

VBS = CBC



During June our group of eight Americans traveled from Nashville, Tennessee, to Nigeria with the purpose of teaching Children's Bible Camps, or Vacation Bible Schools as we would describe them in the States. Jackie Kirby and Jamie Lester were our pre-school teachers. Sherrie Adams and Gayla Jones taught children ages 6 to 8 years old, and Linda Cooper and I instructed students from ages 9 to 12 years old, and several who were older. David Walker directed the children's singing, and Bill Cooper quickly became a notable figure in the dramas as well as the recognized, and sometimes frightening, often whiny, voice of Roary, the Lion, in puppet skits.

Not only did we conduct Bible Camps, but also in Jos, and in Kano, we presented puppet workshops. Teaching teenage students and adult Bible teachers the hand/mouth coordination required for puppeteering was often humorous. However, one of the most rewarding aspects of the workshops was evident in Jos when these teenage students prepared an impromptu skit and their puppets sang "The Greatest Command."

Traveling to the city of Kano to present the first CBC offered numerous challenges and opportunities. In a predominantly Muslim city with a population of almost 3 million, we were surrounded by sights, sounds, and smells unfamiliar to us. But one thing remained constant—Jesus, His life, and His love for us connected each adult and child who entered the doors of the church at No. 6 Aba Road. When the children of families who live across the street at No. 5 Aba Road and had never worshipped with the Kano church were allowed to participate in the Bible Camp, evidence of the hand of the Lord at work became visible. Each day the attendance at the CBC increased and well over 100 children were present by the conclusion and teachers from other states including Gombe and Katsina came to participate also.



Following the CBC in Kano, we rested for one night in Jos, and then began the journey to the village of Vandeikya, Benue State. Though our travel stretched several hours beyond what was anticipated, the Lord provided for our needs and we arrived at our accommodations in Vandeikya about 9 p.m.

During the first day in Vandeikya, it was evident we would be unable to divide the children into classes. Since the number of children counted was over 175, we determined to teach in a combined class setting. Our first day of Children's Bible Camp was conducted with only occasional translation, but the addition of a consistent Tiev translator for the remaining skits, dramas and lessons expanded our ability to communicate with the children. Our time in Vandeikya ended much too quickly and as our final CBC session Saturday drew to a close, the children in attendance numbered well above 300.

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Upon our return to Jos, we were blessed with the opportunity to present a puppet skit in the Local Government School, and extend an invitation to the students to join us for our final CBC June 21-23 at the Ring Road congregation. Hearing the headmistress ask questions of her pupils about Jesus was one of the most encouraging occurrences during our visit in Nigeria.

With the assistance of our Sudanese Brother Elais, Sister Hope, and a couple of recent graduates of SBS, we were able to quickly hang the backdrops for our dramas and move the puppet screen into position in the Ring Road auditorium in anticipation of a full house. Several of our sisters became our willing assistants as we divided into classes following the puppet shows and dramas. Each individual class continued to focus on Jesus' life and the lessons of the day. We were thrilled to have the older students at Ring Road continue their assistance as puppeteers during our final session, and we were amazed by the enthusiastic singing of the children before their dismissal.



The work of presenting Children's Bible Camps in Nigeria has begun. Teaching adult Bible school teachers the "VBS" method of presentation using dramas, puppet skits, songs, visual aids and interactive games requires additional volunteers and resources. You can be part of the plan for Children's Bible Camps in 2012. Why not allow your life to be touched by the children of Nigeria whose love is immeasurable and whose zeal is fathomless? Contact Steve Worley at the Savannah Church of Christ and let him know of your interest in continuing this mission.

By Melonie Pack

NEWS AND NOTES

After five years of collecting materials, packing, shipping to Healing Hands International, repacking, the Nashville flood, repacking, and shipping, the container finally reached the Jos campus. The 40 foot container is on its foundation as a storage building and the materials are being readied for distribution. Thanks to all the brethren who helped us in this project.

Watch for pictures of our major renovation projects on our buildings in the next issue of the Jos Journal. Dr. Solomon Aguh is due to visit the states this September and October. If you are interested in visiting with Solomon contact Wanda at 256-547-4611.

Brother Abiodun Emmanuel Adegoye was a teacher at the school for 18 years. He recently moved to Abuja, FCT to preach for the largest congregation in the Northern States of Nigeria. Abiodun has a wife and three children. He was recently diagnosed with bone marrow cancer. Plans are being made to bring Abiodun to the states for treatment. Please pray for Emmanuel and his family.

We are still planning to open the Uganda Christian Bible College on August 22, 2011. Keep this project on your pray list too.

We now have water in tanks pumped from the stream located just alongside our campus. This water will allow us to irrigate our garden beds throughout the Dry Season.