

AFRICA MISSION TRIP REPORT – APRIL 2010

FROM: Gary Sonmore and David Walter

God is moving mightily in Africa!

I am writing this at 38,000 feet as we fly back from Africa, covering ministry in the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Nigeria. Twelve days, eleven flights and over 28,000 miles. Wow, what a whirlwind trip; but we praise God for His mercy and grace that has led us and covered us the whole way.

This trip developed fairly quickly, and we can see now God's great purposes in it. We knew where we were going and some of the events that would take place, but we did not realize all that God would do and accomplish on this trip. Some of these things we just see by the Spirit, and know that an eternal work was done for His Kingdom. We can truly say "mission accomplished."

We arrived in Lagos, Nigeria from the U.S. on March 24th, and went that evening to Bro. Uko's home for their Wednesday evening meeting. Although a little tired, it was a blessed time; and great to see the brethren there again. We both shared a brief word of ministry and greeting.

The next day we flew with Bro. Alade to the Congo (DRC) joining up with the ministry team from Port Harcourt of brothers Mike and Hubert Manilla, and Chijoke Nwauche for a weekend of meetings. These were



held at a local Protestant University. There was an immediate flow of the Spirit with the brethren there, even though we spoke through an interpreter, who translated the messages into their native African dialect. There was a beautiful flow of Body ministry from the team.

David brought a challenging word, especially to the young people about making a decision to go all the way with God. At the end of the message he asked for those that were ready to make this serious

commitment to God to come forward. It was a blessing to see the majority of the young people come forward. We pray that God will use them in spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom throughout that country. I brought a word on the calling of God, which confirmed the need to respond when God calls us, and to make that calling and election sure. Bro. Alade brought a message from Ezekiel 37 regarding "the valley of dry bones;" and how we must rise up from any discouragement and have faith to believe God to revitalize us from the dead.



Not only were we blessed by the meetings, but during the rest of the time there were so many opportunities of sharing the Lord together that has really joined us together in the Spirit with them. It truly is precious when brethren can dwell together in unity. There is such a great work there to do, but we praise God for the remnant that He is raising up to take the Congo for Christ.



Sister Biri has been in the Congo for ten years now, and this is the first time that brethren from the USA have been able to come and minister. She was blessed for the reinforcements that could stand with her to strengthen the work. God has used her greatly to raise up the work of the Kingdom there. It was a blessing to see the maturity of many of the brethren.

Going into the Congo is not only going into what is the heart of Africa but it is a place of great demonic strongholds. There has been much bloodshed, especially on the eastern side next to Uganda and Ruanda. With that and all of the ground that was covered in such a short time we know that God covered us through the prayers of God's saints. In many past trips those that have gone have faced great warfare and direct attacks from the enemy, but God truly answered your prayers; and we thank you sincerely. In this regard, the Body of Christ went with us. There's no difference in the Spirit, and you too share in our victory and the fruit that is to come. Praise God.



From there we flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where we overnighted on our flight back to Lagos. But it gave us a chance to meet with four elders there from two different fellowships. It had been two years since we had been with these brethren. We discussed with them the progress of the work there, and discussed plans to return there in June for a series of meetings. The work there is still at a beginning stage, and more foundational ministry and teaching is needed. Also, most speak little or no English, so the communication is slower paced. Please keep them in prayer, as well as the trip back there this summer.



At the same time Bro. Chijoke and some brethren from the Congo continued on to Tanzania and Gabon, as part of a four country mission trip. We thank the Lord for the many new doors opening and the many seeds being scattered throughout Africa. This is really an unprecedented supernatural move of God that is being placed at our doorstep. Praise God!

From Addis we flew back to Lagos, then to Benin City, Nigeria for their annual conference. This is the same conference that we attended with Gordon and Sandy Gerber two years ago. The theme of the conference was **Understanding the times in light of the Lord's Day and His Kingdom.**

Many thousands of people gathered at this annual conference representing many dozens of "house fellowships" not only in Nigeria but praise God, there were ten other countries represented there.

And the best part was to see the fervor and heart-cry of these brethren. From the front row to the back row,



young and old; these brethren were active participants. They wanted God, plain and simple. It is truly inspiring to see the work that God has done in Nigeria.

On the way to the first meeting on Wednesday evening a strong wind came up and huge storm clouds began to roll in. I knew this was not natural. I began to pray and rebuke this storm. I knew the enemy was trying to bring trouble. I mentioned it to several others that we need to pray and rebuke this thing. The conference center was open on the sides, and wind was able to blow through. Even before the meetings started the wind started to blow things over and cause some real trouble. It made it difficult for people to get there and get the meeting



started on time. But praise God they overcame in the midst of the storm. The rains began to pour and even blow water into one whole side of the building, but they continued on and they didn't let that storm stand in their way of worshiping God and receiving the message.

The next night another storm came up during the meeting, and again the rain poured down and flooded many streets. After the meeting what would have taken about 15 minutes to drive back to the hotel, took over an hour due to traffic and flooding. But God kept us, and we all overcame in the midst of the storm. Hallelujah. It was a real test and testimony of standing strong no matter what storms Satan tries to bring your way.



the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil." And Matthew 24:13 which says *"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."* Praise the Lord... God kept us all.

Bro. Kola spoke of the earthquake Haiti and how man sees destruction but God sees restoration. That through great destruction many people are turning to God.

