

Asilomar CA Biennial Meeting

By Warren Keller (23) 66-67

The FON biennial meeting/reunion at Asilomar State Park in Monterey, CA was a unique event. The past three meetings had been in large cities (San Francisco, Boston, and Washington DC). Nigerian food and Star Beer had been available. Nigerian guest speakers were present. Over 100 FON folks were in attendance, and there were opportunities for training group reunions. None of that happened this time, but most attendees



Friday night dinner at Peppers Mexicali Cafe, facing north, Andy Philpot, Bud Abbott (toasting), Marion Goodkind, Catherine Liddell Skapura, David Koren, Kay Koren.

thought this was the best meeting ever! Why was it so well-received?

Attendance was only about 30, but nearly all were former volunteers in



L-R: Norm Gary, Barbara Jones, Alice Gosak, Andy Philpot, (probably Stephen Vincent, if I remember the hat correctly), Catherine Liddell Skapura during lunch break.

Nigeria. Peter Stolzman (25) 66-68 put it this way: "The Asilomar Conference Grounds were a spectacular setting for a weekend of reconnecting, reminiscing and planning. All weekend we laughed and told stories. It all seemed so long ago and yet it was only yesterday. People we had never met melded into one large family, sharing the bonds of the adventures of our youth."

Activities included early morning yoga and tai chi led by Bud Abbott (19) 65-67, informal group dinners at local restaurants (seafood Thursday and Mexican Friday), a catered outdoor cookout Saturday night at the conference center, a wine tour led by Norm Gary (01) 61-63, a walk along the Monterey coastline led by Bud, and, of course, the meetings for the hardcore workaholics.

At the official biennial meeting FON president Greg Jones (22) 66-68 summarized the activities of the last two years and our current financial situation. Andy Philpot (VSO) 65-67 presented an excellent overview of our 10-year association with VSO, which led to our relationship with The Fantsuam Foundation five years ago and our more recent financial support for several small projects sponsored by individual VSO volunteers in Nigeria.

The high point of the meeting was the keynote address by David Koren (09) 63-66. David served as a volunteer with the Biafran humanitarian airlift soon after his Peace Corps tour ended and had the foresight to document this with both photos and tape recordings. The result was a spectacular and inspirational multimedia presentation, an emotional kick-start to our own strategic



Enjoying the wine tour L-R: John Blaine, Richard Holmquist, Jody Keller, tour guide Norm Gary, Anne Philpot, Mills Tandy. It looks as if they have almost finished their glasses of wine.

planning process. This process consumed most of the remainder of the conference, intermixed with formal and informal sharing of our stories. You can see and hear David's actual presentation as well as more details on Greg's and Andy's talks on the Wikifon at http://www.wikifon.org/index.php?title=Asilomar_Meeting and David's presentation is also available on You Tube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-V0a-Pcg1U>. David's



Bob Skapura (center of photo) shares thoughts with L-R Greg Jones, Mike Goodkind, David Strain, Mills Tandy, Andy Philpot..

book, *Far Away in the Sky*, was reviewed in the summer 2012 newsletter is available for purchase at Amazon.com.

Thanks to Mills Tandy, Richard Holmquist, and Norm Gary for the photos. Thanks to Greg Jones for the more humorous captions.

President's Column

By Greg Jones (22) 66-68

In my last column I laid out a plan for the meeting at Asilomar and invited everyone to participate. Although only 25 FON members did so, and we certainly did not follow the outline described in my column, the meeting was deemed a great success by all who attended. Rather than breaking into several small groups, everyone present participated in both strategic planning and story sharing, with the result we all got to know each other really well. To see the details see the write-up on WikiFON, at http://www.wikifon.org/index.php?title=AsilomarMeeting#Strategic_Planning_Session.

As the WikiFON write-up states, the threat of having to do a complicated strategic planning process inspired people to get down to what mattered to them and to short circuit the process. The key issue before the group is defining our mission and goal in the light of the fact that we are all getting older and there are no volunteers serving in Nigeria to provide new blood. Complicated proposals to merge with other West African groups were quickly discarded in favor of FON as an affinity group. Yes, we are getting older, but many of us are still early in retirement, and we should have a good decade or so before senility sets in. As an affinity group, our primary goal becomes to share our stories and to provide an audience that encourages others to tell their stories. Our newly defined mission and goals can be found at http://www.wikifon.org/index.php?title=AsilomarMeeting#Revised_Mission_Statement_.26_Goals. But the key message from those assembled at Asilomar is that we should each do the hard work of telling our stories. Transcribe those old aerograms, get your old slides into digital form, recall those adventures described in your letters home, provide the backstories for the memorabilia you have decorating your living room. Some Asilomar attendees shared their stories, which we all found truly inspiring.

The group at Asilomar felt that an early deadline would be essential to get each of us started in the process. A

convenient deadline might be the Peace Corps Connect meeting in Nashville in June, 2014. The board has agreed to hold a FON meeting in Nashville June 19-21. It was suggested that the people most likely to understand your story are the people in your training group. People at the meeting pledged to contact groups 15, 22, & 25 to urge as many as possible to attend Nashville. Volunteers in other groups are urged to contact their fellow training group members, as they will provide an understanding audience and be a motivating factor in getting the task of storytelling done. Plus, wouldn't it be great to see your fellow trainees after almost 50 years?

