

Relief Network News

Volume 3, Issue 1, Early Winter 2002-2003

A project based outreach of

Relief Network Ministries, Inc.

Think water save life. Share what you know or have to bring relief to thousands!

Early Winter Newsletter

Updates for November '02-February '03

*What an Incredible cloud of witnesses...
shouting "the best is yet to come!"*

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



TOP:

Missionary Allan Fulton shows crew how to gravel pack well at Eziamia

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Meeting human needs!



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Relief News

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

When we stop for a moment to reflect on all that has been accomplished (in less than two years of the ministry's existence), both in the USA and during our two mission trips to Africa, we are amazed at the panoramic scene of God's handiwork for the benefit of the needy people of the Third World.

Relief Network Ministries, Inc., from inception, has been focusing on using water wells and skills to touch lives in the Third World and to save thousands of children from the incapacitation of water borne diseases or the scarcity of water for basic domestic use. While we get into the Winter season here, millions in Africa will be living with water shortages because the Rainy (Wet) season is over with a long spell of Dry season months ahead of them till around April of 2003. In these months, many children will resume their long 4 or more mile journeys to the nearest polluted river or stream to find some domestic water. This daily chore is often done twice or more daily by women and children in many African villages. Also, in some cities, people have to search other neighborhoods looking for running pipe-borne water, or going to the rivers to find water. A lack of maintenance

programs and run-down public facilities continue to be the order of the day in these countries where most of the civilian or military dictatorship governments are so corrupt and heartless.

The suffering of the poor continue to rise to unbearably indescribable proportions... and so you and I must do something to be a part of the solution. Part of that solution must come from each of you reading this Newsletter by way of sharing your best gift with this organization and telling others about our work to get more hands on deck.

In our 18 months of ministry, I find that we advance quickly on projects as we network with other ministries with similar goals and objectives as we have. Hence, RNM will continue to be open to connecting and networking with other organizations and philanthropic individuals as much as we can. We want to contribute to alleviating poverty everywhere, equipping adults and teenagers with job skills through proper education and training. We want to be party to providing water wells, and teaching rural and city dwellers alike some basic hygienic standards that make for safer environment and the overall reduction of endemic gastro-intestinal diseases. We want to share the reason inside of us for these gestures of human kindness because freely we have received, and freely do

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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)

we want to give, especially well illustrated by the lessons of Christmas. God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten son, Jesus Christ (the Living Water of life). "Ebere" is the Igbo language word for "mercy". In the spirit of Christmas, our forthcoming 2002 fundraiser that benefits children and their families in African communities through water well drilling projects has been called "EBERE Water Relief" fund. Would you share your best with us this season so we may extend your helping hand to the dying children and suffering families in Africa? We count it our privilege to be part of this channel of blessing to them. What about you? Come join us in this relief & development effort to God's glory

July-August 2002 Mission Report

(Filed by Rev. Ogechi F. Ochi-Okorie, Board member & Director of Publicity)

Our mission trip last July 20 to August 12th was quite interesting and successful. We had several aspects going on simultaneously, like the medical clinics and drilling of water wells as well as computer training.

The medical arm of the mission was conducted by Dr. Stuart Quartemont (College Station, Texas), Dr. Ben Mbata (Medical Director - Total Care Clinics, Owerri), Dr. Earnest Nwaigbo (Medical Director - Gilfest Clinic, Orji), and final year student doctor, Dr. Cathrine Garrison (Houston, Texas). Several nurses / nurse-aids were on our team with Lady Victoria Ekeanyanwu serving as lead nurse. Others include Judy Cady (Texas City, Texas), Patsy Fulton (American APF / LWI Missionary in Ghana), and Pierre Moranza - who helped manage the Pharmacy (from College Station, Texas). All together we conducted three medical outreaches at Ogberuru, Nkwesi, and Uzi.

The first one was in the village town of Ogberuru with a population of over 14,000. It was done for two days, with about 600 patients screened for hypertension and/or diabetes, or breast cancer. The four doctors on our team (two Americans, and two Nigerians) treated about 350 patients. I led the diabetes screening since I had practiced that exercise through regular self-testing over the past few years.

Initially our goal was to do about 200 diabetes screenings in each of the 3 communities we targeted. However, when we ran over 200 at Ogberuru, I had to stop to reserve some test stripes for the other communities. We were overwhelmed by the demands here and in the other places we went. By the end of the 2 days in Ogberuru, it seemed like word had gotten around and the crowds grew as people came back the following Monday expecting to see our doctors or be treated for one sickness or the other.

The second village or rural community we worked in was called NKWESI near Oguta.

A fairly large community, Nkwesi is a lush farming community near the Oguta Lake.

It was a day's clinic targeted to the very poor and needy in that community. Initial screening was done for us by the community leaders and the local Anglican Diocesan Representative for Owerri Diocese resident in the area. It was conducted by our Nigerian medical doctors and nurses led by Dr. Earnest Nwaigbo (Volunteer Medical Director at the Bishop's Foundation in

Owerri) and assisted by Dr. Ben Mbata (a physician trained in UK with specialty in pediatrics & gynecology). During the next two outreaches, Dr. Quartemont and Garrison held medical consultations and surgeries at the ICH (International Christian Hospital in Owerri) where he has ministry affiliations.

