



MARTYRS CRY!

A PUBLICATION OF THE VOICE OF CHRISTIAN MARTYRS NIGERIA

AFRICAN EDITION NO 012013



The Widows Of The Martyrs

REMEMBER THEM...Heb. 13:3

Also Inside:

▼
A Garden of Limbs

▼
"How I Became A Widow"

▼
"What We Need From You Is Prayer"

▼
Religious Crisis In Nigeria: The Genesis

▼
Targeted Assassination of Christian Leaders

*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this,
To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, ... James 1:27*

PURE RELIGION AND **UNDEFINED** BEFORE **GOD** and the **FATHER**

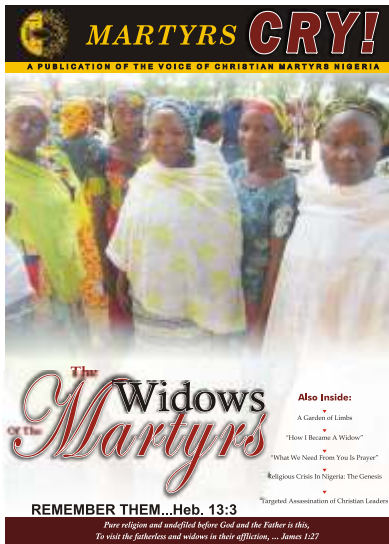


*is this,
to VISIT the*

*FATHERLESS AND WIDOWS
in their affliction, ... James 1: 27*

REMEMBER THEM ...Heb. 13: 3

DO WE REMEMBER THEM?



Editor in Chief Isaac Newton-Wusu
Editor Bosun Emmanuel
Asst. Editor Sunday Eshiett
I.T. Alex Ntino
Designs/Graphics Mohammed Haidara
Photography/Audio Yomi Somolu
Web Design Joshua Rotimi

Martyrs CRY is published by
 Stephen's Publishing House Lagos, for
 Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria.
 Address all editorial enquiries to:
info@stephensng.com

All enquires to
 The Voice of Christian Martyrs
 should be directed to:
info@stephensng.com

PLEASE CALL:
 Isaac: +234 816 163 9582
 Sola: +234 803 502 3229

HELP LINES:
 +234 813 666 3939
 +234 701 199 5009
 +234 817 024 8598
 +234 815 313 5300

All material is copyright and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without written Permission of the copyright holder.

We welcome our readers to this edition of the newsletter of the Voice of Christian Martyrs, Nigeria. In an attempt to highlight the focus of the newsletter, we have decided to change its name to **Martyrs CRY!** The new identity, we hope, shall serve as a shrill attraction to the plight of Christians facing persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ.

In James 1: 27, God sets forth His standard for measuring pure and true religion. It is to visit widows and the fatherless in their affliction. Any Christian activity that does not meet these criteria is not considered by God to be an exercise in Christian religion. This implies that we can engage in a lot of spiritual, material, and physical activities in the church and yet be considered irreligious by heaven because we neglect the widows and the fatherless in the church!

In this edition of **Martyrs CRY!**, we are drawing the attention of believers back to the plight of the widows and children that are victims of Christian persecution in Nigeria and have become the responsibility of the church. The stories told by these widows evoke shock and compassion and we cannot but tell their stories to the church.

The persecution of Christians in Nigeria is a wake-up call for Christians to be Christians and the Church to be the Church. Only a genuine turning back to Christ can stem the horde of destruction that has been unleashed against the church. It is frightening to note that this persecution does not seem to have tribal or regional barrier. Today, it is the North, tomorrow we cannot tell where it would shift to.

Therefore, every believer and every Christian assembly must make prayers, intercession, and support for the persecuted church a matter of utmost priority. We are not doing our persecuted brethren a favor by supporting them or praying for them. It is our responsibility, as members of the body of Christ to stand with each other in these troubling times. Whatever we do to support the persecuted brethren is done for Christ. (Matt. 25: 31-46)

This edition includes the challenges The Sons of the Martyrs are facing in their educational pursuit. We thank those who have been supporting and we call on all Christians to join hands with us in educating these children. So long as we claim to belong to Christ, these children are our collective responsibility.

The Voice of Christians Martyrs wishes to thank all our partners and supporters, within and outside Nigeria for their support, in prayers, in funding, as well as in various acts of encouragement. We appreciate the brethren that daily lay their lives down to ensure that help and support reach our persecuted brethren in "hot zones". Without these dedicated brethren, the church might have been wiped out in heavily persecuted areas.

As you go through the pages of this Newsletter, we pray that you will be sufficiently touched and challenged by God to increase your commitment and support to the persecuted church. Today it is their area; tomorrow it might be your area. But, if we join hands together, we can prayerfully put an end to it today.

Yours in Christ,

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial Page	1
A Tale of Three Widows	3 – 6
How I Became A Widow	7 – 10
Reaching Out to Widows	11 – 12
Bookstore	13
Sons of the Martyrs	14 – 20
Sunrise At Midnight	21
VCM Gave Me Hope in Life	22
Visit of Governor's Wife	23
Information Page	24
Reaching Out in Gombe	25 – 27
Living on the Edge	28
Persecution Reports	29 – 30
Son of Widow Killed	31
International Persecution Reports	32 – 33
2011 Post Election Violence	34 – 35
SOS Visit	36
Religious Crisis – The Genesis	37 – 40
Garden of Limbs	41 – 42
What We Need Is Prayers	43 – 44
"We Know Your Car	45
Stephen Children's Home	46
Kaduna Peace Committee	47
Targeted Assassination	48 – 49
Christmas in October	50 – 52
Blood Stained Bible	53
Martyrs from Deeper Life Church, Gombe	54
Reaching Out in Riawuyanku	55 – 56

what did you do for

JESUS

LATELY?

Widows Of Martyrs ...?
The fatherless ...?

Sons Of The Martyrs ...?
Orphans ...?

**... VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU,
IN AS MUCH AS YE HAVE DONE IT
UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST OF
THESE MY BRETHREN,
YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO ME.**

MATT. 25: 40

A TALE OF

Three Widows



Stories That Evoke Shock And Compassion

REMEMBER THEM...

THE STORY OF MONIKA DRA Maiduguri, Borno State



scene. They discovered that she was still alive and they tried to help her. She was given some water but as she drank, it flowed out from her throat. After a short while, they had to leave—it was not safe for them to remain there with her. Monica was left alone for 3 days, slipping in and out of consciousness.

But she was not alone. She kept seeing some beings dressed in white surrounding her. She was not sure whether they were humans or animals. (A reference to the wings she saw on them.) They were comforting her and giving her strength. After three days, she was finally rescued. Monica later spent 9 months in the hospital receiving treatment through Voice of Christian Martyrs. Miraculously, she survived and she could speak again. While in the hospital, the same beings in white she had seen after the attack kept appearing to her comforting and giving her strength.

Before the attack by Islamic terrorists on her family, Monica had a husband and three sons. Today, Monica has only one son.

Monica thanked God for saving her and she is also grateful to the Voice of Christian Martyrs for the support that she received from them.

After beheading her husband, a policeman, the Boko Haram militants turned to Monica and demanded, “Are you a Muslim?” Monica knew that if she replied in the negative, she would be killed, nevertheless, she faced the terrorists and boldly declared, “I am a Christian, I am not a Muslim.”

They went wild with rage and commanded her to lie down. She refused and they attacked her with daggers. Her arm was severely cut, they grabbed her head and slit her throat. Satisfied that they had killed her, they left her and the dismembered remains of her husband.

After about two hours, some Christians arrived the

**“Are you a Muslim?”
Monica knew that if she
replied in the negative,
she would be killed,
nevertheless, she faced
the terrorists and boldly
declared, “I am a
Christian, I am not a
Muslim.”**

martyrs cry!

He raised his hands and said, "to God be the glory. You say you want to kill me, because I am ready". He just raised his hands. He fell down when they struck him with a machete on his head. Blood was gushing out from his head.

I was sitting with my husband in the house with my friend when someone rushed in and said something bad is happening outside. We went outside and saw a mob of Muslim youths in the streets of Gombe breaking windows in their neighbourhood and armed with machetes.

They were protesting the election of President Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian, after the 2011 general elections in Nigeria.

Fatu said they went inside and locked the door. When the mob could not get in, they started throwing rocks at the house breaking the windows and eventually forced the door open. Fatu tried to convince her husband to run away, but he refused to leave her.

"When they got inside, my husband asked them why they were after him. 'They said they wanted to kill him because he was an infidel'."

He raised his hands and said, "to God be the glory. You say you want to kill me, because I am ready". He just raised his hands. He fell down when they struck him with a machete on his head. Blood was gushing out from his head.

After the mob left, Fatu tried to move his lifeless body into the shade. But there was nothing she could do; Kalla was dead.

"He was a loving husband; he was taking good care of me and the children", she said, while sobbing and weeping profusely.

Fatu is now a widow, the mother of nine children and seven grandchildren.

Instead of being bitter, she has forgiven those who brutally killed her husband. "I have not only forgiven them, I am also praying for them, because they did not know what they did."

"If I am able to endure life, I will see him again, and that will give me comfort", she said, tearfully.



The Story Of

ESTHER SIMON - Jos, Nigeria

I started calling to God - God help us, God help us to escape from this attack." Esther Simon was referring to the March 7, 2010 massacre of Christians in the village of Dogo Nahawa in the city of Jos Plateau during which 501 Christians were killed by Muslims - in one night.

"We were asleep and around 3 a.m. we started hearing gunshots. Everyone started running from their homes in panic."

There was a lot of killings, shootings. Some of the people tried to escape to the nearby villages.

Esther was able to be reunited with some of her children in the morning but, that relief soon turned into despair when she discovered her husband's slain body later that day. "He was shot in the stomach"

When I saw my husband's dead body, I said, "God, you have taken my husband. How am I going to cope with the children?"

That morning there was pandemonium in the village. Everyone was confused and everyone was wailing and crying. The process of going through such ordeal has not been easy for Esther.

We asked how she was able to forgive those who killed her husband and many of her neighbors?

"I came to realize that if I do not shed the pain, I will be hurting myself and I would be sinning against God. I let it go off my mind and I forgave them. It was not easy at the beginning, but with constant study of the Word of God and people from the Church visiting me, I was able in time to forgive. I also know that one day,



everyone is going to die."

After the attack, Esther had no means to support her family and her children had no place to go to school.

"I was pained in my heart because the children were just sitting around the house and there was no opportunity for them to go to school."

"Then one sister approached us that she is going to take my daughter to school and the Stephen Centre came to take the boy to give him an education."

The Stephen Centre is a Nigerian safe house for children who have lost one or both parents to anti-Christian violence. At the Stephen Centre, children like Esther's 10 year old son Dazik, receive housing, food and education in a safe place.

"I know the best thing I can do for my children, in the absence of their father is to give them an education so they will be able to do something for themselves."

Esther was able to start a business with help from the Voice of Christian Martyrs. She opened a general store that sells practical items like kerosene, charcoal, firewood, beverages and fruit.

"I am most grateful to God, that before my husband died, we were living in a rented apartment. But after he died, the Voice of Christian Martyrs gave me money to start a business and from this business, I was able to buy a piece of land and build a three room apartment." She is grateful to Christians around

the world, particularly those in Canada, who have helped persecuted believers like her.

"My appreciation is inexhaustible because after my husband's death, it looked like we had no hope anymore. But now, we see that there are people who think about us, pray for us from all over the world and we receive hope and courage that God is still with us. We are very grateful."

"Please tell the women and Christians in Canada that the women and widows in Nigeria are very grateful. First to God for sending people to help us and also to thank them for remembering us in our pains and in our troubles. When the attack happened, it looked like people were no longer people. Now, we know that someone far away cares about us, thinks about us and prays for us."

"Please tell the women and Christians in Canada that the women and widows in Nigeria are very grateful. First, to God for sending people to help us and also to thank them for remembering us in our pains and in our troubles."
Esther Simon

YOU TOO, CAN HELP THE PERSECUTED BRETHREN.

Please Contact:

info@stephensng.com or info@houseofkaris.net
08033082342; 08090735725

Or, if you wish to donate to assist the persecuted brethren, please use:

VOICE OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS NIGERIA
Acct. No. 1010319966
Zenith Bank Plc.

Donors can also connect and donate to this account with their ATM via Quick Teller.com Our name listed among churches

HOW I BECAME A WIDOW

Stories that evoke shock and compassion ...

Bro. Yohanna W. Medugu - Shot and killed in broad daylight.

State: Borno, Nigeria

Number of Children: 7

Dec. 11, 2012 — Around 10.00 a.m. at Shuwari 3, we came back from the farm with my husband. After bringing in the groundnut from the car, my husband went out to clean up his car and some unknown gunmen came and shot him on his hand; he ran into the house to lock the gate. I went to help him in locking it, I was shot too on my hand, but we locked the gate. One of them jumped into the compound and met my husband, he collected the keys of his vehicle and shot him dead. That is how my husband died.

Ngwamdai — Widow



Mrs. Ngwamdai Medugu

Bro. Reuben Bello Malgwi — Slaughtered in the presence of his family

State: Borno

Number of children: 3

Dec. 09, 2012 — 11.00 p.m. Four gunmen came into our compound at Polo, while many others surrounded the house. They knocked on our door and insisted that my husband should come out and give them money and mobile telephone handset so that he will not be killed. When he did not come out, they broke the door to our parlor and threatened that if he did not open the door of the bedroom, they will set the entire house on fire on him and his family.

We quickly prayed and he opened the door. A struggle ensued but they over powered him, they tied his hands behind his back and slaughtered him with a knife. They used a knife to separate his head from his body.

This is how I lost my husband.

Mercy Ruben Bello Malgwi—Widow



Mrs. Mercy Ruben Bello Malgwi

Bro. Daniel Zira

Burnt together with his house

State:

Borno

Number of children: 4

Oct. 24, 2012 — 1.00 a.m. At Polo area, some unknown gunmen came into our compound, and started shattering our windows and battering the door. My husband hid himself in the ceiling before they came in. They broke the door and came in and asked of him but I told them he traveled. I was told to go outside with my children, and the three children of my husband's late brother. The children were Muslims before the death of their father, but they later converted to Christianity when they came to live with us. They asked me why we converted the children to be Christians and I answered, "because we are Christians".

My husband, too, was from a Muslim family, but after he married me he became a Christian.

One of them ordered some of the militants to kill all of us but someone among them stopped them from killing us.

They pointed a gun at the 16 year old son of my husband's brother and commanded him to go round the house with them pouring kerosene on the house in order to set the house on fire or else he will be shot.

