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THFO SERVICE IN PURSUIT OF IDPs HEALTH



The Harvest Family Outreach in Collaboration with Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA) Kaduna State Chapter carried out a free Medical Outreach at an Internally Displaced Persons camp Unguwan Zawu, Gonin-gora, in Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State as part of our programmes for 2022. The programme which took place on 25th August 2022 was aimed at improving health and encouraging healthy practice among members of the camp and its environs. The Medical Outreach exercise featured health consultation, Laboratory test, vital signs, and consultations amongst others. A large number of people living in Internally Displaced Persons camps have little or no access to basic health services, particularly women and children.

For Unguwan Zawu IDP camp, an estimate of 1000 people has been displaced from Rumana Gbagyi with no access to health services. The predominant illness/needs in the camp range from typhoid, malaria, skin-diseases (ring worm which is common with the children at the camp) and services for pregnant women.

Prior to the outreach, a team of two doctors (CMDA) and THFO Coordinator went to the Internally Displaced Persons(IDP) camp at Unguwan Zawu to assess the camp and find out the predominant illness/health challenge as well as the total

number of persons at the camp and the demographics in respect of male, female, children, aged, pregnant women etcetera.

This was followed by mobilization and awareness to notify the inhabitants of the camp as well as the community which resulted to the large impressive turnout of Youth group, elderly men, women children, pregnant women at the outreach. Over 800 people, who came from far and near benefitted from the exercise.

The event was well attended by THFO partners; community leader of Unguwan Bije, the host of the IDP camp was present as well as a representative from the Kaduna State Ministry of Health under the Malaria Elimination programme. Others partners at the programme are, Calvary Ministries North West Zone (CAPRO) Nigerian Christian Corpers Fellowship (NCCF), Children Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), Kaduna State Malaria Elimination Programme (KMEP), Christian Medical and Dental Association(CMDA) Kaduna State chapter, Primary Health Centre and the Joint Task Force Gonin-gora.

The one -day medical outreach kicked off with a general address on the routine of the outreach, brief Exhortation and a pep talk on personal hygiene.

Other activities includes free consultation, vital signs, checking of blood pressure, blood-sugar screening, quick-rapid malaria test, weight check, temperature check, BMI general checkup, and spiritual counseling. Free drugs were dispensed to the beneficiaries based on their health condition and gave them appropriate treatment and drugs. The medical intervention offered screening and treatment for malaria, typhoid, ulcer, urinary tract infections, hypertension, diabetes, skin disease, Hepatitis B and pelvic inflammatory diseases (PID)

The medical team comprised of doctors, nurses, laboratory scientists and pharmacists who offered free services to both adults and children. The children had a bible class session, and were taught the process of hand washing with practical illustrations. About 300 children were dewormed at the outreach.

Speaking on the outreach, the Director of THFO Musa Nimrod said: “The Harvest Family Outreach is established to assist vulnerable people with spiritual, physical and medical needs as a way of giving back to society”.

Most people have various challenges, including medical challenges which they cannot meet. This is why we took it upon ourselves as a Faith Based Organisation, to assist them with what God has blessed us with. We do so regardless of religion, tribe, ethnicity, and we do so in partnership with other Organisation.

The chairman Kaduna State chapter of CMDA, Dr George Timileyin Gabriel said they are also committed to caring for the whole man: spirit, soul, and body.

He added that health care is costly now, and it’s more difficult for those who are displaced from their sources of livelihood. What we are doing now will go a long way to help their medical needs.

The Programme Coordinator, Harvest Family, Odili Chioma identified high cost of living as a barrier for accessing health facilities. She said the free medical Outreach was organized to give succor to people who can’t afford basic health care services and cater for their spiritual needs too

For us at the Harvest Family Outreach, the Medical Outreach was an unforgettable experience and its outcome massive, just like the Bible said what eyes have not seen what ear has not heard and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him. There is no better way of giving back to the society and putting smiles on the faces of Internally Displaced Persons and humanity at large

MISSION MOTIVATOR: JESUS COMPASSIONATE HEART

(Matthew 9)

By

Dr. Lemuel Musa

Compassion is the nature of God who is the mission sender that is why He so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son (John 3:16). It is because of this His great love that we are not consumed and his compassion never fail, but is new every morning great is His faithfulness (Lam. 3:22 – 23). Therefore, we need to show this compassion by teaming up with the Lord of the harvest through praying for missions and evangelism, sending labourers to the harvest field, giving our resources as we release them and going into missions compassionately like the Lord to harvest souls into the kingdom of God in this final task. Matthew chapter 9 unveil Jesus missionary movement and outreaches across all the villages and cities demonstrating his compassion for the people that were harassed and wounded in their hearts through his preaching, teachings, healings, miracles and deliverances ministrations.

In verses 1 and 2, Jesus did not only heal the paralytic, but was moved with pity and sympathy to also forgive his sin. This is because the man was held stationary in life and sin, and need to be set free. It takes compassionate heart to see how sin and corruption have paralysed people today and kept them still in bondage and not able to move forward into their God given mandate and purpose.

