



the HOLMES FAMILY

YOUR MISSIONARIES IN NIGERIA, WEST AFRICA

January/February 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

After already enjoying a nice holiday break from our kids' homeschooling and my seminary teaching, we rejoiced to have our oldest son Joseph visit us from the U.S. At both churches in which our family is involved, members were happy to see our whole family together once again. During Joseph's trip, Providence Baptist College & Seminary had its orientation and welcomed 11 new students, for a total enrollment of 39.

On January 20, the 8th Commencement was held for 19 graduates from Providence Baptist College & Seminary and for 13 who received their diplomas from Temple Baptist Institute. Our total number of those who have passed through ministry training is now nearly 200, and so far, the graduates have started 50 churches. We were honored to have a good friend, Pastor Samuel Akande, preach the graduation charge, a chapel challenge, both Sunday services, and a banquet message for us during the special weekend.

On the first weekend in February, I met Pastor Akande at his place, as he hosted Missionary Evangelist Don Wattenbarger and me for a Pastors' & Workers' Conference at Faith Baptist Church in Ogbomosho. This meeting in the southwest region was also a chance for me to fellowship again with national missionary, Pastor David Orus, who has a new church plant in Lagos, the area of our country's highest population. The trip back to Abuja was challenging, as a return flight from Ilorin was cancelled, and our most reliable alternative was to travel five hours in Faith's church bus to Lagos and get an evening flight back to Abuja. The next day, I drove with my family for over four hours to Jos, while Missionary Graham Young followed behind us in his vehicle with Bro. Wattenbarger. This Soul-Winning & Leadership Conference, hosted by Zion Independent Baptist Church, was a special time for several of our seminary students to fellowship with seven young men who are training in our extension college, held at Zion, which is a cooperative effort of several independent Baptist Hausa-speaking pastors. Immediately after the conference, my family was able to take advantage of a Missionary Rest Home, located just 45 minutes outside of Jos. Spending three nights at this retreat center, with a rich history and cooler weather, was a great respite after back-to-back Pastors' Conferences.

For nearly three years, we have enjoyed a partnership with Christian Media International, through which there are now six weekly television programs airing in five different Nigerian languages. In late February, CMI gave me the privilege of reporting on the progress of those programs at their Limits Conference in Alpharetta, Georgia. It was a unique opportunity to get to know some of the businesspersons, pastors, and other ministry leaders whose investments make it possible to broadcast the Gospel in Nigeria.

Believing God,

Mark Holmes, written 18 March 2024

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vimeo.com/missionaryholmes for video updates based on this letter's events

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