

Work in Nigeria

September 2008

Dearly Beloved Brethren,

May the blessings of the Almighty rest and abide with you all in Jesus' precious name. Here is a brief report of the work in our new location. It is quite challenging but with God on our side, the challenge is fun.

Below is a brief and tabulated report for the month of September, 2008

Date: September 4, 2008

Appointment: Preachers' Meeting

Venue: Orodu Street Congregation

Date: September 5, 2008

Appointment: Prayer meeting

Venue: Bro./Sis. Umoh's residence Maryland

Date: September 6, 2008

Appointment: An appointment to address a group of young Christians. I addressed the problem our youths encounter outside and within the church. It was quite interesting. Topic/Remark: Facing the facts: Point Blank. Great audience and a great turnout. 355 in attendance. Indeed, I made them face the facts of life point blank. I am happy that they all appreciated our effort. At least they all told me so.

Venue: Shomolu congregation at # 9 Osho Street, Shomolu

Date: September 10, 2008

Appointment: An appointment with Henry Gboyega (a prospect) at Victoria Street, Ojota

Topic/Remark: General discussion on the issues as the proliferation of churches, identifying the True church etc.

Venue: Mr Henry Gboyega's residence at Victoria Street

Date: September 12, 2008

Appointment: Prayer meeting

Topic/Remark: A visit to brother Ossom's residence. Prayer meetings accord the brethren the opportunity to pray & strengthen one another.

Venue: Sis. Joy Jonathan's residence.

Date: September 11, 2008

Appointment: Ladies Bible Studies

Topic/Remark: "Be Not Forgetful"(Heb.13:1-2)

Venue: Victoria Street, Ojota

Date: September 14, 2008

Appointment: "Let's Go Fishing For Men" Series continues.

Topic/Remark: "My Responsibilities To My Lost Neighbors."

Venue: Victoria Street, Ojota

Date: September 19, 2008

Appointment: Prayer meeting & Visitation.

Topic/Remark: Prayer Meeting & A visit to The Nyong's Family at The Ikeja Military Cantonment

Venue: The Monday's Family Residence at Onipan, Lagos.

Date: September 20, 2008

Appointment: "Leaders & Preachers' Meeting"

Topic/Remark: It has never been my intention to attend these (see Leaders below)

Venue: Lekki Church Hall

Date: September 21, 2008

Appointment: Outside Evangelism

Topic/Remark: Sunday Evening Sermon We had an encouraging turn out for the outing. The sermon topic for the evening was "I have resolved."

Venue: Victoria Street, Ojota

Date: September 23, 2008

Appointment: Condolence Visit.

Topic/Remark: Condolence visit to our personal physician. Physician and a brother in the faith over the death of the mother-in-law.

Venue: Half way across the city at Lekki.

Date: September 25, 2008

Appointment: Medical appointment with Dr Ekong.

Topic/Remark: My sister, Elsie, diagnosed with massive Ovarian Fibroid. Needs urgent medical attention. The surgery will cost about \$3,000.00 (US).

Date: September 25, 2008

Appointment: Ladies' Bible Class.

Topic/Remark: "Where God wants you to be." Thank God for us. The attendance for the Ladies' class is picking up.

Venue: Victoria Street church Hall.

Date: September 26, 2008

Appointment: An encounter with some "Jehovah's Witness" at a barber shop.

Topic/Remark: They started an argument they could not wait to finish. Despite my request that we... See Meeting with Jehovah's Witness below.

Venue: At the Barber Shop

Date: September 26, 2008

Appointment: Prayer meeting

Topic/Remark: We were stuck in the traffic from 4:30 pm till 9:30 pm...(See Traffic below)

Preachers' /Leaders meeting:

It has never been my intention to attend these (see Leaders below) especially when some brethren want to use this forum to hijack the autonomy of the local churches; but for the fact that we need to let them know the truth, I am constrained to attend. Of course they are not comfortable and see me as "Anti" whatever they do. I do not mind as long as I get to tell them the truth.

Traffic:

We were stuck in the traffic from 4:30 pm till 9:30 pm when we finally reached home. We could only visit one out of the three people we proposed to visit. It was a terrible traffic across Lagos State.

Meeting with Jehovah's Witness (Continued below)

They started an argument they could not wait to finish. Despite my request that we reason together since we had some "Muslims" in the audience. When the argument was too heated and I supposed they would run off as is always my experience with them; I engaged everyone in the shop with some kind of responsibility (like the time keeper, moderator, Bible reader, scribe) and they all obliged. Seeing that they were fully contained, they attempted to cause some rancor & distraction in order to escape. But luck was not on their side since the discussion aroused the interest of our noble audience and I was very careful not to give them any opportunity to flee. This encounter accorded me the opportunity to address some basic and fundamental issues in world's religion. I was even able to compare and contrast the Muslim concept of Jesus being the best teacher that ever lived with the Jehovah's Witness belief that belittles Jesus to nothing but "a god" and a created being. In short the encounter was interesting and encouraging. As they fled, the audience judged the matter and promise to arrange some more encounters for the benefit of all.

The month of October, 2008 has been particularly hectic and chaotic for our family. Everyone in the family (from the least to the eldest) suffered serious bout of malaria attack. The children had to stay home for over two weeks. But thank be to God that we have all recovered and trying to catch up with the rest of our activities.

Date: October 2, 2008

Appointment: Preachers' Meeting

Topic/ Remark: General discussion on encouraging preachers of the gospel to study more of the word.