Verses 9 to 13 presented Jesus dinner with Matthew the Tax Collector. This was a man that the people do not want to associate with in the community, but call them sinners. Today in your community are the under-reached prostitutes, drug addicts, destitute, Almajiris, child traffickers, rapist, armed robbers, armed bandits, kidnapers, Boko Haram and the cannibals. Yet, the heart broken Jesus identified

with such in his time on earth as a missionary sent by his Father not to call the righteous but sinners who are isolated and need to be free to relate with the Lord of the harvest of all nations (v. 13).

The pity and sympathy of Jesus caused him to be deeply moved (18 -26) to the house of the ruler whose daughter was dead to be brought back to life. Compassion does not write off the dead cases of people who are not saved, but moves us to address the issues and the need for new life in Christ. It is God's promise to father Abraham that **all nations** must be represented in heaven (Rev. 7:9). Therefore, Jesus is waiting and asking for prayer to send compassionate likeminded men with the heart of Jesus pity and sympathy to go and rescue these dead ones in sin and offer them eternal life in Christ Jesus. Jesus on his way was interrupted by the quiet touch from the woman with 12 years bleeding case (v. 20 – 22). This has deprived this daughter of Abraham from enjoying public life for fear of shame. She could not attend naming ceremonies, birthdays, weddings and fellowships. Therefore, compassionate Jesus identified with her publicly, though she quietly touched his clothe for fear of shame and not to be known and disgraced. His identifying with her openly, gave her a new life full of grace in the public domain. No wonder, Matthew reported in verse 22c (KJV) that, "And the woman was made whole from that hour".

It takes the compassionate heart of Jesus to stop for the two blind men who were following him and calling out "Have mercy on us, Son of David" (vs. 27 – 31). Most often, we see the blind as beggars whom we have nothing to do with them. There are many blind people who cannot see spiritually and need their sight to be open. It takes a compassionate heart to stop and share the gospel of Jesus with those blinded in sin and evil by Satan the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4).

In verses 32 to 34, we see the compassionate (pity and sympathising) Jesus could not let go those possessed by demons (evil spirits) and depriving them of expression. Many have been kept mute and in bondage by evil spirits and we need heart of compassion to deliver them from being mute, suicide, drug addiction, rapping, kidnapping, cannibalism, witch craft, prostitution, and other vices. You can pray, give and reach them as your mission field in your community, even when you may not be called to go cross culturally.

Your movement into action by heart of mercy will result in amazement and praise to God by many (vs. 8, 33), despite the negative reaction of the Pharisees and teachers of the law (vs. 3, 34). We should expect oppositions, persecutions and killings, if the kingdom of God is to advance and not let the gates of hell prevail against it. We must lay our lives daily on the altar as living sacrifices and as our act of reasonable service to God, and do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transform by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:1 - 2). For the Lord's compassion never fail but is new every morning to strengthen us face the challenge of reaching the lost and finishing the task of the harvest.

The gospel written by Matthew in chapter 9 verses 35 and 36 pointed out that it was because of compassion that Jesus went through all the cities and villages not turning down the Kanuris, Hausas, Fulanis, Boko Haram, Terrorists, Child traffickers, Kidnappers, Arm bandits and others. But was willing to preach, teach, heal the sick and deliver the oppress and possess by evil spirits. Yet, the masses (crowds) were after him because of his compassionate heart that can see their rotten state by sin, evil, corruption, religion, culture and Satanism; which led them into harassed and helpless life without shepherd to guide them. It takes the compassionate heart of Jesus planted in you to asking (pray) the Lord of the harvest to send missionaries to our villages, cities where the unreached and under-

reach souls are found. Is your church praying, sending young men, giving resources for the labourers (missionaries) into the harvest field to finish the task?

One requirement for the happenings in **all** the villages and cities that Jesus went to was faith (2, 22 and 29). Faith comes by hearing the word of God, which requires someone preaching it, and the preacher, evangelists and missionaries have to be sent by the Lord and his church along with our prayers, finances and other resources (Rom. 10:14 – 17).

In the midst of the evils, confusion and problems, the compassionate heart of Jesus sees opportunities for the gospel, the salvation of lives and deliverance from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God and light. You are God's missionary to your community or the cross culture that will show the compassionate heart of Jesus in finishing the Lord's Harvest task of reaching **all** the nations with the gospel of the kingdom of God.

PRAYING THROUGH THE NAMES OF GOD IN HEBREW & GREEK

- ELOHIM- God the Creator (Genesis 1:1)
- YAHWEH- I AM-(Exodus 3:14)
- ELROI- God who sees me- (Genesis 16:14-15)
- EL Shaddai- The Lord God Almighty/ All sufficient One (Gen 17:1-2)
- Adonai- My Lord and Master- (Psalms 16:2)
- Yahweh Rapha-God our healer-(Exodus 23:25)
- Yahweh Nissi- the Lord my Banner- Exodus17:15
- Yaweh Shalom God our peace- (Judges 6:22-24)
- Qedosh Yisrael- Holy One of Israel-(Leviticus 19:1-2)
- El Elyon-The Most high God
- Yahweh Shammah-The Lord is there-(Ezekiel 48:35)
- Ehyeh asher ehyer-I am that I am (Exodus 23:25)
- ElBerith- God of Covenant Isaiah (42:6 KJV; Isa. 49:8 KJV)
- El Gibbor-Mighty God-Genesis 49:24; (Isaiah 49:26 NASB)
- Esh okhlah-Consuming Fire-(Deuteronomy 4:24 KJV)
- Jehovah Raah-the Lord my Shepherd-(Psalm. 23:1)
- EL-Olam-the Everlasting God-(Gen 21:32-33)
- Yahweh Yireh- the Lord will provide (Genesis 22:13-14)
- Elkanna- Consuming Fire-(Deuteronomy 4:24 KJV)
- Yahweh Tsur- The Lord is my Rock; (Psalms 18:2)
- Miqweh Yisreal- Hope of Israel; (Psalms 71:50)
- Migdal-Oz-My strong tower and stronghold; (Proverbs 18:10)
- Atik Yomin- Ancient of Days; Daniel 7:9

