



PARTNERING IN MISSION

CHRISTIAN REFORMED WORLD MISSIONS

and

NIGERIAN CHURCHES

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Dear Friends,

Thanks for all your notes of encouragement as we've started our new work in Nigeria. Much remains the same as before: we're living in the same house, the girls are going to the same school, and we're still worshipping with the same church. But I'm doing my work out of a new office, and I have a new job description. My focus has shifted from largely serving and encouraging *North American missionaries* to largely serving and encouraging *Nigerian churches*. Both jobs are essential, but the time was right for the transition. Thank God for Phil Beck, the new Nigeria Field Director. My new title is "Liaison for National Church Partnerships."

Last month I made a brief visit to the country of Ghana to evaluate some missionary work there, and to explore schools for training seminary teachers. I'm excited to be working with the Nigerian Churches to possibly assist in sending some of their teachers for further training in Ghana. Such training will probably be more relevant, and surely more cost-effective, than sending leaders to North America or Europe for their schooling.



Where's Waldo?

On the trip to Ghana, Dr. Dirk Vandersteen and I branched to the country of Togo, where I preached in a Pentecostal Church on Sunday. After the service, a congregational photo was taken – *can you spot us?* A beautiful strip of Kente cloth (over our shoulders) was given to us as a gift. The cloth was woven right in the community.

Christian Reformed World Missions is in partnership with three churches in Nigeria, with a combined membership of over 250,000. During my visits with their church leadership, we've discussed the temptation for churches to get cozy with government for the benefit of receiving government support. The leaders are aware of the dangers of such relationships. One remarked, "We know that the one who pays the piper calls the tune." It reminded me of another proverb, "If a man has his hand in another man's pocket, he has to move when the other man moves." Please pray that we'd be able to assist Nigerian churches to pursue a healthy relationship between themselves and government.

Thanks for all your prayers for our work in Nigeria and our family life – we've been truly blessed! Your support is an overwhelming encouragement to us.

Your Partners in Christ,
Albert, Carolyn, Jessica, Kristin, and Andrea Strydhorst