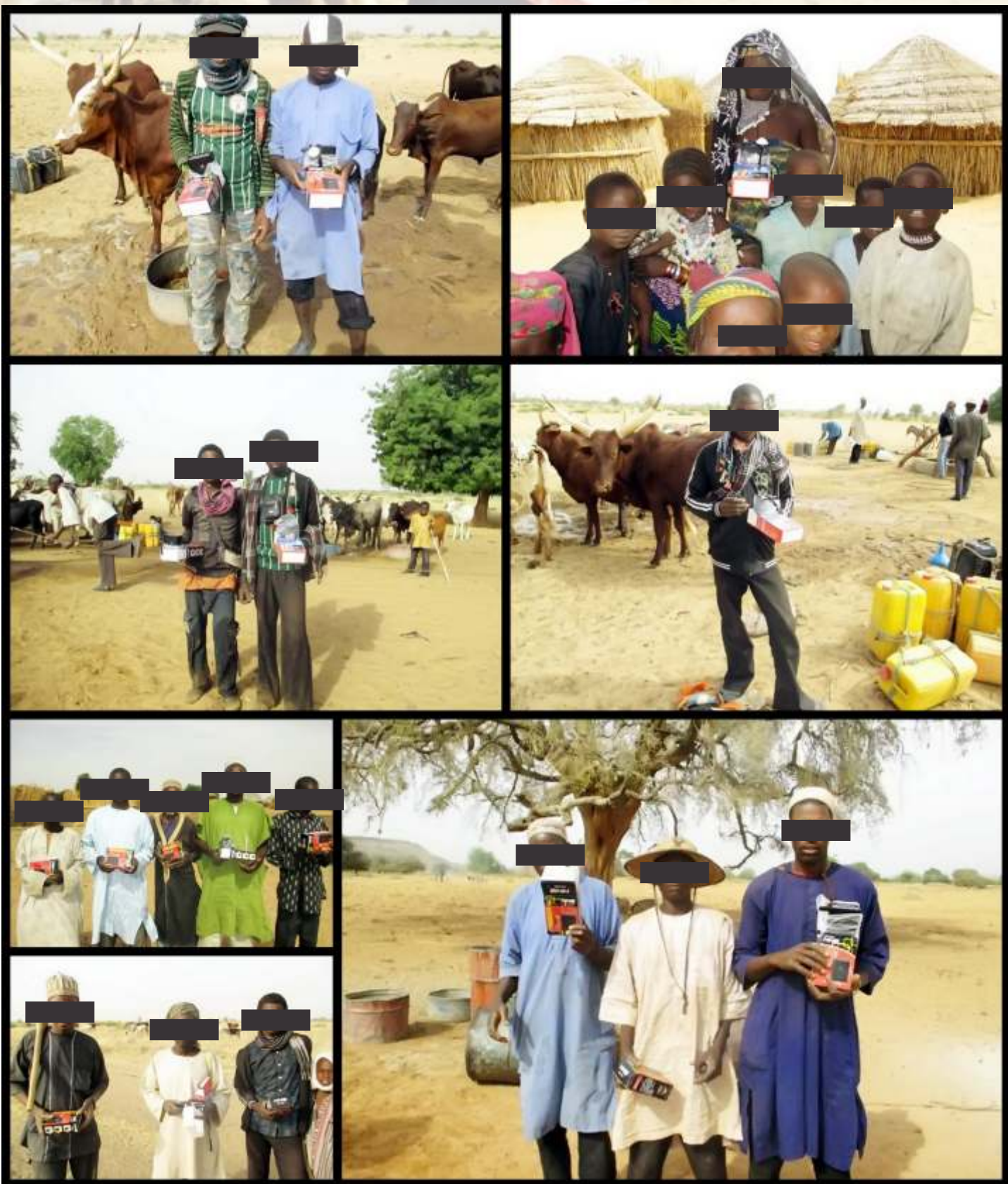
CHALLENGES

We have a number of challenges in this work. Some are:

- We have become targets for the enemy. Boko Haram knows about our work and they are hunting for us. Many times, they have sent messages to me that if they catch me, they will deal with me. But their threats will not deter me.
- Christians do not understand what we are doing. They think it is radicalism, so some of them do not support us.
- We have problems relocating our new converts. Once a Kanuri accepts Christ, it is necessary to relocate him from his immediate environment. Relocating converts costs money which we do not have.
- Above all, we need prayers. We are asking for Christians to pray for us and for the work we are doing.



