

# Relief Network News

Volume 5, Issue 1, Summer-Fall 2004

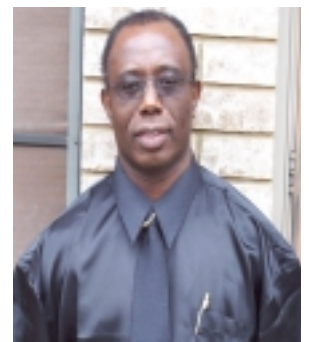


*A project based outreach of*

**Relief Network Ministries, Inc.**

*Think water; save life. Share what you know to bring relief to thousands! Get involved with us.*

***I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, ... I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me!" - Matthew 25:35-36.***



*From the President,  
Dr. A. Sunny Okorie*

## **TOP :**

Mrs. Ogechi F. Ochi-Okorie shares the word during well dedication at Shekina vocational School in Aba while Dr. Elsa Desousah, Mr. Joe Eke, & others listens with students.

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Seminar / Victoria Island, Lagos

*Meeting human needs with the love of Christ!*



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**Relief News**

## **Mission No. 4 Trip**

**W**ith approximately 350 new believers added to the Church at large, and hundreds of people ministered to in body and soul, we can indeed say that this was a very successful trip. Basic needs met include the two water wells drilled, food and clothes given away, medicines, & moneys to help the needy at the School for Blind, the Orphanages, the Prison etc.

Events leading up to July 11<sup>th</sup> 2004 clearly indicate God's hand upon the four ladies undertaking this Mission trip to Nigeria. For RNM, it was a joint effort with Shekina Charities, Inc. of New Jersey, USA. Rev. Ogechi Florence Ochi-Okorie and Pastor Linda Garza of All Nations Church left Houston to Lagos Nigeria via a KLM flight through Amsterdam to meet the other team members (Rev. Dr. Patience Oti & Rev. Dr. Elsa Desousah – both from N.J.), who left a few days earlier. It was a long but peaceful journey into Nigeria. We were met on arrival at Imo Airport by one of our partners, Engineer Chinyere Anyile based in Owerri, and the other team members coming from Aba - Dr. Patience Oti, Dr Elsa Desousah, Mr. Joseph Eke and Mrs. Stephanie Eke.

## **Mission #4 Highlights Reports by Ogechi F. Ochi-Okorie**

The ten days came and went so fast. We were very busy with ministry work and out reach programs organized by Dr. Patience Oti (President of Shekina Charities), and her Nigerian affiliates.

**T**his issue is simply about our Mission No. 4 programs this Summer. What a maraton trip... and these anointed women did it and do make us proud indeed! More detail coming online.

Beginning with a two day event at the Aba Prisons, we headed to Umuahia School for the Blind to also minister to the blind students and their teachers. This was followed by two outreaches at Ngwa Road Motherless Babies Home and Ogorhill Motherless Babies Home. Thereafter, at the end of the week, we had the commissioning of one of the water wells co-sponsored by Relief Network Ministries Inc., Living Water International, Inc. and Shekina Charities, Inc. The three ministries were also honored and presented with appreciation plaques at a dinner by the Inner Wheel Club of Aba for jointly sponsoring the water well at World Bank Estate Cottage Hospital.

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**Above:**

Men receiving Christ at the Aba Prison outreach.

Below: Dr. Patience Oti ministering to Prisoners & building hope into them for a new beginning.



**Baptism of Praise**

Pastor Linda Garza was invited to Nigeria to feature as the Guest Artist at this event. This was her first trip to Nigeria, West Africa although a well travelled missionary.

It was mostly attended by the youth or teenagers of the well-to-dos and cream of Abia; there were about eight hundred in attendance. Many Nigerian Christian musicians participated. It lasted all night, from 11pm till about 5am.

Dr. Patience Oti brought the word and about 21 young men and women responded to the invitation to receive Christ. This program or annual event is lead and organized by Pastor Ben of the City Assemblies of God Church at Pound road Aba.

**Editorial Team**

Oge' F. Ochi-Okorie (Editor in Chief)

David L. Bernhard (Assoc. Editor)

Dr. A. Sunny Okorie (Editor)

Pastor Linda Garza and I took about a day to visit with the Anglican Bishop of Owerri, Rev. Dr. Cyril Okorocho and Rev. Chike Samuelson (Project Manager, Bishop's Foundation) on behalf of Relief Network Ministries, Inc.

The main event on our agenda was "The Baptism of Praise" where Pastor Linda Garza was featured as the Guest Artist in the city of Aba.

We also had opportunities to minister in several local churches, visiting the village of Ogberuru and Amaigbo in Imo State where some family members live, providing Pastor Linda a little opportunity to see what life in rural Nigeria is like and how it compares and contrasts with the busy urban centers like Aba and Lagos.

Among the churches visited and ministered in were: the Assemblies of God Church Umungasi, the Assemblies of God Church at 222 Clifford Road Aba; Church in His Presence; Jesus Brethren Ministries; and the Saving Word Church in Lagos.

