

AN EXPLOSION OF  
OPPORTUNITY IN NIGERIA  
By Elder Bill Barrett

During the month of March, 2005, the Lord moved in a mighty way in Nigeria. The prayers of the saints and the leadership there were answered. Many men were being prayed over for a number of years concerning priesthood calls, and the Lord made it known that now was the time for many to be called and ordained to the work, for laborers are needed and branches were organized—fourteen people were baptized, five children were blessed and nine men were ordained—five elders, two priests and two deacons.

After the June, 2004, trip of Bob Schrunk and John Eichhorn to Nigeria, the saints there formed a National Church Council with representatives from each branch and group coming together to discuss plans for the growth of the gospel in Nigeria. They have a president, counselors, a secretary and a treasurer. They determine how to share their resources among the various locations and needs for building rent, seats and equipment, an annual combined youth camp, travel expense and so forth. They have also set up an education fund and provide assistance to students and scholarships for college. They meet about three times per year, although 600 miles separate the furthest groups and transportation is poor. They very much need the prayers and financial help of the saints in America to carry forth the gospel to the areas the Lord is opening up to them.

The following is a report from the Nigeria National Church Council sent Monday, March 14, 2005:

In the words of President Fred M. Smith in *Onward to Zion*, “New times have brought new problems; the difficulties of missionary work have increased.” In our last trip to Lagos we saw new zeal, we saw growth; we shared in their joy and gladness. We felt the spirit very strong among both groups.

We were so impressed and felt the impulse of the spirit to organize both groups into branches. On Saturday, March 5, eight were baptized at Alagbado and were confirmed on Sunday, March 6, making a total of seventeen baptized in Alagbado.

At Umuahia Branch, five were baptized on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February and confirmed the next day—Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. In January while Prince\* and I, Hensley\*, were in Lagos, a man (an old friend of the church and a personal friend to Prince \*) came visiting the church in Umuahia, testifying that he felt the impress of the Holy Spirit to take the church to Cameroon. When he met our absence, he was asked to come back the next Sunday, January 23, which he did. It was agreed with him that he should go back to Cameroon to prepare for the establishing of the church there and come back at a future date. He was, at that time, willing to be baptized. When he left, we blamed ourselves for such a decision. We were all overwhelmed with joy when we saw him last Friday. He said that he felt led to come to see us so as to finalize arrangements. His coming coincided with our National Council Meeting so he was asked to be in the meeting the next day (being Saturday, March 12) and he was there. It was unanimously agreed, at the National Council, to go to Cameroon. The man is a Cameroon-born Nigerian. He is a humble and quiet person and has the spirit of meekness. After the council meeting on Saturday, he was led down to the stream and baptized. Urgency was laid upon us to call and ordain him with two other group leaders to the eldership. The three are Okechukwu\* (farm settlement outside Umuahia), Dayo\* (Alagbado, outside Lagos) and Raymond\* (Cameroon, the next country east of Nigeria.) The three were ordained elders yesterday at our worship service after the confirmation and child blessing and the spirit was so great yesterday in the service.

Sunday Udoh brought with him to the council meeting Pastor Edet\* who declared his willingness to join and work with the church in Lagos. Their other interest is to take the church to their home state.

By tomorrow we shall be going to Aba area to honor a call to come and organize a branch of the church there. On Sunday, March 20, Umuahia Branch will be at Umuokoro Isingwu Umuahia, the village home of Elder Prince\* to reorganize a branch which shall be called and known as The Church of Jesus Christ Restoration Ministries Inc., Umuokoro Isingwu Umuahia, with Elder Prince\* as the pastor.

Over the years we have prayed the Lord to open doors of missionary endeavors and the Lord has visited us. The unmet needs arising from these efforts are taking a large toll on my flesh and yet I am overwhelmed with joy in my spirit.

We humbly appeal to ARM to solicit financial help from supporting branches and individuals, for physical and organizational needs. We are looking forward for your urgent and positive response. May the Lord give you grace.

Your brothers for National Council,  
H. Nwabueze\*,  
Prince\*,  
Okechukwu\*

The beginning need for Cameroon has been met, and Pastor Raymond\* began formal Sunday worship on July 12, 2005. He has invited Brother Hensley to make a pastoral visit to Cameroon. Praise be to God. Other new areas include Benin City, Enugu, Aba, and the home village of Sunday Udoh.

We can see how the Lord is stretching us to respond to these and so many more needs as we reach out to fulfill his great commission "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:18,19)

God is bringing all these people before the Restoration Church along with Liberia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nepal, India, Taiwan, Central and South America, and many others and saying to us, "I am bringing you all these people who are my sheep, what are you going to do about them?"

I hope our response will be to "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Mal. 3:10)

May God bless you as you prayerfully consider what your response can be. May we all join together in the ministry of sharing the gospel with our neighbors, acquaintances, people of foreign lands, and where we cannot go, we can send.

\* Last names have been removed for privacy