- Basileus Basileon- The King of Kings (Revelation 19:16)
- Yaster-The Potter-(Isaiah 64:8)
- Yahweh Heseed-God of forgiveness; (Nehemiah 9:17)
- Yahweh Tsikenu- The Lord God our Righteousness-Jeremiah 23:6
- Immanuel-God with us; (Matthew 1:22-33)
- Alpha kai Omega- the beginning and the End;(Revelation 22:13)
- El Elmet-The God of truth;(Psalms 31:5)
- El Deot-The God of Knowledge; (1 Samuel 2:3)
- El Hakkavod- The God of Glory; (Psalms 29:3)
- El Hakkadosh- The Holy God; (Isaiah 6:3)
- El Chanyai- The God of my life;(Psalms 42:8)
- El Rachum-Compassionate God; (Deuteronomy 4:31)
- El Yeshuati- he God of my Salvation; Isaiah 12:2
- El Qanna –The Jealous God-Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 4:24, Exodus 34:14
- El Hannora- The Awesome God; (Nehemiah; Isaiah 7:14)

THFO CELEBRATES CHILDRENS DAY WITH CEM

Children obey your parents was the central theme of THFO Children's day celebration with Children Evangelism Ministries in Kaduna on the 28th May 2022. The Harvest Children's Day funfair took place at the Children Evangelical Ministry (CEM) on the 28th May 2022 at 10.am within the CEM premises THFO volunteers, our Calvary Ministries (CAPRO) friends and partners, FCS Kaduna as well as the CEM children's Coordinator and staffs who contributed in making the day a memorable one for the children as God will have it, we all worked together as a team. A total of 80 children were at the funfair.



To keep the children engaged as well as having fun, different activities were lined up to celebrate them. In order to ensure that the children embrace the Truth about honouring their parents as seen in the Scriptures, the Training Secretary; Fellowship of Christian Students Bro. Inalegwu Umoru gave the Message anchored on Ephesians 6:1, he gave a scenario of disobedience illustrated by two of the children, where he threw a pen and asked the first child to pick it up and the other way round where the child refused to pick it, through the scenario the children understood that God wants them to obey their parents for a special reward. Songs of praise, Memory-verse recitation, special numbers, Bible sword, Puzzles and lots of games were some of the fun activities the children had.

It was indeed a blessed day for the Harvest Family CEF and the children. Children went home with gift packs.

THFO REACHES OUT TO ORPHANAGE AND MISSIONARIES

The Harvest Family Outreach distributed food items to Orphanage homes and Missionaries as her Director, Engr. Musa Nimrod. The materials were distributed to two orphanage homes; Shelter in Christ and Mercy home as well as some missionaries all within Kaduna State.



The materials distributed were bags of rice, beans, beverages detergents, oil amongst others. In addition 500 Bibles and 150 Hymns were distributed to Churches and Mission Agencies.

The Harvest Family reached out to them to show love as well as thanking God for the life of her director; Engr. Musa Nimrod. The Principal and orphans prayed for his well-being and God's Protection and blessings.

Still in the spirit of the Celebration, THFO donated a borehole project to Tadura, community, Kebbi State in commemoration of her director's birthday anniversary. This was a great relieve for the community as they now have access to potable water.



WATER SUSTAINS LIFE! THFO BRINGS SUCCOR TO DEPRIVED COMMUNITIES



One can literally feel the euphoria around the people of Kawon Dowaya; you can see the smiles on their faces and hear the drums of celebration as the women (old and young), men, youth and children danced to the rhythm of the songs giving praise to Jehovah for the water project donated to their community.

Kawon Dowaya is an old community located at the outskirts of Numan, in Demsa Local Government Area of Adamawa. A population of about 1000 people and 100 households makes up the Kawon Dowaya Community.

Before the Harvest Family Outreach came to their rescue, the people had no access to safe drinking water. Their only source of water supply was a stream some kilometer away from the community.

Kawon Dowaya community has only one source of water; a stream which is a home to tapeworms. The community has been plagued with a tapeworm, this made them to be stigmatized as people from other neighbouring communities do not intermarry with their communities because of the 50-year old stigma that bedeviled the community due to lack of access to potable water.

For women, house hold chores like cooking was a huge problem due to water scarcity, Member of the communities were exposed to water borne diseases- Elephantiasis.

It was therefore a huge celebration as the Harvest Family Outreach donates a hand pump borehole project to Kawon Dowaya community, for them it was a huge celebration that brought an end to a 50-year old plague. The project was donated on the 25th of June 2022 and handed over to the community. At the official commissioning and opening prayers, the people were lilted with Joy as it reflected their countenance.