Anybody wishing to contact his/her training group should contact Peter Hansen, who can provide a spreadsheet of the current information on your group. Alternatively, if you would prefer to organize a reunion of the volunteers who served in your geographic area, selecting by town of service is possible as well. So sign up for Nashville, get started telling your stories, and contact others in your training group. Attending Peace Corps Connect does cost money, but there were people who attended the FON events associated with the Minneapolis and Boston Peace Corps Connect meetings who didn't actually register for Peace Corps Connect. Peace Corps Connect is June 20-21, but FON plans to meet a day ahead, so we can really spend some time sharing stories.

I personally have gotten derailed in my efforts to transcribe the box of aerograms my mother saved. Little issues like... should I transcribe literally what I wrote or tell what actually happened? And hearing stories at Asilomar from volunteers in the east who barely escaped as federal troops were advancing makes my stories seem trivial and of little importance. But as Pete Stolzman says in http://www.wikifon.org/index.php?title=Asilomar_Meeting#Thanks_for_the_memories, "Don't allow Peace Corps Nigeria, the second largest operation in the early years, to disappear. Memories only last as long as we do

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Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

Nigerian RPCVs, especially those who served in Northern Nigeria, may find it useful to visit some of the web articles listed below.

Regards, Chuck Ahlgren (04) 62-64

Web Articles Dealing With the Sectarian Violence in Northern Nigeria

1. International Crisis Group's Crisis Watch for Nigeria (<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/crisiswatch/crisiswatch-database.aspx?CountryIDs={3103A533-A2BE-4809-A42C-D}>)

2. Ambassador John Campbell's teaching module: "Nigeria, Dancing on the Brink" (<http://www.cfr.org/nigeria/teaching-module-nigeria-dancing-brink/p23839>)
3. CFR's "Increasing Sectarian Violence in Nigeria" from its Global Conflict Tracker (<http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#!/?marker=17>)
4. Brenda Schoonover's article in American Diplomacy, "A Glimpse at Nigeria's Ongoing Islamic Terrorist Challenges" (http://www.unc.edu/depts/diplomat/item/2013/0912/ca/schoonover_glimpse.html)

Dear Editor,

Martin Dwyer passed away Christmas Day, 2013, in London, Great

Britain. Philomena Martin, his wife, predeceased him in 2010. Martin and Philomena, British teachers, befriended many Peace Corps Volunteers and Nigerians (especially the first year of the Biafran War) in Kano and Sokoto during the 1960s.

Willie Gaither (7) 63-65, Sokoto.

Dear Editor,

I very much enjoy the Friends of Nigeria Newsletter, especially stories about the Biafra war. If anyone knows of the fate of Abbot Boys Secondary School at Okofia near Ihiala I would like to hear from you.

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Let's Go Electronic!

By Greg Jones (22) 66-68

When a Friends of Nigeria (FON) member learned that the cost of mailing newsletters cuts off deserving VSO projects, that person committed to donate \$3,000 to FON as soon as 1,000 people sign up to receive the newsletter electronically...that's \$7,000 for school buildings, wells, and micro loans (\$4,000 in mail savings plus the \$3,000 matching grant).

Here's the math: currently only 19 FON members have requested electronic delivery; we email the quarterly newsletter to roughly 1600 people at a cost of \$6,400 per year. If 1,000 RPCV's choose to receive their newsletter electronically we save \$4,000 $(1000/1600) * \$6400 = \4000 .

The first year matching gift is another \$3,000 more for Nigeria projects. Add the \$4,000 in first year savings and your FON board has an additional \$7,000 in grant money for micro loans, wells,

seeds, school houses, and clinics. In addition, the annual savings on postage will generate an additional \$3,000-\$4,000 for as long as FON continues operations...a win-win proposition!

Board members recognize our newsletter is the key communications vehicle for FON. There is the concern that if you receive the newsletter electronically, it may be easier to skip reading it. As one of the 19 that receive the newsletter electronically, I have to admit that when I am busy, I don't immediately read the newsletter. But the same would be true if I got a printed copy in the mail. In my humble opinion, the reason we read the newsletter is interest in the topics it covers, not the fact that it is lying around on the coffee table.

If reading a printed copy of the newsletter is your choice, you will print off a copy. Much cheaper than the postage! You might think of pennies you would spend on paper, when printing your own copy at home, as a donation.

There is the added advantage that the electronic version has color pictures, while the printed version is black-and-white. Everybody has color displays on their computer, and I bet most of us have printers capable of printing in color. So not only do you enable FON to support more projects, you get living color as well.

In order to sign up for electronic distribution of the newsletter, send an email to Peter Hansen and Jim Clark with the subject "Electronic Delivery of the FON Newsletter."

