

Relief Network News

Volume 2, Issue 4, Early Summer 2002



Top: L-R:
Rig inventor Harry Westmoreland, & Dr. A. Sunny Okorie being trained to operate the LS-100 Drill Rig at LWI Camp March 2002.

Meeting human needs as we joyfully serve Him together in new ventures and regions beyond!



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Relief Network News

A project based outreach of Relief Network Ministries, Inc.

Think water think life. Share what you know or have to save life!

Early Summer Newsletter

Updates for May-June 2002

Focusing in and pressing towards the mark

From the President, Dr. A. Sunny Okorie

Often in life, it is difficult to swim upstream. It is difficult to persist and keep going when you have identified a goal, or set of needs that should be fulfilled. Figuring out the resources necessary to accomplish that goal is one thing; acquiring them is yet another issue that may turn out to be more challenging, or easy depending on who you know. At RNM, Inc. the **big picture** is to provide as **many water wells** as are needed in rural communities to keep people alive and healthy, especially children, the poorest of the poor, and the elderly who are unable to walk miles for basic domestic water needs.

*"But the needy will not always be forgotten,
nor the hope of the afflicted ever perish..."
(Psalm 9:18)*

We know God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills! As Relief Ambassadors and global citizens, Christians are especially privileged to become involved in ministering to the needs of the poor around their communities because of the double dividend it pays. First the joy and satisfaction it brings to see faces brightening up when people are helped or burdens lifted, especially in 3rd World countries where the majority is not sure of where the next meal might come from. Second we have the eternal hope and satisfaction that there is a sure reward for our good deeds done here on earth. (Recall the rich young ruler story in Luke 18:18-ff).

Money in the hands of good people will accomplish good things. The converse is also true, money in the hands of evil folks will always accomplish evil. We continue to enjoin our friends and partners to *push forward, and press on more aggressively with us towards the mark ...* to finish the race, and to win the price of our high calling to service.

Champions condition themselves to win by their sustained training. Laboring at RNM is conditioning us as champions – though at just 12 months, we continue to press in for more significant goals. Our Mission #2 Project section below highlights our next steps and emphasis to get the job done. The 2001 Annual Report presents a comprehensive panoramic view of our activities over the past year from inception. Our new websites and the e-Groups at Yahoo present opportunities for volunteer discussion and interaction. They also call for your involvement (as a Relief Ambassador – volunteer, or financial partner) in our flagship work – water wells for clean domestic drinking water in every African village targeted by RNM by 2012; skills empowerment program growth over the next decade, and the provision of sustained primary health care tools like **TROPIX** (a medical expert system for the diagnosis and treatment of typical tropical diseases). Through the development of skills we achieve the goal of stimulating capacity building and empowerment of micro producers in 3rd world countries. We bring relief and development to the grass roots with the trained people mentoring others and propagating skills as needed.

Get involved and get committed to a worthy cause.

Volume 2, Issue 4

Do not always forget the needy, or allow yourself to ignore their expectations, even when you are prompted from inside of you to share your blessings with others by giving back to the community. Do something today - now! (Remember Heb. 9:27).

Investments that always pay a dividend

By Oge' Florence Ochi-Okorie

"Put your money where your mouth is" has become a popular American saying that reminds us to consider our real priorities before spending our money. The old book (the Bible) has it this way: "... for where your treasure is there will your heart be also."

Naturally, no one likes to put money in bags with holes. But that's exactly what many of us do when we do not give God what is duly His through our financial contributions to His work on earth, especially as it affects the poor and needy! There can be no proof of real faith without works, just as much as no works without faith!

Several scriptures support the understanding that practical religion approved of God includes helping the poor, the orphans, the widow, the prisoner and the alien (foreigner). See Isaiah 58:6-12, James 2:14-24, Malachi 3:8-12, and Matthew 25:40 which support my views. Meeting their need for drinking water, food, clothing, and housing is closer to the heart of God than that of the greatest philanthropist or humanitarian that ever lived!

When we minister to these, Jesus says we are ministering to Him and will be commended by the Father when we enter His glory. This is an investment that always pays dividends! There is no fear of losing any money invested in God's kingdom work. As we get ready to go to Nigeria, our mission team in Relief Network Ministries, Inc. would like to present opportunities to co-labor with us through your financial contribution.

The following opportunities are the areas of need you could help meet.

- Air tickets for volunteers, drilling operators / instructors - \$1600 per round trip ticket
- Laptop computers (new or used) for TROPIC-MD medical diagnostic tool, and our V-TEN skills training program (All Gifts in Kind may have a tax-deductible value assessed)
- Money to purchase hand or foot pumps for new or old wells – from \$150-\$1250 each, depending on the type of pump / fittings.
- Water well PVC screens – from \$50 - \$200
- Medical tools and devices such as blood pressure and blood sugar monitors, etc.- from \$60 - \$150

- Vitamins and mineral supplements for pregnant women and children
- Oral hygiene / dental care kits for children and the elderly - \$10 - \$25.

Will you come over to Macedonia (Africa) and help us for this season?

May God bless you richly as you respond to this call to partner with us through this ministry outreach. To contribute/designate a gift, please use our **Online donations** page or mailing address.