They burnt the house with my husband in it to ashes; his only remains that we could find was his intestine.

That is how I became a widow.

Hauwa — Widow

Bro. Joshua Draï Giwa Shot with his son in the presence of his family

State: Borno

Number of children: 9

June 14, 2012 — 1.18 a.m. At London Ciki, unknown gunmen jumped into our compound and called my husband to open the door. He opened the door thinking they were armed robbers because they had packed a lot of our properties before they commanded us to open the door. My husband opened the door and they commanded us all to lie down. They set the house ablaze and shot me on my hand and breast, and they shot my husband and my son Bulus; they died instantly. I thank God for my life and for the remaining children.

Rhoda - Widow



Mrs. Rhoda Joshua Draï Giwa

Bro. John Peter Slaughtered together with his son

State: Borno

Number of Children: 6

Dec. 28, 2012 - Around 12.00 midnight at Musari area, some unknown men came to our house and broke the door and packed away some of our properties. My husband and my son, Simon, were at home while the rest of us had travelled for Christmas. After stealing our properties, they slaughtered them and cut off their heads.

A day after, on 29th December, 2012 while we travelled with their bodies to the village to bury them, some unknown people came again to our house and packed all of our properties and emptied the house.

Jummai - Widow



Mrs. Jummai John Peter

Bro. Nuhu Botangla Shot on his way home from work

State: Adamawa

Number of children: 3

Dec. 18, 2012 - Around 4 p.m. my husband closed from work and he was on his way home. Some unknown gunmen followed him and collected his car and shot him dead; he died instantly.

People that witnessed the occurrence came and called me.

Lare — Widow



Mrs. Lare Nuhu Botangla

Bro. Samuel Djauro Shot and killed with his brother-in-law

State: Borno

Number of Children: 8

July 29, 2012 - Around 7 p.m. at Ummarari area, some gun men came to our compound. They pretended as if they wanted to buy pure water. They met my husband, my brother, and 3 of his friends where they were eating. The men started shooting and killed my husband and my brother. The other three men escaped with serious bullet injuries. All the people that were shot in the compound were Christians.

Rachael - Widow



Mrs. Rachael Samuel Djauro

Remember them that are in bonds,
as bound with them; and them which suffer
adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Heb. 13:3

Bro. Gabriel Ali **Shot and killed with his friend**

State: **Borno**

Number of children: **7**

July 29, 2012 — Around 7pm at Ummarari area, some men came to our compound and pretended as if they wanted to buy pure water. They found my husband and 4 of his friends eating and these men started shooting. My husband died instantly with one of his friends, while the remaining three narrowly escaped with bullet wounds on them. All the people shot were Christians.

Anna — Widow



Mrs. Anna Gabriel Ali

Bro. Anthony Bajam **Shot and killed in his shop**

State: **Borno**

Number of children: **10**

Nov. 16, 2012 — Around 6.20 p.m. at Federal Low Cost, four men came to my husband's chemist (pharmacy) to buy some drugs. As he turned his back to get the drugs for them, they shot him dead instantly, that is how my husband met with his untimely death. Now, my eyes can't see clearly. I need your prayers.

Hauwa — Widow



Mrs. Hauwa Anthony Bajam

Bro. Luke L. Maina **Shot and killed in front of his shop**

State: **Borno**

Number of children: **4**

Sept. 9, 2012 - Around 4.30 p.m. at Gomboru area, some unknown men came to the tailoring shop of my husband while he was in the front of his shop with some other people. They shot him in the stomach and he ran and jumped over a fence to try and escape. They ran after him and shot in the head; he died instantly. He is the only Christian around there that was killed.

Lydia - Widow



Mrs. Lydia Luke L. Maina

Bro. Ishaku Audu

Shot and burnt to ashes
with his friends

State:

Borno

Number of children:

3

June 26, 2011— Around 4.00 p.m. at Alemdari area,
unknown gunmen came and shot my husband with his
friends as they were sitting down in our area and burnt
their bodies to ashes. We were not able to bury him.

Comfort Ishaku - Widow



Mrs. Comfort Ishaku Audu




REMEMBER THEM...



REACHING OUT TO THE WIDOWS

is difficult for us humans to forgive such atrocities, but we know that we can follow the example of the Lord. We can pray that God will give us compassion for those that hurt us and hand them over to God as the judge of all flesh. We do not want to judge them, we want God to be the Judge.

During the ministrations, the women were able to release the perpetrators of all these evil to God so that they can experience the peace and the joy of God in their hearts. As joy returns to their hearts, they can in turn give it to the people in their villages and in their vicinity that require such healing also.



Mrs Helen Banner, wife of Don Banner, a member of the board of Voice of Martyrs, U.S.A., in January 2013 was part of a team of four American women who came to minister specifically to widows of martyrs in Nigeria. In this short interview, she explains the objective of the ministry as well as her expectation from the Nigerian Church.

Dealing With **POST-PERSECUTION TRAUMA**

TRAINING WIDOWS OF MARTYRS TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM GOD IN THE MIDST OF AFFLICTIONS

HEALING IS CRUCIAL

We are aware of the crisis that has engulfed northern Nigeria as a result of the Christians that have been martyred there. My concern when I came here is to assist widows affected by the crisis to receive emotional and spiritual healing and restoration. We have started this work in Jos and we hope that it will expand as time goes on.

Three other women and I, from the United States came to minister specifically to the women widowed in the crisis and help them overcome the trauma that they find themselves in. Studies of the brain have shown that people that have such trauma often get overwhelmed and cannot deal with the process of overcoming the grief of losing a loved one. We came to help the women see that when you turn to the Lord, He will remind you of the things that bring joy into your heart.

We spent time worshiping with them and ministering to them about the love of the Lord and the things that bring joy to their hearts.

FORGIVENESS IS KEY

We also taught them to forgive as Jesus forgave. It

STRENGTH BY HIS WORD

We spent time in prayer with the women and taught them how to hear the voice of the Lord. We taught them to be silent before the Lord in order to hear His voice. Individually they asked the Lord, “what do you want me to know?” They were silent and the Lord spoke to them and gave them revelations. They were so overjoyed because many of them never heard the voice of the Lord before neither did they believe that God could speak to them. They were so encouraged to hear directly from Him and receive directions directly from God.

The key focus in this ministry is to train the women to hear the voice of the Lord in the midst of their grief and be willing to release and forgive the people that committed such evil against them.

THE FIELD IS WIDE

We have undertaken this ministration in India as well as in Colombia. Nigeria is the third country where we are ministering like this to widows. We know we have to go to other countries but we also want to come back to

Nigeria. We may have to develop many teams in the US to come and train women here who will go back to their villages and train other people so that healing and restoration can fill the hearts of those affected through these attacks on Christians. We shall also give consideration to the suggestion to train people in local churches who will continue with the work of dealing with post-persecution trauma. I believe we may come back and train people in the churches to carry on this work on a larger scale.



WE ARE ONE BODY

I would like to encourage the Christians in Nigeria to pray that God will give them more love and compassion for the families that are affected by these persecutions. It is so painful for these widows to be left alone. The Bible says that true religion is to visit widows and orphans in their affliction. I want to urge the Church to cry out to God for specific directions in what the church is expected to do for those affected in these religious crisis.

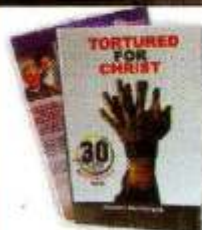
widows have to endure separation from their children when they are brought to Abeokuta (in the South) to study. I would like to encourage the Nigerian churches to set up more schools particularly in the villages to educate the children closer to their mothers. As much as the women appreciate the great help that they receive in the education of their children, through the Voice of Christian Martyrs, they would prefer a situation in which the children are closer home, as well as more opportunities for them (the mothers) also to succeed in life.



Rev. Isaac Wusu And Mrs. Helen Banner At Guiding Light Assembly, Ikoyi Lagos, To Present The Case Of The Persecuted Christians. To the right is Pastor Wale Adefarasin, Senior Pastor, Guiding Light Assembly.

Book Store

Tortured for Christ



The trial of persecution and cruelty that the Wurmbrand endured is as timely as the day this compelling work was written. The world over, Christians continue to suffer for their faith. Among their number are men and women of whose struggles, we have yet to learn, but of whose travail Richard Wurmbrand has given us a searing, and ultimately redeeming vision.

-Gary L. Bauer, Family Research Council.

Hearts of Fire

"Either you marry or you die if you are a Christian then there is no place for you in this city... You will die here alone."

"Women have always been significant in the cause of Christ. Hearts of Fire thrillingly describes the work of eight women whose mission continues to be telling the world that He is risen, and with that resurrection comes love, grace, and forgiveness."



ANSWER TO THE ATHEIST'S Hand Book

Is there a God? The confrontation between Christianity and Communism. Wherever people know how to write, they have a holy book. The Communist world has its Bible too, an Atheist's Handbook first issued in Moscow in 1961. A summary of atheistic creeds, it

is the collective work of specialist, has been translated into many languages, reprinted many times and is widely distributed in socialist countries. Its primary purpose is to show there is no God. Imprisoned by the Communists for fourteen years, Richard Wurmbrand answers the seven hundred pages of denial, affirming the existence of God and eternal life, Biblical truth and human worth.

Wurmbrand Sermon Series

Mission films and Message

Visit our web site at

www.nigeriaspecialchildren.com Order your copy today !!!

For more information contact:

VCM Nigeria, PMB 21078, Ikeja, Lagos. Tel 08033082342

e-mail: ionw@rsmx.com

The Pastor's Wife

In 1949, when Soviet propaganda was asserting that free Christian worship was being tolerated behind the Iron Curtain, the Communists arrested Pastor Richard Wurmbrand in Romania for secret Christian activities.

The Pastor's Wife is Sabina Wurmbrand's true story of her efforts to get her husband released, her subsequent imprisonment and, above all, her unceasing efforts to help build a Christian underground church in restricted areas around the World.



Extreme Devotion

Are you up for a challenge? Then open this book and read just one of the 365 true accounts of men and women who totally sold out for Christ. See if it isn't unlike any other devotional you've ever read.

Each story is true. Each story is unforgettable. Each story is extreme. Each story will change your life.

Take the challenge today and see for yourself.



FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN

"The Bible is meant for children. Only the children of Israel came out of slavery in Egypt; the grown-ups stayed behind. Only the children of God enter heaven. It will be a country without any grown-ups." This

observation by Richard Wurmbrand's grandson Alex is just one of the many delightful anecdotes and children's sayings in this attractively illustrated volume, which challenges Christians to take seriously Jesus' teachings that his followers must become like children. 'Some stories are amusing, some startling, some very moving, but all make us think about our faith. The anecdotal style could make this a useful source book.'

IN GOD'S UNDERGROUND



Richard Wurmbrand, playboy turned preacher, was held for 14 years in Communist prisons. His jailers tried to force him to confess that he was part of an imperialist spy network. But in spite of beatings, torture, and drugging, his spirit did not break. For two years he was a patient in the 'death room' -so called because no other man had left it alive. Here, too, as a pastor he found

his parish. An unforgettable gallery of thieves, murders, saints and sinners shared his cell 'until each in turn passed through the gap of death.'

Order for
our various VC

Call Yomi Somolu
08033535545



Sons of the **Martyrs**

STILL MORE RIVERS TO CROSS



SONS OF THE MARTYRS

Education Support Required

NAME OF STUDENT: ELISHA GODSWILL
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 200
COURSE OF STUDY: LAW
TUITION FEE: #200,410 per session
ACCOMMODATION: #50,000 per year
FEEDING: #146,000
TRANSPORTATION: #36,000
EMAIL ADDRESS: willofgod.godswill@gmail.com



The 22nd day of May, 2000 is one I will never forget. It was a day I knew what it meant to lose a loved one and a bread-winner, to be specific. The day started like any other and ended unlike any other.

I was in school on that fateful day around noon and I saw smoke rising from the urban area of the city.

My father was in the heat of the struggle in the city and managed to find his way home. When he arrived home, he learnt that the men in the community are in the field protecting the community and he took off to help them, and — that was all.



NAME OF STUDENT: BITRUS JOCK ADUA
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 200 (Diploma in Law)
COURSE OF STUDY: LAW
TUITION FEE: #109,950 per year
ACCOMMODATION: #50,000 per year
FEEDING: #111,600 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #37,200 per year
EMAIL ADDRESS: prayer4luv@gmail.com

My Dad was murdered in cold blood during the 2000 crisis that took place in Kaduna state. We could not bury him because he was burnt to ashes.

I came to Stephen Centre in 2000 where I was given free education from primary school to secondary school until 2011. I was able to secure admission into the Olabisi Onabanjo University where I am presently studying Law.

My admission into the University has really changed my life positively and opened my eyes to so many things that I was ignorant of and I am now looking forward to a better tomorrow. I must admit, though, that I encounter challenges in terms of funding for my University education.

Today I thank God that He is seeing me through and giving me huge success since I enrolled at the University.

Finally, my appreciation goes to all the staff and management of the Voice of the Christian Martyrs.

NAME OF STUDENT: FRANCIS RUTH AYUKU
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 200 (Diploma)
COURSE OF STUDY: SLT (Science Laboratory Technology)
TUITION FEE: #74,500
ACCOMMODATION: #25,000
FEEDING: #146,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #36,000 per year



I came to Stephen Centre in 2004 as a result of the religious crisis that took place in Kano state. My father was killed by the Muslims during the religious crisis. To the glory of God, in 2010, I graduated from Stephen Centre International College and now, I am in a higher institution of learning through the help of the director of Voice of the Christian Martyrs Nigeria, Rev Isaac Newton.

Thank you so much for being there for me. When my hope was lost, you gave me hope.



NAME OF STUDENT: IBRAHIM NAOMI HABIBA
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 200
COURSE OF STUDY: LAW
TUITION FEE: #200,410
ACCOMMODATION: #25,000
FEEDING: #146,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #36,000 per year

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Almighty God and the Voice of the Christian Martyrs for their full support towards my life and that of my family at home.

I lost my father in the year 2002 during the religious riot in Kaduna state.

After my father's death, things were not going well with us. My mother

could not pay our school fees because we were attending a private school. As a result, she decided to change our school to a public school.

I was introduced to the Voice of the Christian Martyrs by my uncle in 2003. They made things better for me and my family at home. They later took me to Stephen Centre in Abeokuta for free education, clothing, accommodation etc. I started from the primary school and graduated from the secondary school in 2010. I am now at the University. Life in the University is so different from that of my secondary school at the Stephen Centre International. I realized that almost everything in the University requires money, even drinking water, unlike at the Stephen's Children Home where we get all our needs met for free.

