



Celebrations in THAMESMEAD

In September, we were invited to be the Guest Speakers at the 10 Year Anniversary Celebrations of the Christian Life Centre in Thamesmead, London. The Church was planted by Nigerian friends of ours, Yomi & Banke Olowoyo and they have seen much growth and blessing over the past years.

It was a great joy to be able to share our hearts with of this vibrant Church, mostly made up of African folk, but with a real vision to impact their multi-racial community. The theme was, "Bringing Glory to God," and we so much enjoyed their joyous worship and passionate faith.

Two of the messages that we gave are on our website. On the first evening Charles spoke about "People of a different Kingdom." We are all part of God's kingdom whatever our race, colour or background and God is moulding us into a strong people who are called to advance his kingdom. When Joyce spoke on, "God's Secret Agents," she showed how God is opening up opportunities everywhere where we can communicate a message of living faith and see God in action in the course of everyday life.

We were inspired by these folk who have such and vision for God's kingdom and pour out their lives, not only in this area of London, but have planted a significant work in Zimbabwe.

Go to www.the222trust.org.uk and listen to both these messages.



BEN & ANNE on their way to Australia

Ben and Anne and their four children arrived back in UK in late June for two months. It was a busy time, catching up with family and friends, and giving presentations about their work with Mission Aviation Fellowship in Chad.

They started their time with Anne's family in Marsh Gibbon, then set forth in their Hymer camper to visit friends, give some MAF presentations and have a holiday in Wales. After spending a week at New Wine in Shepton Mallett, they stayed for the rest of August with us at Firbank. Their four lively children kept us on our toes, and Ben and Anne were brave enough to leave us with their kids while they walked the West Mendip Way from Weston Super Mare to Wells. We had fun, including a beautiful sunny summer's day at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. Charles and Ben took the kit car for a track day at Castle Coombe; the Hymer Motorhome was sold on eBay, and all too soon it was time to say goodbye as they flew back to Chad at the end of August.

Ben has been the Chief Engineer in Chad for over five years and both he and Anne felt it was time to move. The opportunity has opened up for them to join the MAF programme in Mareeba, Australia. They have been accepted by MAF and now there is the long and tortuous process of obtaining visas for the whole family to relocate in Australia. It will probably take until May of next year for all the formalities to be completed. It also scatters our family even wider, so we will need to keep our travelling boots ready!



With the Clergy in NIGERIA

In October we again returned to Nigeria, but it was with a difference. In past years we have gone to a large event in December, but this time we were participating in a Clergy Retreat at Gboko, Benue State again hosted by Peace House and our friends Gbile and Sade Akanni.

Over 1000 clergy were present, and there were more bishops, superintendents, general secretaries, arch-deacons etc. than we have ever seen gathered in one place. They came from the historic churches, Anglican, Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian etc. as well as the newer free churches and Pentecostal fellowships. The unity, mutual honour and fellowship was remarkable – there is nothing in this country that would be comparable.

The theme was "*The Clergy – Ministering by Mercy*" – one of the key scriptures was Romans 9:16 where we see that it is not our expertise or hard work that is going to accomplish anything, as the verse says, "It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy." This is not referring to saving mercy, but to the outpouring of God's mercy which, unless it is at work in our lives renders all our efforts ineffective.

We were privileged to be asked to lead Bible Study groups and Charles brought one of the Morning Messages. We were stirred in our hearts by the ministry and challenged to see such a group of senior leaders who have such passion and vision for revival in their nation of Nigeria.

We were also part of a Retreat where more than 600 gathered to prepare for the Ministers Leadership Retreat in December.

