

# The HOLMES Family

## Missionaries in Nigeria

July / August 2008



Dear Praying Friends,

July brought the completion of our curriculum for Temple Baptist Institute that has been developed over the last couple of years. Within the next two months, we will have a combined graduation and ordination service for the first four graduates of this ministry training school. We now have six teachers at three different locations and are enjoying the blessings of God upon our schools.

We celebrated Brian's 1<sup>st</sup> birthday on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August. The 2<sup>nd</sup> was my birthday, and our 7<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary was on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Two small at-home parties and a mini-vacation for Sabrina and me (during a break in our Bible institute) commemorated the events. I also enjoyed calling my grandmother for her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the same month.

Truth Baptist Church is continuing to mature while experiencing growth in several different areas. The offerings from our church members are now paying the salaries for an assistant pastor, a treasurer, and our bus leader. They also supply the funds to pay the electric bill (and generator usage), conduct the various children's programs, and run our church van for each service. We've seen an increase in attendance at the midweek prayer meeting and our three different soul-winning times, and the church has approved the upcoming ordination of our first two deacons.

Sabrina and I want to conclude this letter by expressing gratitude to our many financial supporters. Usually, I feel obligated to fill our letters with only ministry and family news, but we want to also say, "Thank you." Since October of 2006, almost \$29,000 has been donated for buying the property and completing the buildings for our upcoming Bible college. Plus, during the first half of 2008, our ministry added eight new supporting churches, and another eight of our churches increased their support. My family definitely notices. It would be easy for us to sit across the Atlantic and complain about the weak dollar (our buying power for Nigeria decreased 20% in two years, and food prices have skyrocketed), but we do realize that the declining economy affects American pockets too. We greatly appreciate the concern that our churches have shown us missionaries by sacrificing more so that we can continue doing the work on the field where we're called.

His for souls,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Holmes".

Mark Holmes

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