NOMADIC FULANIS EMBRACE CHRIST



How Boko Haram murdered Borno Pastor

by family

By Timothy Olanrewaju

For five years, he preached the words of God amidst the prevalent insecurity in the North-eastern state of Borno, often walking through the shadow of death, but miraculously surviving. Even when the usually serene hilly town of Shaffa, Hawul Local Government area in the southern part of Borno State, where he ministered was attacked about two months ago, Pastor Eluid Mshelizza Gwamna came out unscathed.

But the evangelical mission of Pastor Gwamna in the rural communities of southern Borno was however cut short by rampaging Boko Haram fighters on September 24 in the same Shaffa, about 230 kilometres from Maiduguri, the state capital, while returning from a church programme. The resident pastor of the local assembly of Living Faith Bible Church, aka Winners Chapel, was reportedly ambushed by the insurgents who were unleashing terror on the community on the night of the sad day.

“He had been transferred to Marama, another community few kilometres away from Shaffa, but his family are still in Shaffa,” his elder brother, Ibrahim Gwamna Mshelizza told The Daily Sun, adding that the 44-year-old father of four went back to Shaffa to honour an invitation by his former members to deliver a sermon at a programme organized by the church on that fateful Wednesday.

“He was actually invited to preach at the Living Faith Church at Bamjikirl in Shaffa. He later headed home to spend the night with his family after the programme, but was ambushed on the way. From the account given to us, he was identified as a pastor by one of the Boko Haram men and they slaughtered him right there,” the elderly Gwamna revealed.

Not done with the dastardly act, the sons of Satan, according to Shaffa residents, then proceeded to set ablaze houses in the town. “Someone among the Boko Haram was pointing to people’s houses one after the other, and they burnt down these houses. It was as if they had the list of houses they planned to burn.” An indigene of Shaffa who resides in Maiduguri disclosed to Daily Sun. No fewer than 18 people were reportedly killed by the insurgents in the dusk attack that also spread to neighbouring Shindiffu, another community in Hawul Local Government area.

Gwamna family members described him as a committed and hardworking minister of God. “He was devoted to his pastoral calling after a long sojourn in the world, doing what he liked until God took over his heart and called him to come and do what He wanted. Nobody ever thought he was going to be a pastor or even a man that would be preaching God’s words,” the deceased’s brother further disclosed. He said the pastor, who was the fifth in the family, left behind three boys and a girl with his wife, adding that the family had taken consolation in the belief that the man died while preaching the gospel of Christ.

“Mama said it gladdened her heart that Eluid died a believer. She was even the one preaching to us to take heart and see his killing as a sacrifice to God. She considers him a martyr, having died in the hand of his persecutors who were out to silence every voice or belief different from their wild ideology,” he added. According to other family sources, the pastor’s mother, Mrs. Saratu Gwamna was the first Bura woman to attend a bible school in Bura land, one of the major ethnic groups in the southern part of Borno. “Her husband was equally a church planter,” said another relation who did not want her name in print. She stressed that the death of the pastor dealt a big blow to the larger Mshelizza family.