I just want to thank God for the life of the director of the Voice of Christian Martyrs for his full support to us all. He has indeed been a father to us all.

I have faced so many challenges in the university academically and also financially, but glory be to God for He has always been there for me.

My thanks also goes to my sponsors, I pray that God will continue to see them through.

NAME OF STUDENT: JUSTIN BLESSING
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 200
COURSE OF STUDY: SLT (Science Laboratory Technology)
TUITION FEE: #74,500
ACCOMMODATION: #25,000
FEEDING: #146,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #36,000 per year

My name is Justin Blessing and I am 18 years old. I want to thank God for the journey of my life so far.

I lost my father at a very tender age. My family became devastated because things became tough for us.

My father died as a result of the religious riot that occurred in Kaduna State on the 22nd of February 2000. He was killed by the religious extremists because he refused to deny his faith in Christ Jesus.

My story changed in 2001 as I came in contact with the Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VCM). The passage of the Bible that says "God is the Father of the fatherless and husband to the widows" came to pass in my life as the VCM took over most of the responsibilities in my family. They provided me with free clothing, education, feeding, accommodation etc in the Stephen's Children Home (SCH).

I graduated from the secondary school and behold, a new world awaited me. I got admission into higher institution, Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU). I had to apply all the moral lessons and other things I have learnt from the SCH in order for me to excel and survive in school.

There were different challenges that I had to face but thanks be to God, I overcame. I want to thank God that I am now an undergraduate studying Science Laboratory Technology (SLT) through the assistance of the VCM.



NAME OF STUDENT: DAVOU THOMA GYANG
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 200
COURSE OF STUDY: Mechanical Engineering
TUITION FEE: #200,410
ACCOMMODATION: #50,000 per year
FEEDING: #146,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #36,000 per year
EMAIL ADDRESS: thomexander@gmail.com



I came to Stephen centre international in 2004 as a result of religious violence that took place in Jos, Plateau state, Nigeria, in 2001. My father was killed during that period by religious extremists because he was a Christian. He was the first person to be killed in our area because he went for work very early that day. Since then, things became tough for us as he was the bread winner. God in His mercy brought me in contact with the Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VCM) who took me from Jos to Abeokuta for free education, feeding, accommodation, clothing etc.

Since I arrived, I determined within myself to put my best efforts into my academics. I was able to pass all my school examinations, my WASC (West African School Certificate) examinations and my JAMB (Joint Admission Matriculation Board).

Another story of my life began in 2012 when I gained admission into O.O.U (Olabisi Onabanjo University) to study Mechanical Engineering. Though things were difficult for me at the beginning because the people I met were of different minds. It was after then I started applying the moral lessons that I learnt in Stephen Centre International.

My gratitude goes to God and those who have been there for me, I pray that God will continue to bless the organization and help me to make them proud.



NAME OF STUDENT: ADO NICODEMUS BAGGIBAWA
INSTITUTION NAME: Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State.
LEVEL: 300
COURSE OF STUDY: Urban and Regional Planning
TUITION FEE: #20,000 per year
ACCOMMODATION: #35,000 per year
FEEDING: #127,750 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #66,750 per year
EMAIL ADDRESS: hadonics@gmail.com

During the Sharia crisis in 2000 in Kaduna, my father who was a clergy was killed by Islamic religious extremists. At that time when the crisis was getting out of hand, we were told to move to Nigeria Air force Base with our mothers for safety. The men had to stay behind in order to defend our homes. Since then, we have not heard anything about him.

To the glory of God, in 2004 I came across Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VCM) through my uncle. I was sponsored to school for free and was offered other necessities such as clothing, shelter, food, etc all for free.

I graduated in 2010 and got admission into Federal University of Technology, Minna, in Niger State to study Urban and Regional Planning, all through the support of VCM.

I am grateful to VCM and I pray the Lord will keep and grant them all they need, especially Rev Isaac Wusu.

NAME OF STUDENT: YAKUBU JAMIMAH NVOU
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 100
COURSE OF STUDY: Psychology
TUITION FEE: #164,460
ACCOMMODATION: #25,000
FEEDING: #146,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #36,000



Firstly, I would like to thank God for what he has done for me and for my family.

I lost my father during the 2002 religious crisis in Jos.

My father was killed during that period and things became terrible for us at home.

My mother was solely responsible for feeding six children, five girls and a boy.

By the grace of God, I was introduced to the Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VCM) to study for free.

I want to thank God and the VCM for their full support and for changing my story because now, I am a secondary school graduate from Stephen Centre International College and I am currently an undergraduate at the University.



NAME OF STUDENT: PAM RIFKATU WENG
INSTITUTION NAME: OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL: 100
COURSE OF STUDY: English Language
TUITION FEE: #164,460
ACCOMMODATION: #25,000
FEEDING: #146,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #36,000 per year

During the religious intolerance by the Muslims against the Christians in 2002 in the North, my father was killed in the process of trying to defend his fellow Christians.

I was later introduced to SCI (Stephen Centre International), an arm of the Voice of the Christian Martyrs, in the South of the country to come and study for free.

I started here from my JSS 3 (Junior Secondary School) and I thank God that now I am under graduate of OOU. Here in the university I am faced with so many challenges such as transportation, tuition fee and so much more. Life in the higher institution differs from that of the secondary school in the sense that one has the freedom to whatsoever he/she wishes, but thank God for the moral and spiritual teachings we were given in the Stephen's Children Home (SCH).

I really thank the Almighty God for my sponsors and that He will continue to enrich them and bless them for making my life better. Thanks.

NAME OF STUDENT: BALA SALAMA GAGARA
INSTITUTION NAME: F.C.E Osiele
LEVEL: 100
COURSE OF STUDY: Biology/Physics
TUITION FEE: #28,485
ACCOMMODATION: #26,550
FEEDING: #156,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #21,365 per year
EMAIL ADDRESS: balsally24@gmail.com



I came to Stephen Centre International in 2005 as a result of the religious violence that took place in Northern parts of the country (KADUNA STATE) in 2000 which claimed the life of my father.

When the riot started, my father was inside the house, but he decided to go out to look for my mother who was with my younger sister outside the house. My father was caught, killed and burnt to ashes outside the house.

We couldn't recognize his dead body but his colleague in his place of work was able to recognize his corpse. After the incident, I was taken to Stephen Centre International (SCI) for free education, accommodation and clothing. I started from JSS 1 to Ss3.

My story changed when I got admission into Federal college of Education (FCE). I started to experience life in a different way. Things were not easy for me in the beginning because I had to struggle on my own without the assistance of anyone. In my secondary school, teachers always copied note for us on the board but not like that in the higher institution.

Glory to God I have adjusted to the system. It is my prayer that God will continue to support my sponsors.

INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Contact Rev. Isaac at info@stephensng.com or +234 80 33082342

NAME OF STUDENT: SYLVANUS JOSEPHINE ATTAH
INSTITUTION NAME: Federal College of Education (FCE)
LEVEL: 100 (Pre-NCE)
COURSE OF STUDY: Business Education
TUITION FEE: #33,500
ACCOMMODATION: #27,550
FEEDING: #156,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION: #21,365 per year
EMAIL ADDRESS: josesylva54@gmail.com



I became a daughter of Stephen Centre International in the year 2006. This was a result of the religious violence that took place in Kano State in 2000. During the crisis, my father was killed by the religious extremists. He was killed with many other Christians and the government did nothing to help the affected families.

Our family received help from members of the Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VCM) who came to Kano to distribute relief materials to victims. I was recommended by our church authority in Kano to be taken to SCI for schooling.

I completed my secondary school in SCI in 2012. I thank God that I have now gained admission into a higher institution.

I thank God and VCM for my life.

NAME OF STUDENT: TANKO GODIYA KANO
INSTITUTION NAME: Federal College of Education, Osiele.
LEVEL: 100
COURSE OF STUDY: Business Education
TUITION FEE: #28,545
ACCOMMODATION: #27,550
FEEDING: #156,000
TRANSPORTATION: #21,365 per year
EMAIL ADDRESS: gtanko230@gmail.com



I want to give thanks to God Almighty for my life, for my family and for the Voice of the Christian Martyrs.

I came to Stephen Centre International (SCI) in the year 2006 as a result of the religious violence that took place in Kaduna State. My mother was killed because she refused to deny her faith as a Christian.

The rioters came looking for my father in our house in order to kill him, but he was already at his place of work. They met my mother in the house with her baby named Luka (who is now in SCI) and killed her after her refusal to accept Islam; but the baby was saved by a woman.

Since the riot, my father is nowhere to be found. I was taken to SCI for my education. I graduated in 2011 and I am now in the higher institution.

Thanks be to God and to the VCM for my life.

... Verily I say to you, inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it to me. Matthew 25:40



NAME OF STUDENT:	SIMON PAM JOSEPH
INSTITUTION NAME:	Federal College of Education, Osiele
LEVEL:	100
COURSE OF STUDY:	Social studies/ CRS
TUITION FEE:	#28,545
ACCOMMODATION:	#50,000
FEEDING:	#183,280
TRANSPORTATION:	#35,280 per year
EMAIL ADDRESS:	pamsonj@gmail.com

I became a son to Stephen Centre International (SCI) in 2004 as a result of the religious crisis that took place in Plateau State, Nigeria in 2001. It was a great loss to me and my family when we heard that our father had been killed.

At that time all hope was gone and we had no one to look up to in the family.

What we found most painful is that the people that killed my father were people we knew and were friends to our family. They slaughtered my father in his shop. A lost hope was regained when I was taken by the Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VCM) in 2004 to study for free in Stephen Centre International in Abeokuta, Ogun State. They sponsored me throughout my secondary school. I graduated in 2011 and I am now in the higher institution. I want to thank the VCM for the opportunity and I pray that the Almighty God will continue to bless them.

NAME OF STUDENT:	DAUDA NASARA KASHAM
INSTITUTION NAME:	OOU (Olabisi Onabanjo University)
LEVEL:	100
COURSE OF STUDY:	Political Science
TUITION FEE:	#164,460
ACCOMMODATION:	#20,000
FEEDING:	#146,000 per year
TRANSPORTATION:	#36,000

I lost my father during the religious riot that took place in Kaduna State in the northern part of Nigeria. During the riot, my father was coming back from his farm when the religious extremists caught him, killed and burnt him to ashes. After that, my mother was left with the responsibility to cater for the family. I came in contact with the Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VCM) who took me from Kaduna to Abeokuta for free education, free feeding, accommodation, clothing, etc

I graduated from Stephen Centre International in the year 2012 and I am now in the higher institution.

I appreciate the effort of VCM towards me and my family. May the Lord continue to bless them.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

This is to inform our partners and the general public that
The Nigeria Special Children Centre at Abeokuta is now
known as STEPHENS CHILDREN HOME.

personal testimony



Blessing Justin

father's death to us.

My father being a man of God (Pastor) with strong faith in the Lord, was asked to deny his faith in Christ Jesus in order to save his life, he refused. He was tortured, yet he still refused to deny Christ Jesus. This got the rioters angry and they killed him. He was shot with a gun, and he died.

When his body was brought to us, we saw that there were so many injuries that were inflicted on him during the course of the torture.

All hope seemed lost to us. Things became difficult for us. But as it is written in the Bible, Jesus is the Father to the fatherless and the Husband to the widows, He remembered us through the voice of the Christian Martyrs (VOCM). I thank God for the

SUNRISE at MIDNIGHT

My name is Blessing Justin. I originated from Anambra state but was born in Kaduna state.

Due to the religious crisis going on in Nigeria, mostly the northern part of Nigeria, many people were killed because of their faith in Christ Jesus. Happy homes were turned into homes full of sorrow and tears. I am a living testimony to this crisis.

In the year 2000, on the 21st of February, we were all at home when it was announced that there would be a peaceful protest against the law that was being imposed, (Sharia law). It started peacefully until the next day (22nd) of February when houses were set on fire with people in them, shops were burnt with people in them, schools were burnt with students in them and people were being slaughtered like animals.

On the 22nd of February, my father left the house early that morning to church for early morning prayers which were being held in our church. He asked my mother to stay home and watch over us, the children. After he left, our house was attacked by the rioters. Car tires with fire on them were being thrown at the house but with God's intervention, only the roof of the building caught fire which was quenched.

We waited for our father till late that evening, but he was no where to be found. Later that night, my uncle who witnessed the killing came to relay the news of my

Voice of the Christian Martyrs and the director of Stephen Center International group of schools (Rev. Isaac Wusu) for bringing me, three of my siblings and other people that have also lost one or two parents during the course of this religious riot to Stephen Center International/Stephen Children's Home in Abeokuta, Ogun state.

I came here in 2001, then, I was just seven (7) years old. I was given free education, free feeding, clothing and other basic needs of life.

At first when I arrived, I never wanted to stay because we had to manage everything. The water was not good, we slept in classrooms etc, but it was better than going back to nothing. The director kept on encouraging me and the other children to be strong. As the years went by, things began to change for the better. We now have buildings of our own, a secondary school and so many social amenities. Things are now great here in Stephen Center International. To the glory of God and the help of Stephen Center International, I graduated from secondary school in 2010. Even though the road has not been easy, God saw us through. The following year, 2011, I also got admission into the Olabisi Onabanjo University (OOU) for a diploma course.

I have been with Stephen Center International for twelve (12) years now. This place is a home to me, not just where I stay, but where I learn both educationally and morally.

I thank God for VOCM and Rev. Isaac for giving me and the other children here a second chance to live a good life.

VOICE OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS HAS GIVEN ME HOPE IN LIFE

After losing my father in the religious crisis in Kaduna state, northern Nigeria, I was by the grace of God privileged to be among the children that were taken to Stephen Centre International Abeokuta, Ogun state in 2004, to receive free education and free boarding.

I started my secondary school there, and things were very challenging, because of the low standard of education in the North where I came from. To the glory of God I improved and my performance also improved. After my graduation in 2010, I was offered admission into the Federal University of Technology, Minna, Niger State to study Urban and Regional Planning (Town Planning). I am now in my third year, with two more years to go. To date, I am still supported by the Voice Of Christian Martyrs in my University Education.

I really appreciate God for the people He has been using to make me whom I am today, especially Voice of the Christian Martyrs Nigeria through the director Rev. Isaac Wusu. All I can say is big thank you and I pray that God will also grant me the grace to also help others in need in Jesus name.

God bless VCM Nigeria.