Other events included a crusade in ASA community with the first night of it cancelled because of heavy rain and flooding. However, when it was held the next day, over 69 decisions for Christ were made.

Back in Lagos, on our return journey, I presented a paper on the "Use of Portable Toilets" in Nigeria at the Seminar organized by RNM in partnership with Focus Frontiers Limited and a UK based company called Convenience Services Ltd. The goal is to improve environmental health and sanitation while building capacity for self sustainability.

What follows includes further details on the Mission 4 Program events – enjoy!

**Aba Prison**

Our team from the U.S. in collaboration with the Prison Ministry arm of the Assemblies of God Church conducted a two-day crusade at the Aba Prison. The outreach was sponsored by Shekina Charities U.S.A, headed by Dr. Patience Oti. Dr. Oti and Dr. Elsa Desousah preached the gospel during these meetings with the inmates. Pastor Linda Garza ministered in songs. A total of about 200 prisoners came forward to receive Christ. They were fed with good food prepared by Shekina School of Catering Aba, Nigeria. They also received other gift items such as toiletries and bathroom slippers. It was a real treat for them because this type of holistic ministry to the whole person does not often happen to the prisoners; they are generally forgotten by the average Nigerian.

**The School for the Blind Umuahia**

We paid a visit to the School for the Blind in Umuahia. The Principal and the staff of the school received us very well. The students, about a hundred in number, also welcomed us with joyful songs.

I had the privilege of presenting the Word of God to them and about 29 of them responded to the invitation to accept Christ. Dr. Patience Oti presented a cash gift of \$400 (Four hundred US dollars) to the school. The Principal explained to us that, though the school is a government institution, it is poorly funded. They depend on the good will of private people for a majority of their needs to be met. They often have to borrow to be able to feed the students, some of which have been abandoned by their parents and relatives because of their disability. They lacked many of the essential tools for learning that are basic for this kind of school - from Braille machines to the papers, audio equipment, computers and other simple tools for assistance such as walking canes, or guide dogs used by the blind. These kids also need and deserve our help... please contact us if you can help in any way?

**Our Rig / Cable tool Acquisition Funds:**

Of a budget of about \$25,000, we've raised nearly 50%. We need your help today. Would you help us complete this goal?

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*Make an Impact!  
Donate to help fund  
our big Rig acquisition  
project - send in your  
check or money order  
today with address  
given on the front cover*

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## Church in His Presence

Although a full time medical practitioner, the pastors of this Church are Dr. Charles and Nneoma Ikeji - my younger brother and sister-in-law. The Church is about four years old. We were there during their mid-week service on a Thursday. I had the opportunity to greet them and share the scripture from Genesis 12: 1-3, about God's blessing to Abraham and his design to bless all nations through him and to use each of us to extend that blessing to the World. Pastor Linda Garza brought the Word, reminding them that Nigeria is rich with the Gospel of Christ and therefore they should begin to go as missionaries to other African nations and preach the gospel. They were very much encouraged and showed their appreciation by presenting us with offerings of two sets of beautiful Nigerian dresses to each of us.

### Visit with the Anglican Bishop of Owerri

Pastor Linda and I visited the Bishop Cyril Okorocho and Rev. Chike Samuelson in Owerri. He presides over some 240 churches in Owerri Dioceses. The Bishop showed us the different projects and facilities of the church,

including the completed hostel for migrant women acquiring skills where Relief Network Ministries / Living Water Int'l drilled the first water well with its rig LS 200 in 2002. The Bishop would not let us go back to Aba without visiting some cottage industries of the church where the different uniforms for women groups were made as well as the communion wafer bakery. He blessed us with samples of their products. We had lunch with them, and then they prayed for us and finally released us. I had the chance to discuss the situation of the vandalized LS 200 drill rig with Rev. Samuelson. He agreed that they would replace the mud pump, which is readily available in Nigeria, and that the pipes and tools would have to be replaced from the U.S.

*Water is life - we use it to bless the rural poor with a more priceless gift - the 'Living Water'*

### Commissioning of Water Well At Shekina School of Catering Dormitory

This well was jointly sponsored by Relief Network Ministries / Living Water International and Shekina Charities New Jersey. Rev. Ogechi F. Ochi-Okorie spoke briefly on the important role the water well played in the Bible as point of meeting for Abraham's servant and Rebecca who was to become Isaac's wife, as well as the point of meeting for Jesus and the woman of Samaria to whom Jesus offered the living water. Pastor Linda prayed the prayer of dedication. Mr. Joseph Eke, the administrator of the school

was the organizer of the commissioning. Rev. Dr Elsa Desousah was also present at the occasion. The students sang joyfully to show their appreciation.

### Our busiest Sunday

We spent one Sunday in Aba and visited about four churches between 8:30am and 1pm.

