

Relief Network News

Volume 4, Issue 2, Winter 2003-2004



A project based outreach of

Relief Network Ministries, Inc.

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

I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, ... I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me!" - Matthew 25:35-36.

Medical Outreaches in 2003

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

We conducted two major medical outreaches at Eke-Ogberuru, and in Umuchoke in Amaigbo, both in Imo State of Nigeria. Over 450 patients were seen and treated in both places with hundreds of dollars worth of medicines and supplies given or used.

T O P :

School kids at Jesus Brethren Academy line up to drink from new well or touch the water.

Contents

2003 Highlights & Mission #3 Details
Relief Ambassadors Report (Gino & Darlene Lopez)
Ghana Initiative / V-TEN
New Abia State LOC for RNM
Work in the USA
Budget & Goals for 2004-2005
IKWUJANNO computer donations

Meeting human needs with the love of Christ!

Ministry Highlights for 2003

As we approach the closing days of 2003 and into 2004, we wish to reflect a bit on what God has enabled us to do with your help, and to touch upon those things that lie ahead of us in our West African relief and development initiatives. Our audited 2002 Report or Financial Statements filed on Form 990EZ with IRS is available upon request which is also posted at the GuideStar website – the database of IRS recognized Non-Profit Organizations. Early in 2003 we concluded our effort to purchase a used rotary drill rig and a military truck for the ministry. Unfortunately, the rig turned out not to have the kind of features we needed, and we are in the process of retrieving our funds from the seller to apply to other equipment. The 6x6 military truck is still ours, though in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Mission #3 Trip

In May - June 2003, we completed our two nation mission trip to Nigeria and Ghana. During the trip, we were able to drill two water wells – the Alulu – Umuezumezu well and the Eziamia water well. While the Alulu well was completed in 2 days, due to technical difficulties, the Eziamia well was not, though water was hit and the well developed and cased. No pump was installed until November of 2003.



Ghana Initiative 2003

In an effort to help bring Vocational Technical Education to the children of Ghana through linkages with ARE (Action for Rural Education), RNM in partnership with Allan and Patsy Fulton of APF / Living Water International

Ghana, was invited to provide some assistance to the Computer curriculum development committee of the Ghana Government's Ministry of Education. RNM was instrumental in securing 20 computers from Shell (Desktop PCs) shipped to Ghana early in the year for the ARE program.

Further, we reached out to a group of local churches in the Western Region of Ghana with some relief materials, minis-



RELIEF
NETWORK
MINISTRIES

Relief Network Ministries, Inc.
www.relief-networks.org
P.O. Box 1307,
League City, Texas,
77574-1307, USA.
Phone: 281-538-0687
Fax: 281-535-3553
Email: info@relief-networks.org

Relief News

Volume 4, Issue 2



Above:

School Children and natives gather to celebrate a new community well at Alulu - Umuezumezu in Imo State Nigeria. This well was co-sponsored by Julius & Martha Nwaobia, and Living Water International, Inc.

We give God all the praise for obstacles overcome to make this well a dream come through for the Nwaobias after many years of yearning for it.

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)

tered the word of grace and hope to the needy, surveyed the place for future water wells, and a V-TEN center for computer skills development.

Overall, about 500 salvations and rededications were seen during our Mission trip #3 for which we gratefully thank God.

New RNM's LOC in Abia State / Well Projects

Early in November this year, we launched out to start two additional water well Projects in

Abia State, through a new LOC chapter we formed in that state of Nigeria. The first well was completed during the 3rd week of November at the Jesus Brethren Academy (JBA) – a Nursery / Primary School in Aba. The 2nd well in Abia State at Ikwuano, Umuahia, near Umudike was drilled and developed in the last week of November, 2003.

Pump installation is due in December. The JBA well will meet the water needs of the school population and surrounding community in parts of Abayi of about 2500 people with its 1.5 HP submersible pump and flow rate that is better than 20 GPM. The Ikwuano water well project will serve well over 3000 people in the area. It is a 300 feet deep well equipped with a high capacity 2 HP submersible pump and produces over 30 GPM.

JBA, Aba – New Water Well Project

- Feature Photo of the month School kids rejoicing at Aba over new water well and lining up to fetch water or get drenched by fresh clean water. See photo on front page.

