

# Victory International Ministries

*"The World is Our Parish"  
"Be Great in 2008 - Discover Your Turning Points to Greatness!"*

February 14 - 24, 2008



Victory International Ministries (VIM) is a non-profit corporation, founded by Victory Nazarene Ministries. VIM was formed to bring Medical, Dental, Literacy, HealthCare and Self Sufficiency programs and the Gospel to those in need worldwide. Our goal is to partner with others to improve the standard of living of those we touch.

A 20 member team of representatives from Victory International Ministries ministered to thousands in Lagos and Aba Nigeria during their 10-day mission trip. The team departed from Brooklyn, New York on Thursday, February 14, 2008. Activities included evangelic outreach, free medical clinics, leadership workshops, literacy program, and visits to motherless baby homes.

Lagos was the first stop. After settling into Hotel Shalom, the team ministered to hundreds in the Revival Service at Christian Pentecostal Mission (CPM) Ketu. Pastor Tony Prince was presented with a new Dell Latitude laptop computer pre-loaded with research tools for use in his ministry.

The medical team conducted their first medical clinic on Friday evening at CPM Ketu. During the week more than 5,000 adults and children in Lagos and Aba received free medical assistance from the VIM Team.



The team moved on to Aba on Saturday, February 16. After checking into the Terminus Hotel, our home for the week, the team attended the wedding ceremony and reception of our own Theresa Agwu.



On Sunday there was a great evangelistic outreach in Aba. The ministers on the team and Pastor Rose delivered the Sunday message in five local churches. During the worship services laptop computers were presented to Reverend Chuku, First Assembly of God Church, and Reverend Obosso, Assembly of God Church. Minister Margaret Orakwue shared a message of hope to the members of Ngwa Road Assemblies of God Church, and Dr. Orin Harry was the speaker at AOG 19 Ind. Road.

Medical clinics were held on Monday, February 21 and Tuesday, February 22 at Ngwa Road Assembly of God Church.



On Wednesday, February 23, the team provided medical assistance to faculty and students at the Assemblies of God Divinity School, Umuahia. Pastor Rose delivered the keynote sermon to more than 1,200 students and faculty members of the AOG Divinity School on Wednesday morning.

## In Our own Words

I've only been in Nigeria for four days and I have already felt a need to change the way I view life. Driving through the roads and interacting with the people has made me so grateful for what I have and angry for what people take for granted. The things that I feel are necessary to live life are luxuries to the sick, hungry and poor people. I now wonder if I have so much to be grateful for or too much to be grateful for. The people living in poverty have nothing but faith to rely on. Going to church services I was shocked to see people literally running to the altar to be anointed.

It's a shame in churches more fortunate there is less faith than a church of people who might go more than a day without a proper meal.

Being a part of Victory International Ministries has made me feel a sense of purpose. My walk with Christ has more meaning now than ever before. I was able to assist the medical team as they helped people who were desperate for medical attention. It is the best feeling to know that you will be remembered for making someone feel better. Better physically, but even more mentally because they know that they are being cared for by their own. Overall this experience so far has been a thrill!

### Amanda's Experience

On Valentine's Day I embarked on a mission trip and little did I know what impact it would have on my life. The people who I have known for years as members of my church family have come together in one accord to serve Jesus through missionary work. I have only been here for four days and already we have touched thousands of lives. I've watched hundreds of people run to the altar when one of the ministers offers to bless and anoint whomever is willing. I've witnessed the joyous expressions on a mother's face when the medical team resolves the illnesses that plague their precious children. Since I've been there have also come to admire how our team works together to accomplish a common goal; to serve our community by honoring our God. I have truly been blessed to expand my narrow view of the world. Now that I have seen how people in Africa suffer from political turmoil, economic depression and sinful and wicked practices, I know that I will forever be appreciative of the blessings that I receive and every day in America. We take so many things for granted at

home. We have running water, clean streets and a decent healthcare system yet we still complain for more. I am proud to help the Nigerian people to receive some of the blessings that we as American residents are so oblivious to. I am happy that they can see people of their own colored skin provide for them. As much as I am helping the people of Nigeria, I realize that they are helping me just as much. Because I realize that the things I have grown spiritually and psychologically and this isn't even the end.

