



PREPARING FOR PACT



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.' (Jeremiah 29: 11)

"2020, the year that cannot end soon enough". You have heard people say that. As I reflect on the year too, I think on loss and suffering for many. But my opening verse from the prophet Jeremiah was left with me when finishing ministry in South Armagh some years ago - and it has been forced to my attention in many ways recently.

The future I plan is in Nigeria - as librarian at PACT (Peter Achimugu College of Theology) at the town of Ankpa in Kogi state. About 70 students on average are trained there annually to serve as ordained and non ordained pastors in the Nigerian Church. It is part of Mission Africa's commitment to strengthen the Good Shepherd's Nigerian flock with leadership to feed them from Scripture. That Scripture, of course, must be applied in an African context.

I expect to build up the library and do some teaching. I have not yet been to Nigeria, but I have had overseas missionary experience - in South Asia: Nepal and India. Obviously, the Lord knows how Nigeria will differ from South Asia. And He knows His plans exactly. But my time in South Asia was not only about being Woodstock International School's High School Librarian. It was also about ministry in the Church, and relationships with South Asians and International students and others which God used for His glory and the Gospel's advance. People were helped and sometimes met Jesus. God will know His plans for my time in Nigeria.

I will not now detail paths taken and factors involved which convinced Mission Africa and I that the Lord was directing me towards African theological librarianship. Suffice it to say that at the end of 2019 I was ending a short term limited ministry commitment in Kells, County Meath. I needed to see where God wanted me next. And Mission Africa's stated need for help in some of their Nigerian libraries came to mind and was open.

Praise and Prayer

* Praise God for His signs of love to me in a year, difficult for me - as for everyone else.

* Praise God for what appears to be the privilege opening up of service in Nigeria.

* Praise God for opportunity now to have contact with Africans.

* Pray for the task of generating support, necessary for me to serve in Nigeria.

* Pray for me to get my recently acquired home here sorted so that I can go to Nigeria.

* Pray God's blessing in the opportunity given now to have contact with Africans - that He will bless my preaching and guide me how best to help wisely in other ways.

* Pray that, in God's time, I will settle well in Nigeria and represent Jesus well there.

Over about 3 weeks God used Acts 13: 1 to 3 to convince me God was wanting me overseas again. And in all sorts of ways, He was directing my attention to Africa.

Now, the Corona pandemic has meant I have not had so many opportunities to speak in churches, etc about the Lord's call to Nigeria. But I have been serving God. Whereas I have not been in so many Irish Presbyterian pulpits, I have been preaching. A group, mainly from Africa, have wanted me to preach God's Word regularly over the Internet. And there have been other contacts with Africans.

But I need the Church to stand with me for me to serve in Nigeria. Finance and, more importantly, prayer will be constant needs. Thank you for reading - and thank you to those who will commit to support before God.

Have a happy Christmas and blessed 2021. *Brian Wilson*



Peter Achimugu College of Theology (above) is an institution of the United Evangelical Church (founded as Qua Iboe Church). The college is located in the town of Ankpa, Kogi State, Nigeria. The college dates back to 1963 when a Church Training Centre was established at Idah by the Qua Iboe Mission. In 1964 it transferred to Ankpa. The college took its current name in 1988, in honour of Peter Achimugu, a leading Qua Iboe Church leader.

PACT draws students from a wide area and reflects the diverse tribal groupings in central Nigeria. The college offers students Certificate and Diploma courses in Ministerial Studies. It also runs Diploma, Degree and Post Graduate Diploma programmes in Theology and Christian Religious Studies/Education.

Well trained leaders are an essential ingredient in any healthy church. Pastors and church leaders need to have a good understanding of the Bible, doctrine and key theological issues. Bible teaching has been a priority for Mission Africa since our earliest days.

After founding and running several colleges, we have now handed over the ownership of these colleges to the local church. However, we are still very active in supporting them. The three areas of ministry we are involved in are:

- Providing suitably qualified staff to teach at the colleges
- Sponsoring poor students who have proved themselves capable of academic study & qualify for our student sponsorship programme
- Assisting the colleges develop their facilities, such as buildings, boreholes, libraries and IT support

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