Imo State Water Well Projects

Concurrently, in Imo State, in partnership with the Bishop's Foundation in Owerri, a new water well has been completed at the Cathedral of Transfiguration, near Okigwe Road to supply water to the entire Church compound and the new Nursery School facility in the premises. The well is reported to be about 290 feet deep. (The full detail will be published in our next edition, when a formal report will have been filed from Owerri).

Water Wells in Burton / USA initiative

- Also in November 2003, we visited Burton Texas to help do some clean up, and survey water well needs of a good number of black families in the community and a Baptist Church that did not have any running water in the building. RNM is helping to organize volunteers and raise funds. Further, RNM has helped negotiate down the cost charged by local drilling contractors from what was initially proposed to the Peace Way group that is organizing this effort. (In Africa, where we mainly drill, it is quite unlike the State of Texas because no driller license is required, nor any permit for any rig operators.)

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

V-TEN Program

- We were able to acquire, configure and set up software on 5 PCs in excellent condition and dispatched them to Ghana for use in Takoradi area – Western Region to serve our V-TEN program / training center coming up soon.
- In July, we started to offer limited V-TEN training for children and their parents in South West Houston on how to use Computers for doing basic things such as learning to keyboard, understanding how to use Email Software and the Internet.
- In November 2003, we donated an Admin / Training PC to ACF (African Christian Fellowship, Inc.) in Houston and proposed to partner with them in setting up a V-TEN training center for basic Computer Literacy for adults / immigrants living in the Southwest side of Houston as an outreach opportunity that also provides job skills for those that could not afford this type of training elsewhere.
- Similarly in August, RNM was

able to bless a small Church (Abundant Life Christian Center) in the inner city of Los Angeles, California with a PC for their administrative use. The Church is pastored by Rev. Clement & Evelyn Nwani.

Mission Experiences by Gino & Darlene Lopez.

This was our first trip to the continent of Africa. We journeyed with Relief Network Ministries, Inc. – led by its President, Dr. A. Sunny Okorie into Nigeria and Ghana. This mission trip was one of the greatest mission trips that Gino and I have taken in the last 11 years of our missionary journeys. The people of Africa are very beautiful, humble and kind. Our lives were touched as we were able to go to the villages and spend time ministering the precious Word of God, and loving the people, and seeing water wells completed. We were also able to be a part of the medical clinics held in two villages with people able to get medicines needed and medical attention which they could not easily get otherwise without the help of all of us either going, giving, and praying.

The computer workshop that was set up was also an awesome ministry to see, helping to educate the children and adults. The whole trip was blessed of the Lord. We had many souls saved and healed – Hallelujah!

The greatest miracle of all is salvation – Amen! We will

always have Africa as a part of our lives and our ministry and we thank our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to go, We say thank you to Relief Network Ministries, Inc. – Brother Sunny and Sister Florence Okorie also May God continue to bless and keep your ministry.

(Editor's Note: Gino and Darlene Lopez are co-founders of Love for the Nations Ministry, Inc. – a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization).

Call for Mission #4 Volunteers & Sponsors

In 2004, we plan to conduct several Medical Outreaches in Imo and Abia States in late February and mid June – July, and possibly to Ghana. The Feb. 2004 effort will be led by Dr. Stuart

Quartemont, International Medical Director of MMI, and our partner organization. Dr. Quartemont is an Instructor in Internal Medicine at Texas A&M in Brian-College Station. He will be accompanied by a team of other volunteer doctors / medical students to Nigeria for 2-4 weeks. In June-July, Dr. Samson Otuwa – our Treasurer will lead a second team of doctors, nurses and other auxiliary medical workers to Africa.

If you are a medical doctor, or auxiliary staff or know someone who is willing to volunteer, please let us know as soon as possible so we can provide travel details. Due to new flight arrangements into Nigeria, and strong linkage with local organizations, volunteers would be spending far less now than was normally the case – about \$2000 to include flights and basic living expenses.

Water Well Drilling / Pump Maintenance Training Program are also planned for Nigeria during the 3rd to 4th Quarter of 2004 when the rainy season might have subsided.

If you wish to volunteer, call or email us for further detail. This trip is tentatively fixed for late September to early October 2004.

A number of training opportunities will exist for water and sanitation hygiene which will include the Computer skills / V-TEN training program during both medical trips.

So volunteers are always needed for those who have health & sanitation experience or knowledge, and those with computer skills that cover basic computer uses in the office and for doing Excel / Spreadsheet Accounting, Emails, Internet, Microsoft Office / Explorer, etc.

