

These are the two letters that Supt. Joel read on Sunday, July 24.

Message from Supt Ubak whose VISA was denied:

Brothers and sister, thank you very much for your prayer support to the Free Methodist Church during the Church crisis. Thank you for your sponsorship of our Nigerian children in school. My appreciation goes out to all of you for helping in the establishment of Hope Academy Nursery/Primary School at Ikot Ntuk, an area in South Central Conference. The school is very effective and is reaching many in the surrounding area for Christ.

Another point of growth is the new Church plant at Ubon Akwa, an unreached area where, by the special grace of God, many will come to know the Lord. The youngest Church plant is in the city of Port Harcourt where we have been invited to also affiliate with an existing Montessori-style school.

The region of Cross River needs your prayers. This is an area of many rivers, where spirit worship overshadows trust and faith in the one true God. Nigerian missionaries are needed in Cross River. Pray that God will raise up faithful Christians willing to serve God in Cross River.

We thank you for the seeds of the Gospel you have planted in Nigeria, and my conference, South Central Conference, in particular. Thank you for your love and care, for your prayers. God will reward you abundantly for the expansion of His Kingdom in Nigeria.

Rev. Sunday Ubak

Message from Bature, Fulani Chief and key supporter of the Hope Academy:

Greetings to all my friends and sponsors in the United States! I want to thank you TOO much for assisting and loving our Fulani children.

Since the school opened, many changes have come to my people.

Fulani parents are seeing the benefits of living permanently in the village, near the school, living in houses that 'don't move'.

Fulani children are playing football and making friends among the children who are not Fulani. This will bring peace and understanding among our tribes in the future.

The children are speaking good English – their fathers are so proud of them – they see their children happy, playing with friends, learning so much in school. We are so proud of our children and how they can now read and write.

Our eyes are opened. We used to only focus on training cows. Now we are focusing on training our children. Of course, it was very bad in the beginning. Many no agree to the school. I was called to more than 20 meetings to explain why I was helping to open this Christina school.

Local Muslims actually prayed at mosque that my cows would die and other bad things would happen because of the school. But I know that "God gives and God takes away and that "God is in control."

One day I was called to speak with the 'big' Imam n Lokoja. I told him "God is in control and you are not." When 60 of my cows did die of poison, people laughed and said God was punishing me. But I do not agree. I trust the God who sometimes gives and sometimes takes away.

My hopes and visions for our Fulani children are that they be given opportunity to be whatever they want to be in life. Whether business, or engineering, or government worker, computer trainer or teacher. Anything...not just cows.

I would like to see a vocational school at Emi-woro and work with us and our children. Let Kogi be one of the United States of America! Filled with Americans, come to work at the school! We love you and we welcome you. Please pray for us, and finally, may God bless all of you for hat you are doing for our children.