

HORLINGS'

December, 2018

O Dear *Praying* Friends and Family,

In this season of singing about the *comfort* and *joy* that Christ brings, we *pray* that his presence will indeed be a *comfort* in your lives and bring *joy* in walking with him.

M

Thank you to all who prayed for our visit to Nigeria! What a wonderful privilege to be able to return and reconnect with so many there! *Thank* you too to the Resonate staff who did such a wonderful job of facilitating our visit on that end! We want to share with you some of the *comfort* and *joy* we experienced during our time in Nigeria, especially in the context of economic hardship and social and political turmoil.

E

L

We are *thankful* that before we left Nigeria in 2016, Andy had found a place of work for each of our ten staff. It brought us great *joy* now to see that even though they no longer all work at the same place, they have adjusted to their new work conditions, and both M and Christians still support each other as family, taking *comfort* in that strong bond, just like they did when we were there. We are also *thankful* that all of them are very well respected in their workplaces.

I

N

E

Hearing from new MBBs about the *comfort* of the peace of knowing Christ brought much *joy*, even though we know that for most of these men this peace comes at great cost. They were all eager to share their stories of how the Lord had called them.

S

Here is one: MBB AB said that as he read their holy book he found that M is called the prophet of God, but Jesus is called the Word of God, and he began to wonder which was more important—the



prophet or the Word. He asked a number of M scholars but no one had an answer. Then the Lord himself appeared to him in a dream saying that he was the Way, the Truth and the Life, so AB left. Praise the Lord for his amazing work! We are *thankful* for the pastor who lives with and disciples these men, and for Evangelist A who helps teach and can also testify that he is grateful for the M holy book which the Lord used to lead him to Jesus. *Pray* faithfully for these MBBs who want to learn to walk with the Lord and share the peace even at the cost of their lives.

Most of our MBB children are doing very well in their respective schools; we are very *thankful!* A great *joy* too to see their parents, who have never been to school, learning how to help their children in school. However two of them are struggling, largely because they were moved too many times and did not get a good foundation. Their mother's MBB friend has agreed to keep them at her house to attend a good school along with her children. Please *pray* for growth for the boys and for wisdom and much patience for all involved.



At left is our newest MBB child, son of a very young mother, now also being disciplined in a home.

Leatherman continues to have much *joy* his work with internally displaced refugees; leather craftsmen have little no work any more. We both enjoyed spending a bit of time reading comforting *Psalms* together again.



to

Of course, not all the stories are *joy*-filled. We grieve to hear of MBBs for whom the price was just too high; sad particularly for the consequences for their children—early marriage for the girls, etc. Syncretism is also very common, especially among those from families of shamans. MBB S married a girl from a "Christian" family and following tradition, sent her home for the birth of her first child. When the boy was born, the mother's milk didn't come in right away and the baby began coughing, so the parents took the baby to a shaman who talks to and listens to babies. Apparently the baby told her that at first he had a twin, but the twin didn't develop so he is alone. The twin is angry that he didn't get to follow his brother out into the world so he is causing these problems, and the remedy is to dress the baby in red clothes and tie a specially-dedicated bracelet on his wrist. They did this, and now everything is fine. MBB S was not consulted about whether he would like this done to his child—they knew he would refuse. He is disappointed that for these Christians, the shaman was the first resort. S has now brought his wife and son back to remove them from such influence that can only weaken her faith.

We did have a one-day overlap with the typesetter for our Ajami Bible. When she showed us the first page, our lead reviewer visibly "melted" at the beauty of it. What a *joy* to witness his happiness in seeing how this will look! Of course, the process is far from finished! We ask you to *pray* particularly --for the typesetter, --for computers to function properly, --for Bible Society of Nigeria to support the proof reading in a timely manner, --for the reviewers not to be discouraged during tedious times of checking for errors, --for continued team unity. *Pray* that this will soon be in the hands of our target audience!

Andy also had the *joy* of visiting ACTS Bookshop at a time when all the bookshop managers from various locations were having a meeting, so he was able to greet them all.

Our time in Nigeria was sadly cut short because of the sudden death of my ninety-three year old mother. We are *thankful* for her wonderful life and that she is now with the Lord and beyond pain; *thankful* too for all the *comfort* and support we received during this time. The greatest disappointment was that we had to miss the celebration of the dedication of the Eten New Testament. Please *pray* that the Eten-speaking people will learn to know the Lord more intimately now that they can hear him speak in their own language!

May the Lord bless you for all your *prayerful* support! *Comfort* and *joy* be yours in abundance, this Christmas and always.

Andy and Linda

PS. To continue to support the MBB fund, a cheque can be made out to Resonate Global Mission, and in the memo line be sure to write "Fund Code 806032 Muslim Background Believers." (Canadian Office Address: 3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070, STN LCD 1 Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8 . US Office Address: Resonate Global Mission, 1700 - 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1407).