We are so happy to have this project in our community; this will curtail diseases like diarrhoea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid amongst other diseases

Like Kawon Dowaya, Kilanko Tadurga community in Zuru Local Government had a similar challenge before the intervention of the Harvest Family, Kilanko lack access to potable water with the rural dwellers going through a lot of hardship to get water. The community members walk several kilometers in search of water while others depend on water from ponds and streams.

Prior to the donation of the hand pump borehole, water has been a challenge in Kilanko community where Missionaries have trekked long distance to get water even though confirmed unhygienic for drinking which results to water borne diseases like cholera, tapeworms, acute diarrhoea, and dysentery amongst others.

The Harvest family donated a hand pump borehole to the community through the Navigators who brought their plight to the knowledge of the Harvest Family. Their joy knew no bound as the members thank God for the gift or water which according to them is an answered prayer.

In the same vein, the Harvest Family Outreach donated a hand pump borehole to Ungwan Gamji community in Ganjuwa Local Government Area of Bauchi State to ameliorate their water problem and give the access to clean drinking water. The community houses the Mission Field of HEKAN (The United Church of Christ in Nations)



In the same Spirit the Harvest Family donated a handpump borehole to LCCN Mission File at Gamso community at Bali Local Government Area in Taraba state on 15th December 2022.

Reacting to the donation, the mission field Leader, Pastor Elisha expressed his excitement over the project sitting that water has become a major problem here and we are happy that THFO has come to our aid to solve that problem; the era of trekking long distance to get water is over

About THFO

The Harvest Family Outreach is a Faith-Based Non-Governmental Organization saddled with the sole responsibility of uniting God's people; reach-out through humanitarian supports and spread of the word of God. THFO was established in 2014 to reach out to Missionaries and their families, unreached/poor rural communities with the Gospel of Christ.

As a Christian Based Organization, we engage in different programmes through the use of modern means of communications, including editorial materials-online and print copies, documentaries, educational support, medical support, food and material distribution as well as field visit and training.

OUR MISSION:

- The Harvest Family exists basically to reach out and unite God's people through humanitarian supports and spreading the word of God.
- Increase the level of mission awareness by bringing mission minded bodies including businessmen/women and professionals.
- THFO is positioned to add value to missions

WHAT WE DO

Evangelism:

Reach Out: Our purpose and focus is to reach out to missionaries and their families, unreached/poor rural communities with the Gospel of Christ and also provide humanitarian support.

Field Visits: We visit mission fields and missionary group and interacts with them to understand their problems and challenges. We carry out research on some of their challenges/needs and how to support them.

Food and Material Distributions: Based on needs assessment from the field, we support missionaries with food items and non-food items as well as prayers.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Educational Support: As a basic way of propagating the gospel of Christ, we support Missionaries and rural communities with Educational Materials; such as not books, pen, textbooks and others.

Spiritual Material: Bibles, Christian Literature excreta

Scholarship: THFO grants scholarship to children in poor rural communities.

Medical Support: We provide medical support to rural communities and missionaries through medical support and treatment.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Our training and development programmes are geared towards creating awareness and sensitization for missions and missionary groups. It is also aimed at building their capacity on how to effectively preach the gospel and reach out to others. We achieve this through seminars, workshops symposium and conferences.

MEDIA AND ADVOCACY

Magazine and Newsletter: We produced online and print magazine and a newsletter. It is aimed at informing people on the happenings in the mission field. Photographs and audio-visuals gathered from the mission fields, testimonies, articles, prayer point as well as upcoming events are showcased in the publication.

Documentaries: we are saddled with creating and translating Christian movies, animations and produce video documentaries about the activities of missionaries on field.

Social Media: THFO has a formidable website and social network pages linked to our website. Our online presence is geared towards creating awareness and educating the public about activity of the organization. Also, we engage in online interaction/conferencing via social networks like Facebook, twitter, Whatsapp, etcetera. THFO creates awareness and sensitize people on the successes and challenges missionaries face in Nigeria, with emphasis on Northern Nigeria.

DIRECTOR's MESSAGE

Engr. Nimrod Musa

Compassion: A Guiding light for Missions

Matthew 9:36

.....*When he saw the crowds, he has compassion on them, because they were weary and scattered like sheep without a shepherd*; this scripture illustrate the compassion and love Jesus Christ for the masses. He carries our burden and care for us beyond how you can imagine. The above scripture describes Jesus' great compassion while looking at the crowd of people who had come to see him. He recognized their helpless state, like sheep without a shepherd. All through the life of Christ he was either healing sick people, feeding the hungry, caring and being compassionate to the poor, as well as concerns for souls, this factor endeared people to him as they followed him place to place

To have compassion means to empathize with someone who is suffering and to feel compelled to reduce the suffering. It entails more than feelings alone, it is Biblical.

However the Bible does not define compassion like the dictionary does, rather the Bible defines compassion by showing us what compassion looks like and what is involved with being compassionate.

According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, Compassion is the sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.

While Thesaurus defines it as the capacity to feel sorrow for another's suffering or misfortune.

Compassion is not only concerned with empathy or sympathy for others rather it is associated with doing, which is a desire to take action to alleviate distress.