### The Voice of A Mother

On Valentine's Day 2008 the Victory International Mission Team (V.I.M.) set out for Aba, Abia State, Nigeria to share our love with the people of that city. Ten days in Aba has confirmed my purpose to serve, which includes taking the gospel of Jesus Christ across the world. In Aba, I met the Privilege, the poor, the infirmed, the homeless and the hungry, yet among these people there's a unique thirst for righteousness. I saw a people whose dependency in Jesus Christ is demonstrated as they seek after Him for the basic necessities for their daily survival, which we often take for granted.

For almost twenty years I have carried the "Motherless Babies" of Nigeria as a heart felt burden as the epidemic seemed too dense to even imagine the possibilities of change. So many babies and children; "...Who will feed them?" (See V.I.M previous news Letters). Today I am a new person in Christ with a greater desire to do more for the less fortunate. Ten days in Aba has confirmed that it's not how much we have, it's how much we are willing to let go of and God will multiply until it's running over. When God asked whom He should send, many said, "Send me". Some went on ground, some gave from their financial resources, some prayed and some donated goods and because of each person's kindness we have been able to make a difference in the lives of motherless children.

On Friday the V.I.M team was able to visit two orphanages in Aba; the S.D.A. Motherless Babies' Home and the Ngwa Motherless Babies' Home. The team presented the S.D.A. motherless baby home with clothing, shoes, mechanical mobiles, a washer, dryer and lots of hugs and love were extended. We were able to decorate the walls with decals of child appropriate cartoon characters such as Winnie the Pooh. What a feeling as the children held on to the team members of as we tried to leave. After leaving the SDA we traveled to the Ngwa orphanage where we made another donation of clothing and a refrigerator which they stated that they were in dire need of.



As a black woman and mother of two I feel blessed that the God I serve has allowed me the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of these children; these are our babies too. The phrase, "With God all things are possible," has a more concrete and powerful meaning to me as I have been apart of realizing what once felt like an impossible dream.

We have partnered with Christian Pentecostal Mission International (*The City of Joy*) who's administrator is Rev. John Ezeh in the vision of *The City of Joy Orphanage and Maternity Home* and look forward to the day when we can sponsor children from that facility with the hope that their will have well adjusted and productive lives..

*When we pray, God hears and answers.*



# It Takes A Village To Raise A Child

*Pamela Holder-Louis*

I have always heard the saying that it takes a village to raise a child but not until I was in Lagos, Nigeria on 2/15/08, did I ever witness this in its true sense of the meaning. During the first medical clinic, a disruption took place when a male youth about 17 or 18 years old attempted to skip the line of patients waiting to see Dr. Harry. One of the men who were assisting in keeping order in the setting told him that the elderly man had been ahead of him. The young man appeared to be aggravated and impatient. He stated that he had been waiting a long time and the man had left and was chatting with someone and why should he have wait any longer while the man continued to socialize. He was reprimanded for attempting to go before his elder and he was scolded for being disrespectful to his elders when he continued to talk back. He was reminded that being disrespectful to his elders would not be tolerated. Nonetheless, the young man continued to voice his opinion, which I guess in Nigerian society is intolerable with respect to the elders. The assistant told him that he knew who his parents were; he told him that he would physically discipline him. Several adults intervened and asked the young man to be quiet and to refrain from making further comments because they knew that the more he talked, the more trouble he'd be in. They each reminded him that he must respect his elders. In their pleads with him to be quiet, I heard such comments as "Boy, what is wrong with you, you know better," "Be quiet and have respect for your elders," "You know you were wrong to try to go ahead of him, he is your elder," and "Why are you putting your family to shame?" Even though the youth continued, the man said "I will deal with you later, I will discipline you."

As I sat there listening to the adults chastising the youth, I thought to myself, "Wow! If we only had a trace of the respect that the Nigerians have for their elders, and elders for them means anyone whom is older than you, we would teach our youth to respect adults and treat our elderly with respect." What a difference it would make if we had a little of what they have in our society. I thought to myself, if we had that kind of intervention from other adults when a youth gets out of line, we would have a lesser need for juvenile detention halls. For the simple fact that the comment was made regarding knowing the parents and 'putting the family to shame' shows that there is accountability and shame with misconduct.