Pasted from

<<http://sunnewsonline.com/new/?p=86039>>

SUN newspaper October 14, 2014



THE EVOLUTION OF BOKO HARAM (3)

By Opeyemi Agbaje

This columnist has written at least six articles dedicated to “Boko Haram”-“The Evolution of Boko Haram” Parts 1 and 2 on February 1 and 8, 2012; “Johnnie Carson, the US and Boko Haram” on April 18, 2012; “The Malian Jihad” on January 23, 2012; “The Politics of Boko Haram” on April 10, 2013; and “Amnesty and Emergency” on May 22, 2013 and other articles treating the issue in part and on social media. Through all these, my position hasn’t changed-the phenomenon has religious, political, social, military and global dimensions and appeasement is unlikely to resolve the crises.

Boko Haram (BH) is motivated by extremist religious ideology and seeks to overawe Nigeria’s secular constitution in favour of an Islamic Caliphate governed under fundamentalist Sharia. Socio-economic conditions in the North generally and North-East in particular facilitate religious demagoguery poverty, unemployment, illiteracy and ignorance, decades of tolerance for sectarian politics combined with hegemonic aspirations and an inclination to deploy violence for political ends, and a large, “un-parented” and uneducated youth population bereft of skills and employability whose only social conditioning has been through a bankrupt “Almajiri” system. National politics, since 1999, particularly since the demise of late President Yar’adua and the regionalised 2011 presidential contest encouraged a climate suitable for transmutation of what was till 2011, a localized band of religious miscreants with links to regional politicians into a national terrorist organization with the objective of destroying an unwanted presidency. Given these facts, the debate over whether Boko Haram is religious, political or otherwise is silly, nonsensical and pointless! The group is explicitly religious, has patently political objectives, exploits abject socio-economic conditions and weak governance, and is able to leverage a politico-religious narrative of marginalization of faith and religion!

The US and Western nations have been in denial regarding BH and made utterly faulty and escapist diagnosis and prescriptions for resolving the matter-Johnnie Carson wanted Nigeria to appoint more “Northerners” to “important” positions (unaware (?) that except the Presidency (which they had until then disproportionately dominated), Northern Muslims occupied many of the most important positions in the land-Vice President, ruling party chair, Chief Justice, Representatives Speaker, CBN Governor, Ministers of Defence, FCT, Foreign Affairs and Education, NSA, Inspector General, Attorney General, Head of Service, Court of Appeal President etc.) and to create a Ministry of Northern Affairs; Hillary Clinton refused to designate Boko Haram a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) on the faulty logic that doing so would alienate the North (curious given the official Northern positions that the group represented neither Islam nor the North); and Obama and Cameron tried their best to pretend not to notice BH even when it bombed the UN office in Abuja, Churches, newspaper houses and markets!

Till date, we retain several wrong assumptions about Boko Haram-that most of the terrorists are infiltrators from neighbouring countries-Niger, Chad, Cameroun, Mali, even Somalia etc.-but the more empirical observation may in fact be that Nigeria is now the epicentre of a West and Central African terrorist network that may in fact, destabilize other countries. I will not be surprised to find for instance, that the inspiration, funding and logistics for the failed Jihads in Mali and the Central African Republic may have partly or substantially emanated from Nigeria, no one doubts that BH has

now linked up with Al-Qaeda and Somalia’s Al-Shabab! Another error has been discussing “Boko Haram”, “Ansarul” (the Malian-related, more internationally-focused brand of Boko Haram) and “Fulani Herdsmen” (the domestic terrorism franchise for the Middle-Belt of Nigeria) as though they were separate groups! Recent evidence confirms as I have always suspected that all are one and the same! Two other facts are evident-the Nigerian state would be wise to investigate the linkages to Sudan in Nigerian terrorism. The media expose by a retired ambassador, Bola Dada and the recent escape of Nyanya bombing suspect, Aminu Sadiq Ogwuche to that country suggests that Sudan plays a significant role in nurturing Nigeria’s Islamic fundamentalists!!! More troubling is the likelihood that elements in the armed forces and security services may be involved in sabotaging operational strategies and information in the war against BH! Nigerian soldiers evidently believe so, going by the mutiny against the now withdrawn GOC in Maiduguri, Major General Ahmadu Mohammed!!!