At Nkwesi, the team saw and treated over 300 patients many of which were screened for blood sugar diabetes and high blood pressure. Judy Cady screened several women for breast cancer and taught them how to do such routine checks on themselves monthly.

The village community at Nkwesi showed a lot of appreciation to our team and entertained them well with gifts of fruits, "garden eggs", corn, vegetables and kola nuts.

The third community visited for medical outreach was UZI, within Owerri. Our outreach was based at the Community Clinic set up by the Bishop's Foundation of the Anglican Dioceses of Owerri. Here, our team doctors saw a little over 100 patients, we did blood diabetes and high blood pressure screenings with a few women getting the cancer screening as well. Several nurses were at hand to help manage the pharmacy dispensary for all prescriptions from the doctors.

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

With each of these medical outreaches, water well drillings, and computer training sessions, we took the opportunity to spontaneously share the good news of the gospel, and to minister to people in small groups. Our volunteers were able to work with individuals, provide counseling, basic hygiene / sanitation instructions, and spiritual ministrations.

At the hotel where we stayed in Owerri, we gave out tracts, soap and other personal hygiene items such as tooth brushes and tooth paste tubes, and hand cream. We gave out a lot of children's clothing to ministers in the villages and to some Pastors' wives to share with their people, and their widows and orphans.

Much of what we took to Nigeria; the drilling equipment, computers, software, lots of Jesus video cassettes, skills training books, we left with the RNM Local Organizing Committee under the direction of the Bishop's Foundation in Owerri. The Foundation is overseen by the able leadership of Rt. Rev. Cyril Okorochoa, Ph.D., the Anglican Bishop of Owerri Dioceses.

Consumable items, clothes, and such were shared with the people and Pastors of several community churches such as the Owerri Foursquare Gospel, Love of God Evangelistic Mission, and the Assemblies of God's church in Ogberuru.

It was a fruitful journey: two water wells dug with one very successful and producing, the second well could not produce due to bad casing (but will be redone), and a third damaged well was re-activated. Many thanks to our friends and partners who have helped make this possible.

To God be the glory who has indeed done great things for us and through us.

RNM Goals for 2003-2004

- 1. Water well projects: Drill and develop 30 new wells in Imo, Abia, and Anambara states of Nigeria in the Southeastern region in 2003. Continue this effort for 20 more new wells in Imo,

and Abia states, then 10 new wells in Enugu (East-Central), and Gombe State in Northern Nigeria.

2. Medical Relief in 2003: TROPIC-MD: Improve the User interface of the Tropical Disease Diagnoses expert system tool by making it more adaptable for use in rural clinics as a medical reference and information system that will support locations with limited medical personnel. The plan is to place 5-10 TROPIC-MD Laptop based systems in strategic clinics and hospitals by second quarter of 2004 for expertise placement in villages with limited access to better medical facilities.

3. V-TEN Skills training projects: We plan to do a preliminary training of the technology trainers in the Volta Region of Ghana on "Computer & Internet Technology"; and conduct additional V-TEN training programs in Owerri, Nigeria. The Nigeria training agenda will include a follow-up training / advanced water well development and pump repair course for those crew trained in 2002.

4. V-TEN Skills for minors: In the Texas Gulf Region of USA, in 2003, we plan to collaborate with BRIDGE (Black Employees Network at Shell) to train teens and junior High kids on "How to Repair Home Personal Computers" in minority neighborhoods and provide some career mentoring and motivation sessions during some weekend or after school academy-type program with parental involvement.

The EBERE Water Relief Christmas Events

Here in America, most of us count on a steady, reliable supply of safe water to clean, cook, shower, wash cars, and a host of other tasks. In most of the Third World, however, the water available to the average person is unsanitary, unpalatable, colored water in limited supply, to the equivalent of only a minute a day at a faucet or shower. A substantial part of people's daily routine and energy are consumed in carrying water for long distances, often average of 4 miles for domestic use.

A United Nations Report of March 22, 2002 (Global Water Message) indicates that about 1.1 billion people in the Third World lack access to safe drinking water. Approximately 3.9 million children die every year because of polluted water, water-borne diseases, or a total lack of water availability. A New York Times Report last year indicates that Great Britain consumes \$10 billion in alcoholic beverages annually, while the USA spends \$20 billion on pet food annually. Further, it said that only \$1.5 billion is necessary to provide safe drinking water to the rest of the world.

Think about these numbers and what you can avoid or divert some of these kinds of dollars to help others less fortunate this Christmas. Live and Silent auctions of African Arts and Crafts, fashions, and gift coupons will Fund the well-drilling done by Relief Network Ministries, Inc. You are cordially invited to experience the musical Christmas renditions of our Guest Jazz Band in conjunction with an auction to benefit many African

villages which are without a source of safe water. The event will be held on Monday, December 16, 2002 at 6:00 PM. The location is the Webster Civic Center Reception Hall at 300 Pennsylvania in Webster, off of NASA Road.

