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Dear friends and family,

I am sitting at the table, writing this in the early morning hours of Good Friday. The weekend of Easter is always busy, but what better time to stop and communicate with friends a message of hope and thanksgiving. There are always so many reasons to be thankful, but never more than the events that shaped our world almost 2000 years ago. May the greatest gift of God's love and the hope His resurrection gives us, cause our hearts to be hearts full of peace, joy and thanksgiving. Even though many of us face the trials of "Fridays", there is a living hope that the Resurrection Sunday brings.

The big event of the month of March was our trip to Obudu in Northern Cross River state. It was a five day journey, full of God's mercies, made at the request and financial support of our friends at 21st Century Global Missions in Fulton. Br. J. C. Enlow and his wife and team assist in Bible schools in many countries, and have for many years encouraged men and women as they intensively study God's Word in preparation for greater service. We were thankful to be able to carry gifts of Bible study aid and diplomas to graduating students from Darrell Memorial Bible Institute in Obudu. We pray that our short visit was as encouraging to them as it was to us.

The Bible Institute was established in the memory of Darrell Foltz, a pioneering missionary from the state of Kansas. He was a house painter by trade, but used the money he earned to be able to come to Nigeria during the winter months and evangelize. He went to areas where others did not, and helped young preachers minister in northern Cross Rivers. It was on one of such missions that he met armed robbers, who cruelly took his life in 1994. Though his earthly life ended at age 70, not as anyone would have wanted, his spiritual legacy lives on in many ways, especially in the Bible study center that bears his name.

We were invited and hosted by the Director of the school, Br. Prince Ugbe and his wife Regina. Together they and their family have sacrificed much to be able to faithfully preach in their region and beyond. Just a few days ago they had a graduation to organize (and guests to host). Then they had to travel to witness the graduation of their first born from the University of Calabar. This week they traveled to Kogi state to present a three day seminar aimed to strengthen sisters in the church. Next week he is off to Lagos where they have a study center that meets regularly to study God's Word. They are truly a busy and useful couple, worthy of fellowship and support. It was a joy to be able to be with them.

We were able to make the trip with three of our sons, Joshua, Kingdom and Sunny. Young men who have each blessed us in their own way, it was a special joy to be able to share this time together. Nothing like being crammed into a car for 12 hours

to help you bond together, right? We pray that the God who rescued them and used us to help raise them, will continue to grow and use them.

While visiting with Br. Prince, we were able to visit their new farm. This farm is being established to raise needed funds for the operation of the school, and help it become more able to carry on their good work. Friends and supporters in America have been faithful for many years to help carry on many foreign mission works, including that of our own. Yet the passage of time has witnessed the aging of a faithful generation, and we here all understand the importance of trying to do more to bring in local funding. The farm presents a good opportunity for local brethren to help themselves, and they are working hard to do just that. They are busy building a security wall around the place in order to help stop the encroachment of Fulani herdsmen, who have no qualms about driving their cattle over your farm to get to grazing. This is part, we believe, in an organized effort to push Islam further south, and has brought much death and destruction in Nigeria. This is another reason such outposts as Br. Prince and the school need to be supported, as they are frontline troops in the conflict with Islam.

Before reaching the farm, we stopped at a village where land has been bought to build a building for brethren to meet, even before a congregation has been started. While we were there inspecting the site, a number of villagers ran out to greet us. One mother held out her albino child who wrapped herself in Nkiru's arms, as if they were long lost friends. It gave us a chance to advise on how best to care for the child's skin and eyes. The hot tropical sun and the attitudes of society will make her life difficult. We pray that in the months ahead there will be a congregation of believers established, and that this young child and others will come to know Jesus.

From the farm we traveled up to the Obudu Cattle Ranch, established many years ago high on the mountains separating Nigeria and Cameroon. Once it was a working farm, situated at almost 5000 feet above sea level. This makes the place cool and semi temperate in climate, a welcome change from the humid tropics. Government has established a tourist center up on the mountain, but the farm no longer functions. My mind raced for days, dreaming of what it would be like to have our family move to the farm, away from the crime and noise and pollution of the city. Only God knows if that could ever happen, but I am not too old to dream and hope.

While in Obudu, we also witnessed another opportunity to serve. Br. Prince has established contact with a local school for the deaf, and a number of the students and instructors have been baptized over the last year. Classes have been set up to teach needed skills, but much more needs to be done. Hopefully funds can be made available to expand this needed work. Life here is hard, and made even more so by physical handicaps.

We were thankful to make it back home safely, though the trip back took two days and over 15 hours of driving. One section of a major federal highway has totally collapsed, taking us 5 hours to travel instead of the normal 1 hour. Soon the rains will start making the trip almost impossible. We could not have made the trip without the kind gift of a

good car made last year, but it is defiantly not the kind of abuse you want to put your car through.

Returning back, we were so thankful to be able to welcome a new brother into the family of God. One of our sons has a friend named C J, and he asked me one day about baptism, why and how one should be baptized. What great questions. It gave us an opportunity to open the Bible together and let him study and learn for himself. He saw that God, in these last days, speaks to us through His son. That son, having died so that we might live, rose from the dead as he promised he would. Before ascending back to the Father, he commissioned his apostles to go into all the world and preach the gospel, and that those who would believe, repent, and be baptized would be saved. This message was first preached in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus, and that those were received gladly that word were baptized and added to the church, the called out and saved body of believers. He learned that baptism is a death, burial, and resurrection, and that those who are baptized into Christ put on Christ. It is in Christ we are free to received all of God's spiritual blessings, including redemption and forgiveness and the gift of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He went away to think about this gospel message, and came to the decision that he wanted to be baptized and be a part of Christ's body. We are so thankful for God's Word, that we can read it and understand it, and that CJ has had the merciful chance to respond to it. Please pray that he has a fruitful life in the service of the King, and that one day we will all get to meet together around the Throne.

And that is the very core of the message of Easter, the greatest love story ever told. Thank you who support us to be able to stay and minister here. It is by allowing God to use you in this way that He brought us to a sincere and searching soul, one of many over the years who you have helped to preach to. May our efforts together continue to bear much fruit, for the night is fast approaching when no man can work.

I pray you will enjoy the Easter period together with friends and family, full of hope that Christ's death and resurrection brings. May that hope continue to shine bright in our lives.

Remain blessed,  
Cliff, Nkiru and Family