Nicodemus Ado Baggi-Bawa

THE BREAKDOWN OF MY FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE PER YEAR

School fees:	#20,000
Accommodation:	#42,000
Transportation:	#72,750
Feeding:	#90,000
Drawing materials:	#30,000
Miscellaneous:	#35,000





The Visit of Her EXCELLENCY



Her Excellency, the wife of the Governor of Ogun State, Mrs Olufunso Amosu, visited the Stephens Children Home during the 2012 Christmas celebration. She sang, danced and fellowshipped with the children of the martyrs.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Pray and ask your church to pray for the work of our mission.
2. Support specific projects of our mission financially.
3. Inform your friends about our children and arrange a visit to our hostel to see Nigeria Special Children.
4. Our children need food, clothes and medication. Please help to provide good future for this wonderful children.
5. Distribute our books and newsletters in your church and groups.
6. Arrange to show our films and visuals in your church and groups.

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE RECEIVED THROUGH:

Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs
Account Number: 1010319966
Bank: Zenith Bank Plc

Or

Account Name: Voice of the Christian Martyrs
Bank: Ecobank Nigeria
Account Number: 0022017274

YOU CAN ALSO MAKE DONATIONS WITH YOUR ATM CARD VIA:
Interswitch (Quickteller)

If you wish to donate any material,
please contact us for more information.

If you would like to help the children or any part of our work,

PLEASE CALL:

Isaac: +234 816 163 9582
Sola: +234 803 502 3229

HELP LINES:

+234 813 666 3939
+234 701 199 5009
+234 817 024 8598
+234 815 313 5300

Email: info@stephensng.com

VOICE OF THE CHRISTIAN MARTYRS

Servants of the Persecuted Church

*The Voice Of The Christian Martyrs Newsletter Is Published
Occasionally As The Lord Provides Through
Special Offerings Or Donation Of Concerned Christians.*

OUR PURPOSES ARE BASED ON HEBREWS 13: 3

1. To encourage and empower Christians to fulfill the Great Commission in areas of the world where they are persecuted for their involvement in propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We accomplish this by providing Bibles, literature, radio broadcasts, and other forms of aid.
2. To give relief to the families of Christian Martyrs in these areas throughout the world.
3. To equip local Christians to win to Christ those persecutors who are opposed to the Gospel in countries where believers are actively persecuted for their Christian witness.
4. To undertake projects of encouragements, helping believers rebuild their lives and Christians to witness in the countries that have formerly suffered communist oppression.
5. To emphasize the fellowship of all believers by informing the world of the atrocities committed against Christians and remembering their courage and faith.

The Voice of Christian Martyrs

P.M.B. 21078

Ikeja, Lagos

080 3308 2342

info@stephensng.com

Website: www.stephensng.org

ATTACK ON DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH



In 5th January 2012, worshippers of Deeper life Bible church in Gombe had gathered for the usual Thursdays prayer meeting, when at about 7p.m. Muslim gunmen came raining bullets on the worshippers.

At the end of this deadly but brief attack, six members of the church died immediately. Four other members died in the hospital bringing the total death on the attack on the Deeper Life Bible Church to ten persons and over twenty injured with varying degrees of gun shots.

TARGETED ASSASSINATIONS

10 days after the attack on worshippers at the Deeper Life Bible Church had taken place, suspected Muslim gunmen entered the residence of a Baptist Missionary, 71 year old Pastor Yahaya Wuro Buntu, dragged him into another uncompleted building and butchered him in cold blood.

These, and several calculated attacks, have been witnessed by Christians as they have continued to live in fear in their home land.

THE RELIEF WORK IN GOMBE

It was against this backdrop that The Voice of the Christian Martyrs made two successive trips to Gombe to see, interact and rub mind with Christians and know areas of need and how they can be supported and encouraged in their trying times.

On 21st July, 2012, the Voice of the Christian Martyrs team arrived in Gombe to distribute among many other things, food items such as RICE, BEANS, CORN, INDOMIES, SALT, and SUGAR. Other items distributed were Motor Bikes, Bicycles, Megaphone, Grinding Machines and Business funds to widows of Martyred Christians and direct victims support funds.

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Centre, venue of the distribution program, was filled to capacity as Christians who were affected in one way or the other gathered to receive the gifts of love.

The Deputy Governor of the State, His Excellency, Mr. Jason Rubainu Tha'anda was also in the meeting to witness the distribution of the relief material to Christians in the state.

JAURO JOHNSON

Mr. Jauro Johnson, forty years old, and a father of four children was one of the beneficiaries who received a cheque donation to enable him start a business. In the January 2012 attack on the Deeper Life Bible church, Mr. Jauro lost his wife (Halima Johnson).

Before the incident, his wife was very supportive with her petty trading business as he works as one of the pastors of the Deeper Life church.

Two of his sons, Elisha and Jerry, also sustained bullet injuries during the attack. Elisha will soon be undergoing an operation to remove the bullet that is still lodged in between the thigh bone of his right leg, while Jerry is fully recovered.

Pastor Jauro said his heart lifted for joy knowing that they are not all left alone in their trial of faith. This support gives them the confidence that Christians all around the world are standing by them.

EMMANUELLA OGBUCHI

Thirty six years old Mrs. Emmanuelle Ogbuchi, was also a beneficiary of the 100,000 naira widows business fund. She is the widow wife of late Mr. Emmanuel Ogbuchi. Emmanuel was also killed in the attack on the Deeper Life Bible Church on August 5, 2012.

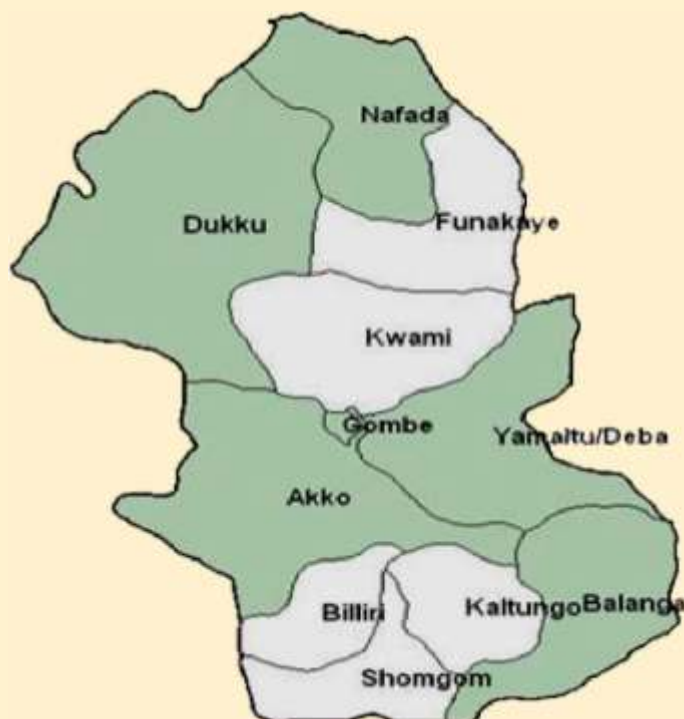
“My husband died leaving behind my three year old son, and my six month pregnancy”, she said. “Thank you Voice of the Christian Martyrs.”

REV. HABU AUDU

A Pastor/Evangelist with the ECWA church, Kawakawa village in Yamaltu Debba local government area of Gombe state also benefited from the distribution as he expressed his profound joy to have received a Motor cycle.

It is a necessary tool which he claimed will be of immense benefit to his ministerial work on the field. According to Rev. Habu, his motor cycle was burnt during the April 18th Post - Election violence.

“Because I work in a very remote settlement and the houses are sparsely located, reaching



out for evangelism has been a demanding task, however, I did not stop”, he said.

“Now that the Lord has provided another motor-cycle for me using his messengers, I believe that God is expecting more from me. I believe that this is another opportunity for me to reach out and visit more souls and bring in converts to the Lord”.

Rev. Habu said in his ten years of ministry, this is his first encounter with a ministry with such a compassionate heart for ministers of the gospel.

“I sincerely remain grateful”, he concluded.

REACHING OUT IN GOMBE



**Relief Distribution To Persecuted
Christians In Gombe State By
The Voice Of Christian Martyrs in July 2012.
In Attendance Was
The Deputy Governor Of Gombe State
His Excellency Mr. Tha'anda Jason Rubainu**



living on THE EDGE

By Dan Wooding, who was born in Nigeria
Founder of ASSIST Ministries

Nigerian Army Chief Estimates Death Toll By Boko Haram At over 3,000

Militant Islamist group Boko Haram, which is waging war against Christians in Nigeria, has been responsible for an estimated 3,000 deaths since 2009, according to an army chief.

Barnabas Aid (www.barnabasfund.org), says that the figure given by Azubuike Ihejirika on November 6, 2012, of the total number of Boko Haram victims is the highest reported by an official source.

The group has been carrying out deadly attacks on churches and Christian communities as well as the security forces and official targets in its campaign to establish an Islamic state in Northern Nigeria.

Barnabas Aid contacts in Nigeria have been logging attacks against Christians by Boko Haram and other Muslim groups over the last two years. As well as the targeting of churches, these include the cold-blooded assassination of Christian families in their



Boko Haram militants are fighting to establish an Islamic state

homes. Children, pregnant women and the elderly have not been spared in these violent episodes.

Among the most harrowing of the scores of incidents recorded by their contacts are:

- * A Christian mother and her four children were slaughtered in their home in Dabwak, Plateau state, on February 28, 2011.
- * A pre-dawn attack on a Christian village in Kano state on May 6, 2011 resulted in the deaths of 17 residents, including a pastor's wife and three children.
- * A pastor who preached religious tolerance was hacked to death along with his son at their church in Jos, Plateau state, on August 29, 2011.
- * An elderly Christian couple and their two grandchildren were shot dead in their home in Dabwak, Plateau state, on September 5, 2011.
- * A Christian woman in labor was hacked to death along with 13 members of her family in a midnight raid on Vwang Fwil, Plateau state, on September 10, 2011.
- * Five Christian traders were executed in Madalla near the capital Abuja on September 22, 2011 when they failed to recite verses from the Quran.
- * A bombing and shooting rampage that targeted six churches and a police station in Potiskum, Yobe state, on November 4, 2011 which left 150 people dead and 200 injured, most of them Christians.
- * Two children were kidnapped and killed in Yobe state on November 23, 2011 to punish their father for being "disloyal to Islam" by converting to Christianity.
- * A woman and a baby were shot dead along with four other Christians on a bus at a petrol (gasoline) station in Potiskum, Yobe state, on January 11, 2012.
- * Grenades were hurled into the homes of Christians in Tafawa Balewa, Bauchi state, as they slept on January 22, 2012. Nine were killed in total, some in the explosions, while others were gunned down as they tried to escape.
- * Around 40 people were killed in a suicide bombing outside a church in Kaduna during Easter celebrations on April 8, 2012.
- * A massacre at a church in Kano on April 29, 2012 left 16 Christians dead. The attackers bombed the church before shooting fleeing worshippers in the back.

"Barely a week goes by without a report of another anti-Christian attack in Nigeria, while the security forces seem at a loss as to how to bring Boko Haram under control," stated a spokesperson for Barnabas Aid.

CHRISTIANS IN NORTHERN STATES UNDER INTENSE PERSECUTION

The Nigerian Church has faced a lot of trials and fierce persecution in recent years like never before. Every day in most of the cities in northern parts of the country, Christians are targeted and butchered like animals without any one raising a cry or alarm for them. They are targeted at home, in their business places, on their farms, while traveling on the highways and in the places of worship. There seems to be no way of escape for them and each day they live as if it were the last.

A believer in one of the affected cities said, “we are just but walking corpses on the street waiting for our burial days. If we are lucky, our body shall receive decent burial if they did not carry our corpses for rituals, simply because we are Christians”. This is evident in the killing of solemn worshipers in the Deeper Life Church in the city of Gombe and the brutal slaughter of other believers in their homes, such as the pastors in Bororo town of Yobe state. Almost all the Churches in Yobe state have been burnt down and many believers are dying every day.

Recently, the Islamists came to the house of pastor with the intention of killing him. When he successfully hid himself and he could not be found, they brutally butchered all of his male Children!

In places like Tafawa Balewa Local Government, (Bauchi State), which is 100% Christian, the Government

deliberately denied the people social amenities such as good access roads to the town from the state capital. The road was tarred from Bauchi and the construction was stopped after a town known as Das. The people of Tafawa Balewa are treated as second class citizens in the state yet they kept to their faith without wavering.

As if that seems not to be enough, the Islamic militants uses the same bad road to attack the Christian villagers who have to go to the state capital on various businesses. There have been over six different attacks on Christians working on their farms and many of them have died and some are still on admission in Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH). These Christians are living under a siege, though there may not be physical walls barricading them. They are confined to one fate which is death by bomb, bullet, fire, cutlasses and machetes and they face constant economic hardship since they are not allowed to go to markets or their farms, all for the sake of their faith in Christ Jesus.

Politically, they are oppressed as their Local Government headquarters was relocated by the State Government from their area and placed in a Muslim community. The Federal Girls College they had was also removed; some of the civil servants from Tafawa Balewa were unjustly sacked from work adding to the burden of dependence on the poor Christian farmers who cannot go to their farm again.

PERSECUTION REPORT IN NIGERIA

TERRORIST SLAUGHTER THREE KIDS IN THEIR MOTHER'S PRESENCE

On November 22, 2012

MAIDUGURI -Three children between the ages of 5,7 and 12 were Thursday slaughtered in the presence of their mother in Sulimanti ward of Maiduguri metropolis when the bread winner Mr. Aduju Zubairu an SSS personnel was away, even as five others were also shot dead during a night attack by gunmen suspected to be members of Jamatul Ahlis Sunnah Lid Daawa wal Jihad popularly known as Boko Haram. Our correspondent who was at the scene of the incident in Sulimanti, Thursday morning, where the children were slaughtered gathered that the assailants stormed the residence of the victims at exactly 1.55 a.m. and forcefully broke the main gate, violently woke up the three children and slaughtered them before their mother.

Five Killed in Attack on Christian Community in Kaduna, Northern Nigeria

By Jeremy Reynalds

KADUNA, NORTHERN NIGERIA -- Gunmen shot five family members of Yakubu Kayit Wednesday, from Madauchi-Zonkwa, Kaduna State in Northern Nigeria, before setting their house ablaze with the victims inside.

According to a news release from Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW), Pastor Bitrus Titus of Living Faith Church, Zonkwa, told the group's Nigerian office that the sound of gun fire lasted for close to an hour, without any intervention from security personnel. He said that the victims' corpses were burnt beyond recognition.