When the 981st subscriber does that, we will be at 1,000 electronic subscriptions and the anonymous donor will write that generous check. Last year, we passed on two projects due to lack of funds. That "extra" \$3,000-\$4,000 per year in savings will support additional life changing projects. Help make those additional projects happen! Sign up for electronic delivery today!

Friends of Nigeria (FON) and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)

By Andy Philpot (VSO) 65-67

Voluntary Service Overseas was founded in 1958 by Alec and Moira Dickson with the encouragement of such notables as the Duke of Edinburgh and a bishop or two.

With the ending of conscription in the UK, it was thought that there should be some way for the young to spend some time growing up before entering the work force or going to university.

Therefore, at the outset, VSO was made up of high school leavers who served for one year, mainly in Commonwealth countries, working for pocket money. Many of them were teaching what they had just learned themselves in the sixth form. There was little idea of answering the real development needs of a country apart from providing staffing deficiencies in schools.

In those early days, the local British Council representative administered VSO, sometimes willingly but sometimes the volunteers were seen to be a bit of a nuisance. VSO now has its own staff, many of whom are indigenous personnel.

In 1962, VSO started to recruit brand new graduates but for only a one-year term. In 1966, I asked to extend for a year but was told by my British Council minder that it was impossible and in any case, there were no chemistry teachers needed in the mid-west at that time. When VSO in London eventually agreed to have me stay, I had to get a list of schools that could use me from Ginny Cruikshank in the Benin Peace Corps office.

In 1965, the 14 VSOs in the mid west were outnumbered and out administered by some 114 Peace Corps volunteers.

Teaching and living with the likes of Dave Sugarman from Nigeria X and Cleigh Purvis from XIV, I found myself adopted by Peace Corps to the extent that Mike Taylor, the Peace Corps doctor in Benin, offered me gamma globulin shots whenever he was passing by.

By 1968, the graduates were all serv-

ing for two years, and in that year VSO had some 1400 volunteers world-wide compared to the Peace Corps' 15,000. In 1980, the high school program was abolished. By 2004, the brand new graduate program had been phased out and replaced with the recruitment of people in a wide variety of jobs. The VSOs filled specific needs or requests of a host country. These new volunteers did not necessarily have degrees but had to have at least two years of experience in their field. At the moment, the average age of VSO volunteers is about 38.

More recently, VSO has combined with or is associated with a number of other development organizations. VSO International, as it is now known, has offices in Holland, Ireland, North America, India, the Philippines, Kenya and Uganda. The new VSO International offers long- and short-term job placements and one innovation is south-south postings, such as the Ugandan and Kenyan volunteers to Nigeria.

In the late 50s, President Kennedy asked the founders of VSO to the White House to ask their advice about the formation of the Peace Corps. Some 50 or so years later VSO, with other organizations, founded International Citizens Service, an international organization similar in many ways to the original VSO concept. According to David Cameron, the British Prime Minister, International Citizens Service was inspired by the Peace Corps.

Now to the involvement of the Friends of Nigeria with VSO.

VSO is a non-governmental organization (NGO), and while it does receive some government funding, it relies on contributions from individuals, corporations and organizations such as the Friends of Nigeria.

Early in 2004, Peter Hansen suggested that VSO might be a suitable recipient of FON members' donations. The FON sponsorship program requires volunteers to report to their sponsors quarterly. The FON board thought their reports in the FON newsletter would

keep us in touch with what was going on in Nigeria at a level we could associate with.

Most of the VSOs sponsored by FON have been very good about keeping in touch. One of them Canadian Glen Dodge suggested that FON might like to contribute to a micro lending scheme at the Fantsuam Foundation, which led to our on-going involvement with that organization.

I had the good fortune to hear Kazanka Comfort, the chief operating officer at Fantsuam, speak at a meeting hosted by CUSO International in Toronto and found her inspiring in her dedication to the organization and the local community.

Now to more recent VSOs supported by FON.

Sarah Corley worked for the Girls Power Initiative based in Calabar. She has just returned to the UK at the end of her one-year placement. Our present VSO, Stacey Cram, is as an Advocacy Adviser for the Civil Society Action Coalition on Education for All. You can find out more about Sarah and Stacey in the last two issues of the newsletter. As of September of this year, FON has contributed a total of \$44,550 to VSO.

In early 2011, the FON Board of Directors started offering VSOs in Nigeria small grants of up to \$3000. These grants are for projects either within their placement organization or within their community in Nigeria. The projects are to have some sort of material outcome.

I send out the initial requests for applications through the VSO Nigeria Newsletter and then email application forms to those who ask for one. Mike Goodkind, Jim Clark, Greg Zell, one of the Nigeria VSO staff, and I, then do a preliminary vetting before the applications are presented to the full Board of Directors for final approval. At both stages, questions may be asked of the volunteer to clarify points, and in some cases, they are requested to revise their budget in terms of tangible items. Supervision is to be undertaken by the volunteer and

FON does not pay for local labor unless it is of an expert nature.

Over the years, FON has developed a good relationship with the VSO Nigeria staff. We feel it important to have 'eyes and ears' on the ground if we can.