Jesus modeled compassion for us in his interaction with the crowds of distressed people as seen in the scriptures above. He showed compassion for people by his actions, he spoke with them, he fed the hungry, healed the sick, we should also do the same. Jesus Christ did not only show compassion for those in the faith but for those outside the faith community.

It is one thing to sympathize and another to alleviate their distress in time of need. As Jesus followers we should show compassion to people irrespective of their faith. Christ reached out to the poor, harlot, rabbi, the obscure and even the thief hanging at his side on the cross.

Jesus was not only preaching the gospel but he was concerned about hunger, diseases, and injustice. The souls of the unreached are precious to Christ and same should be apply to us too.

Jesus was sensitive to the needs of all people irrespective of their Faith or sins. As God's son Christ flawlessly reflected his Father's nature not only the divine holiness but the divine heart. Jesus was aware that the people he ministered to were sinners, most of whom are spiritually weak, yet he accorded the same love and compassion he gave believers too.

Compassion reflects Jesus Christ, every step and life of Christ showed his love for people. Every Missionary must be compassionate if he/she is to carry the great Commission mandate, our reaching out must be driven out of compassion.

Let's us take this as a call teaching to be like Jesus as we reach out to souls, our work should be compassion filled, this alone will endear the unreached people group to us. Let's also pray to be burden with compassion especially for missionaries as they reach out to the unreached.

CHURCH, A PATH WAY FOR HUMANITY TO REACH ETERNITY

BY

Rev. Obidah Magaji Mafindi- HEKAN PRESIDENT

Everyone knows that the world is a temporary place, both religious and non-religious people knows that we are not meant to last forever here on earth, and the second truth is that nobody completely like everything that is happening around him. There are some circumstances that calls for a desire for change of environment and this happens to every human and is often prompted by a feeling that this particular thing is not right, this is because of the presence of evil that caused all this dissatisfaction and a desire for a better place which is the great desire of every human, sadly! There is no better and perfect place or destination here on earth, but there is a great quest in man's heart to search out a better and perfect place which makes life a journey and Jesus presented himself as the way.

John 14:6, Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life;" Jesus did not just made this claim like people use to do in other to call attention to themselves, it is the real fact that he did not only know the beginning of man as a third party, but he was fully aware of the components that made up human that **man begins in God and will end with God**, therefore, man's desire for a better and perfect place is good, but must be prepared to follow the right way, and the good news is that there is an open invitation for all mankind to come and follow the way to get a better and perfect destination which reads, "come to me, all of you who are tired of carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest." The first people who accepted this invitation were called "Church" which literally means "the Lord's house." For me, this lord is the LORD of all creation through which all human race were made.

The task of the church; the church is saddled with responsibility of calling all people to turn to God who is the beginning and the end of life, this task is called ‘the Great Commission.’ And God intends that all human race should return and rest with him in Eternity, “and the gospel must be published among all nations.” (Mark 13: 10). **Caution!** Those who are in the church should not give a first born attitude, (Luke 15: 25-31) or display the characters of the Pharisees toward the lost souls, instead, they should be determined to bring them to accept the invitation to walk on this path to Eternity, and those who are giving the privilege to lead the church should not run the Church as private company, because it is the place for all people.

This Bible word search is based on Luke 11:1-9

P	R	A	Y	Y	B	S	L	E	F	X	E	B	P	H
U	K	I	N	G	D	O	M	L	T	S	P	D	Q	A
A	Y	Z	A	U	B	Q	Q	S	E	E	E	R	X	L
U	Q	B	S	B	U	R	W	F	Z	A	A	E	G	L
O	R	R	K	P	U	J	I	U	R	Z	D	C	K	O
O	N	E	O	L	F	N	P	I	P	I	A	Q	H	W
T	A	A	P	X	A	A	F	V	I	X	E	M	M	E
E	M	D	E	D	M	F	T	W	T	F	S	N	U	D
M	E	C	N	H	R	D	O	H	N	L	F	B	D	W
P	P	K	K	R	N	E	G	R	E	S	M	Y	Y	U
A	V	N	I	I	Q	I	C	C	G	R	T	C	D	Y
T	N	O	F	U	N	J	C	E	S	I	N	S	A	O
I	J	C	W	D	K	S	D	G	I	J	V	Q	I	A
O	Q	K	I	F	B	E	K	P	I	V	J	E	L	A
N	M	M	W	N	M	J	J	P	V	W	E	M	Y	P

WORD PUZZLE ON COMPASSION

C	A	L	M	M	P	K	O	R	L	B	N	E	K
W	M	I	M	N	W	M	V	A	L	P	N	T	I
H	B	E	L	R	E	R	W	S	E	G	D	I	N
G	E	H	G	I	L	O	O	M	N	Y	A	T	D
E	P	T	P	N	L	E	R	I	O	H	C	R	N
L	P	A	O	R	B	E	T	N	I	T	E	E	E
G	R	E	S	T	E	M	H	D	S	A	O	S	S
G	E	R	I	G	I	P	Y	F	S	P	G	E	S
R	L	B	T	G	N	O	M	U	A	N	M	L	T
O	I	E	I	I	G	W	O	L	P	E	I	F	C
W	S	U	V	O	L	E	V	N	M	E	L	L	E
T	T	N	E	O	L	R	E	E	O	S	A	O	B
H	E	I	I	T	G	E	C	S	C	L	E	V	V
V	N	I	M	A	P	D	M	S	B	E	H	E	S

THE BOY STARE!

