

NIGERIA: *Spiritual Warfare!*

JANUARY 2007, IBADAN, NIGERIA

In early January I traveled to Nigeria to conduct the Inductive Bible study. Dr Bill Cullins from Hemet, California, Dave Dietzman, Larry Dominguez, and Bill Dunning, all from Calvary Chapel Olympia, Washington made up our team.

Our seminar coordinator Abiodun Faleke had been recently sent back to his native country by his American home church Calvary Chapel Olympia to plant a church. They invited me to come and conduct an IBS seminar to kick off their new work. Flyers and cloth banners were placed in strategic places around the city and many letters inviting pastors in the community were sent along with Radio and television advertisements. Over 250 pastors from various denominations came out in the midst of a major city crisis to participate in learning how to dig deeper into God's Word.

Spiritual Warfare

About two weeks before this trip to Nigeria, I began having panic attacks. I felt I was going to choke, yet nothing was wrong with my breathing. I had never experienced anything like this, so I spoke with a Christian doctor friend and he prescribed some medications and prayed for me. When we arrived at the airport in Lagos, the skies were clouded by dust storms from the Sahara's which gave an oppressive feel to the city. Again I was hit with a panic attack and asked the guys on my team to pray for me. Shortly after their prayers the attack subsided. After the first day of the seminar, I woke up at two in the morning and felt another attack coming on. I called Debbie and we prayed fervently over the phone. The attack once again subsided. The next day I was able to conduct the seminar without any problems.

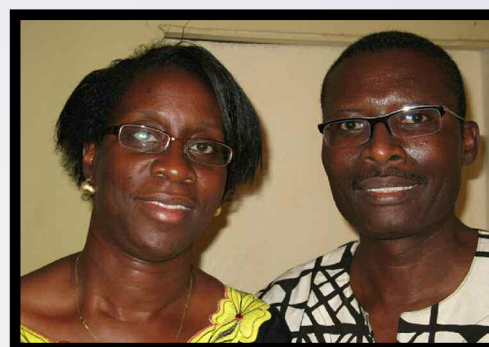
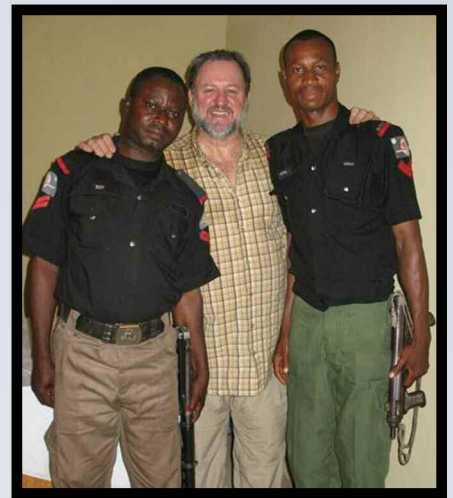
The political climate where the seminar was held was very tense. The governor of the state had been impeached because of corruption and shortly before we arrived, a judge reinstated him. The state was in near riot conditions and the military was everywhere. In the midst of the turmoil our seminar was being held in the governor's compound! The city utilities were affected by the civil unrest. There was no electricity for the entire seminar and we had to use two generators. Obtaining gasoline was a challenge and our host Abiodun had to go out in the wee hours of the morning to find gas each day for the two generators and his car.

Outside the seminar hall unrest reigned but inside we had tremendous peace. God was stirring the hearts and minds of his pastors. Abiodun was interrogated by the Nigerian Secret Service twice. They wanted to know if we were American spies. One female officer was stationed in the hall to keep an eye on us. A week after the seminar was finished the officer called to apologize to Abiodun for their interrogation and suspicion. She also told him that our team had been in danger during our time there. She shared that it was God who had protected us from harm and that she had really enjoyed listening to the entire seminar!

Abiodun shared with us that solid Biblical teaching is not the norm in Nigeria. The country is filled with many false teachings that include Faith and Prosperity doctrines and the occult. Some pastors have turned their churches into

money making businesses. One of the assignments we worked through was the book of Jude which addresses how false teaching had found an inroad into the early church. It was a very appropriate study for these pastors.

I was touched by the intensity of the pastors working on their assignments. When I called for short breaks, most of them would keep right on working. It seemed that God was stirring hearts from a spiritual slumber.



Abiodun and his wife Kennie

Dr. Bill Cullins treated hundreds of patients over the four days including numerous government officials and one secret service agent! Many of the patients were Muslims and Bill shared the love of Jesus with them.

Since I have returned to America there have been no more panic attacks. I realize that they can be brought on by various physical or emotional conditions. However, on this trip I felt these were demonic attacks, set to hinder what God wanted me to do. Normally I fast and pray before I leave on a trip but for some reason I was distracted by other things and never got around to it. It became very clear to me that I was not prepared for the warfare of this trip.



Feeling Blessed: Dan congratulates the latest group of Indian Pastors who successfully completed the Inductive Training. Also pictured is Ed Sanabia and Pastor Brad Lambert

INDIA:

In March Pastor Brad Lambert of Calvary Chapel Living Hope, Pastor Ron Beaver, Dr Bill Cullins from Hemet and Ed Sanabia my brother-in-law from Redlands, took a ten day trip to India. Ed, Brad and myself did a seminar in Southern India at a high mountain Catholic resort near Salem. We enjoyed the cool fresh air and the pastors had no problem concentrating on God's Word. Again as I've seen so many times before, I saw the pastors come alive as they begin to see how the Inductive Bible study works. It is always a great joy and privilege to teach pastors this method of study that revolutionizes the way they look at the Scripture and their sermon preparation.

While we conducting the seminar, Dr. Bill and Ron traveled with Pastor Jacob Beera of Hope Ministries to another state to work with children in several orphanages and shared in some local churches. They were an encouragement to many children and adults.



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The next stop for Ed, Brad and I was the GFA headquarters in Tiruvalla, in the state of Kerala. GFA has an extensive ministry in India. They have over 10,000 Indian pastors working in India. At their headquarters site they have radio and TV studios where they produce and air round the clock Christian programs. I recorded our entire Inductive Bible study seminar with a live audience over three days. I felt the powerful hand of the Lord as we recorded. GFA is now working on voicing over my voice into more than thirty languages. We are very grateful to Danny Punnos the son of KP Yohannon, GFA's founder, who has the vision for this project.