

Rothchild's Nigerian Journey

October 2003

In early October, we went to Jos, Nigeria to visit for a week. We were thrilled to see the ministry we'll be serving in when we move there next year for three years.

Arriving in Nigeria

Our first day in Jos, we went to a birthday party for the boys at Transition House, a ministry arm of Gidan Bege. Most of the boys don't know their exact age or birthday, so we had a celebration with Cokes, party favors, and baseball caps as gifts. We were overwhelmed by the boys' gratitude at such humble offerings, and their joy at celebrating their special day. The next day, we received a phone call that Christian had a biking accident that knocked out his two front teeth. His optimistic response when we called to check on him was, "Mom, my teeth look great!" Our dentist, Dr. Hall did a great job fixing him up.

Gidan Bege "House of Hope" Center

Every week, hungry children are invited to come from the streets they call home and find refuge at Gidan Bege center. They eat nutritious food, are introduced to Christ, and are given opportunity for education & discipleship.

Life in Jos

"You are welcome!"

This is a common greeting that we heard from Nigerians upon meeting them, and wasn't in response to "thank you."

The warm and inviting people of Jos love to laugh and smile (although we're not sure if they were laughing at us or with us!)

This city of 700,000 is bustling with pedestrians, motorcycles (often used as taxis), cars, blaring horns, exhaust fumes, delicious produce, lush and hilly countryside, and red dirt that seems to linger everywhere.

In Nigeria, the oranges are not orange, they're green!

The produce is very flavorful, since it's organically grown & picked at the peak of ripeness. Before enjoying a piece of fruit (besides oranges & bananas), it must be soaked in a bleach solution for 15 minutes, then washed, to avoid getting sick.

Life in Jos is very different, and we enjoyed the simplicity of the way of life.

Nigerians tend to prioritize relationships over time & schedules.

One of the funny things we noticed about the culture is that it's considered appropriate and perfectly acceptable to pick your nose.

Our kids think that's pretty great!

What exactly will we be doing there, anyway?

The Gidan Bege/City Ministries projects are expanding. After our visit, Herschel felt that he could be used as a liaison between the head of ministry, Peter, and the staff at each location. Accountability and on-site presence of leadership is desperately needed at City Ministries, and Herschel feels that this is a role that suits him well. In this role, he will also be able to spend time forming relationships, discipling, and hanging out with the children at Gidan Bege and Transition House.

Christine is excited about the possibilities of the different ministry opportunities: teaching the boys at City Ministries, leading music/worship time, and discipling children in relationships and bible studies.

*"At Gidan Bege, I was introduced to Christ, given an education,
and now I have a hope and a future."
Peter, resident at Transition House*

Transition House Ministry

After the boys spend several months at Gidan Bege, they graduate to Transition House, where they will live and do their schooling.

The children are cared for by dorm parents that live on-site, and in addition to doing a Christian home-school curriculum, they play games & sports. Their relationship with Christ is nurtured through bible study time and fellowship.

Other Outreach Opportunities

We'll have opportunity to do outreaches in rural "bush" areas, where many have not heard the saving name of Jesus Christ. The locals come for medical care, building bridges with compassion and care to share the Gospel.
(see pictures in our photo gallery)

While in Nigeria, Herschel went on an outreach to Muslims & Pagans in a remote village. They showed the "Jesus" film, and several came to Christ that night. Some children had never seen a "beturi" (white man) before, and cried at the sight of a towering Herschel!

Our Kid's Quotes

"I'm really looking forward to going to Hillcrest school in Nigeria, because they have lockers."

Christian

"I think I'll like the kids in Nigeria."

Danielle

Current Praises & Prayer Requests

Praises:

- *Praise for God giving us the opportunity to visit Nigeria, and for His protection
- *Praise for God's provision, as we see Him providing through His people for our ministry's needs-prayer & financially

Prayer Requests

- *Pray for our ministry as we continue to share our vision of God's calling
- *Pray for our family as we prepare to move to North Carolina in January (for biblical & cultural training) and say difficult goodbyes to family and friends