Nigerians are not afraid to intervene and correct a youth because they can be assured that the family would support them. I am most confident that when that man went to the young man's family, he was further chastised for his unruly outburst and his inappropriate behavior. In our society, how many of us as parents would have agreed with the youth and said that if he left that it was his fault and it was right for the young man to go ahead of him regardless of his age? I'm positive that at least 6 or 7 out of 10 would have answered in the affirmative.

In contrast with the youth in the U.S, the young man did not use profanity and he did not display any form of violence but the mere fact that he tried to jump the line and responded negatively to his elder was inexcusable.

Young people's opinions need to be heard and we certainly don't want anyone to abuse our children but if we all correct a child or youth when we see them getting out of line, we could save each other a lot of heartache later because it takes more than just two parents to raise a child; it takes a village to raise a child.



## VIM DELIVERS LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

Pastors and leaders participated in the 2-day seminar hosted by First Assemblies of God Church, 222 Clifford Rd on February 18-19, 2008. The seminar included several speakers covering a cross section of relevant topics. Here are the session highlights.

Rev. Charles Ozuruoyne team includes pastors and ministers, doctors, nurses, and other professionals, Senior Pastor Macedonia Church of the Nazarene, Brooklyn, was the keynote speaker. He encouraged us to be obedient. Obedience to the voice of the Lord.

Leslyn Rose encouraged women as leaders to be all God wants you to be. She challenged us to look to great women of Biblical times as examples of strong women who were exemplary leaders in a male dominated society.

Marlene Braithwaite shared the importance of identifying a few individuals who you can pull into your circle of influence. Before inviting individuals into your circle of influence make sure each one has your best interest at heart.

Minister Margaret Orakwue shared that though losing a spouse may cause you to be discouraged and, always remember that you are not alone. Find comfort and strength and comfort in God.

Sherry Cameron-Harry shared the art of Public Speaking by encouraging those present to know your audience, know your topic and know when to quit.

The call for a paradigm shift was issued by Rev. Ozuruoyne. He urged those in attendance to change from our collateral ways of doing things and embrace our new culture. In addition to hard work, we should remember to balance family and work. Failure to change can result in a family crisis, both in Nigeria and overseas.

Economic Empowerment was the theme of Pastor Rose's closing message. He encouraged those present to "build houses, plant gardens, be creative, start an enterprise, leave a legacy, and live a life your children will be proud of". In closing Pastor Rose challenged Pastors to present their proposal for starting and sustaining a viable business and US\$500.00 will be awarded to the first five qualifying entries.

## **VIM DELIVERS APPLIANCES AND SMILES**

On Friday, the VIM Team visited two Motherless Babies Homes in ABA delivering smiles to the infants, and appliances to the staff. A new twin-tub washing machine and a dryer were accepted by Elder F. U. Juongwa and staff of the New Umahia Road SBA Motherless Babies Home. The staff also received two large suitcases filled with clothes, shoes and toys for the children.

The Ngwa Road Motherless Babies Home received the full refrigerator donated by the VIM Team. Though the time spent directly with the children at the orphanages was limited, this was the most rewarding for many.



### **VIM Nigeria '08—Team Members**

*Rev. Irving A. Rose - Sr. Pastor VNM*

*Rev. Charles Ozuruoyne - Pastor MCN*

*Leslyn Rose - Project Coordinator*

*John Ezeh - Director, Nigeria*

*Min. Margaret Orakwue*

*Dr. Orin Harry*

*Sherry Cameron - Harry*

*Marlene Braithwaite*

*Robin Browne- Radway*

*Beverley Cave*

*Daphne Beaton*

*Pamela Holder- Louis*

*Carlene Carew*

*Amanda Holder*

*Lotanna Orakwue*

*Jason Rose*

*Ariel Rose*

*Theresa Agwu*

*Emanuel Ozuruoyne*

*Michael Ozuruoyne*

*Dr. Francine Hippolyte*