Bro. David spoke about the world and church being in great crisis. He admonished them that we must discern the times. Storms are coming, but it is a time of preparation - a time of storing up corn. We would see and hear of more tremors, earthquake and natural disasters; and these are spiritual signs in these last days. David again gave an altar call to pray for those that desired to be strengthened for this day that is coming. It also was expanded to include God to move in restoring



marriages. Many dozens came forward for prayer.

Bro. Alade spoke about binding the strongman - about warfare being applied in our lives, and that contention among us is not the Lord's way. He said that God is giving us wisdom in these last days.



Bro. Richards brought an encouraging word about the Light of God. About God bringing light into much darkness, and the darkness does not have the power over the light.

They had a time for brethren from all the various countries represented, to come up and give a short testimony. It was a remnant, but it showed God moving in truth in all these areas. I brought a short exhortation about how we feel that it is a new day dawning, and we thank God for the many doors opening throughout Africa and the world; and how the body of Christ is rising up today. I said that this body has no borders or national identity; but is one body moving in unity throughout the earth with the message of the Kingdom.

David and I were able to witness how they sought the Lord each day for direction in ministry, but how the Holy Spirit was given the liberty to



move through various ones prophetically, or in word or song without any trouble. There were several times of special ministry to various sisters in the Lord, for both spirit and natural needs. They took the time to minister to specific needs, then went on to the ministry of the word to the whole body.

It was also great to see how so many met for prayer each morning before the meetings started. It set the stage. Prayer... led right into praise... led into worship... led into the ministry of the word. It was a beautiful flow of the Spirit.

We had the privilege to broadcast this conference, and we hope that many of you were able to listen in and be blessed by these meetings. We will be rebroadcasting these meetings starting Friday. You will be able to listen in by [pressing this link: Webcast link.](#)

It was a great testimony to see how these brethren operate in body ministry even apart from the meetings themselves. They have done such a good job in mobilizing the body to handle all the various responsibilities that come with a conference of this size. From transportation, to meals, to registration, to setup, to parking attendants, audio and video production and I'm sure many more people working behind the scenes that made for a smooth conference.



It was also a special blessing to see how they have trained their children and young people. We were able to see a program that the young people put on during one of the evening sessions. One boy about eleven years old came up and recited about 100 scriptures verbatim at lightning speed. It was challenging for me. The scripture says: *Ye shall know them by their fruits* and I saw some pretty good fruit. I really gained a much



greater respect and love for these brethren which I believe God has joined us to for the sake of the work of the Lord throughout Africa. These doors that are opening are new to them as well; so God is bringing together a united front.

Also, we were able to video record the meetings in the Congo in high-definition, and I was really pleased with the quality of this new system. We have the videos and audio recordings of the meetings in Benin City, which will be made available through Bro. George and Gordon in the near future. You can send your request to info@smintl.org.

I believe that God is helping us and expanding us in our media ministry. I believe that the use of video, audio and Internet broadcasting is helping support and supplement the ministry that is going forth not only in Africa but in Europe, the U.S. and the Philippines. God also brought a prophetic word to me through one of the elders there about a Spanish speaking man that God would lead me to, to help in this work expand. Praise God. So maybe God will even expand our borders into South America or other Spanish speaking countries.

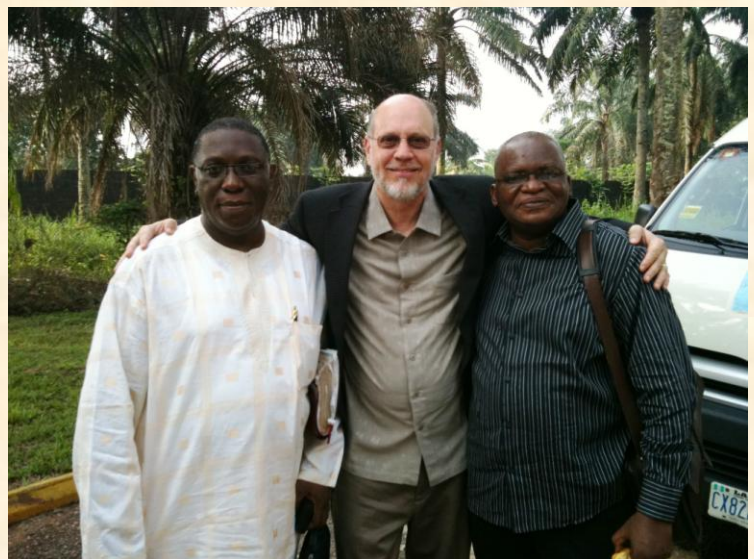


It was expressed many times how God is opening so many doors to us throughout this continent. There is an explosion in the Spirit, and the doors are opened to us in over 12 countries in Africa alone. Brethren are asking



us to return soon and bring this *Gospel of the Kingdom*. The harvest is ripe for picking. This is truly phenomenal what God is doing, and you need to pray about what part you can play in this great harvest. These doors could have opened to others, but God has opened them to us. It has not opened to just a few us, but it is open to this entire body. I want to believe that God is going to raise up many within our midst that will receive the call to go, and be a labourer in His field. Amen? Remember our brother's vision about the cooks that would begin to prepare the food and distribute it out. Well, this is surely happening. Praise God. The responsibilities seem overwhelming, but God

knows. Let us put our hands to the plow and not look back. Take it to the Lord once again brethren, and see what God would have you to do. Don't limit God. We are all on the mission field.



Again, thank you for your prayer support, and may God bless you. We couldn't do it without you.

2010 Conference in Benin City, Nigeria





Praise the name of the Lord. Amen.