The internationalization of the ‘war’ against BH in the aftermath of the Chibok school girls’ abduction and involvement of US, France (which thankfully achieved a breakthrough in regional co-operation incorporating Nigeria, Cameroun, Chad, Benin and Niger), Britain, China and Israel may be useful in addressing the problem. On the other hand, the development may signal the weakening of the Nigerian state and its possible decline!

The critical question Nigeria and the international community avoids confronting is “who provides the funding and logistics for Boko Haram, Fulani Herdsmen and other terrorists groups operating in Nigeria?” Does anyone really believe that “Imam Shekau” is the “leader” of the group that has been tormenting our nation for the past three years? (I am inclined to the DSS position that Shekau is a “title” and “identity” just like “Abu Qaqa” and is really a dispensable image rather than substantive leader) How does Shekau, who operates in the border regions of the North-East record and upload his videos and transmit them to AFP? How do the Hilux vans, rocket launchers and arms and ammunition deployed by Boko Haram get to Shekau and his men? We know where the foot soldiers of Boko Haram are, but who are the brains and wallets of Boko Haram, and where are they? While we ponder these question, Nigeria’s President Jonathan confirms that Boko Haram has now killed twelve thousand innocent citizens!!!



BIBLE DISTRIBUTION IN YOLA, ADAMAWA



NIGERIA

TERROR FAST FACTS

Source: Justice for Jos Blog

- Half of the 57 telecommunication targets in 2012 were by Boko Haram in Nigeria, seeking to cut off the Christian community from communicating.
- Nearly one-third of the religious institutions targeted in 2012 were located in Nigeria, where Boko Haram frequently attacked churches.
- Nearly 60 percent of the 325 educational targets were attacked in Nigeria and Pakistan as well.
- The most lethal terrorist attacks in 2012 were those in which the primary target was a religious institution. On average, these attacks resulted in 2.56 deaths per attack.
- There were more attacks on religious institutions in Nigeria than there were attacks on diplomatic embassies around the world combined (diplomatic targets included the African Union, the European Union, the World Bank, and the World Health Organization, as well as consulates, embassies, and diplomatic personnel representing Bulgaria, Canada, China, Egypt, Germany, Great Britain, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, and the United States.)
- Boko Haram was responsible for a number of highly lethal attacks in 2012, including killing an estimated 190 people on January 20
- 186 single attacks killed more than 1000 people. The majority of these highly lethal attacks (159) took place in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Nigeria, and Syria, and killed a total of 2,880 people. Nigeria is the only non-warring nation on the list.
- Afghanistan(33.2%) of all suicide attacks worldwide followed by Iraq (19.1%), Pakistan (13.2%), Nigeria (10.3%), Yemen (7.7%), Syria (6.8%), and Somalia (4.7%).
- The average lethality of terrorist attacks in Nigeria (2.54 deaths per attack) is more than 50 percent higher than the global average of 1.64.
- The high number of fatalities in January (1,378) was due in large part to terrorist violence in Iraq (425 deaths) and Nigeria (348 deaths).
- Boko Haram is 2nd to the Taliban in global terror, ahead of Alqaeda and Alshabab which are all designated FTOs
- Boko Haram has killed citizens of 15 countries

JIGAWA STATE: FAITH UNDER PRESSURE

Rev. Cannon Ishaku Audi

In Rigim, we have difficult challenges because we do not have the freedom to worship. Whenever we are in the church, the Muslim Jihadists will be throwing stones at us.

They constantly seek to intimidate us and they intentionally deprive us of a lot of things. During the post election violence, five members of my family were locked in a room and they were set on fire; God in His mercy extinguished the fire. Unfortunately, no compensation was given to us.

Whenever we call for large gathering of Christians, people are afraid to attend because they may be stoned. The Catholic Church has been built now for about five to six years, but they have not been allowed to use the church. The Assemblies of God also worships in a poorly constructed structure because they have been told not to build a place of worship.

We have been meeting with the Local Government to give us a place to build if they don't want us to remain in that place. Of all the churches, it is only the Anglican Church that is in town, all other churches are located on a land belonging to the railway.

