

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONCERN SENDS RELIEF ITEMS TO DOGO NAHAUWA IN PLATEAU STATE

Tuesday, 21st July 2010, was yet another day that brought mixed feelings in the minds of the inhabitants of Dogo Nahauwa community in Jos plateau state. Christian awareness initiative of Nigeria in Partnership with international Christian Concern joined many other charity organizations as they distributed relief items to survivors of the March 2010 genocide. The occasion had in attendance the Plateau state CAN chairman, New Nigeria Newspapers and The Nation newspaper. About two hundred and fifteen children benefited from this project. Distribution of the items was done in the two make-shift primary schools available in the village there are no conducive or permanent structures for the pupils to study, however some individuals have donated their houses for their children to acquire learning. It's a shameful thing that the government cannot provide its citizens with a building and other academic facilities for learning even in this age of globalization. Little wonder, only about a hundred and five of the two hundred and fifteen children were in school. Nevertheless, all the children were given several items according to their needs and were encouraged to acquire learning. Rev Hayab further lamented the state of the existing structure; he blamed government for neglecting rural areas.

The items distributed included 65bags of fertilizer, books, toiletries, toys and cloths. While the children and young struggled to get the items distributed, the elderly ones lamented how some few people chose to be cruel to them and yet others have showed them love. For them all hope is not lost but they live in constant fear most especially at night. They are also reminded of their loved ones whose families were completely wiped out when they see their once lively houses now in ruins, "may God take up our case and do justice".

CHAIN further spoke with other people and was shocked to find an elderly man, Baba Abdullahi in his late 70's, a Muslim who has lived in Dogo Nahauwa

for over thirty years. Life for him in that community has been excellent as his relationship has not been affected even after the violent attacks. He has learnt to appreciate Christianity and its outstanding doctrines of brotherly love. Another victim, Mrs. Esther who is still receiving medical treatment lost her three daughters and a grandson, thanks the sponsors of this mission. She appreciates the fertilizer as she was a farmer until she had her three fingers chopped off and sustained other injuries on the head. She says food is needful and sufficient fertilizer will boost their harvest. On the death of her three daughters, she says, "vengeance is best when it is done by God and not men". She thanks her husband who has stood by her encouraging her to look up to God. She sincerely appreciates this donation as fertilizer has gone out of reach for them. A bag cost about N6,000 which is quite expensive coupled with the disaster that befell them.

On the whole, there was a general atmosphere of gratitude and happiness as people smiled home with their gift items. The village head concluded by calling on influential international organizations and government to help them pursue justice and fair hearing, he hopes that one day all those who planned and executed this wicked deed will be dealt with. Plateau state chapter of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) also showed appreciation and prayed earnestly for unity, peace and tolerance between the two major religious groups and the entire citizenry. All thanks to ICC and CHAIN. Rev Hayab in return encouraged them to imbibe a Christ like spirit, by loving and forgiving all wrongs among themselves. He urged them to assist the orphans and the physically challenged among them. He also assured them of ICC and CHAIN's concern in the plight of Christians. The occasion ended with a word of prayer by the Plateau state CAN chairman.