



JUNE / JULY 2015



Samuel Eyo Umoren
6 grade teacher at CELA

Making a Difference

In a recent interview, Samuel Eyo Umoren shared some information about his experience as a teacher at CELA (Christian Entrepreneur and Leadership Academy).

I teach the 6th Grade. Some of the subjects I teach include Mathematics, English, Social Studies, Literature, Agricultural Science, Quantitative/Verbal Reasoning and Home economics. I have been teaching for about 8 years. I have taught in other schools before, but the experience of teaching at CELA is completely different. CELA enables us to create an environment where learning thrives by providing basic educational aids for kids, food, and other opportunities. For example, our former students receive sponsorship/support in high school. It builds the hope and confidence of both pupils and teachers. The other schools where I have taught were profit driven. That is very different from what is happening at CELA. We have good parent-teacher relationships. And the appreciation shown for the hard work of both pupils and tutors makes it unique. My class size is usually around 24 pupils. The materials like textbooks that I use are those approved by the State. We still use chalkboards and have no functioning computer. Despite what we lack, the environment is welcoming and promotes mutual benefits. The kids are so promising and committed regardless of their background.

When asked what their needs were, Samuel mentioned a need for play things; toys and games for students to use during their leisure time. He also mentioned a need for a bus, because of the difficulty that many students have traveling to and from classes. When the new building is completed, the staff looks forward to the provision of a dining hall where they will also hold assemblies. Mr. Umoren is just one of the many teachers who are making a difference in the lives of the children of Akwa Ibom State.

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Please write "AFRI" on Memo Line

Attn: Gwen Thomas
North 32nd Street Church of Christ
1414 North 32nd Street,
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Inside Story Headline



Gwen Thomas

Gwen Thomas is a member of 32nd Street Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This congregation has been given the task of managing AFRI's funding for about 9 years. In a recent interview she explained how she heard about the mission through her minister, Howard Rhoden. He had attended a retreat where he met Moses and learned about the mission. Gwen became involved because she just wanted to serve where ever she could. She saw the mission as an opportunity to both travel and serve others. Her congregation receives donations from individuals, organizations, non-profits and congregations throughout the brotherhood. From these donations, they wire funds to the brothers in Nigeria to support the mission, school, hospital, etc. Gwen has personally been a part of the mission since 2006, serving mostly in a financial role. During her first year, she traveled with a group to Nigeria to attend the grand opening of the hospital. She describes it as an amazing trip. It was the first time she had been out of the country. She also thought it was very interesting to see how other cultures live. She was quite surprised by what she saw. She explains, "maybe it was my naiveté, but I didn't expect to see such poverty on a continent as rich as Africa. I was changed in a way, because I was reminded not to dwell on the small stuff; to always remember to be thankful for what I have and those around me; to share as often as I can with whatever I have."

Our

Mission:

To bring souls to Jesus, bring them up in Jesus, and bring glory to God.



Mobile Medical Clinic team preparing to travel.

More Than Just a Mobile Clinic

In order to reach more people, AFRI also provides a mobile medical clinic. This clinic is able to travel to other villages and visit patients who are unable to make the journey to the hospital. Besides delivering physical care, the Mobile Clinic also serves as an out-reach program. Local minister, Akaninyene Essien, explains that the program is in fact very effective. "We preach the word of God and pray with people each time we are on the mobile clinic. We demonstrate Jesus' compassion for the people and the benefits of being in him. Our dedication to this task is yielding results and we hope more will be accomplished. " With your help and support, AFRI is in the business of healing both bodies and souls.