- For the first project, we supplied Glynis, from the UK with \$2812 for rebuilding some schoolrooms. She had to return suddenly to the UK. Her replacement, Kasia, also from the UK, was ultimately transferred but the building was completed.
- We sent \$1915 to Simon, a Ugandan volunteer who wanted to re-establish a demonstration fish farm in order to help local farmers open up new opportunities to make money.
- Then came Phillemon's request for \$3000 for the refurbishment of a run-down private health clinic so it could be taken over by the local health officials and the community.

- Silvester from Kenya received \$1173 to establish a tree farm for controlling riverbank erosion and to develop an education program about climate change in the local schools and community.
- More recently, Lukas from Germany applied for \$1525 to buy higher yield maize seed for his community. He had to go back home suddenly but the project was taken over by Collins from Uganda. The maize is doing well and feeding the community.
- Finally, Michael from Uganda asked for \$1875 for the renovation of a community center in Cross Rivers State for many at-risk children and youth. This was the first request from the southern part of the country. All the rest have been from the north.

In this last round, there were six ap-

plicants. We could only choose two – not an easy process.

We request the volunteer send a quarterly progress report, which, overall, they are very good at doing along with many photos of the progress being made. You will have seen reports of all but the most recent projects in the newsletter. To date FON has given six grants for a total of \$12,300.

There is always a worry that the money will disappear in the transfer process, but thanks to our international financier Peter Hansen, this has not happened. There is also the concern that the project will not proceed as planned for whatever reason, the volunteer may return home before the completion of the project, or the money just disappears with, perhaps, the volunteer. I am glad to say that none of these fears and concerns has been realized.

The frequency and amount of the grants depends on the generosity of our members.

Our Legacy: A Personal Journey

By Andy Philpot (VSO) 65-67

Some 25 years ago or so, my mother gave me a box of my letters written to her from two years in Nigeria and three in Zambia. I glanced at a couple of them and was somewhat embarrassed at what I had written and how I had written it. When I suggested the best place for them was the garbage, my mother – a wise woman – told me she was giving them to me for safekeeping for my children or perhaps my grandchildren. Being a good son, I obeyed.

Fast forward to about 10 years ago when I came across two years of letters between my maternal grandparents when they had just become engaged and my grandmother was living in Edwardian Britain and my grandfather in colonial India. Further digging, unearthed a couple of tin trunks of family photos, journals and papers going back three generations. What a treasure trove! My grandparents, great grandparents and my great-great grandparents came alive. I started a voyage of discovery that I am still on today. Armed

with all this material and using background information from the Web, the whole lot somehow turned into a coffee table book for my family. I am glad that I listened to my mother.

My family originated in Aberdeen, Scotland and the university archives there welcomed all the originals while I kept scans and photographs of it all, not just for me but the whole family.

Not everyone is automatically interested in family history and sometimes it takes an epiphany of some sort to get one started. Can you imagine your Nigeria letters going to waste? Digging them and other memorabilia out might be the first step in an adventure for you or perhaps someone else in your family – you never know.

For more thoughts and reflections on saving your past, go to the FON Wiki site, accessible through the FON Web site and read what Peter Stolzman has written. In the last newsletter (Fall 2013) there is an interesting article by Phyllis Noble (17) et al. about the various archives available to

you. There is also a wealth of information on the Internet on preserving documents and turning them into digital copies if you do a search under a heading such as "archives-personal documents."

<http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/2692/1/CoxOfficialSubmissionRevision.pdf>

<http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2010/11/taking-care-of-your-personal-archives/66425/>

<http://www.digitalpreservation.gov/personalarchiving/>

If you decide to share your memories with an archive but you want to keep copies for your own family, the relatively slow process of scanning everything can be daunting, but the use of a digital camera is a viable alternative. Many have a special text options and with some tripods, it is possible to invert the centre column and tripod head, and set the camera up over documents laid on a horizontal surface.

I am told by David Koren (9), author of *Far Away in the Sky*, that old tapes can

(Legacy continued on page 23)

Using a Scanning Service to Rescue Your Nigerian Slides

By Bob Skapura

Bob was a contract teacher in Nigeria in the 60s and is married to Catherine Liddell (15) 65-67.

Just like many of us who worked in Nigeria for two years, I found that not only was my memory fading but that 45-plus years later so were the 35mm slides I took while there. In addition to fading some of them took on a tint, sometimes green, sometimes yellow or pink. And if I intended to pass those pictures on to my son, I could not just give him a bunch of carousels. I'd also have to pass on my old slide projector and hope that the bulb would never burn out. Clearly that's not a realistic option.

The only real solution was to somehow digitize those pictures and put them into a form that could be viewed on a computer, an iPad, on a high-definition TV, in slide-show, or even a book.

In talking with friends who were about my same age, I knew that they too had similar thoughts about their old slides, maybe not from Nigeria, but from the same time period. So four of us went in together and bought a dedicated slide scanner. We had tried our flatbed scanners with special slide attachments, but the quality of the scans was not good. After the purchase we passed the slide scanner around, each of us keeping it for about a month. As we reviewed the resulting jpeg images, we shared suggestions about how to get the best possible results. The slide scanner tray held four slides at a time, and it made multiple passes to maximize the number of pixels in the final image. Each scan of four slides took a number of minutes.