Our first service was at the Assemblies of God Church Umungasi, where I had met my friend, Dr. Patience Oti some 29 years ago; then to the Jesus Brethren Ministries (Aba Worship Center, our home Church while living in Aba until 1995 with Dr. & Mrs. Linus Ihetuge as Senior Pastors, and their son, Jude Ihetuge as Associate Pastor). We spent a brief time here after greeting the Church.

We moved on to the 222 Clifford Road Assemblies of God Church Aba, one of the largest churches in Nigeria. All our team members were introduced, then Pastor Linda preached and I interpreted in Ibo language for her. About 21 souls received Christ at the end of the message and testimonies; several were baptized in the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues. Many were prayed for healing. The church blessed us with a case of the best citrus fruit drink they have in Nigeria. Lastly, we visited the City Assemblies of God Church, at the invitation of

Pastor Ben, who introduced us to the church and later took us out for lunch in appreciation for honoring his invitation to the *Baptism of Praise*.

### Portable Toilet Seminar

We left Aba and flew to Lagos through Port Harcourt on the day of the Seminar. We went directly from the airport to the venue of the seminar. It was jointly sponsored by

Relief Network Ministries, Focus Frontier of Nigeria and Convenience Services of U.K.



**Top:** LINDA GARZA, NNEOMA & DR. CHARLES IKEJI (CHURCH IN HIS PRESENCE)



**Middle:** The two Ogechis - Dr. Patience Oti & Rev. O. Florence Ochi-Okorie at Inner Will Reception Ceremony

**Below:** L-R: Rev. Chike Samuelson, Ogechi F. Ochi-Okorie, Pastor Linda Garza, & Bishop Cyril Okorocho, PhD poses beside the on going Cathedral building construction in Owerri, Imo State.





**Top Left:**

Blind Students with teachers at the School for the Blind in Umuhia, Abia State - Nigeria (full story on page 2)

**Top Right:** Mr. Mike Narracott, Mr. James Adeniran, Rev. O.F. Ochi-Okorie, Pastor Linda & other guests at the Portable Toilet & Waste Management Seminar at the Ikeja Airport Hotel in Lagos, Nigeria.

**Below:** The Ikwuemesi family (Gladys, Onyekachi, and Celestine), Pastors of Saving Word Church in Lagos (see back cover story)



**Above:** Pastor Albert Yeboah (in Ghana) presents some of RNM's donated medical supplies (gloves, gowns, syringes, etc.) to the Doctor in their community Health Center



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The Lagos State government was well represented by the Commissioner for Environment in the Ministry of Health as well as the Chairman of the Nigerian Airport Authority.

Approximately one hundred businessmen and women attended the Seminar. Many of the government representative presented papers on the problem posed by improper sewage disposal.

I presented a paper jointly written by the President of Relief Network - Dr. A. Sunny Okorie and myself on the *Use of Portable Toilet in Nigeria*.

Mr. Mike Narracot of Convenience Services Presented a paper on the Sebach brand of Portable Toilet products which his firm markets. Engineer C. Anyile (P-Tech Limited) from Owerri helped to facilitate his presentation. Mr. James Adeniran, the Managing Director of Focus Frontier organized and coordinated the seminar.



**The villages**

On July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> we were able to take two separate quick trips to the rural communities of Amaigbo and Ogberuru where my parents (Mr. & Mrs. Ikeji) and relatives live.

It was a very short surprise visit for them, not knowing I was in Nigeria, yet very pleasant time. We shared some gifts we had for them while they boiled some fresh corn for us to eat with many pears.

The corn was brought by my cousin, Comrade John Anyiam, whom I have not seen for over ten years. Pastor Linda Garza prayed for him after he acknowledged knowing Christ as his savior. We also visited some of my uncles and aunts and blessed them with different gift items.

In addition, some money was made available by Relief Network Ministries to reactivate two water wells – Eziamia II, and Umunne wells in two separate village locations. RNM also blessed a family of 6 with a seed business loan to start a motor cycle business. The father of this family did not have a job or livelihood, but was experienced in operating a motor cycle for passenger transport. In rural Nigeria, motorcycle is the principal mode of transporting people in otherwise hard to navigate rural roads. I am most grateful to God for journey mercies, his protection, and provisions for every aspect of this mission. To God be the glory.

**Victoria Island & Saving Word Church**

After the seminar we were taken to Victoria Island where we were hosted for the next two days by Chief Goddy Agu. Our host home was the residence of my younger sister and her husband Gladys and Celestine Ikwuemesi and their daughter Onyekachi. Gladys is a businesswoman who runs her own travel agency and also does international commerce between Nigeria and Dubai. Celestine is an Architect with Nigerian Ministry of Defense and they both pastor the Saving Word church where we edified the Church before boarding the plane on Thursday night, the July 22, for the journey back to Houston, Texas. We thank God for providing such Nigerians given to hospitality with a big heart for God.



**Right:** Graduating students watch attentively at the Shekinah Water Well dedication ceremony as Rev. Ogechi F. Ochi-Okorie shares about Jacob's well, Christ the Living Water & the Samaritan woman.

**We care to help...**

**...and love to network - that's co-laboring!**