Upcoming Mission #2 Projects

- **Water wells development projects:** shortage of clean drinking and domestic water continues to present serious problems in most rural areas of Imo, Abia, and Anambara states of Nigeria. This summer, during our mission #2 effort, we plan to drill 2 to 3 wells while training nationals on how to use our LS-200 mud rotary drilling rig. Thereafter, a team of trained and skilled drillers will be commissioned to drill and develop more wells in our target areas beginning with Ogberuru and Amaigbo in Old Orlu province, to rural parts of

"Using V-TEN program we show them how to 'fish' - vocational skills to the poor empowers"

the Old Owerri province, and on to Abia and Southern parts of Anambara states. It is disheartening to see children walking more than 4 miles round trip in these areas to bring unsanitary water in buckets or plastic containers to their homes. A lot of these kids with calloused feet and dry skins look so malnourished with distended or oversized abdomens. Others are like walking skeletons because of abject poverty and lack of necessary food and water to sustain life. Often the parents of these little boys and girls with blotted abdomens know nothing about water sanitation or its link to bad drinking water and diseases such as tape or hookworm disease. In fact nearly 50% of tropical diseases in rural areas arise from villagers using unsanitary drinking water with pathogenic substances. It is imperative that we bring water to these villages, and thus stimulate life, promote health and increased lifespan, improve farming, agriculture and animal husbandry. The LS-200 drilling rig is capable of drilling a 200 feet well in two days where the formation is soft or without rocks to contend with. We therefore trust and pray that drilling conditions would be good at the sites selected for well locations during our water well projects in this part of Africa.

To promote local ownership in communities where we drill, the communities are asked to contribute the plumbing pipes, casing, and / or the water pump if they can afford it. To help the poorest of the poor among communities, your



Above: Oge' Flo Ochi-Okorie (Mrs.)

Meeting human needs as we joyfully serve the Lord together in new ventures and regions beyond!

Editorial Team

Oge' F. Ochi-Okorie

(Editor in Chief)

David L. Bernhard

(Assoc. Editor)

Dr. A. Sunny Okorie

(Editor)

generous donation for a pump, or casing can be made online from our **donations** page / section, or sent directly to our mailing address in League City. All gifts are tax deductible.

- **V-TEN training programs:** during our mission #2 effort, plans are underway to use our tested curriculum to bring computer and Internet fundamentals skills to nationals in urban and semi-urban parts of Imo state. Working with the Anglican Communion in Owerri at their vocational training center, RNM, Inc. will provide training for migrant young women at this center as well as other workers and community leaders interested in computer literacy, using internet emails, the World Wide Web, and Microsoft Office suite of software such as Word for Windows, Excel Spreadsheet for financial analysis, and Power Point presentation. Additional specialized training requests may be accommodated depending on how many resource volunteers we have available at the time, including nationals who are knowledgeable to assist with these kinds of training programs. RNM encourages other groups and community organizations to collaborate in providing a training facility equipped with a minimum of five computers for about 10 trainees. Other technology-briefing seminars will also be conducted to provide information for decision makers in small organizations and individual entrepreneurs.

- **Medical and eye care outreach:** In the urban center of Owerri and some villages like Ogberuru in Orlu area, we plan to touch lives by bringing primary and specialized health care to the poor and needy. Through collaborative efforts with two medical ministries – MMI (Medical Missions International, Inc.) and HFNI (Healing for Nations International, Inc.) all based in Texas, USA, we plan to run free medical clinics and eye screening exams for the poor and needy. Follow-up procedures for selected cases may then be done on some patients at the ICH (International Christian Hospitals) in Owerri established with the assistance of MMI in Nigeria. The work of MMI is lead by Dr. Stuart Quartemont, a physician in family practice with specialty in OB-GYN, while HFNI is lead by Dr. Justina Taube, an ophthalmologist and Oculoplastic surgeon. Several support staff – nurses, paramedics, and medical technicians will be working with them as

volunteers. We also plan to introduce TROPIX-MD, our medical expert systems software for medical diagnoses and reference in remote clinics. Your support and prayers are coveted as we undertake these monumental steps in moving resources, and manpower from the USA to Africa. To make or designate a contribution for our medical missions, use the **donations** page or mail a check.

Excursions to the Muslim North: My Nigerian Experience

By Ije Meriel Bernhard

We started our trip north to Abuja from Owerri in a deluxe bus - air-conditioned, toilet, and a video, playing Christian tapes. Before the bus moved there was a prayer for a safe trip. As we traveled north the terrain changed from lush vegetation to sparse, shrubby trees and hilly country.

Let me share a few sights I saw. Many market places along the way were selling many things, from wares to food, water and beverage drinks. When the bus stops swarms of people with trays of food to sell on their heads to sell would cluster around the bus. Poor dirty beggars held their hands out, even little children begging for money or whatever anyone could give them. What a hopeless sight. Delapidated cars with people hanging out, and a rope holding all their belongings together in a much-overloaded trunk could be seen every now and then. Roads with big potholes that needed repairing and black smoke pouring out of vehicle exhausts were common sight.