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

2004-2005 RNM Goals / Fundraising Drives

Overall program budget for the next two years is approximately \$150,000. That's approximately \$75,000 a year for 2 years which is realistic, considering the fact that our 2003

budget goal of \$50,000 was achieved.

A rough breakdown is given below (cont'd on pg. 4).



Above:

Our winner Post card picture - showing some jubilant Ogberuru Women & children greeting our team.

Below:

Ije' Meriel Bernhard & Wynona Bennett recently went through a course on Grant Writing and Using Access Database at the United Way in Houston. Ije' will use the skills to help her manage our volunteer pool as Volunteers Director, while Wynona helps us with grant writing, and miscellaneous administrative work as a volunteer.



Ije (Meriel) and Wynona - UWay, 9/03

Relief News



Top:
*Relief Ambassadors / Founders -
Rev. A. Sunny & Rev. (Mrs.) Oge' Florence Ochi-Okorie
(Our 25th Wedding Anniversary Photo - June 17th)*

Right: *The Ikwuano Umuahia Water Well under
construction in Abia State, Nigeria.*

Below-Left: *Samson Otuwa, M.D. - RNM's treasurer
learning to operate an LS-100 Rotary Drilling Rig at the
Living Water Int'l Camp with great enthusiasm.*



Below-Right: *At the Jesus Brethren
Academy, Aba in Abia State Nigeria -
RNM drilled a new water well. How about
this "hydrant" of a water jet spraying the
dry compound during well development.*



Relief Network Ministries, Inc.
www.relief-networks.org
P.O. Box 1307,
League City, Texas,
77574-1307, USA.
Phone: 281-538-0687
Fax: 281-535-3553
Email: info@relief-networks.org

We care to help!

Water Well Goals

Since our startup barely two and half years ago, we have done 13 wells with 9 of them functional today. In order to construct the 50 wells projected in our 3-4 year Nigeria Development Initiatives, our goal for 2004-2005 is to raise about \$150,000 – an average of \$75,000 per year. For the mid-sized rig and crew truck, we budget \$65,000 to help with the new equipment procurement.

Health Care & Portable Toilets

A \$45,000 budget is planned for these items consisting of - \$35,000 to fund the Portable Toilet program, and \$5,000 to fund drugs purchases needed for the 2 or 3 Medical Out-reaches, plus \$5,000 estimated shipping costs.

Portable Toilets would help reduce public health hazards and indecency in West African countries where lack of such facilities continue to pose very serious health risks. It will further provide money making channels for many jobless Christians by empowering them as small producers and entrepreneurs. A truck equipped with suction & supply pumps for waste disposal and clean water / sanitization tanks is included in the estimate for first batch of portable toilets to be acquired.

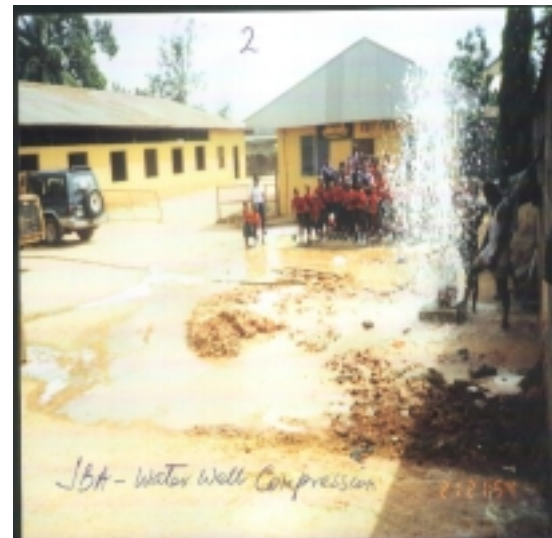
An additional \$15,000 will fund the TROPIX-MD project – to help us deliver relocatable medical expertise in rural and semi-rural clinics / hospitals for tropical disease diagnoses. This level of funding for TROPIX-MD is to help with retrofitting the user interface (UI) development & purchase of base Laptop Computers to install it on.

The V-TEN program

The V-TEN program expense is budgeted at \$10,000 with 50% of that coming from anticipated grants from United Way Community Support for work we do in Texas Gulf Coast / South West Houston on Computer Literacy.



In Ghana (photo above) - we reached out to these school kids in a community near Tarkoradi by buying lunch to feed them following their injection of spiritual food. Over 30 of them accepted Christ.



We dare to network!