

Rishama International Building Dedication



This is a trip report of the Building Dedication Ceremony and School Inauguration held 12/1/18 in Keffi-Jigwada, Nigeria

Day 1: Wed. Don Jones and Steve Modricker arrive in Abuja

We left on Tues. Nov 27th and got in Wed. evening. Samuel met us and whisked us through customs. Samuel used to work for the airlines and has many friends, so he got our customs cards filled out and someone to carry our bags for no charge. It usually takes a bit of tipping. Samuel calls Don (Daddy) because he worked with him in the 70's at the SIM pharmacy dispensary and Don was his mentor. They have kept in touch all these years and he helps us where needed.

We head to the ECWA guest house in Abuja where we are supposed to stay but the reservation was never finalized and there is no room in the Inn. So we go to the hotel in Keffi owned by Paul who is a member of the church Thomas used to pastor. It is where I stayed in 2017. it is fine place to stay in Keffi and closer for all, so less driving.

Day 2: Thurs. Visit to Elder Barnabas Farm

Elder Barnabas met Thomas when he was invited to preach in the ECWA Maitama Church in Abuja. He was instrumental in connecting us with former pres. Gen Yakubu Gowon. Barnabas wanted to show us his farm. He has 25 acres of Yams on one farm, but he wanted to show us his vision for 20 acres to be a fully self-sustaining farm. He currently has corn, rice, beans, and mostly Mango trees. He wants to have 50,000 chickens and a fish hatchery to create feed and fertilizer.

He has 3 buildings to house chickens, but the local authorities want him to move the middle one so if one gets sick it won't spread to the others and wipe out his

whole stock. He will build another one adjacent and store feed in the middle one.



Here is what rice looks like on the stalk.



He points to where he would like to dam the creek and have a lake for the fish hatchery.

Most of the Farm is Mango Trees.



Above are beans in their pods drying out. Below is what they might look like for lunch. Here is beans rice and fish. You can have 3 varieties of rice. Hot, Hotter and Hottest. You can have chicken, beef (goat) or fish.



Barnabas is hoping to provide food for the orphanage. This is his retirement plan and not his primary job. He does a lot of things to help the church and local community. He needs funds to expand to attain his vision of a fully self-sustaining farm.

Miscellaneous:

You must learn to take a bucket bath. There are no tubs or showers. You dip a bowl in a bucket and pour cold water. The hotel doesn't have anywhere to get breakfast so one of the days William took us to get breakfast. I don't think most Nigerians eat breakfast, but they know we do so they try to accommodate. We went to a fancier hotel and had what was like a western omelet. It was very good. Nobody has brewed coffee so I asked Thomas if he could bring the Maxwell house coffee and sweetbread like we had last year. We set that up in the courtyard each morning and just ask for a thermos of hot water that the staff boils for us. Very nice. We end up with a lot of time in the hotel, because they don't want their visitors working in the heat. So, while they are running around setting up we have lots of time on our hands. We decide to venture out and take a walk down the dusty street.



I decided not to eat any more fish after taking a walk down to this bridge and seeing the kid fishing right below all this trash.

Don knows a little Housa so he talked to one lady that wanted him to take her to the US. Everyone wants to go to the USA



Day 3: Friday make an announcement on local radio.

We were supposed to make an announcement on the radio Thursday night for Saturdays Dedication. We were all ready to go and they said that the evening program is only in Housa with no English. It would be better to do it in the morning when we could do it in English and reach a larger audience. So, we arranged to be there at 9:00 am.

Thomas met James (blue/red shirt) a couple weeks ago at the ECWA Goodnews church in Keffi. He was able to get us in the Radio station. White shirt was our very exuberant radio host and his technical guy on the right. We all got to answer questions and Thomas did a great job explaining his vision for the school.



Day 4: Saturday the big event.

Canopies are setup in a big rectangle for shade for guests. There are security detail and ushers and the band setting up.





This view shows how large the Girls Hostel is. The roof looks beautiful and is about 95% completed.

Plastering has begun on the Administration building



and is completed on the Dining Hall.





Above is left of the staircase which cuts through the middle of the courtyard. This is the only section of roofing not completed. Then below is the right side.



Then we take photos of the beautifully decorated dining hall which will hold the special guests.



Lots of photo ops. Including the Security guards.



We wander out back of the dining hall and the ladies are cooking up the meal for later. The cook holds up a big spoon full for Don to take the photograph.



Don taking selfie with children.



Blue ECWA trustee, Black Chaplain of National Assembly
White Former President General Dr. Yakubu Gowon
Brown Rev. Danbaki Chairman of board of Trustees



The pastor in the middle translated many of the speeches. He read Gen. Gowon's after he was done.



Some of the children that sang during the celebration



Gen. Gowon calls all the children up and encourages them to get educated and live a Godly life



All the local pastors greet Gen. Gowon and take photos.