The attack prompted the young men in the Christian community to take to the streets in protest, demanding that soldiers stationed nearby be removed from their post.

Rev.Yunusa Nmadu, CEO of CSW Nigeria, who traveled to the area and met protesters, said in the news release, "We are saddened by yet another attack on a predominately Christian community, and urge the relevant security agents to live up to their responsibilities."

He added, "Especially since there has been a long standing threat that the community and others

around would be attacked after the April 2011 presidential electoral violence in Kaduna State. Our hearts go out to the relatives and friends of the family that has been affected."

Update: Suicide Bomber Kills More Christians in Nigeria

It is reported that suicide bombers killed 11 people and injured 30 more in the Kaduna state of northern Nigeria. (Since the initial report, we have been informed that the number of fatalities has increased to 15.) The bombs had detonated following a Sunday worship service on November 25th after two vehicles carrying ammunition were driven into the state's military barracks with the purpose of attacking the church.

It is not clear who was responsible for the attack, but the BBC reports that the army suspects the Islamist militant group Boko Haram is responsible. This group is fighting to overthrow the government and impose an extreme form of Sharia (Islamic law).

Prior to the attack, Nigeria's military offered a monetary reward (about \$317,000 US) for assistance in finding suspected Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau. Additional financial rewards were offered for helping to locate other suspected leaders of the group. At least 50 people were killed in bombings in Kaduna this past June and in the reprisals that followed. Last month, at least 15 people, mostly children and women, were killed and about 150 others were injured after a suicide bomber attacked a large Catholic church in the same state. According to the Human Right Watch, more than 2,800 people have died in fighting since Boko Haram's insurrection began in 2009.

Please pray the victims' distraught families would sense God's comforting presence and strength as they process the trauma and grief of sudden loss. Ask that Boko Haram's leadership would indeed be captured and brought to justice, disabling their efforts to continue killing and intimidating Christians. Despite this violence, may our Christian brothers and sisters find the strength to model Christ-like behaviour by responding to their enemies in a God-honouring manner (Matthew 5: 44).

SON OF WIDOW KILLED IN HIS ROOM

Bro. Nuhu Sunday

State:

January 5, 2013

—

Son of widow, killed in his house

Adamawa

Around 10.00 p.m. at Bayan Quarters

Nuhu, the son of Mrs. Lios Sunday, herself a widow, was sleeping in the room with another friend sharing the room with him. Some unknown gunmen came to the room and shot them dead. He was 30 years old.



Bro. Joseph Adamu Gadzama

Leg amputated through gunshot

State: Borno

AGE: 31

Dec. 11, 2011— Around 7 p.m. At Damboa Road area, I went to a shop to buy some things and while waiting for the seller to attend to me some gunmen came and started shooting. I was shot on my leg. I fell down and hid in a corner and quickly made a call home.

I was first taken to the Police Station and from there to the hospital. I was bleeding so much and underwent surgery for over five hours. The doctors tried to stop the bleeding but they could not and eventually had to amputate the leg.





INTERNATIONAL PERSECUTION IN OTHER LANDS

Update: Young Teen Becomes Egypt's Latest Kidnapping Victim
(Source: VOM-USA)



Sarah Ishaq Abdelmalek

A 14-year-old girl in Egypt has been kidnapped and reportedly forced to marry her Muslim captor. Sarah Abdelmalek is the latest victim of a common practice of kidnapping Coptic Christian girls and forcing them to marry as part of a strategy to limit and intimidate the country's Christian population.

Sarah was last seen entering a paper shop near her school in September. After Sarah's father filed a missing persons report, he received a phone call telling him he would never see his daughter again.

A school friend of Sarah's says the 27-year-old paper shop owner, a member of an extremist Sunni Muslim group called the Salafists, had been pursuing Sarah. About a month after she was reported missing, a Salafist organization issued a statement saying that Sarah converted to Islam freely and married a Muslim man. Even if Sarah wanted to marry voluntarily, under Egyptian law, she would have to wait until she turned 18.

A VOM worker states that at least 24 girls have been kidnapped recently, ranging in age from 14 to 21 years old.

Please pray for strength on behalf of Sarah's family as they endure this heartbreaking separation. Also remember young Sarah, asking for the Lord to protect her spiritually, emotionally and physically. Throughout the ordeal, may she remain steadfast in her faith and eventually find her way safely back to her family. Let's stand in agreement together that such incidences of kidnapping and forced marriages would entirely cease.

Somalian Militants Publicly Murder Young Believer

(Source: Mission Network News)



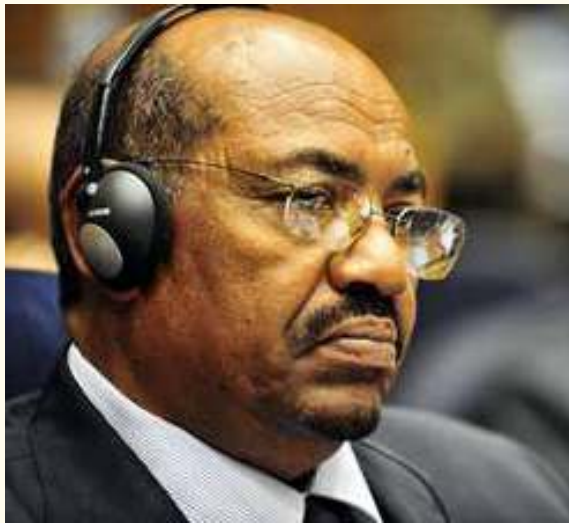
A young Christian man was beheaded by Muslim extremists in Somalia before an assembled crowd. The brutal murder of 25-year-old Farhan Haji Mose occurred in broad daylight in the city of Barawa, and his body was desecrated as a warning for others.

Prior to his death on November 16th, Farhan was accused of apostasy by members of al Shabaab. Sources report that this group of militants has compiled a list of people to hunt down; those who are suspected of converting from Islam to Christianity. There have been a series of decapitations of believers by this group in an attempt to rid Somalia of Christian. These Islamic extremists seek to impose a strict version of Sharia (Islamic law) in Somalia.

Please pray that the families of these victims will find comfort in the Lord's sovereignty and love. Also ask for His powerful intervention to take place against the murderous plans of al Shabaab, bringing the members to repentance. As practised by the believers of the early Church (Acts 7:60), may the Christians of Somalia find forgiveness in their hearts toward those who are carrying out the wicked plans of the enemy against the followers of Jesus.

Potential Mass Genocide THREATENS SUDANESE CHRISTIANS

(Source: Religious Liberty Prayer Bulletin)



President General Omar al-Bashir

The threat of genocide looms in Sudan as Christian and non-Arab communities in three regions have been targeted by President General Omar al-Bashir, a notorious leader well known for the systematic slaughter of those who oppose Islamisation.

When the mainly Christian south seceded from the predominantly Islamic north in 2011, the government of Sudan began to persecute "southerners" (those who are politically and culturally aligned with the south) living in the north, stripping them of their citizenship and denying them rights.

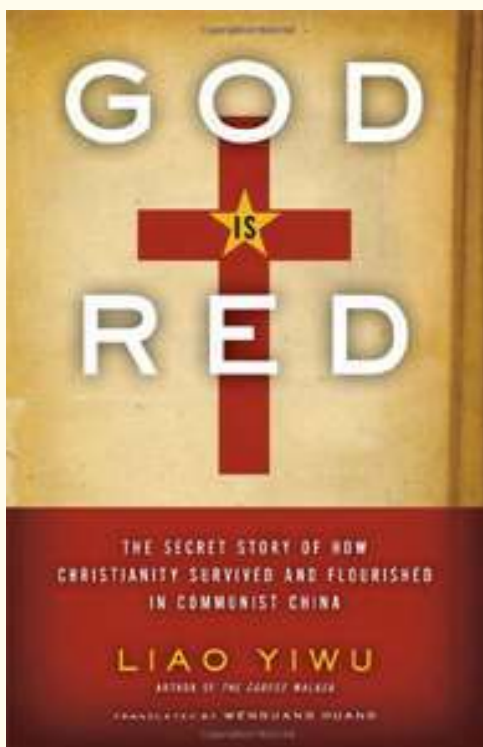
The attempts by the Khartoum government to drive out the 'infidels' or 'blacks' (as it refers to them) from the oil-rich areas of Abyei and South Kordofan, in which tens of thousands were killed in 2011, appear to be continuing. Recent aerial bombardments have completely demolished homes and farms (including crops) in these predominantly Christian areas. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced, acute malnutrition and

famine have become widespread, and access to humanitarian aid has been denied.

Please pray that these victims of injustice and cruelty will be sustained with supernatural strength and peace, as well as the miraculous provision of food and medical aid. Also pray that the government will cease in its systematic persecution. During these very troubling times, may the Sudanese believers remain faithful and demonstrate Christ to the world through their love and forgiveness.

HARSH PRISON SENTENCE FOR CHRISTIAN POET IN CHINA

(Source: VOM-USA)



Li's assistance in the escape of Liao Yiwu, author of *God is Red*, may be the cause of his harsh sentence.

After being illegally detained for more than a year, Christian poet Li Bifeng was sentenced with a fabricated charge of "contract fraud," stemming from a legitimate business deal. As of the November 19th sentence, the dissident poet is now facing 12 more years in prison.

Interestingly, Li had become a Christian while imprisoned for seven years (due to writing poetry promoting freedom in 1998). Prior to that, he served five years for his participation in the Tiananmen democracy movement in 1989. It is widely believed by international observers that the excessive sentence is meant to exact revenge for his aid in assisting the escape of famous exiled Chinese writer Liao Yiwu. Liao is the author of the book, "*God is Red*," which was selected in 2011 as the best title by "Christianity Today."

Last August, the prosecutor in the case wanted Li's 17-year-old son, Jiang, who is studying in North America, brought back to China. Li's business and assets were confiscated, preventing him from providing financial assistance to his son. Organizations such as VOM-Canada have helped to raise support for his son's tuition and living expenses during 2012, so that Jiang would not need to return to China and thus face impending harm.

Please pray that the Lord would provide the means to appeal the court's decision against Li, bringing him deserved vindication. In addition, pray that Jiang will be able to successfully complete his studies. During these very trying circumstances, may Li and his family experience the Lord's mighty power not only to endure but also to rise triumphantly over them (Ephesians 6:10-19).

2011 POST ELECTION VIOLENCE

In April 2011, between 16th and 18th of the month, Nigeria witnessed a new dimension to religious crisis. It was an outright politicization of religious intolerance. As it became apparent that the presidential candidate of People's Democratic Party, (PDP), Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian, was going to emerge winner of the presidential election, thereby defeating Rtd. General Muhammadu Buhari of Congress for Progressive Change (CPC), a Muslim, irate Muslims attacked Christians in various locations in the northern part of the country. It was a three-day orgy of violence and destruction of lives and properties.

As noted by an official of Christian Association of Nigeria, "We are still in total shock and disbelief because on the grounds of the presidential election, which we do not have control over, our churches, houses, and business premises became targets of attack. Are our churches,



houses, and business premises polling units or INEC offices?"

By the time the rampage ended, scores of people had been killed, houses burnt, vehicles and motorcycles destroyed, and Christian business premises destroyed in large numbers in Kaduna State, Gombe State and Bauchi State. In Gombe State, the following acts of destruction were recorded:

Death	20
Wounded	147 people
Churches/pastorate burnt/vandalized	42
Houses burnt, destroyed, looted and vandalized	207
Cars burnt, damaged or vandalized	49
Business premises burnt or vandalized	46
Motorcycles burnt, damaged, or vandalized	10

The financial cost of the rampage runs into millions. So far, there has been no satisfactory compensation for all that people and churches that were affected. Below is a summary of the damages in Gombe state alone:



Estimated cost of the churches affected in the post-election	rampage	249 million naira
Cost of the houses that were burnt and properties that were	destroyed	427 million naira
Business premises that were destroyed	132 million naira	
Cost of vehicles burnt and vandalized	9 million naira	

Other states in the North like Bauchi and Kaduna recorded equally distressing records of destruction. In the figures listed above, of the 20 people killed in Gombe state, 10 were killed in one household!

According to an official report of the attacks on Christians, "the attacks looks premeditated and well orchestrated. The precision with which targeted locations were attacked and torched shows it was pre-planned and masterminded by those who did not wish the nation well."

The attack on Christians was uncalled for and absolutely had nothing to do with the elections. The presidential election in 2011 was to a large extent free and fair. The common cry of election rigging was not loud and strident in 2011 unlike in previous years.

To date, no one has been prosecuted for the post—election violence in northern Nigeria. Christian Association of Nigeria has called on the government to set up a high powered investigation panel to look into the direct and remote causes of the post election riots with a bid to unmask the culprits and appropriately bring them to book.

Pray for Christians living in the northern part of Nigeria, even as another election approaches.

Policeman Arrested FOR DISPERSING ISLAMIC CROWD

On the 18th of April, 2011, the Gombe Area Commander received a distress call from Checheniya quarters indicating that the lives of the people in the community close to the barracks were in danger. The Commander quickly deployed his men for quick intervention. The Gombe Division also deployed the mobile police officers on standby in the barracks. The police officers advanced shooting in the air to disperse the mob.

One of the police officers, Inspector Y. Paul fired 20 rounds of ammunition from the 30 rounds that were given to him from his AK47. The operation was successful and the combined team of law enforcement officers were able to disperse the mob.

On 22nd April, 2011, around 11.00 a.m. the State Police Command ordered the arrest of Inspector Y. Paul and placed him in detention in the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID). He was charged for culpable homicide and illegal use of firearm.

The complainant happens to be a serving CSP, who claimed that one of his sons was shot and Inspector Y. Paul is the police officer that shot him. The CSP connived with one Hajaratu and 9 others who went and testified as witnesses for the CID.

The questions that are yet to be answered are, “where were those witnesses when the boy was shot?” “Where was the boy when he was shot?”

Interestingly, the Police Command has not been able to arrest anyone in connection with the killing of 20 Christians during the post election violence in Gombe State, but a Christian policeman on lawful duty has been arrested.

The Inspector is still in detention in the CID.



SOS visit to VCM



RELIGIOUS CRISIS IN NIGERIA

T H E G E N E S I S

Religious crisis in Nigeria did not start over-night but has its roots in a systematic Islamic expansionist agenda for the nation. Nigerian Christians should not assume that the current wave of persecution of Christians in the northern parts of the country is an abnormality or an aberration in the pages of the nation's history. Such views would be naive and tantamount to burying the head in the sand like an ostrich. Christians need to wake up and realize that a long conceived strategy has reached the stage of implementation. Only a concerted spiritual re-awakening can stem the tide of the onslaught that has been unleashed upon the Church in Nigeria.