We discovered two things: the slide scanner for the most part faithfully reproduced, that is digitized, the original slides very well. But a majority of my Nigerian slides were already showing their age. Tiny black specks, what photographers call "dust", showed up especially in pictures of the sky. Kodak Kodachrome stood up the best, but I hadn't always been able to buy Kodak film. Many of my slides looked pale and faded, the vivid color gone and so too the vibrancy of the scene. Worse still were

the ones that had taken on a strange tint. What it meant was that even a very good slide scanner just turned a lousy slide into a lousy digital image. We realize then that there were actually two steps in a successful scanning process: first, the scanning itself; second and most important, the post-scanning image editing. The second step needed to be done by someone who knew Photoshop (or a similar program) very well, and could do the dust removal and the color correction on each individual slide. It's almost impossible to do this second step in a "batch mode".

So, I turned to a friend whose son is a professional photographer and he recommended a service called Scan Cafe. They guarantee that a Photoshop expert will look at each digitized after-scan image for three minutes to maximize the quality of the picture. I sent 50 slides to them, and when the images came back to me on a disc I compared their pictures to mine. I was humbled. I was an amateur, and they were professionals who delivered a quality product.

I boxed up my remaining slides and sent them off to be digitized. And this fall when I showed some of my Nigerian pictures on my iPad at the October FON meeting in California, people were so impressed with what they saw that I was asked to write up a description of the process.

I immediately contacted the Scan Cafe, and they will give all FON members a 15% discount on their one-time orders. So, here's how it works. You will find detailed instructions on their website, www.scancafe.com, but briefly you have two choices (and the prices shown are BEFORE the 15% FON discount): 1) the *À la Carte* plan at \$0.29 per scan, but you get to review your photo scans before you settle your bill and you can delete up to 20% of them, no questions asked; 2) the Value Kit plan for \$0.22 per scan, but you don't have the ability to delete unwanted scans and there is a minimum of 500 slides.

Before you pull out your pocket calculator, here's what FON members would

pay: *À la Carte* for \$0.25 per scan with a no-questions-asked delete option; Value Kit at \$0.19 per scan but a minimum of 500 slides for \$106.

With the Value Kit option you will receive a shipping box from Scan Cafe. All you do is fill the box with your slides, seal the box, and drop it off at a UPS store, pre-paid. Scan Cafe will scan your slides manually at 3000dpi resolution and spend three minutes enhancing each image. Once your slides have been scanned, they will ship your original slides back to you with a DVD of your scans. They will also create an online gallery of your pictures, so you can share them on the Web.

Scan Cafe does not supply a shipping box for the *À la Carte* option (I don't know why not), but everything else is the same. And for those of you who have your slides in carousels or slide albums, you can ship them in the carousels or albums and Scan cafe will remove your originals and put them back in the exact order in which they came. As you might suspect, there is a small additional fee for that.

Finally for the sake of comparison, the cost of transferring 35mm slides to DVD costs \$0.35 at Sam's Club, \$0.37 at Fobridge, and \$0.29 at Costco. But none of those services guarantee that a human being will spend three minutes enhancing each of your slides.

To see the quality of the scans (mine versus Scan Cafe's) go to <http://rskapura.smugmug.com/Scan-Cafe-Pics>. The first four pictures show the difference between my scans which I did on a dedicated slide scanner and those done by Scan Cafe. The three additional pictures show the quality of the color in typical Nigerian scenes (that are 47-years-old). The difference, of course, is the image enhancement done by a professional after the scans were completed.

To get the 15% discount use the discount code "FONPEACE15" when you place your order. This code is valid till December 30th, 2014. And, it is valid only on scanning standard media (35mm color negatives, 35mm slides and paper photos).

Awojobi Visits Fantsuam Foundation

By John Dada, Fantsuam Foundation

Nigeria's foremost rural surgeon, Dr. Oluyombo Awojobi, founder and CEO of the Awojobi Clinic, Eruwa (ACE) came on a 3-day visit (01st – 03rd Sep, 2013) to Fantsuam Foundation. This followed the placement of two Fantsuam staff at his clinic where he took them through his appropriate health technology programs. And what was the reason for his visit to Fantsuam Foundation? In his words "I should endeavor to visit you in the next month before the enthusiasm of the duo wanes".

He kept his word and was with us in Kafanchan from 01st August to 03rd



Dr. Awojobi treating a patient

Sept. During the visit, he went beyond just checking on his protégés and ran one full day of patient consultations and a second full day of theatre operations. He saw patients with all the usual range of

ailments and, in one day, he operated on seven of them for hernia repairs, polyp excisions, etc. One of the patients who attended needed to have a chest X-ray, but could not afford it. Awojobi paid for the patient to go and have her X-ray done. For three other patients for whom he needed more resources than what were available in the rudimentary provisions of the Fantsuam operating theatre, he has offered them free surgery to be done at his clinic in Eruwa. One of such patients was a three-year old; her parents could not withhold their tears of gratitude at such magnanimity. Dr. Awojobi must be the first specialist Nigerian surgeon to visit Kafanchan in recent memory and to offer his services for free.

