

NEWSLETTER

06/2023

Giving hope and perspective to children and families in Nigeria

Dachung & Stefanie John's Newsletter
JUNE 2023

Dear friends,

Greetings from Nigeria. I hope this finds you and your family well. I had wanted to start writing this Newsletter in February. But when I thought about what to write, it seemed as if the entire country was on hold. A strange tension had engulfed the nation. There was a serious lack fuel in the country and when it was available the price was very high. At the same time, cash was not available so no one could purchase anything, even a few oranges or a loaf of bread, except if they made a bank transfer. Nobody could withdraw more than the equivalent of 3 Euros out of their bank account at time. And this would be after hours of waiting in a queue – if they got any money at all. While our school was operating as usual throughout the cashless period, we could not execute any bigger projects.

the new clothes, toys and other gifts and they were very proud of them. We thank everybody who sent a parcel or gave money for gifts for the children.

OUR OUTINGS

We took advantage of the dry weather and comfortable temperatures in January and February to take the children on excursions. These outings were not only fun but they were a valuable learning experience. For some of our children it was their first time of visiting the zoo. Many of the children saw a boat for the first time. In fact, some of our children had never even entered Jos city before and this was their first opportunity to see the city.



OUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Our annual Christmas celebration was a joyous event as we celebrated the birth of Jesus together. It was so wonderful to see how excited the children were to receive



ELECTIONS

In March and April the elections came and passed without any major outbreaks of violence, for which we are very grateful to God. The outcome of the Presidential election, however, was not what people had hoped for, to say the least. Although an election tribunal is still hearing the cases of candidates who are challenging the election results, a new president was sworn in on the 29th of May. We continue to pray for peace.

BACK TO NORMAL

Around April things started getting better. In April the school leadership went for another one week training with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) in order to improve the general administration and performance of the school. We are grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow and we have already implemented many of the things we learned there.

VISITORS

On the 24th of April two visitors, Calvin and Lea, finally arrived from the south of Germany. Lea had seen one of our presentations at a church in Düsseldorf in 2021 and had gotten in touch with us about visiting. Calvin spent two weeks and Lea spent one month with us. This was their first experience of life on the mission field and in a developing country. They supported the primary school and were a big encouragement to many. We are grateful for their support and care for the community during this time. Lea had planned to spend two months with us, but unfortunately she was not granted a visa on time.



The highlight of the month of May was the visit of four members of my family who traveled from Ger-

many to spend ten days with us in Vom. Needless to mention this was big event for everybody. We are grateful for this special family time.



KIDS OF HOPE

The school is growing and we currently have a total of 223 students. We are proud of the achievement of each one of them.

Here is a little story: Last school year we had a boy in Primary 4 who was not performing well and he was at risk of having to repeat the class. So the teacher called for a meeting with his parents and told them about their son's problems. The parents were very surprised. They told the teacher that in the afternoons he would help some children in the neighborhood who were three classes ahead of him with their homework!

For me this story illustrates what an impact we are making in this community and what a difference the education we are



offering will make in the students' life. Our prayer is that all our students will grow and use their knowledge and skills to the glory of God!

SCHOOL LEADERS AND NEW STAFF

Our work is growing and we started handing over more responsibility to capable members of staff. After the Easter holidays we promoted the assistant school leaders, Rose and Solomon, into full leadership positions. Not only did this relieve me of some responsibilities, but it promoted efficiency and smooth running of the school. We are grateful to have these two trust worthy and hardworking members of staff occupy these positions. We also hired somebody to relieve Dachung of some of his responsibilities and an additional office staff. Through these additional positions, our running

costs have increased by about GBP 400 monthly. In order to cover this increase (and the ongoing inflation in the country) we are praying for supporters who would support the school on a monthly basis with any amount. This might be interesting for friends of Kids of Hope who are not interested in sponsoring a child but would still like to bless our ministry without the personal contact to a child. (Don't forget to sign up for gift aid!)

We also pray for as many donors as possible to increase their monthly donation by 2,3 or 4 GBP. In this way, we hope that we'll be able to cover all additional costs.

Of course we also have children who are still looking for a sponsor.

OUR SIGN BOARD

Our school sign board is up! Now, it is easy to locate our permanent site from the major road.



SCHOOL BUS AND BUILDING

We are always trusting God for further development of our school. We are currently applying for grants from the USA and the Netherlands for the purchase of a school bus and a new classroom building. Most donors want us to contribute to the cost, so it is crucial that we raise our own funds for this purpose also. We are grateful to all of you who have supported us in these two areas. Please pray with us that we will receive both grants and can buy a bus and start building very soon.