From a historical perspective, it can easily be recalled that while Islam entered the country from the North, Christianity came in from the South. Both religions have similar expansionist goals and that is where the similarity ends. While Christianity expands through verbal and moral persuasion, Islam puts its point across with the sword. As Christianity moved up to the North, Islam started pushing its way down to the South. The two opposing religious beliefs met at the Middle Belt of the country and set in motion a wave of spiritual conflict that culminated in perennial crisis in Plateau State. With an irreconcilable opposing beliefs between the Christians and the Muslims, the stage was set for a violent conflict in the Middle Belt as well as in other parts of the North.

POLITICS OF RELIGION

The first point that Christians should note in relating to Islam is that under the religion of Mohammedanism, there is no separation of politics and religion or government and religion. Under Islam, both are the same. It is Christianity that practices the separation of the State and Religion, Islam does not. Therefore, wherever a Muslim holds political power, even in a multi-religious community, his first objective is to use the political power at his disposal as a jihadist tool to spread and support his religion, as well as consciously use the instrument of the state to suppress, persecute and decimate opposing religions until they submit to Islam.

This was the scenario when the Sardauna was the premier of the northern region. Under his administration, there was a visible attempt to use the instrument of the State to expand Islam. It became apparent, that under the Sardauna Islam was the preferred religion and Muslims were being systematically given political and administrative power over the northern part of Nigeria.

This realization compelled Christians in the minority ethnic groups in the North to come together to assess the situation and its implications for Christianity in the North, both in the short and long terms. It was clear to them, that unless



Christians in the North came together to form one body united in purpose and in faith, Christianity would be eradicated in the North. Some notable Christian leaders like Ambassador Joli Tanko, late Professor Ishaya Audu, and a host of other Christian leaders in the North came together to form the Northern Christian Association in 1964. In reality, this body has been meeting and operating since 1955, before the Nigerian independence. It was this Northern Christian Association that led to the establishment of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in 1975.

To the credit of the Sardauna, despite vigorously pushing Islam into positions of power and prominence in the North, he gave an open door to qualified Christians to operate and hold significant offices during his tenure as the premier. This should not be construed to imply acceptance of Christianity in the North, but a political appreciation of the needs of the North and the vital role that Christians must play in its development. The major reason responsible for this temperate approach to governance was the structure of the nation as of that time. The Sardauna realized that if he was to compete favourably with the Western Region headed by Chief Obafemi Awolowo, and the Eastern Region headed by Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Christians in the North that constituted the highest number of educated people, must be included in his government. This is one of the reasons why he appointed Professor Ishaya Audu as the first Nigerian Vice-Chancellor of the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

WHY IT TURNED VIOLENT

Three key reasons were responsible for the degeneration of the fragile religious balance in the North.

Christians need to wake up and realize that a long conceived strategy has reached the stage of implementation. Only a concerted spiritual re-awakening can stem the tide of the onslaught that has been unleashed upon the Church in Nigeria.

1. After the death of the Sardauna, there emerged a leadership vacuum in the North and religious extremists started to push for radical Islamization of the entire region. Sheik Abubakar Gumi 1, the Grand Khadi of Moslems in the North started preaching sermons inciting the

Moslems against the Christians. He had a lot of followers, even among the elites of the North. Sheik Gumi played a vital role in inciting the Moslems against the Christians. The man was not looking at the North from the perspective of a region that requires development and progress, which would naturally require the cooperation of all the various groups in the region, he only saw the region from the narrow perspective of Islamic domination. Unfortunately, no one arose in the North to either call him to order, or enlighten him.

2. The expansion of Christians in the North became overwhelming and the leaders of Islam became alarmed. The first signal they received that Christianity was beginning to spread like wildfire was the appointment of Christian Bishops in core Islamic states. When States like Zamfara, Kano, Jigawa, started ordaining bishops, the Muslims realized that Christianity was beginning to take over. They realized that before a Christian denomination can appoint a

Under the religion of Mohammedanism, there is no separation of politics and religion or government and religion. Under Islam, both are the same. It is Christianity that practices the separation of the State and Religion - Islam does not.

bishop, there must have been in place considerable expansion of the church in that locality with many branches, substantial number of the clergy, as well as many church members. The appointment of bishops in the core Islamic states sent shivers down the spine of the

Muslim leaders. They decided that Christianity must be stopped. The agitations started around 1977 in the Ahmadu Bello University where the Muslim students came to the streets chanting "Islam only" "Islam only". The students did not molest anybody, neither did they go on rampage, but they were writing all over Zaria, even as far as Kaduna, "Islam only".

3. With the benefit of hindsight, the worst occurrence that exacerbated religious crisis in Nigeria was an occurrence in Kafanchan in 1987 during a Christian crusade conducted by Rev. Bako. As the man was preaching, a Muslim lady jumped onto the podium, seized the microphone from his hand and shouted that if the Muslim men would not defend Islam, the women would do it. From that moment, the riots and the killings started spreading from Kafanchan to Katsina, Funtua, and many other places that are known today. As a result of that incident, Rev Bako relocated from Nigeria to Ghana, where he has been since then.

TERRORIST CAMPS

Christian leaders in the North drew the attention of the Federal Government to the degenerating situation as a result of inciting messages from Islamic clerics but, in a tacit endorsement of the religious crisis, the Muslim leaders of the various military government as of that period refused to take decisive action. Government, as of that time, did not act to call the Islamic teachers to order.

It did not take long for Christians to discover that an international terrorist training camp had been established between Zaria and Kaduna. Any non-Muslim that ventured near that camp was bound to be killed. Again, the attention of the Federal Government of Nigeria was drawn to the fact that international terrorists were being trained in Nigeria but the government did not take any action against them. Later another terrorist training camp was established in Jigawa State. The terrorist facility in Jigawa was much larger than the first one operating between Zaria and Kaduna. The operators of the Jigawa terrorist camp were so brazen that they used loudspeakers within the camp grounds to summon their officers. It was authoritatively reported by those who ventured into the vicinity of the camp that the loudspeakers blared information such as, "where is commander Cameroun", "Where is commander Chad", "commander Niger, your attention is needed".

These findings were reported to the government and also to the Inspector General of Police, but no decisive action was taken. Islamic insurgents established training camps in Nigeria and they were neither challenged nor called to order. Again, and again, Christian leaders alerted the government on the danger that was brewing in the North. It was only a matter of time before the North would be engulfed with violence as seen in the case of Boko Haram. With the establishment of terrorist camps unhindered in the North, an army of indoctrinated and trained Islamic fundamentalists was gradually raised to unleash violence and destruction on Christians in the region.

ECONOMIC JIHAD

There is an economic-political dimension to religious crisis in Nigeria which the people in the southern part of the country seem not to understand. While the average southerner is industrious and depends on his enterprise as means of sustenance, the average northern Muslim depends on government patronage for his existence. In the North, the average Muslim needs government to function. Therefore, political power is viewed from both an economic and religious perspective. If the political power is "lost", the economic well being of the northern Muslim is evidently threatened and religion becomes the channel of protest and a bargaining tool.

In view of the foregoing, the emergence of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as the president of Nigeria was both a provocation and a threat. Taking political power from the North is tantamount to seizing the economic jugular of the region. It was therefore not a surprise that Islam in the North would fight back ferociously. Muslims do not separate religion from politics, so, if political power, which translates to economic well being is lost, religion comes on board to fight and bargain.

It would be recalled that Sharia came up in the North when president Obasanjo, a Christian from the South was in power.

Sharia later became the bedrock for the agitations of Boko Haram when Goodluck Jonathan, another Christian from the South won the presidential election. The clamour for Sharia has been long in the offing because it will give Muslims the opportunity to suppress and oppress non-Muslims. For example, under the Sharia, it is forbidden that a non-Muslim should rule over a Muslim. Therefore, if a Local Government election is conducted and a Christian wins the election in any of the Sharia states, he cannot hold office because an infidel cannot rule a Muslim under Sharia. When this mindset is in place, then the stage has been set for confrontation as well as disharmony. It implies therefore, that Christians should not expect to hold political offices in the North.

It can therefore be seen how religion is intertwined with politics and economics and it easily becomes a tool to maintain a hold on the economy of the North. The underlying factors for much of the religious crisis in the North are political and economic — religion seems to be a tool to achieve political and economic objectives.

PURGING THE WHEAT

Decimation of Christians in the North, through using the instrument of the state, was at its worst during the regime of Murtala Mohammed. He came into power with a lot of religious zeal and proceeded to use the office of the Head of State to further the interests of Islam as he embarked on a lopsided purging of the civil service. Over 90% of the people he retired in the North were Christians. People were prematurely retired “with immediate effect” and they had nothing to fall back upon—many of the retirees died.

In part, this severe purging of people prematurely from the civil service was one of the factors that fueled corruption in Nigeria. Suddenly, a Permanent Secretary had no house, no car, and nothing to fall back upon; those who escaped the purge started making arrangement for “the rainy day”. The reason is

because the man was waiting for his retirement and gratuity. To forestall experiencing similar calamity, the officers who escaped the purge started making arrangement for “the rainy day”. From that period, corruption became endemic in the Nigerian civil service.

Of course, Babangida came into power later and expanded corruption by giving it a stamp of approval. It was also during the regime of Babangida that the Islamization agenda extended into the armed forces. Many of the Christian officers from the North in the armed forces were retired, while a number were killed.

When the nation returned to democratic rule, the trend of Islamization did not cease. In the North East, politicians raised and armed thugs to annihilate perceived opponents. After using them to win election, they abandoned them. Those mercenaries transformed into Boko Haram. Because those mercenaries were well trained and well armed, after the politicians had stopped using them, the international Islamic fundamentalists recruited them to fight jihad.

So, what started as an economic-political game, has turned into an international terrorist conflict. Many of the people engaged in the activities of Boko Haram are in reality not Nigerians. Therefore, they find it easy to perpetuate crisis in the country because they have nothing to lose.

Religion Is Intertwined With Politics And Economics And It Easily Becomes A Tool To Maintain A Hold On The Economy Of The North.

CLOSING THE DIVIDE

With the perennial religious riots having a noticeable adverse effect on the socio - cultural, and economic status of the North, CAN in Kaduna state initiated a broad based Committee to look into issues affecting both Christians and Muslims in the state. Governor Markafi of Kaduna State supported the initiative and he set up two religious Committees of equal membership.

The major objective of the Committee is to monitor the pulse of adherents of both religions and quickly nip any

The northern Christian leaders impressed upon the leaders from the South that Christians in South West, South East and South South must unite and speak with one voice.

brewing religious crisis in the bud. Members of the Committee meet regularly to discuss issues that affect both religions and map out ways of easing tension in the state.

The Committee drew up the **THE KADUNA PEACE DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS** in an attempt to eradicate religious intolerance in the State. It was a pilot project, and if it had succeeded in Kaduna State, it would have become a roadmap for all the other states in the North. It would be unfair to claim that the effort was an exercise in futility. It must have in many ways reduced the spate of religious crisis in Kaduna State. Unfortunately, it did not succeed in eradicating it.

ONLY UNITY OF THE CHURCH WILL WORK

At a meeting of Christian leaders in Asaba, a few years ago, the Christian leaders from the North impressed on their southern counterparts that only a solid unity of the church can put an end to religious crisis in Nigeria. At that meeting, there were 19 representatives of the Christians from all the 19 northern states and 17 Christian leaders representing all the 17 states in the South were present.

The northern Christian leaders impressed upon the leaders from the South that Christians in South West, South East and South South must unite and speak with one voice. When it is clear that the church speaks with one voice, the adversaries of the Church shall be more careful.

THE POLITICS OF CENSUS

It remains a mystery why Nigeria would conduct census and religion would not be reflected.

During the last census exercise, the Christian Association of Nigeria under Bishop Akinola passed a resolution that no Christian should participate in the census exercise if religion would not be reflected. The nation should be able to know how many people are Christians, how many are Muslims, and how many are traditionalists. This information should be available at both the national and the states level.

After passing the resolution, it remains another mystery, how President Olusegun Obasanjo, himself a Christian, managed to persuade Bishop Akinola to rescind the decision. Christian leaders heard on the radio that the CAN president had approved that Christians should go ahead and participate in the

census.

This is one example of double speak by Christian leaders in the country that has consistently placed Christians at the vulnerable end of religious crisis in the nation.

A firm stand on the resolution of CAN would have revealed the true state of Nigeria as it pertains to religion. Opinions are currently divided on the claim of an “Islamic North”. There are those that believe that “Islamic North” is a myth. The superiority claimed by Islam in the North due to a higher population of Moslems would have been put to a factual test through the census. Unfortunately, the Church lost that opportunity during the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo.

Today, Christians in the North suffer discrimination of all sorts on the basis of their faith. Christian children find it difficult to obtain government scholarship, Christian farmers are discriminated against in the distribution of fertilizers, Christian businessmen are denied government patronage in government contracts and supplies, and Christian youths are not preferred in filling vacant positions in government establishments.

Meanwhile, there are states in the North in which the Christian population are in the range of 85%, 70%, 60%, 58%, and so on. Even the core Islamic states have Christians in millions, yet, they are suppressed and oppressed under the guise of an Islamic North.

The present challenges facing the church call for dynamic spiritual Christian leadership to mobilize and coordinate the church as one body to prayerfully provide solutions to the problems of religious crisis in the country. It is clear that Government shall continue to play politics with religious crisis until the Church arises in unison against the persecution of Christians in northern Nigeria.

The superiority claimed by Islam in the North due to a higher population of Moslems would have been put to a factual test through the census.



A GARDEN OF LIMBS

Situated in the middle of a dusty, hot compound, Nigeria, is the strangest garden to behold. In this garden there are no flowers, no vibrant petals or ripening fruits. Instead, blossoming from the earth under the beating rays of the African sun are plaster limbs. They protrude from the sand on metal poles, the stark white molds of severed legs. The curve of a thigh and the arch of a knee are visible upon closer inspection, testaments of the people they were cast from. The sight is unsettling at first, a garden of body parts casting morbid silhouettes against the blue sky. But for the persecuted Christians of Nigeria, it is a beautiful plot.

These molds are the first step in the process of building prosthetic limbs for Nigerians whose love of Jesus made them victims of violent attacks, and who were left with debilitating physical consequences. Because of their beliefs, Christians in this country have had their churches bombed, their villages massacred, and their loved-ones killed.