Dr. Awojobi made critical recommendations on what the Fantsuam Rural Health Centre (FHRC) needed in order to make it more responsive to the needs of its host communities. Apart from ensuring adequate water supply to the theatre, FHRC needs to engage the services of a medical doctor that shares its passion for rural healthcare. Awojobi has offered a free and intensive three-months training for such a doctor when Fantsuam sends her/him over to Awojobi Clinics Eruwa (ACE). The lucky doctor will be given all the training needed to perform routing and emergency surgical procedures, professionally and at an affordable



Dr. Awojobi with Fantsuam team

cost to the people of Kafanchan. With such a doctor in place, supported by the existing crew of healthcare workers who will also receive continuing professional education from ACE, there will be closer monitoring and mentoring of the FHRC by ACE to ensure that the standards of ACE are faithfully replicated.

The Fantsuam Rural Health Centre is now set for its next phase of development to make it more responsive to its host communities ensuring that quality healthcare is provided affordably in line with the WHO Alma Atta Declaration. Fantsuam Foundation gratefully acknowledges that the catalyst for this unexpected positive outcome has been the small grant received from the African Palliative Care Association, APCA, which made the initial visit of the Fantsuam Foundation staff to ACE possible.

Tribute to the late Robert Pastor

By Margee Ensign, President, American University of Nigeria

Last October, seriously ill and knowing that his life was drawing to a close, Professor Robert Pastor got on a plane and flew to a remote north-east corner of rural Nigeria. He went to receive an honorary degree from a little university that had arisen from empty fields just a decade earlier. Bob Pastor had been instrumental in that university's creation. He was going back, for the last time, to

his American University of Nigeria.

Bob Pastor is generally associated with his scholarship on the Western hemisphere and his work in building the Carter Center; he was President Carter's special advisor on Latin America. What is less well known were his deep ties to West Africa, and his important contribution to education in Nigeria.

The original idea for AUN—the first American-style university south of the Sahara—came from Atiku Abubakar who, as an orphan, had been taught by

Peace Corps volunteers. Nigerian Vice President Abubakar remembered the young men who had taught him to think for himself, to trust himself, so many years earlier; he sought a way to bring that education to more of his fellow Nigerians. Many decades later, in 2003, when his wife was studying at American University in Washington, he met the man who could help him realize that dream.

Professor Pastor had just been ap-
(Robert Pastor *continued on page 16*)

Resource Mobilisation in Post-Conflict Environments: Fantsuam Foundation's Experience

By John Dada and Kazanka Comfort,
Aug 2013

Introduction:

As at April, 2011, Fantsuam Foundation's integrated development approach has enabled it to be able to raise 63% of its funding needs through the activities of the three income-generation centers within the organization, viz: Microfinance, Computer Academy and ZittNet (the FF rural connectivity program). These departments were supporting the wide range of social services that met identified needs of Fantsuam's host communities.

However, the sectarian violence that followed the presidential elections of 2011 led to drastic staff reduction, program delays and cancellation, and withdrawal of critical funding by some funding partners. Some key, highly trained and dedicated staff of the organization had to relocate from Kafanchan as a means of coping with the trauma they experienced. In addition, the microfinance services were decimated by the destruction of lives and properties of our clients. The Foundation had to transform into a humanitarian relief organization in order to support the displaced and traumatized population of Kafanchan. The provision of safe environment, food, clothing and healthcare became the priority activities for the organization.

It has taken over two years for the free-fall of the Kafanchan economy to be halted and some growth is beginning to happen. The decline in the fortunes of the host communities was amplified at the organization and this, also, just beginning to be reversed, thanks to the robust five-year strategic plan of the organization. Less endowed national and international organizations working in Kafanchan at the time of the crises have relocated, scaled down or withdrawn their programs altogether.

Fantsuam Foundation

Fantsuam Foundation (www.fantsuam.org) remains committed to empowering

community members, particularly women, to find means of employment and income and meet their own development needs. We are still working in 50 communities across seven local government areas in Kaduna State. Currently over 5,000 individuals benefit from Fantsuam's services every year and we estimate that over 200,000 people have benefited either directly or indirectly from Fantsuam Foundation's activities since it was established in Bayan-loco in 2001.

Mission: To eliminate poverty and disadvantage in Kaduna State through integrated development programs.

Vision: To be the most effective model of integrated rural development in West Africa.

Fantsuam's integrated ranges of programs are in three priority areas: Sustainable Livelihoods, Health and Education.

Cross-cutting issues that are regularly addressed in these priority areas are: GAIYA (National Volunteering), HIV/AIDS, Gender and Social Protection

Review of FF's Resource Mobilization Strategy

In recognition of current socio-economic realities of Kafanchan, Fantsuam Foundation is looking into more sustainable ways to meet the human, material and financial resources it needs to carry out its mission and solve its problems.