By

Stephen EKPA –CEM International Kaduna

With every lash came an anguish that Jesus couldn't bear for himself. The Roman whips with edges of iron held unto his flesh and greedily ripped it off from his body. His blood effortlessly gushed down leaving him in an unimaginable weakness, yet he had a huge cross to carry. Jesus longed for even a word of encouragement, but the unending inhumane rhythms resonating from the crowd brought a darkness that overwhelmed Jesus. His last spark of hope which he hoped wouldn't be out, turned away. Abba father couldn't behold Jesus his son due to the sins of the world which he bore.

Having nowhere else to turn to for solace, it was time for Jesus to give up, to destroy his oppressors by his power and eliminate every form of pain in his body by his power; after all he was God.

Just as he was about to say the command, there stood a little child, looking unto Jesus. He had been a follower while Jesus preached by the seaside and in the synagogues. He loved Jesus because Jesus paid a lot of attention to him and his friends. This little child wondered why these bad things were being done to Jesus. He wished he could stop these "Roman insurgents", he wished he could rescue his friend Jesus, and tend his wounds, till he gets better.

Jesus looked upon the child and imagined how great his damnation would be if he gave up on God's plan for man's salvation and reconciliation with God. He foresaw how that child would be consumed in eternal punishment for a sin so great that he couldn't bear for himself.

Then Jesus took up the cross again, with every fibre of strength left within him. He said in his heart, "even if it's for this child alone, I am able to atone for sins with my blood before the father, I would!"

Within the anguish, Jesus finally had a little ray of hope, there was a whisper of peace and a hint of joy in his heart. The pain he couldn't bear for himself, he bore for the sake of the child and many others in the earth who would be willing to accept his salvation.

Jesus' compassion was unlike any other. He looked beyond a people spitting at him, lashing him with whips, brewing vulgar words at him, and accusing him of a false report, to a people drowning in sin, headed for eternal damnation and he continued to Golgotha for them.

Compassion is not being nice, it is a form of love; it empathically loves others. To empathically love someone, you would need to look beyond whether they merit it or not, whether they have wronged you in the past or not, whether they are ethnic or religious affiliates or not, you must put yourself in their current and do that which you know you would need if you were them.

This kind of love is only given by the father. Many may be nice, some caring, others generous, but not all are compassionate. Come up hither! Come unto higher grounds of a walk in love! Come into compassion with all brethren. If you have seen and receive this light (salvation). Why not be compassionate enough to show others who are lost in darkness and desperately waiting, searching for a much greater and higher light as this. Untold million are still untold and are outside the fold. Who will tell them and bring them in? God is counting on you!

THE RIGHT HEART THROUGH HIS EYES

BY

DR. George Timileyin-CMDA Chairman Kaduna State

Missions without compassion are synonymous to the body without the heart. The synergy between the heart and the eyes is an indicator of being alive or dead. The moment the heart stops to work a man's eye becomes static and dilated and he stops to live. That's how precious compassion is to missions.

Compassion is the humane quality of understanding the suffering of others and wanting to do something about it.

A good eye sends the right message to the heart which in turn moves the entire body to respond. No wonder Jesus said in Matthew 6:22-23KJV that the light of the body is the eye; if therefore thine eyes be single, the whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

The eye of any living being is a fundamental organ in its existence and it's pivotal to its effortless access for direction to any destination in life. Jesus our perfect example in Matthew 9:36, 10:1 (NIV) saw the crowd (with His Eyes) and He was moved with compassion and pity for them, because they were harassed and helpless. He did help them.

About a year ago, I was seated in my consulting room attending to patients and my attention was called upon in the labor room about a woman who had just delivered a baby some hours ago and she has bleed so much and still bleeding from the womb. She requires urgent blood transfusion and her husband has gone on the search for donors for about an hour and the woman's condition was deteriorating. I got to the scene and immediately requested that my blood be screened and taken to

transfuse this woman whom I have been called upon to help. My blood was taken and at the same time I joined another doctor in the theatre to salvage the situation to save the life of this woman. This singular act of humanity sent some messages across the hospital facility and beyond. I never knew this woman from Adam nor can I even recognize her till date, irrespective of her tribe, religion or socioeconomic status but the seed of compassion with the love of Christ was sown in the heart of many people that day.

Until you begin to see men through eyes of Jesus regardless of their offences as Jesus demonstrated at Calvary in Luke 23:33-34 KJV praying for His persecutors, murderers, kidnappers, fraudsters etc. Regardless of their socioeconomic status whether they are rich or poor, famous in the society or destitute as seen in the situation of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37 KJV, you cannot possess the Right Heart of compassion to serve as a guiding light to missions.