Voice of Martyrs Medical has long been caring for the medical needs here, but now, because of a father and son team from halfway across the world, a new venture in hope has arrived in Nigeria for the persecuted Christians.

Jeff and Michael are a father and son team who operate a prosthetic clinic in the American Midwest, and recently embarked to volunteer their time and unique skills with VOM medical and Voice of the Christian Martyrs (VOCM) in Nigeria to build new limbs for Christians who suffered amputations due to the devastation of machetes, rifles, and explosives wielded by Muslim terrorists.

The benefit of these limbs for the injured Christians is profound. Most of the patients are from very humble backgrounds, living and working in environments that demand daily physical labor. Providing them with mobility will impact not only their own quality of life, but also that of their families. Among the recipients are:

- John, who lost his job as a driver because his manual car demands the use of both legs,
- Rachel, who has five children to feed and could no longer stand to cultivate her garden,
- Patience, a beautiful young woman with injuries in her feet who comes from a tribe famous for its celebration of dancing, but who struggled to even walk.
- And then there is Weng. Weng is four years old, has brown eyes that are almost bigger than his head, and two very crippled legs. When he was an infant, men attacked his home, throwing him and his mother, whom they killed, into a fire. He was later rescued, but the flames devastated his lower limbs. As he grew, his scarred legs only contorted further, rendering him incapable of walking or crawling. VOM medical has been caring for him over the years, but because of the work that Jeff and Michael are now doing, for the first time ever, they are able to offer him not just adequate health, but a chance at walking and playing like other young boys.

While the bodies of our brothers and sisters in Nigeria may have been broken, the condition of their faith is tremendously strong. It hasn't yet occurred to their persecutors that the more they attack these Christians physically, the stronger they grow spiritually.

The prosthetic limbs nurtured in VOM medical's unlikely garden will enable them to walk, but it has always been the Nigerian believers' abundance of grace and forgiveness amidst persecution that truly allows them to heal.

Courtesy: VOMedical



“WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU IS PRAYER”



UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

Christians need to understand that Islam operates in different phases. As a policy, the religion sanctions two phases of operation: the phase of weakness and the phase of Jihad. When Muslims are in the minority in an area, they realize that they are weak and unable to enforce the tenets of their religion, they will be quiet and submissive. There is nothing that you tell them to do that they will not do. At this phase of weakness, they are law abiding citizens and participate submissively in all the activities of the society without making demands or claiming right. Often times this phase fools people and they believe that “Islam is peace”.

When they begin to increase in number, they begin to agitate for certain concessions like operating Islamic school, teaching Islamic studies in schools, having an Islamic centre and the right to build mosques anywhere.

At this stage, they are leaving the phase of weakness and transitioning to the stage of Jihad. This is the stage that Islam still is in the South of Nigeria and southerners are comfortable with Islam. In the Western world, like U.S.A. and in Europe, Islam is beginning to agitate for more voice and more recognition. In Britain for example, Muslims are beginning to make demands that were totally unheard of ten years ago.

When Muslims believe that they are in the majority, they automatically demand the right to rule and to govern. This is because under Sharia, “an infidel” cannot rule a Muslim. At this point, they begin to enforce the teachings of Islam and insist that only Muslims should hold positions of privilege in the society. This is the phase that Islam is in the North right now. Wherever Islam believes that it is strong, it seeks to dominate that society. Muslims in the North do not want to accept that there are Christians in the North of Nigeria.

WHY SUCH RESISTANCE?

The mindset of the Muslim is that if they permit Christians to grow economically and numerically, Christians will turn them to slaves. They believe that the Christians will employ them as “mai-guard”, house helps, drivers, gardeners and so on; and Islam prohibits that “a faithful” should serve “an infidel”. Therefore, wherever they see that a Christian is succeeding economically, if it is within the power of the Muslims, they will ensure that they bring him down. If that is not possible, they will deliberately cause confusion and start destroying the properties and the businesses of the Christians. They have a mindset that if Christians are allowed to become strong, then the Muslims will become the slaves.

The second aspect of their mindset is that the Muslims believe that if you permit Christians to grow and spread, they will start teaching Muslim children to become Christians. To prevent the spread of Christianity, certain unwritten policies have been put in place to hinder the growth and expansion of Christianity, particularly in the North. If a Christian from the South gets to the North, he will be surprised to be informed that he cannot obtain land to build a church.

The man might claim, “I am a Nigerian”, but he will be informed that in an Islamic state, he is not permitted to build a church. Getting land to build a church is like squeezing water out of a rock. Even if you apply for land, nobody will approve that application.

That is the reason why over 80% of the churches in the North are built on private lands. Someone applies for land to build a house and later converts it into a church. The resistance is so pervasive because regularly meetings are held between the emirs and the village heads. The village chiefs, community leaders and so on are warned that if they dare permit a church to be built in their domain, they will forfeit infrastructure like roads, schools and government support of any kind. That is one of the reasons missions activities are stalled in most villages because there is a silent persecution going on in that area.

And of course, there is the well known objection to a Muslim becoming a Christian. If a Muslim decides to change his faith, they will call him for a discussion, explain to him why he should not change his faith and give him time to think things over. If he remains adamant, the consequence is death.

So, all these are part of the indirect persecution of Christians in the North. The northern Muslims make life unbearable for the Christians in the North, through direct and indirect

persecution. Christians in the North have a lot of problems. In the North they are not accepted and if they run to the South, they are not accepted either because the southerners think there are no Christians in the North.

DELIVERANCE BY GOD

Let me share with you my personal experience. One day, the Muslims came and burnt my house down. They actually came to kill me but God spared my life. I am alive today by the grace of God. They came and surrounded my house for three hours. We sweated blood. I phoned the DPO and he said he was calling Abuja. He too had to be careful because you do not know the level of involvement whenever they operate.

My neighbour panicked and he wanted to run away. They caught him and slaughtered him in my presence. We were upstairs watching. His wife started shouting and they caught her also and slaughtered her and set her on fire. What I am telling you may seem incredulous to you that human beings can behave in this manner.

The mindset of the Muslim is that if they permit Christians to grow economically and numerically, Christians will turn them into slaves.

All we could do was to pray. I remember that the man that came to help us confessed that he was a police officer but he had no bullet in his gun! People have often wondered how can the Islamic rioters kill policemen with guns? The truth is, when they are going on such rampage, the authorities do not give the policemen bullets. The people would be informed in the mosque that they should not be afraid of the police because they do not have bullets in their guns. So, they would kill policemen and they would also kill the Christians. The police officer who came told me, "I have no bullet in my gun, so we have to think of a way out".

When they could not kill me, they later followed my first son and killed him. They slaughtered him with a knife. They are targeting me, but because they could not get me, they went after my son.

On the day of the burial, I said that I knew that some of the people that killed my son were there, but I have forgiven them all. That testimony alone, converted three Islamic Clerics. They were amazed that someone could suffer such injustice and still be able to forgive the perpetrators of the evil. And this is the best way to reach out to the Muslims, when Christians are Christians indeed. I have taken statistics of my converts and over 92% of them were converted by my lifestyle and not by my preaching to them. The forgiveness that they saw demonstrated by me after the murder of my son converted them. They wanted to know the Lord Who can cause a man to forgive those that committed such evil against him.

My neighbour panicked and he wanted to run away. They caught him and slaughtered him in my presence. We were upstairs watching. His wife started shouting and they caught her also and slaughtered her and set her on fire.

Someone might ask, "with all these problems and difficulties, why do you still want to stay in the North?"

For me, that issue has been settled. The Lord called me to reach out to my people and I have to. So, whether they are killing me, I will still love them with the love of God. I do not see them as my enemies because they killed my son. I have forgiven them because they do not have Christ and that is all that they can think of at their level.

As terrible as the present distress is, I think there is a good side to it. The present difficulty is producing genuine Christianity in the North. You see, no one would like to associate with a movement that will cost him his life if he is not committed. Presently, if you are not a serious Christian, you cannot associate with Christianity in the North.

POSSIBILITY OF PEACE

The possibility of reconciling both religious beliefs is not possible. The Moslem claim they believe in Jesus Christ as a prophet of God. In fact, any Muslim that does not believe in Jesus is not a true Muslim. The problem, they claim, is that the Christians refuse to accept Mohammed as a prophet of God. So, how can there be a reconciliation? Which Christian would accept another Lord apart from Jesus Christ?

PRAYERS

What we need from our Christian brethren in the South is prayers. Right now, our brethren in the South are starving us of prayers and the Word of God. Because there is crisis in the North, Christians in the South do not want to reach out to Christians in the North. This is wrong.

Let Christians in the South mobilize prayers to support us in the North. Christians in the South must believe that there are Christians also in the North. Pray for us that we shall be courageous enough to reach out to our people, pray for us that we shall demonstrate practical Christianity that will confirm the truth of Christianity and the love of Christ.

People have often wondered how can the Islamic rioters can kill policemen with guns? The truth is, when they are going on such rampage, the authorities do not give the policemen bullets ... The police officer who came told me, "I have no bullet in my gun, so we have to think of a way out".



Rev. P

Christians in the other parts of Nigeria should realize that Borno state is the spiritual base of Boko Haram. The insurgency started here and the objective of the Islamists is to eradicate Christianity in Borno State and turn it into a total Islamic state. Over 30 churches in Maiduguri have completely closed down and all the members as well as the pastors have left. Nearly all the Christians that are not indigenes of Borno State have left.

Because the Christians are leaving the state, ministry work is becoming more difficult for full time ministers of the gospel. Since full time ministers are supported by members of the church, once the members leave, the pastors will experience a lot of hardship.

Those of us that are indigenes have nowhere to go. We have purposed to remain in Borno State and continue to do the work of the Lord. If the non-indigenes leave we are not going to leave. We know that we are living on the mercy of God and we depend on God to sustain us from day to day. Of course, I must mention that it takes a strong faith to remain as a pastor in Borno State. For the existing Christian assemblies, some do not have more than four or five members.

Another major problem that Christians are facing in Maiduguri is that of accommodation. Christians have to relocate from areas in which Muslims are in the majority. Because of the pressure to move into Christian populated areas, the rent in those areas have gone up. Many of our brethren left their former houses without taking anything with them and they now find it difficult to rent new accommodation. I know of Christian families that are squatting with other families. The number of such squatters is high and it keeps increasing.

Like Paul, we face dangers within and without. I can no longer travel with my car. The Islamic fundamentalists have known the registration number of my car so whenever I travel, I have to go with public transport. Even my telephone number is known and many times they will send a text message to me, “you are a dead man”, “we know the number of your car”, and

“We Know You Are In Jos AND WE KNOW YOUR CAR”

so on. On one occasion I travelled to Jos and they sent a text message to me while I was in Jos, “we know that you are in Jos, this is the registration number of your car ... today, you will enter into our hands.”

In August of 2012, there were confirmed threats that the Boko Haram members were coming to assassinate Christians leaders in Maiduguri in their homes. That night, none of us slept at home. We had to relocate for our safety.

To the glory of God, we are still alive.

We appeal to Christians in other parts of the country to help us. We need prayers and we need financial and material support. The plan of Boko Haram is to empty Borno state of Christians but we are not leaving.

STEPHEN CHILDREN HOME

FROM SMALL BEGINING

By Segun Adeleye, Abeokuta

Beholding the smile, warmth and disposition of these children, one cannot guess the pains they have gone through before they found succor in their present abode. Rendered homeless and parentless by the evil hearts of those they once perceived as friends and neighbours, an experience that could have made these children lose hope in life and the human race generally, the gesture of one person, Isaac Oluwole Newton-Wusu is helping to give them a reason to trust again.

Cocooned in the cool ambiance of the ancient town of Obantoko, (the settlement for the indigenes of Itoko in Abeokuta); Stephen Center International Schools is home to over 314 children from the Northern part of Nigeria whose parents were killed by religious violence in that section of the country.

The story of Stephen Center International Schools, Obantoko, Abeokuta, cannot be told without reference to the person of Isaac Oluwole Newton-Wusu, who hails from Ado-Odo Local Government area, Ogun State.

A pure charity school, which started as a Library and Computer center a little before the outbreak of Sharia riots in some parts of Northern Nigeria, especially Kaduna; the school and the involvement of Newton-Wusu, are both intricately linked with the encounter of the latter with a Jewish Man of God and writer, Richard Wurmbrand, whose book, "Tortured For Christ," changed his perspective to life.

"After working with Richard for thirty-five years, reading his

"Stephen was the disciple to be persecuted in the Bible. The Church recognizes him as the first martyr. By his act, Stephen presents us as children of persecution;"

Christian books, amongst so many others and listening to CDs and tapes, particularly his book titled: "Tortured for Christ", my perspective and attitude to life and living changed.

"I therefore came to the final and most important realization that a life lived for self is useless but a life lived for others is more important and that is why we brought the first set of eight children whose parents were killed during the riot to our facilities here in Abeokuta, in year 2000," the affable and humble man said soberly.

In response to a question, Newton-Wusu explained, "I worked with Wurmbrand NGO in the Northern part of the Country, which was how I got the opportunity."

The center, which has grown from its original eight to 325 children of persecuted Christians from Gombe, Jos, Kaduna, Kano and Bauchi, have received help and support from the Alake and Paramount ruler of Egbaland, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo, Olori Yetunde Gbadebo, the late Wakilu Musulumi of Yorubaland and Chief Imam of Gbagura, Sheik Sodirudeen Bamidele Biobaku, the Governor of Ogun State and his wife, Senator and Mrs Ibikunle Amosun, Churches in Abeokuta as well as Lagos.

"Stephen was the disciple to be persecuted in the Bible. The Church

recognizes him as the first martyr. By his act, Stephen presents us as children of persecution; I actually don't look for the people who are persecuted; instead they come to us," he said when asked how he came about the name for the centre as well as the pupils.

Receiving a delegation of twenty-three persons from the United States of America based Save Our Soul (SOS) Ministry, who came to dig two boreholes in remote areas of Odeda Local Government area of the State, Newton-Wusu revealed that 12 out of the 44 graduates the school has so far produced, still have bullets lodged in different parts of their bodies.

The altruistic founder and promoter of the center commended the giving spirit and show of love of the visiting Americans, most of whom have visited the center for more than three times to treat people and donate eye glasses to the school and host community.

Earlier, leader of the SOS Ministry, Michael Schadt while addressing select journalists at the premises of the school in Obantoko area of the town, emphasized the desire of the group to touch more lives across Africa, starting from Nigeria.