The women come to sing, and Gowon praises them saying how important they are in the church.

D.C. Hosea spoke in place the Speaker of the House

Thomas's friend Justice did a dramatic poem for the orphans. It was very moving.

There was a men's singing group accompanied by the accordion. Traditional hymns on accordion was fun.



We proceed to the ribbon cutting and then there is a procession over to the girl's hostel which was really moving because the women were leading a traditional song with everyone clapping and dancing on the way.

You can see a video of that on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/rishama.orphanage/>



Time for a few more pictures.

Everyone was fed there except us. Pastor Donladi took Don and I back to the hotel with food in to go containers. They assume we cannot tolerate the heat and must get back to the air conditioning in the hotel. The hotel is cooler because of shade in the courtyard but the A/C hasn't been on for a few days as the electricity has been off most of the time. Surprisingly we had electricity for the first 2 days. Then it was off more than on which is more typical.

We had a meeting with the board of trustees in the evening. Many thanks and praises were given for today's events. We talk some business and discuss that there is much to plan that cannot wait so they set to meet again on Friday.

Day 5: Sunday worship and return home:

So, we had not decided where to worship yet. Usually we go to the big ECWA Maitama church in Abuja and meet Mrs. Ibriham who runs Hope for Survival (HSO) orphanage and Melchizedek school in Abuja. I get a text that says were going to the local Keffi ECWA Goodnews church in 30 minutes and can I preach a 25 – 30-minute sermon to encourage the young people in the English-speaking service. I agree, and Don also agrees he will give his testimony. I decide on the fly the text Ephesians 4 17-30 because I always have a lot to say about verse 28 and we had just been in Ephesians in bible study. I had also been reading a book about the missionary Amy Carmichael. She lived through a split in the mission board because of liberal thinking at the turn of the century that said some of the bible is myth. Don and I had also been talking all week about differences in doctrinal issues. So, my theme was to put off falsehood which included some points about not arguing about the minor differences but holding fast to the important things like All the bible is true not just some of it 2 Tim 3:16. Then both Don and I had testimonies involving putting alcohol behind us. The pastor appreciated it because he knows that many struggle with alcohol addiction. They were also so happy that Don was there during their Founders day. Don was part of the original SIM team that put together ECWA.



The praise team was very upbeat.

The kids were happy to play and of course wanted photos taken. The guy on the left followed us all over. They all wanted to come home with us.

Rev. Donladi and his wife and son on the right.

Then we have lunch and head to HSO in Abuja to return the orphans that came to sing at the dedication.



The children were so excited to see their friends back. They got quite the welcome back with many hugs



We met Emmanuel and Beatrice on the way out. They are volunteers to orphanages. Emmanuel is an evangelist and Beatrice is a social worker. They were very happy to tell us that when we are open we can use their services. We exchanged phone numbers.

We leave and meet up with Barnabas who has arranged to have us meet someone that can sell us some specific type souvenirs that Don had been asking about. Once Don makes his purchases we are on our way to the airport. The flight is 6 hours to Frankfurt, then 7 hours wait for another 6 or 7 hours to Philadelphia then a train ride to Roslyn to finally be picked up by our wives about 26 hours after leaving.

Summary:

I hope you found this report interesting. We may soon be able to arrange mission's trips to Nigeria. We could probably put together a work team to paint in the summer. After that we could have teams to hold vacation bible school.

Please pray that we can move into both a building mode and an ongoing expenses mode with regular support for teachers and children as we hope to open our school in September 2019. This will take a miracle, but we serve a big God. Please don't hesitate to inquire how you may serve with us. God Bless, Steven Modricker - Chairman

Rishama International is a 501©(3) non-profit incorporated in Pennsylvania, EIN is 47-3590144

Our Website is: www.rishama.org

Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/rishama.orphanage>

Our Email address is: rishama.international@gmail.com

Our Phone number is 267 516-3600

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**Thank you for supporting
Rishama International... "A Ministry for African Children"**

Funding...

Funds for this Ministry are raised through the generosity of men and women who believe that God has called them to bring their hearts and resources together to provide hope for thousands of orphans and venerable children where ever they may be found.

Christian families also step forward as foster parents for children who want to transition off the streets. However, the ministry has needs that cannot be met locally. We would love to dialogue with you or your church about ways to be involved. Here are some suggestions:

Volunteers - This ministry could not continue without the assistance of many who volunteer their time and skills. We appreciate our volunteers and challenge others to get involved in this exciting ministry.

Supporting Partners - A church or an Individual can be part of this ministry by becoming a supporting partner. This could be for a short-term or a long-term relationship. We invite you to consider being one of our supporting partners.

One Time Gift - We appreciate those who stepped in and gave their One Time financial assistance. We challenge you to consider giving a One-Time gift. When we understand clearly that we are our stewards of God's resources in our hands, giving for his glory will be a joyful thing.