The right heart of compassion through the eyes of Jesus Christ irrespective of Him just escaping death yet immediately still considered to heal a man born blind from birth John 8:58-59,9:1-11. Storms of life may come your way, challenges of life, trials and temptations, ill treatment from people especially close colleagues at work, relatives difficult times and situations may overwhelm you on a daily basis at home, in your work place, at the market place, church, school, even in your family, yet there will be opportunities for you like Jesus to express the Right Heart through the eyes of Christ in you to respond correctly to this situations to the advantage of Heaven (Luke 15:7 KJV) because He Himself has said (1 Cor 10:13 KJV) that He will always make a way of escape for you in that situation only if your trust him (Prov. 3:5-6 KJV). Heaven is counting on you, the whole Saints who have slept in the Lord and all the angels and the hosts of heaven are all eagerly watching you in anticipation of the faithful day of the return of the Lord

Jesus Christ for His own elect. Time and chance will keep coming your way and my way and they all these witnesses with God Himself watching eagerly.

What will be your response?

God bless you.

COMPASSION; A SINEQUANON FOR MISSIONS

BY

Bethel Onyekere; Calvary Ministries (CAPRO)

Doo's Story

In a small town lived a little girl, Doo. Her family and neighbors lived a communal life, sharing things in common. Christianity had entered her village many decades before she was born, so it was in a Christian home. She had access to modern facilities and soon got used to watching movies of a particular large tribe that is so committed to worshipping other gods and suffers deeply due to the demands of the gods and wicked hearts of those who rule them.

She had given her life to Jesus Christ then, haven enjoyed the love and freedom in Christ Jesus, it became a burden on Doo's heart each time she watched these people and even think of them and feel their pain and great suffering, and she began wishing she could have an opportunity to tell them about the love of Jesus Christ and the salvation and freedom He has made available for everyone who believes in Him. This became Doo's prayer as she grew in her understanding of God. Soon, God began to unveil some things to her. Because of her deep desire to help a helpless people in bondage, her heart was open to follow God on this rescue journey.

Today, Doo is a Missionary with a Mission Agency that focuses on raising community of believers among the Unreached Nations of the world.

One of the definitions of Compassion says: *'The humane quality of understanding the suffering of others and wanting to do something about it.'* Going by this definition, Doo's story is one example. It all started from a compassionate heart for a people group she came to know about.

We cannot become Missionaries or mission partners if we have no compassion for the unsaved. Knowing the need for the Gospel to the unsaved makes us more compassionate about reaching out to them. ***Matthew 9:36-38: 'When he saw the***

crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." We must see the unsaved with the eyes of Jesus, see them for who they truly are and have pity on them to be able to act like Jesus did.

A compassionate heart sees the unsaved as dead and needing life through Jesus Christ, as walking in darkness/destruction and needing light/deliverance, as hopeless and needing hope in God. A compassionate heart understands that an unsaved man is separated from God and is lost, needing a bridge (Jesus on the Cross of Calvary) to return to God and be eternally saved.

Who can have this compassion? Anyone who has given his/her life to Christ Jesus, who has been delivered from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of Jesus (where Jesus detects lifestyle). The one who loves God and man. 2 Corinthians 5:14, 17-19: "For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone... All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them...We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us..."

The decision is yours to make. Will you decide today to see the unsaved through the eyes of Jesus? Remember, the harvest is plentiful, the workers are few. The command to 'Go and make disciples of all nations' as recorded in Matthew 28:18-

20 is Jesus' last command. Not desiring anyone to perish. He never wants to leave anyone behind.

For every unsaved soul in this world, your compassion is needed for an action to be taken for them to be saved.

TRAVELOGUE: AN END OF YEAR EXHILARATING TRIP IN THE SERVICE OF GOD AND HUMANITY

Nature's gift to the nation is an excellent description for Taraba State. Taraba State is located in North-Eastern Nigeria, and was named after the popular Taraba River which transverses the Southern part of the State. It is surrounded with mountains and hills. Taraba State houses Bali Local Government Area, which is about 120 kilometres from Jalingo.

The Harvest Family Outreach has been providing support to disadvantaged community with potable water and other basic necessity of life including health and Educational supports. One of the objectives of the trip was to commission, pray and handover to the community a borehole project at Gamso village in Bali LGA of Taraba State, donated by THFO through Lutheran Church of Christ (LCCN) Jimeta Yola.

Our Reporter captures and shares her experience sights, environment, vegetation, cultural practices, food, sounds, humour, adventures and the physical terrain of Gamso village.



Gamso village is located in Bali Local Government Area of Taraba State. It is a home to the Chamba people; The village is remote that spans over a century. The language spoken is Chamba-daka though few of them speak and understand Hausa Language. Their major occupation is farming; they cultivate rice, guinea corn maize etcetera.

The people of Gamso still practice traditional religion that involved fetish practices, some of these tradition is a farming festival, it is called 'Fadi' in Chamba language. It is usually done at the end of harvest to thank their gods for bountiful harvest; they speak in strange tongues, cut their bodies and take each other's blood.

Another strange tradition is any breast-feeding mother can suckle any child once the mother is not available. A mother at the farm who left her child at home, and the child cries for milk, any breast-feeding mother available can gave the baby her breast milk. In Gamso food belongs to all, so a child can go to any house and eat,

even as a visitor, you are free to eat anywhere once you are around when the meal is ready, you will be served.

Gamso village is a 2hour 30 minutes' drive from Jalingo town, which is about about 200 kilometers. It takes 2 hours trip to Mayokam, after the popular Garba Chede- a town known for her notorious activities) by car and 30 minutes on motorcycle through the Gamso forest.