Abuja, the capital of Nigeria, is a brand new city with new buildings. When we were ready to leave for Jos, Bauchi, and Yankari, our team leader, Dr. A. Sunny Okorie had to bargain for a taxi. It was always a good thing that I stayed far away, or he would not get a good deal. Being the only white person around, I drew lots of attention. Two men and a Muslim woman were in the back seat of the taxi we took. We had opportunities to share our faith with the taxi driver who spoke little English. He told us he had two wives and many children. He said he was a Muslim, but had started attending some ECWA church and reading his Bible.

(Continued at <http://www.reliefntwk.net/News/mb2.htm>)

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



Above:
Ije' Meriel Bernhard (Mrs.) in P.H. tourist beach

Below:
An unsanitary shallow village well along the Bauchi to Yankari Road in Northern Nigeria. Notice two things: 1. the woman drawing water with a rubber bag 2. the distended abdominal features of children in the photo - a sure sign of worm infestation from contaminated water & food. Round huts are in the background, & our cab driver in foreground.



Africa: perspectives from an African American on mission

By Clarence Joseph

(The following is a brief story and experiences in Nigeria – West Africa from CJ, now known in Africa as IK - *IKECHUKWU* meaning: *God's Power*).



Top:
First Relief
Ambassadors. L-R:
Oge', Ije', and CJ.
Sunny took photo at
JBM, Aba - Nigeria.

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I had the wonderful opportunity during the summer of 2001 to serve with Dr. A. Sunny Okorie and other team members on a mission trip to Nigeria. We began our mission endeavor in Lagos and continued from the east to the north. My eyes were opened to the great needs of things I had never seen before. Physically and spiritually, seeing the African shores of the Atlantic Ocean in both Lagos and Port Harcourt, and seeing myself as Joseph saw his brothers, the sons of Israel were significant events. Despite its oil rich history, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries on the

earth. As history has it, Nigeria had a slave port in Badagry, near Lagos from where many African Americans were exported into slavery. My close encounter with the Atlantic beach in Lagos was a reminder of these sad events that is now part of our history. Although there is much poverty among the population, I experienced a great move of God throughout the country. The people are hungry and want to see God move in their lives in a mighty way. As I entered into the villages, the main purpose was to fulfill the vision of Relief Network Ministries in planting a new water well system for the people. I was fortunate enough to be among this team that was instrumental in seeing God's vision come to fruition in the village of Ogberuru, near Orlu – Imo State.

For me the highlight of the trip was the Sunday morning church services at the Anglican Church in the village. It was the most festive event that I have experienced in ministry. The beating of the drums by the older African women and the dancing was phenomenal! To top it off, there were 200 people that received Jesus Christ as their personal savior when we were asked to share our faith and reason for the good works being done for them. Dr. Sunny and myself led them in the prayer of salvation. I thank Dr. Sunny and Relief Network Ministries for the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful ministry team. May God continue to bless this ministry and it's efforts to put more water wells in villages as well as provide skills to the poor & needy.

Sunny's Team test pumping. L-R: Kanan, Sunny, John, Brian, Mike, (Don took photo)

Quantum Lakes Drill Camp Experiences

By Dr. A. Sunny Okorie

In March of 2002, Dr. Samson Otuwa and I attended the Living Water International Drill Camp Training program for RNM. It was a big blessing and great time of fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith as well as a few humanitarian non-Christians with genuine desire to help the poor and needy with a cup of cold water.

Each day started off with some time of praise and worship with words shared from the scriptures from Mr. Malcom Morris, Camp Director or his Son, Randy. After a good breakfast meal, we got together in teams of 5 – about 4 teams in all to drill one well each. We were fortunate to have a soft formation in the area and drilled almost 80 feet of 4-inch hole on the first day with no problems. The hole was then reamed to 6-inches the next day down to about 35 feet, just below the best water bearing zone (coarse sand formation). We added a well screen at the bottom of well, cased it and installed a hand-pump on the third day at camp. Our little well produced about 5 gallons of water per minute. We were guided through the process of well-logging, simple bailing technique for well development, chlorination to sanitize the well, and gravel packing for a better finished well.

My team's instructor was Mr. Brian Tarr, with Harry Westmoreland as the Chief Consultant on both the LS-100 used and drilling techniques.

Other members of my team were –

- Don Lee (a minister and senior support staff with the Episcopal Church Regional office near Bandera, Texas,
- John McKee – a geologist from Ontario, Canada with interest in volunteer charitable work
- Michael Mullens – an Australian driller / agriculturist with Mercy Ships, Garden Valley TX
- Kanan Patel-Coleman – an Indian Researcher based in Los Angeles California and volunteers for Life Water, Inc.

All of us left the place feeling it was well worth our time and effort. The material covered in the evening reviews with quizzes were very informative along with the curriculum and course content detail. Many thanks to Brian Tarr and the LWI staff who have put this World Class program together to assist non-profit organizations and others on a shoe-string budget interested in providing water wells in communities of interest, especially in the 3rd world countries for relief and development. *Dr. Samson will share his experiences in the next edition from work done in his own team.*