Do you know that many people are afraid to come to church for service? They are trying to prevent the unknown. In the Anglican Church which I pastor, 7 people were killed last year in November (2012). Our ushers were able to detect the murderers as Boko Haram members.

About two months ago, the Boko Haram insurgents came and killed three members of the church. Since then, the number of Christians attending churches has dropped. There are various acts of injustice going on and there seems to be no channel to shout it out. When you go to the media, they will not properly reflect the truth of what you tell them. However, we have resorted to the only alternative we have which is Jesus. We are calling unto Him to move heaven for us and we believe that one day, we shall gain our freedom, if not here on earth, then it shall be in heaven.



Rt. Rev. Yussuf Lumu

We acknowledge that what we Christians are facing here in the North is not a problem, but challenges of faith. We know why we are facing persecutions and we also know why the Muslims fanatics are doing what they are doing. We see it as a challenge. For us to live in an area like this, one needs courage. We are being persecuted in so many ways, not only through killings and maiming, but we also face serious acts of discrimination. Our children are denied admission into public schools because they have Christian names.

We experienced an incident when some youths from ECWA went for an interview, which is supposed to be for a Federal Government employment into Immigration Services. The moment they mentioned their names and their religion as

Christianity, they were refused employment on the grounds that there is nobody from Jigawa State that is a Christian; therefore they cannot be from Jigawa State. But that is not true. We have indigenes of Jigawa state, particularly in the ECWA church, who are Christians. There are many indigenous Christians from Kazaure LGA, Roni LGA, who are Christians. These youths were denied employment just because they are not Muslims.

Some of the Christian parents who are not strong in the Christian faith have had to change the names of their children to Muslim names otherwise, they cannot gain admission into any higher institution like Ahmadu Bello University. Of course, Bayero University in Kano is worse. When you hear JIHAD, it does not mean killing alone, it also means making you unhappy so as to force you to renounce Christ and embrace Islam.

In some extreme cases, their wives are also taken away from them.



Nevertheless, our faith will remain strong because our strength is not in our earthly wealth or possession, but the salvation that is assured us in Christ Jesus.

In 2006, there was a religious riot in Dutse, which was caused by an irrelevant quarrel between two women. The Muslim woman allegedly called Jesus Christ a drunkard because He turned water into wine. The Christian woman responded that the Muslim prophet was an adulterer. By 9.00 a.m. the following day, the riot started with the excuse that a Christian lady called their prophet an adulterer.

By the time it ended, the Anglican Cathedral had been burnt down, the church secretariat and our two vehicles were also burnt. The Police Commissioner refused to release the Policemen to contain the riot, so the Muslim fanatics had a free hand to operate from 9.00 a.m.—3.00 p.m. They burnt my house, burnt many churches, burnt many houses belonging to Christians and they proceeded to the market. They looted shops owned by Christians after which they burnt what was left. It was not until later that we were informed that there had been an earlier agreement with the Police that the Police should not intervene so that no Muslim will be killed by the Policemen.

In 2004, there was a riot during the tenure of Governor Saminu Turaki. After the rampage, the governor said he was going to relocate all the churches to a place and he gave us Certificate of Occupancy for 9 hectares of land. We took possession of the land and even sank a borehole there. Suddenly, the state government erected a signboard on the land that it was the site of an Ultra Modern Stadium. Meanwhile, we have the Certificate of Occupancy which has not been revoked and the government has taken the land. Till date, they have not contacted us, even though we have contacted the government that if they need the land for another project, another parcel of land should be allocated to us. So far, the government has not responded.

The Christians have asked for a parcel of land that they can use for constructing churches and establishing their businesses, but the Muslims do not want to re-create another Sabon Gari of Kano. You know that no matter how serious the religious riot may be, it will not get to Sabon Gari because it is mostly a Christian community. So, they do not want to have an area that will be populated by non-Muslims and non-indigenes.