Fantsuam Foundation's integrated development strategy remains its unique selling point, making it possible to synergize and optimise its resources. This strategy makes it possible to access new, diverse and multiple sources of funding in order to increase our independence and flexibility to implement programs and reduce reliance on external funding.

Fantsuam Foundation's experience with international funding organizations has enabled it to develop its internal financial systems to protect the various resources

and ensure good practices that build trust. Effective management by the foundation's board and program leaders enhances the accountability and transparency of Fantsuam.

Some of the Foundation's unique programs include social protection for the elderly, vulnerable children and women and the rural connectivity program. While the social protection remains a non-income generating activity, the rural connectivity program represents our efforts to use our own local assets to gain support for the organization.

The new strategy towards fund raising includes the following:

1. Leading the Kafanchan Bandwidth Consortium of tertiary institutions to raise the initial capital for connecting to the optic fibre that is now available in Kafanchan. As the lead organization and host of the consortium, Fantsuam Foundation will host the base station, install additional indoor and outdoor equipments and subscribe to bandwidth size 2MB. This will be adequate to enable the base station to provide internet services to various retailers in Kafanchan. Income from this service will be a sustainable resource for the foundation
2. Establishment of a training school for Community Healthcare Workers, CHEWS. These 'barefoot' doctors provide the bulk of primary healthcare in Nigeria's underserved and remote communities. The few training centres are at the moment unable to meet the demand for the training and continuous education and supervision of these healthcare workers. In addition to providing vital human resource training, this will be an income stream for Fantsuam Foundation.
3. Working with professional project proposal writers to make submissions to major international funding

- sources such as the USAID, DFID, EU, World Bank, Comic Relief, etc.
- Undertaking a donor mapping of Nigeria-based funding sources of institutions, private sector investors and individuals who support development organizations as part

- of their corporate social responsibilities.
- Actively seeking research oriented organizations and institutions to collaborate in joint funded researches that address issues of relevance to Fantsuam's host communities (e.g.

health, governance, social inclusion, social transfer, youth entrepreneurship, climate change, pastoralists and farmers, budget accountability and transparency, geriatrics and gerontology, peace building, etc.).

Main Funding Received

Partner name	Focus area	Period	Nature of partnership	Amount
Friends of Nigeria	Microfinance	2008 to date	Funding, networking	USD30,000
Partners for Development (Pfd)	Microfinance	2006 to date	Funding and capacity building	NGN60 Million
VSO, Nigeria	Secure livelihoods, education, HIV/AIDs	Ongoing	Funding, capacity building, and networking	UKP150,000
World Bank	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises	2008 to Date	Funding and capacity building	USD40,000
American Embassy	Health	2012	Extension of clinic	USD10,000
Embassy of France	Agriculture	2011	Farm infrastructure and training of farmers	51,260 Euros
UNDP	Global Environmental Fund	2012	Community engagement for conservation	USD30,000
American Embassy	Public Health	2013	Public toilets for Kafanchan market	USD10,000
Dadamac-UK	Secure Livelihoods	2008 to date	Funding, networking, organizational development	UKP150,000

(President's Column *Continued from p. 2*)

unless we take steps to pass them on.” Do your bit to pass on your experience. I know my experience in Nigeria was transformative, and the prospect of sharing how that transformation occurred with training group compatriots will inspire me to get back to the task.

Meanwhile, your collective generosity is inspiring. That will enable us to extend our support for worthy projects in Nigeria. If the challenge grant (see Let's Go Electronic, p.3) inspires enough

of us to forego the printed version of the FON newsletter, we should be able to support that many more projects. Certainly the process we have in place generates more candidates for funding than we have money to distribute. FON has donated an impressive amount – over \$125,000—since 2000. But to put this in perspective, that \$125,000 amounts to less than a minute and 20 seconds of Nigeria's oil revenue. Why are elementary schools in the bush falling to pieces when governments at all levels have so much

money? Maybe we are patching over symptoms while the real sickness (corruption) festers on. If anybody knows of groups in Nigeria that are fighting corruption, maybe it is those groups we should be supporting financially.

Asilomar was a meaningful and productive meeting. I invite everybody to come to Nashville in June, to build upon the enthusiasm and friendships established in that lovely place.

Crossing Paths with Father O'Connor

By Donald Utroska (08) 63-65

When my wife, Candy, and I served in the Peace Corps in Nigeria in 1964-65, we worked as teachers at Government Secondary School Owerri, a school run by the Eastern Region Government. During the breaks, our summer vacation, we, as volunteers were expected to work with the local population on projects that would benefit a large group of people.

I learned that as Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV's), we had access to materials offered by USAID. One item was a movie projector and generator on the back of pick up truck along with films from their film library. Most of the films were instructional, not entertaining but that is what I needed. We had used them in our village at night and the people came from everywhere just to see a movie for free regardless of the content.