We left Jalingo for Mayokam (a mini-park adjacent to the Taraba State University) at exactly 8am, on Saturday 31st December 2022. It was this reporter first time in Taraba State, and the reporter was designated to attend the borehole commissioning and prayers in Gamso village.

The journey was smooth, with six passengers jampacked in the car, two in front and four of us at the back, the presence of security personnel can be observed on the way and we passed villages like Sankere, Maihula, Shuwa, Gwalbatin mai ruwa, Asabar, Kankani, Hawa Maja, Garba-Chebe amongst others.

I arrived Mayokam at about 9:30am, i have been communicating with the LCCN Pastor, Elisha Adamu, and a local contact sent to pick me. I called his number and he didn't pick, obviously because he had seen me. A few seconds later a young man appeared on a motorcycle, he was clad in a sleeveless top and trousers with a cardigan tied round his waist. *Aunty Oyoyo, ya hanya-* welcome Aunty, how was your trip? he asked in Hausa.

I replied "are you the one, where are we going to"? he answered "Gamso" 'with that I hopped on the bike, we moved some few meters from where I stopped crossed and took a turn to Gamso Forest.

We moved in high speed through the forest, Gamso is situated on an undulating mountainous land with a beautiful display of savannah at the edge of the forest on the mountain.

The trip from Mayokam to Gamso, I was told will last 20 minutes, but after about 20 minutes into the forest I got curious and asked are we close? He didn't respond and turned and said *akwai nisa*'-we are still very far!

I snapped and replied saying 'i thought you said it was a 20-25 minutes ride on the bike'. This is over 20 minutes, 'gaskiya this your village is far 'I retorted' Something snapped inside me, as I thought I would have asked the pastor to send the picture of the local contact to pick me as I don't even know what he looked like, what if he wasn't the one'I was deep in my thoughts.

The pastor's call stopped my questioning, as i had to pick the call. He asked '*Aunty kun taso*' and I replied '*muna daji*'(we are in the forest) To satisfy my inquisitiveness and be sure I was on the right bike I told the rider, it's like you have to talk to Pastor Elisha, as we rode up and down the forest, we passed through a stream and a valley, at this point I was not comfortable taking out my phone for a video at that point, as we approached the second stream, he said "*aunty nan wajen yaba masu tauna borehole wahala wajen shigowan babban motan su*", I Affirmed saying 'Contractor ya gaya min'.

I noticed we were still in the forest with no one in sight, only Fulani nomads, no house, no body just us and cattles. Tensed up ' I asked are we close for the 3rd time, he replied, "*when we get to the second stream, you will know we are close*". He rode into a valley like stream with high speed, I held unto his clothes and I closed my eyes as we passed through the swamp, wanted screaming you would have cushioned me that the place is deep, what if I fell but I kept my cool.

Three minutes later, he said “*aunty kin ga kwano, mun kusa*”, I saw a lot of herds of cattle that I couldn’t count, I screamed, ‘*please don’t take me in the mist of the cows, I don’t like their horns.*’ He laughed and said ‘*’Aunty ba ku da shanu a Kaduna?’*

I replied we have but have never been at a very close range with animals like this. He stopped and used the farm going up and down through the corn rows before connecting back to the road.

Voila! We arrived Gamso, I was welcomed with “anti Oyoyo” chants from the villagers, Anti Oyoyo Anti Oyoyo...., they chorused, the young and elderly all chorused.... The writer was received by the LCCN pastors both from Yola and Gamso. As we exchanged pleasantries I said, *your village is far, they replied thank God you came.*

The pastors wife brought out food, I declined saying I must do what brought me first, this didn’t go down well with them, as they had prepared a special delicacy for me,- *Tuwon dawa and Miyan dargaza.*

We moved to the borehole site, I tied a ribbon;as it has been our practice during commissioning and handover of such projects and some balloons blown by the youth round the hand-pump borehole and plaque stand, inscribed with ‘A borehole project donated by THFO and the date’

The Prayers and hand-over ceremony was a very brief one, LCCN Representative from Yola- Catechist Adamu Elisha said the prayers and appreciated The Harvest Family Outreach for the project, I gave a brief about THFO and the community leader-Abdullahi Yaro cut the ribbons and declared the project opened and used for the benefits of the entire Gamso Community. We took turn and drank the water

and the project was officially handed over by THFO to Gamso village I was sneaked into the Church as they insisted I should have a taste of their food. However, the people followed us, the pastor had to plead with them to allow Gamso's visitor eat. To please them I took a morsel of *tuwan-dawa and dargaza* soup, they all watched keenly as I put a tiny morsel in the milk-coloured congealed slimy soup, i took 2 more morsels and pleaded with them am on a trip and I must leave.

The community was happy and jubilated; they had all gather to take a picture with the writer who also smiles in their excitement and Jubilation they gave the writer a name ' *WURUNUA/MAMA GAMSO*' literally means "Mother of all"

It was a worthwhile experience, Gamso requires a lot of development intervention to improve and better the life of the people. Intensified effort is needed in this marginalized community. These group of Chamba-Daka speaking people are also in dire need of the Gospel of Christ, thus as the basis of any Christian mission, we urge Churches and the body of Christ at large to send, give and pray for Gamso!