



Grace & Light International

NIGERIA



Dearly Beloved,

January 2012

Where has 2011 gone? I was hoping I would come back from our Cameroon ministry trip and let you know how things have been during the last part of the year but it seems the time flew even faster than I had realised. I have sent some brief replies to many that emailed me although I am sorry I have been too busy to send any updates. Maybe the right thing to do first is to wish you all a Happy New Year and the best of it through the difficulties, challenges and joys. For Nigerians, it ended and started the same with killings, bombs, crises and various strikes. You know what? As it is written in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "*we live by faith not by sight*"; that is the reason for our being.

CAMEROON TRIP

Mark Hopkins and I were in Cameroon from December 12-19 to start the ministry of Grace & Light International. In summary, all went well although not without a price to pay. Travelling by road didn't work out because the roads were bad. We flew from Lagos to Douala and then took a bus to Yaoundé. Before training, we spent the first few days visiting other organizations, health facilities and various people to help us understand what the situation is concerning HIV in the country. The training started with about 20 participants on the Thursday and finished with 15 who signed up as volunteers. On Sunday we went to a Full Gospel Mission church where we shared the vision and where the volunteers were surprised that people willingly waited for an HIV test - it seems that every time we go to a new place, people think that our ministry pattern won't work in their setting. We tested 49 out of a congregation of about 140. With this, we have started in another country with volunteers ready to work and help their people; however, there remain numerous future challenges and needs for ministry, including funds and an office. As you thank God for the success of this trip and all that happened, please pray for those needs too.

STAFF/VOLUNTEERS

In many of my emails and prayer requests to you, I have asked that our weak teams and volunteers will be strengthened and that God will bring new staff to help reduce the burden of too much work on the present staff.



2 Corinthians 5:7

"we live by faith not by sight"

In many of my emails and prayer requests to you, I have asked that our weak teams and volunteers will be strengthened and that God will bring new staff to help reduce the burden of too much work on the present staff. To some extent the Lord has answered. Some of our weak teams have grown stronger but sadly we lost two of our staff at the end of the year. Continue to pray that God will raise up new people with the vision for a ministry as our work pattern in Grace & Light needs individuals who will see it as a vocation not just as a job. As we are in the process of recruiting new staff and volunteers, please pray that the Lord will lead us to the right people who will give their time, energy and resources. Pray also for money to train them.

WORK SUMMARY

Last year was our eighth year of ministry. Like other years we have lived by faith and trusted God for our day to day running. He has been faithful with some great work results. I won't repeat the milestones we have seen because we have shared them at different

times in the past, but as a summary of activities, I would like to give these results:

- 27,509 people heard our message of the Gospel and HIV;
 - we have visited 133 churches;
 - 12,347 were tested for HIV;
 - 10,393 people were open with their HIV status;
 - 198 tested positive to HIV.
 - Our vision in Grace & Light is "to release the transforming grace and the power of the Gospel". During the year, 378 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ and 956 rededicated themselves to serve the Lord with commitment.
 - We had the privilege of sharing Christ to Muslims on different occasions during our HIV counselling and testing.
 - Praise the Lord with us
 - pray for those who have tested positive to have the grace to live positively with the virus and not to spread it;
- pray for those who rededicated themselves to the Lord and new converts to find support to keep to that commitment and for our Life Sharing (accountability) groups to work well in churches.

FUTURE/NEEDS

Our work plan for 2012 is out and in use already. As always, we have started skipping some of the items either due to a crisis in Nigeria or to lack of funds. Please pray for stability and for provision this year; we are looking forward to partnership of different kinds, through advocacy or proposal writing. Pray that we will have success.

We are due for another national conference which is the third - it comes up every three years. It take much planning,

- pray that we will find people that will give themselves to serve on the planning committee as the first meeting comes up February 21st;
 - pray for members to look forward with interest to attend,
- pray for the speakers that God will choose and use them,

pray also that we will find the needed money to subsidize the registration fees to enable greater attendance;

During the last quarter of the year, I shared the need to leave our present office accommodation because of the different challenges there. Somebody responded to that by loaning us 1.5 million Naira (interest free) to start something, to be repaid when we have the money. We have seen this as God's way to start us on the building project. With that, we are planning a 4 bed room flat soon, trusting that God will bring it to completion. Pray that all the permission required from the government will go well, that the project will start well with faithful workers and a supervisor and that we will find more donors to help us complete the building this year plus more to repay the person that gave us a loan. If the Lord is leading you to give or to show us where to go for such support, please let me know.

Another thing we are doing this year is a strategic plan for the ministry. For all our nine years of existence we have talked about it in every work plan but never come round to it. It is planned again this year to start in the middle of February. It is going to be a three-year plan. Ask the Lord to give us wisdom and make it a success.

You must be tired of hearing me now. Let me give you a break and I hope I can bring you answers to these prayers when next I come your way. One more thing before I go. In my time with the Lord today, James 1:6 reminded me to pray without doubting so that I will receive. I tried to argue with God as to why I should doubt but I surrendered quickly because my argument didn't "hold water". Please do the believing when you pray.

Thank you for always being there. We are proud of you.

In His Love,

Tassie Ghata