Venue: Orodu Street Congregation

Date: October 5, 2008

Appointment: Sermon

Topic/Remark: "An Unholy Alliance"

Venue: Victoria Street, Ojota

Date: October 9, 2008

Appointment: Ladies Class

Topic/Remark: "The Wise Woman"

Venue: Victoria Street, Ojota

Date: October 12, 2008

Appointment: Teaching

Topic/Remark: "Let's Go Fishing For Men" Emphasis on Jesus' various approaches to evangelism

Venue: Victoria Street, Ojota

Date: October 18, 2008

Appointment: Prayer & Fasting

Topic/Remark: Great turnout

Venue: Victoria Street, Ojota

Date: October 18, 2008

Appointment: Preacher' & Leaders' Meeting

Topic/Remark: "Autonomy & Church Cooperation: To What Extent." (See Preachers/ Leaders' meeting below.)

Venue: Church of Christ, Ohikere-Apapa, Lagos

Preachers' & Leaders Meeting (Continued)

I saw a great attempt and a great failure to rubbish the autonomy of the church & the presenter Dr Udofia ended up defining "autonomy" as division. I could not but draw him back to the proper definition of the word "autonomy." At this point the presenter was no longer comfortable with his teaching. I am challenging him and his team to a public debate. I hope he will accept the offer. Someone described him as an "ultra liberal." And I cannot wait for him to repeat those views in a debate. He made several furious attempts to establish a universal church with headquarters on earth. He quoted several books and black history & men like Booker T. Washington etc; So I asked him whatever happened to the good old Scriptures- The Bible. It did not go down well with him. I bid him welcome to Lagos and hope to see him again whenever he is invited again back to Lagos from either Port Harcourt or Akwa Ibom State as the case may be.

Our regular church program includes the following:

- On every first Sunday of the month, we have a series that trace the Bible character of some virtue or vice and its consequences. This is an interesting study.
- On every second Sunday of the month, we have introduced an evangelism program with the theme "Let's Go Fishing..."
- Every third Sunday is reserved for "door-to-door knocking" evangelism program.
- Every fourth Sunday is for singing practice.
- Every second Thursday is for the Ladies' Bible study program.
- Every Friday evening is reserved for the prayer meetings.
- Every Saturday is for singing practice.
- Every Sunday & Wednesday nights are for various Bible study programs.

We thank God for the cooperation and understanding of the brethren in attending these church activities. We are especially grateful for the improved attendance of the brethren as well.

Our Challenges: Our major challenges have been in the following areas:

Accommodation:

The problem of accommodation has been plaguing us since we accepted the appointment to labor with the problem at Victoria Street. We have been exposed to some terrible traffics on a regular basis; like the one that turned a trip of thirty minute trip to five hours. This happened on the 26th of September, 2008. In view of the aforementioned incidence and similar episodes, we think it is expedient for us to move closer to the area where the church meets. Besides, we are exposed on a regular basis to some serious dangers on our way back from church activities at night. There has been an occasion whereby I had to make a swift 180 degree turn on a Wednesday night (in company of every member of my family) as when we drove into an armed robbery attack. We thank God for saving us that night and many other nights that His sufficient grace has been our portion. I am please asking you all to come to our rescue since the church building may not be ready in about two years considering the beauracratc process that

we must pass through in order to get our papers for approval. Again, the church here is planning to help out as much as they can.

Our budget for a new accommodation is about #700,000.00 (\$5932.20) for the two year rent as demanded by the "Landlord." But that does not include the agency fee as well as the Legal/agreement fee.

The essence of a good tracker: Since we have neither a comprehensive insurance coverage nor a tracker devise for our vehicle; and due to the nature of our work which demands a lot of movements to various parts of the country at any given time, we thought it necessary to have some form of tracking device for the car. Car theft and car jacking are very big problems here in Nigeria at the moment.

We have spoken with a couple of companies that are willing to work with us. They have given us an offer of about \$805.00. This offer covers a period of about three years with the subscription. We think this is a very good deal when compared to all former quotes. The tracker has to be installed ahead of our upcoming trip which comes up regularly every January during which time we shall visit various parts of the country.

Comprehensive Insurance: On the issue of comprehensive insurance, I have spoken with the company and they have agreed to accept the payment from us on three installments thus (\$367.23 x 3) for a period of three months.

School fees: By God's grace, we have settled the last school fees. However, we still need to settle the new one since we have now entered a different and a new academic session. We have made a sacrifice of enrolling our children in a public school run by the Catholic church. So far, we are going through some teething problems but hope all will be settled before too long. We still need about \$380.00 to pay for their books and uniforms.

Elsie's health: Elsie is my biological sister whose husband was caught in multiple cases of adultery and this led to their divorce. Right now Elsie is having a very serious case of ovarian Fibroid and she needs an operation. The cost of the operation will cost about \$3000.00. We need your assistance in prayers and any other way one could help out.

Note of Appreciation:

Our special appreciation goes to the brethren 65th Street congregation who assisted us with a one time relief in the sum of \$200.00. Thank you very much and may God continue to bless you all in Jesus' name.

Below is a breakdown of our regular support:

Kenosha.....	300.00
Greenwood.....	200.00
Wilmington.....	200.00
Lutz.....	75.00
Harold Sharp.....	350.00
Cedar Hills.....	600.00
The McClellan's.....	25.00
TOTAL.....	1750.00

Thanks for your assistance and may God truly bless you all in His vineyard in Jesus name.

Yours In Him,
Emmanuel "Manny" Ebong

#13 A Ogungbamila Street
Bariga, Lagos- NIGERIA