MY DRILL CAMP TRAINING EXPERIENCE

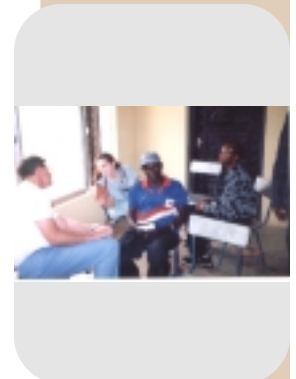
As we approached the gate, they started barking. They ran too close to the car, not minding the damage a moving vehicle can do to a canine intruder. The dogs of Quantum Lakes: bold, loud and dumb. I pressed down on the gas pedal; the car rumbled down the dirt road, leaving those dogs in a cloud of dust. That was our introduction to the beautiful and serene haven called Quantum Lakes. Our drill training venue. It did not look like the place I had envisioned before setting off. For the rugged work of drilling for underground water, a resort-like setting, surrounded by man-made lakes, was not nearly what I imagined. This place emanates peace and tranquility. It had a soothing ambience, like vacation spelled boldly. I was beginning to miss Gracie, my wife.

Relief Network Ministry has a primary focus on the provision of portable domestic water in rural communities in the developing countries of Africa and South America. To learn how to drill for underground water, Dr. Okorie and I went to one of the drill training camps organized by Living Water International. Living Water has been in the water ministry for about a decade and we sought leverage with them in expanding the service to more communities. The camp was superbly organized and the word of God was proclaimed at every opportunity.

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

We were organized into groups of 4 to 5 trainees headed by a trainer. Each group chose a name for themselves. We chose the name Samsonites for my group. We believed we could harness the strength of Samson while avoiding his pitfalls. That was the idea behind the name. But we had a little equipment problem at the beginning, and following that we made every mistake in the book. Apart from the pitfalls, which did not avoid us, we lived up to our name.

Our trainer was Frank Blackwood; he did mission outreach to Sudan. Dr Okorie's group chose the name, Holy Drillers for themselves. Watching them in the field, I thought they were more holy than drillers. They soon realized there was nothing holy about breaking rock with iron.



Above: Dr. Stuart & Cathrene confer while treating patients

Below: A cross-section of the crowds that gathered for medical treatment and assistance from our team of doctors and nurses in the Youth Civic Center of Ogberuru Community in Orlu Local Government of Nigeria.



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The day began with morning devotion and prayer from 0630 to 0715. Andy Morris, a medical student, full of the Holy Ghost led the worship. He played the guitar with dexterity and sang like a pro. He did most of the preaching too. Something tells me he is going to lay down his stethoscope for souls in the near future. He is a gifted man of God.

The devotion was followed by breakfast. Besides the beauty of Quantum Lakes, the food was the best part of the deal. Nobody can cook like the good ladies that volunteered in the kitchen. We had three square meals everyday all superbly cooked to tantalize our taste buds. I prayed for those ladies everyday because they did make the drilling stomach a lot more full. Drill training was from 8am to 5pm with a break in the afternoon for lunch. The

Water International left no stone unturned when they put this thing together. The best part of the day was coming together after the hard day's work for the best dinner on planet earth, and a recap of the day's activity. The period after dinner was fun filled.

We had a different activity each evening including quizzes, personal testimonies and videos of Living Water operations in third world countries. It was a fantastic experience.

We went to Quantum Lakes to learn how to drill for underground water but in doing that we found love, kindness, godliness, and lives devoted to selfless service through the water ministry. Names like Larry Laird, Malcolm Morris and Harry Westmoreland may not mean anything to you, but these are the engines that keep the drill camp running. Through their leadership, and with full participation of their wives, they made the training a noteworthy experience.

Samson Otuwa, M.D.



Top:
Relief Ambassadors, Allan Fulton, & Sunny rejoice with drill crew after we installed pump and started testing at UZI - Nigeria.

Photo Top Right:
Dr. Samson learns to operate the LS-100 Rotary drilling rig at camp.

drilling sessions were very rigorous. In three days we learned how to assemble a rig and drill a shallow well. Each member of the team assumed a specific crew responsibility at different points during the drilling. About every half an hour we rotated the Lead driller, the assistant lead driller, the tool pusher, the helper and the optional evangelist. Each crew has his assigned responsibilities. You can tell that Living



Ordination Ceremonies

Relief Network Founders, Dr. Ambrose Sunny & Mrs. Ogechi F. Ochi-Okorie got Ordained on September 22, 2002 at All Nations Church in League City, Texas. The ordination was done by World Class Missionary Preacher and now Pastor - Rev. (Dr.) Larry Garza. To learn more about All Nations Church, visit the web site at www.ancus.org.

Photo at Bottom Right:
Some RNM Board members pose with couple & their certificates. L-R: Norma Kates, Ogechi, Sunny, James Kates, & Meriel (Ije') Bernhard.



We care... we network!

 **RELIEF
NETWORK
MINISTRIES**

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