NURSERY SECTION RENOVATIONS

While the Primary School children are enjoying a new building and will hopefully get another new building soon, the Nursery section buildings have been in need of some major renovations. We are grateful for Jubilee Church in Maidenhead, UK, who held a fundraising dinner for this purpose. From the money raised, the church generously donated

enough money to equip three classrooms with new and bigger windows, floor tiles and new ceiling. We were also able to put fresh paint on the inside and outside walls and install a new aluminum roof. The funds even reach to enable us to put new windows, tiles and ceilings on two offices.



HEART OF HOPE

In February we cooperated with the NGO, Heart of Hope, and drilled a bore hole in Jos city. It now provides water for a community of about 200 people, a market square and a primary school. As a matter of fact the demand for water often exceeds the supply and we are currently trying to purchase another pumping machine in order to give constant water supply to all these people.

Two more bore holes will be drilled soon in rural areas. Please pray with us that the drillings will be successful and will be a blessing to the people who often are forced to consume dirty water in the absence of a clean source of water.

We are also planning to join Heart of Hope in a medical outreach. Please pray with us that it will be successful and that many people will benefit from the free medical care, surgeries and medicine.



PARTNERSHIP WITH CBM (CHRISTOFFEL BLINDEN MISSION)

After a visit in November, the worldwide NGO, CBM, got back to us in April and offered to partner with us in a project



supporting people in the community with special needs. We are very grateful for this opportunity and pray that it will be a blessing to many. If all goes well, the project will run for three years and include partnerships with hospitals, creating awareness of the needs of persons with disability in the community, providing opportunities for skill acquisition for vulnerable people and providing special equipment such as wheel chairs and artificial limbs, among other things. For this project we are going to hire four new staff who will be working with Dachung. We have also appointed a trusted person as director of Heart of Hope. Our prayer is that this new branch of our ministry will be a blessing to the beneficiaries as well as the workers.

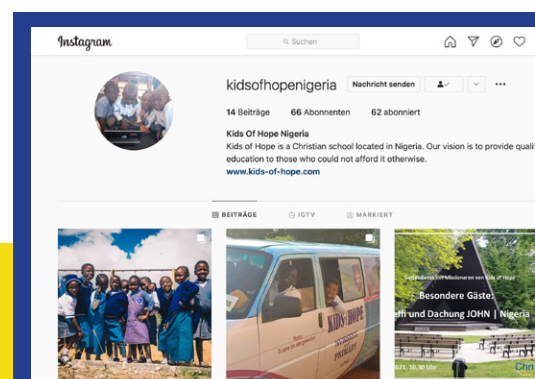
WIND OF CHANGE AND COMING TO GERMANY

As our ministry is flourishing, we have started sharing responsibilities to established and hardworking members of our team. For a year now, we have been sensing that God is calling us into a new phase of our ministry. This has prompted us to decide not to visit Germany this summer, but instead we will spend Christmas with my family this year. This visit will not only be different from others because of the season, but also because we are planning to stay for a period of at least 6 months, while we pray and seek God's guidance for further open doors for our work. During this time our children will have the opportunity to get to know Germany better and become immersed in the culture and language. While not all the details are worked out yet, we are looking forward to living and working in the area of Düsseldorf for that season.

are you on

FACEBOOK OR INSTAGRAM?

Be our friend (kidsofhopenigeria) and get more updates and pictures of us in Nigeria!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Thanksgiving

- peaceful elections.
- smooth running of the school.
- completed renovations.
- a new partnership with CBM.

Prayer Requests

- additional monthly donors and increases donation to cover the additional running costs of the school.
- the purchase of a new school bus.
- approval of a grant for a new classroom building.
- a good start on the project with CBM.
- wisdom, open doors and finances for our time in Germany.

Greetings and blessings,

Dachung und Steffi
mit Niri, Samdagwi,
Tyang und Kim ♥



With 30 Pounds a month, you can make it possible for one of these children to attend our school. All our students get quality education, a Biblical foundation, and a warm meal every day. Please contact me, if you are interested!

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Most of you know that Dachung and I don't earn a salary. Our monthly income comes from individuals who choose to support us and our ministry. If you are interested in being part of our work by supporting us financially, please contact us. We are grateful for every pound!

If you are interested in supporting us as a family or our ministry please contact us for more details.