"I therefore came to the final and most important realization that a life lived for self is useless but a life lived for others is more important and that is why we brought the first set of eight children whose parents were killed during the riot to our facilities here in Abeokuta, in year 2000,"

THE KADUNA PEACE DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS

In the name of God, who is Almighty, Merciful and Compassionate we who have gathered as Muslim and Christian religious leaders from Kaduna State pray for peace in our State and declare our commitment to ending the violence and bloodshed, which has marred our recent history.

According to our faiths, killing innocent lives in the name of GOD is a desecration of His Holy Name, and defames religions in the world. The violence that has occurred in Kaduna State is an evil that must be opposed by all people of good faith.

We seek to live together as neighbours, respecting the integrity of each other's historical and religious heritage. We call upon all to oppose incitement, hatred, and the misrepresentation of one another.

1. MUSLIMS AND CHRISTIANS of all tribes must respect the divinely ordained purposes of the Creator, by whose grace we live together in Kaduna State. Such ordained purposes include freedom of worship, access to and sanctity of places of worship and justice among others.

2. AS RELIGIOUS LEADERS, we seek to work with all sections of the community for a lasting and just peace according to the teachings of our religions.

3. WE CONDEMN all forms of violence and seek to create an atmosphere where present and future generations will co-exist with mutual respect and trust in one another. We call upon all to refrain from incitement and demonization, and pledge to educate our young people accordingly.

4. THROUGH THE CREATION of a peaceful State, we seek to explore how together we can aid spiritual regeneration, economic development and inward investment.

5. WE ACKNOWLEDGE the efforts that have been made within this State for a judicial reform and pledge to do all in our power to promote greater understanding of the reform so that it can provide a true and respected justice in each of our communities.

6. WE PLEDGE to work with the security forces in peace keeping and implementation of this declaration in the State.

7. WE ANNOUNCE the establishment of a permanent

joint Committee to implement the recommendations of this declaration and encourage dialogue between the two faiths, for we believe that dialogue will result in the restoration of the image of each in the eyes of the other.

WE CONDEMN all forms of violence and seek to create an atmosphere where present and future generations will co-exist with mutual respect and trust in one another.

This declaration is binding on all people in the State from this day of 22nd August, 2002 and agree that any individual or group found breaching the peace must be punished in accordance to the due process of the law.

1. Arch. Bishop B. A. Achigiti
2. Elder Seidu Dogo
3. Bishop Joseph Bogobiri
4. Bishop A. B. Lamido
5. Rev. Y. B. Sidi
6. Rev. Habu Mari
7. Pastor J. Ajayi
8. Rev. Peter Ahmed
9. Rev. Jessy Adam
10. Evangelist James M. Wuye
11. Mr. E. B. Yero

1. Alh. Ja'Afaru Makarfi
2. Sheikh Zubairu Sirajo
3. Sheikh Yusuf S. Rigachikun
4. Sheikh Umaru Suleiman
5. Mallam Muhammad A. Said
6. Mallam Ibrahim Nakaka
7. Imam Muhammad S. Isah
8. Mallam Hamza A. Ibrahim
9. Imam Mulid N. Ashafa
10. Alhaji Ibrahim Kufena
11. Alhaji Balarabe Jigo

Signed

His Excellency
Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi
Executive Governor
Kaduna State

TARGETED ASSASSINATION OF CHRISTIANS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA



In Maiduguri (Borno State), Damaturu and Potiskum (Yobe State) of Northern Nigeria, many Christians are being killed in silence almost every day by members of the Boko-Haram sect without any one carrying the report or broadcasting it. The Islamic assailants have been going from house to house of Christians and killing them (especially the male). A few months ago, there was a coordinated silent killings of 8

Christian men in Potiskum, Yobe State. The only victim to survive the attack was brought to the Jos University Teaching Hospital, having been transferred from BUTH. Unfortunately, he too, died. Another victim of this targeted killings had a miraculous survival. His name is Adamu Habila, a 37 year old married Christian and a member of ECWA Church in Yobe State. His wife who was with him during the attack testified that they were sleeping at home on Wednesday, 28th November, 2012 when the militants arrived.

At about 11p.m. they heard someone banging their front door and a voice asking them to open the door or they will force themselves in. Before they could fully comprehend what was going on, the men had already forced themselves into their sitting room and commanded them to come out of the bed room. Adamu who was trying to put on his clothes quickly

came out and his wife and their little son followed him. On coming out they saw that the men were two, one of them with a sophisticated riffle while the other was unarmed. They commanded the woman and the little boy to stand aside and instructed Adamu to kneel down.

While on his knee they asked him several questions about his occupation and his religion which he told them that he is a Christian. They told the wife to bear them witness that they would kill her husband in case he did not cooperate with them. At that point the woman was terrified knowing they were members of Boko Haram.

They informed brother Adamu that they were giving him an opportunity to live and to live a better life if only he could become a Muslim and state the infamous “Kamatul Shahadar” which is a confession

He told her that even if no one came out to help him, Baba Jibir, a Christian Elder, will definitely come to take him to the hospital; unknown to him, the assailants had already killed Baba Jibir and his son before coming to his house.

of Faith in Islam. He replied that he is a Christian and will ever remain a Christian even in death. He told his wife (who at the moment was crying profusely but was cautioned by their attackers not raise alarm) not to worry because the death of a Christian is a great gain and not a loss. Then, they instructed her to go in

and bring them all the money they had and the man



with the rattle accompany her while the unarmed man kept on with his interrogation. She went in and gave them all they had including the mobile phones and when they came out, the interrogator told his partner that the man refuse to yield.

Coldly, without any emotion or human feeling, the armed man placed the gun on Adamu's face (just by the mouth) and said 'since you refuse to become a Muslim here is your reward', and he drew the trigger and shot him on the face with the bullet passing through and came out on the other side.

The wife was commanded to shut up and not to call any one. They threatened they will be hanging around and if she does, they will return to kill her and the child. Adamu, fell off and blood started gushing out. They stepped violently on his leg to see if he was still alive, and when he did not make any movement they assumed he was dead and they left. Few minutes after they left, Adamu told his wife to get help because he was still alive. She hurried out but the attackers had locked the door from the outside. She kept trying to scale the fence but she could not.

Coldly, without any emotion or human feeling, the armed man placed the gun on Adamu's face (just by the mouth) and said 'since you refuse to become a Muslim here is your reward', and he drew the trigger and shot him on the face ...

locked the door from the outside. She kept trying to scale the fence but she could not.

She came back and told her husband that she could not get out but he insisted that she must get a way out of the house so that he could receive help. He told her that even if no one came out to help him, Baba Jibir, a Christian Elder, will definitely come to take him to the hospital; unknown to the assailants had already killed Baba Jibir and his son before to his house. She went and out through the fence and they left the keys of the

door just by the door after locking it. She went to their neighbors who were all Muslims but they refused to take him to the hospital that night.

One of their neighbors had the phone number of a Police Officer whom they kept calling but none of the Police officers came to their rescue even after picking the call and promising to come. In the morning at about 6 a.m. they took him to the general hospital in Potiskum and later he was transferred to JUTH in Jos from where he was finally referred to Kano.



Christmas in OCTOBER

MAIDUGURI



The Voice of Christian Martyrs distributed Christmas Relief materials to 10,000 children in seven locations in the North. Each pack contained a bag of 12.5kg of rice and a bag containing Bible, Cabin biscuits, exercise book, Viju milk, packet of sweets, pencil, pen, football, Indomie noodle, cheese ball, etc.

For the adults, 9 widows in Maiduguri received widows business fund of 100,000 naira each, 53 widows received grinding machines, 2 Pastors received motorcycles, and 16 pastors received megaphones for evangelism.

1,500 children in Maiduguri received the Christmas pack.

The distribution was done under tight security check. The entire Maiduguri was like a war zone. The fear all over the city was palpable, the tension was on high alert. Everyone was on edge because no one knew what would happen next.

The relief materials was sponsored by Voice of Martyrs, Canada and USA

Christmas in OCTOBER KADUNA



Christmas in OCTOBER KANO



Where is the **BLOOD STAINED BIBLE?**

And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. *1 Cor. 12:26*



On Thursday 5th January, 2012, members of the Deeper Life Bible Church were having their regular prayer meeting when gunmen, suspected to be members of the Islamic sect, Boko Haram, started shooting them through the window.

By the time the attack ended, 6 members of the church died immediately while another 4 members died later in the hospital. While the Gombe State government fulfilled its pledge to provide free medical services to the wounded victims of the attack, the families of those affected required assistance as well as encouragement under the circumstances.

The Voice of Christian Martyrs responded with material, financial, as well as Christian love and encouragement. In all, 28 families were affected in the attack.

The following assistance was offered by the Voice of Christian Martyrs:

- 19 grinding machines and widows business funds
- 16 children were recommended for free education at Stephen International Centre, Abeokuta

- Another 9 families to receive grinding machines alone.
- 6 Pastors to be included in special support program for pastors
- Assistance offered to the church to re-locate and re-build its place of worship.

When the brethren from Canada arrived to support and comfort the affected Christians in Gombe, they were shown the blood stained Bible. The Canadian Christians requested for the Bible and it was given to them. The Bible is now in Canada.

That this symbolic Bible left the shores of Nigeria could be considered an indictment on the Nigerian church. Had the Nigerian church responded immediately with support and visit to the affected brethren, the Bible would have been at the Headquarters of the denomination before the Canadian brethren arrived in the country.

On behalf of the persecuted church, we are grateful for the timely assistance offered by the brethren in Canada and USA, and we pray that the Nigerian Church shall awake to its responsibility in Christ.

REMEMBER THEM... Heb. 13:3



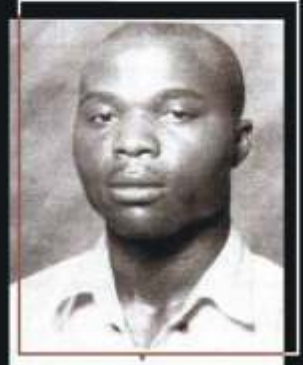
Late Mr. Alade John
Olanrewaju



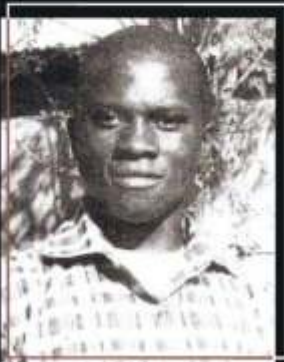
Late Mrs Halima
Johnson



Late Master Gideon
Silas



Late Mr. Emmanuel
Ogbuchi



Late Mr. Meshack
Mejo



Late Pst. Yahaya Wuro Buntu
*He was slaughtered on 15th January
2012 in front of his house in Gombe.
This was 10 days after the attack on
the Deeper Life Church*



Late Mrs Silfa
Chenma



Late Mr. Godwin
Odoh



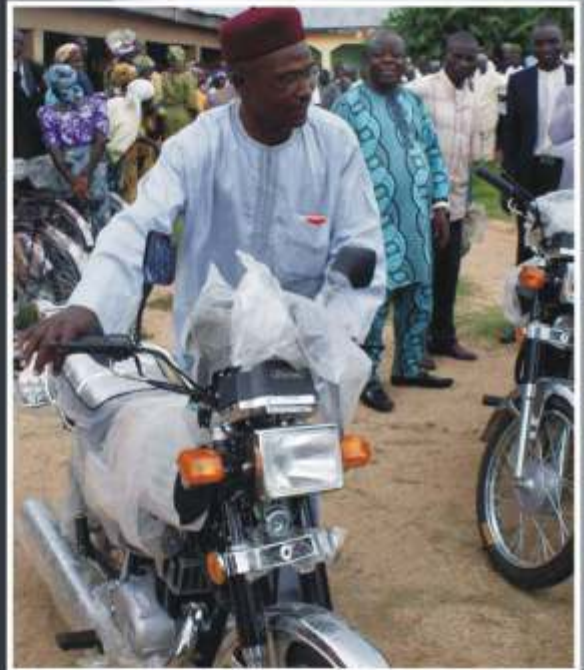
Late Mr. Silas
Osuaze



Late Master Jeremiah
Chinedu Chenma



Late Mr. Sule Baba



REMEMBER them...

Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

Hebrews 13:3

The Nigerian Church has become a persecuted church. Every day in most of the northern cities, Christians are targeted and butchered like animals without any one raising a cry or alarm on their behalf. They are targeted at home, in their business places, on their farms, while travelling on the highways and in their places of worship. There seems to be no way of escape for them and each day they live as if it is their last day on earth.

One of the brethren in the North sums it up, thus, "we are just walking corpses on the street waiting for our burial, that is even if we are lucky and they did not carry our dead bodies for rituals, simply because we are Christians".

This is evident in the killing of solemn worshippers in the Deeper Life Church in the city of Gombe and the brutal slaughter of other believers in their homes such as the pastors in Bororo town of Yobe state. Almost all of the Churches had been burnt down and many believers are dying every day.

Recently the militants went to the house of a pastor to kill him. When he successfully hid himself, they butchered all his male children!

TAFAWA BALEWA

In places like Tafawa Balewa, the Government deliberately denied the people of social amenities such as access roads to the town from the state capital. The road was tarred from Bauchi and the construction was stopped on the way after a town of Das, just because the people in Tafawa Balewa are 100% Christians. The people are treated as second class citizens in their own area yet they kept to their faith without wavering.

That seems not to be enough, the Islamic militants use the same bad road to attack the Christian villagers on their way to the capital on business. They have recorded over six different attacks on Christians in their farms; many of the people had been killed and some are still on admission in Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH).

These Christian brethren are confined to one fate which is death by bomb, bullet, fire, cutlasses and machetes and economic hardship since they are not allowed to go to markets or their farms, all for the sake of their faith in Christ Jesus.

Does your church remember them?



IN MEMORY



of the countless Christians that were brutally murdered by Moslems in various religious attacks in the northern parts of Nigeria.

"Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."
Ps. 116: 15

We are constrained by decency from showing the pictures of your gory murder.

We pray for your assailants that God shall deliver them from the power of Satan who has taken them captive to do his will. The hatred they manifested against you is inhuman. May God deliver them.

May your blood be the Water of Life that shall produce the fruit of salvation all over northern Nigeria. Your martyrdom shall not be in vain.

Rest in Peace in Jesus Christ

Dogo Nahawa . Jos . Bauchi . Kano . Kaduna . Maiduguri
Damaturu . Potiskum . Riawuyanku . Abuja . Gombe
Suleja . Okene . Madalla . etc

**“We DO NOT
need your SYMPATHY
WE NEED YOUR HELP!”**

Richard Wurmbrand



JESUS

PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN NORTHERN NIGERIA