Here in Dutse, the state capital of Jigawa State, it is only ECWA that has a C of O and it was issued over 70 years ago by the British to the European missionaries. Any church that you see in Dutse is located on a piece of land that was allocated for residence and the ownership was transferred to the church.

So far, in all of these hardships the only mission that has consistently been helping and encouraging us has been the Voice of Christian Martyrs. In 2006 after the rampage in Dutse, VOCM came and brought relief materials. They came back later with some bundles of roofing zinc to help us rebuild a place of worship. This is because the Anglican Cathedral was burnt down.

Rev. A. H. Ndandok

I am the Pastor of First Baptist Church Dutse, and the Dutse LGA CAN Chairman. I have been in Jigawa state for about 15 years. The work of the ministry is not an easy task here and we are only moving on by His grace. One of the challenges we have been having is to get the indigenes into the church. We have made a lot of effort to reach them. I am from Kaduna state, but by virtue of my parent's occupation, as a Fulani man, I came to live in Jigawa. I was born and brought up in Kaduna, as a result, I speak many languages like Hausa, Jaba and English.

We need assistance in getting the indigenes converted because after conversion if they remain in the same community, they will be persecuted. So we have to move them out as soon as they are converted.

During my early stay here, I got one man converted and I kept him with me for about 6 years. As we continued to work together and move from place to place, his former Muslims friends noticed his closeness to me and the persecution started. They took his wife and all his children from him. Later he came to inform me, that he needed to relocate because he has been given an appointment in the Government House and later in a bank. This was done to entice him away from Christianity. He sometimes comes to visit us. So, our challenge is how do we manage those that have become converted?

Nevertheless, despite the difficulties, we are still moving on into their midst. When I came here fifteen years ago, there were very few churches but today, there are about 35 churches in Dutse alone, and we have about 70 pastors who have their ministry locations all around.

For example, we have planted churches as far as Kano among the Maguzawas and we have pastors stationed in that area till today. In fact, some of them are here today to benefit from this pastors' appreciation programme. I was with them yesterday for a programme in Kano. Within 1 year, we were able to plant about 24 churches in Kano among the Maguzawas. 18 kilometres from Dutse we have a community of the Maguzawas and they are willing to embrace the gospel, but we cannot manage them alone. VOCM came to our aid some time ago when the children were to be forcefully Islamised. We had to sit down and talk with them and we set up committee that represented both the Christians and Muslims.

Our greatest need therefore, is for a place where the converts can be relocated to. From Potiskum, I have seven children I have relocated to Jos, while they are there, we need people to look after them and people who can support them financially. So, if we have supporters that can financially support us, we will relocate our waiting converts.



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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS.
YOUR GIFTS WERE DELIVERED



WHO DID THIS?



Hassan Bitrus
3 years old



Hassan, from Attagara Village in Gwoza Local Government, Borno state, had a terrible encounter with the members of Boko Haram on 1st July, 2014. After a brutal attack on Christian worshippers on Sunday in Attagara, the young child was running back home holding his "Children's Bible" when three of the Islamic insurgents gripped him and sat him down. According to an eye witness, one of the insurgents wanted to collect the Children's Bible from Hassan's hand, the little boy refused. The Muslim insurgent snatched the Bible by force and threw it into a nearby burning fire. Hassan ran to where the fire was to rescue his "Children's Bible". While he was struggling with a stick remove his Bible from the fire, an insurgent hit three year old Hassan on the head with the butt of AK47 and pushed the little child into the fire. Not satisfied, he proceeded to step on Hassan's head and pressed the head of the child inside the fire, all the while railing curses and abuses on the little child and calling him "stubborn infidel".

The heartless Muslim left the child inside the fire and walked away.

PRAY FOR THE PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

Chai book

Some
have died

Some have
contracted
HIV AIDS

Some are
pregnant

Some have
been sold

Only few escaped

Pray · **Give** · **Mobilize Awareness**

REACH the Youths - INFORM the Children

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