As I was fishing around looking for a valid project, I kept thinking of how to use this film and projector. One day, one of my students at G.S.S. Owerri suggested I come to his village, Obibi, over the vacation break and to meet the chiefs and elders of the village and discuss a project that would be of value to them. Obibi was not far from Owerri so I could manage to go there every day and then return to home in the evening. We chose a day and off we went on my little US Government issue motor scooter with my student sitting behind me.

When we arrived at Obibi, my student led me to the elder grouping. They were all waiting dressed in their best robes prepared to offer palm wine, a drink made from the fruit of the local palm trees. We had a very nice time meeting everyone in attendance.. Of course, being American, I wanted to get to the point, stop the small talk, but they didn't. They wanted to get to know me and so we chatted on. An Irish priest who lived in a home on the edge of Obibi and ministered to the villagers was there. He was a jovial man and contributed to the discussion. Later as the project took shape, he helped a great deal, teaching me how to deal with the locals and how to get a project charted out that the elders supported.

His name was Father O'Connor.

Father O'Connor and I spent a lot of time together before and after the meetings until we had the project defined. We decided that we would do a health information program which would consist of discussions with the people of how to handle health issues in their homes. Plans included the films from USAID on health matters. Often times, after a frustrating meeting, I would go to the good father's home and we would drink tea and brandy. Since I have never been a big drinker and had no access to alcohol in Nigeria, a wee bit of brandy would send me reeling. I would then leave his home and head back to mine on this little scooter weaving dangerously on the road and when I would hit some loose sand, slip out of control and fall. I eventually recognized my limits while enjoying the friendship of the good father.

Our project went well. We talked about not having animals in their homes, having a designated place to go to the toilet and avoid standing in water because snails could cause them to be infected with schistosomiasis. Of course the films, regardless of whether they were understood, were the highlights. We had many films which entertained them greatly. It was a thrill to see their concentration watching this film shown on a white cotton sheet from the back of a pick up truck. Their laughter was worth being there and made you understand why you joined this adventurous group called the Peace Corps.

Eventually, the school break and our Obibi health project came to an end. By then the elders were delighted with our work and my relationship with Father O'Connor had deepened. It was difficult to leave Obibi and Father O'Connor but after a final tea and brandy, we said goodbye.

Candy and I departed from Nigeria in December of 1965. We made a mind stretching trip from apartheid controlled South Africa, through newly independent Rhodesia, then Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania before flying on to Egypt. We flew from Cairo to Athens, then Munich and finally returned to Chicago and the Midwest in early 1966. I had been exploring the

many employment opportunities provided to returning Peace Corps Volunteers and decided on Smith Kline and French in Philadelphia in mid-1966. I worked in Philadelphia and then was moved to a subsidiary, Branson Instruments in Danbury, Ct.

In early 1969, my boss at Branson offered me the opportunity to run their foreign operations based in Geneva, Switzerland. The announcement was made that I would move to Switzerland and become General Manager of the Branson Sonic Power operation in Geneva.

As Geneva was the home of the United Nations, news was being made of the cessation of the Eastern Region of Nigeria from the country and the ensuing civil war, called the Biafran War. There was a great deal of change occurring in our former home, Nigeria and I was in the place central to the diplomacy dealing with it. I learned of night flights that landed on a highway near our old school in Owerri which was now the home of the leader of this cessation, General Ojukwu. The region was in turmoil and images of children with distended abdomens could be seen in every magazine and newspaper worldwide. The central Nigerian Government in Lagos was trying to starve the Eastern Region to bring them back into the fold. Ojukwu continued to resist.

As the Nigerian Army took over more control of Biafra/Eastern Region, one of the developments that occurred there was the arrest of the Irish priests who worked in the region suspected of aiding the locals and thus undermining the government's efforts to restore law and order in this region. When I read of this in Geneva, I thought of my old friend, Father O'Connor near Owerri and wondered how he was doing.

One summer day in 1970, in Geneva, I had to fly to Frankfurt on business and went to the airport in mid-afternoon. When I got to my terminal at the Geneva airport, the area was alive with press and International Red Cross workers. I inquired what was happening and a Red Cross worker explained that the Irish priests arrested by the Nigerian Government some time

ago were all released from prison in Lagos under the auspice of the International Red Cross. They were being flown to Geneva, headquarter of the International Red Cross to receive aid, and travel documents. Because of this, my flight was delayed so I had nothing to do but mill around and talk to people. One of the press that I recognized was Garrick Utley, CBS reporter that I remembered from TV when we lived in the states. I talked with him but he seemed to be more interested in what was going on than talking to me. I often thought of the human interest story he missed by not learning that I had been in the Peace Corps in Nigeria and one of the Irish priests who was to land in Geneva had been my friend and work partner in that country.

Soon, the Red Cross Plane landed, taxied to our terminal, the doors opened and the priests started to disembark. It wasn't long before I spotted my old friend, Father O'Connor still in his frock, a bit dishev-

eled and dirty but still jaunty and smiling. When it was possible, I rushed up to him. He recognized me immediately and said, "Donald, how nice of you to come to the airport". I couldn't tell him why I was really there so we just enjoyed this special moment. We hugged and cried and said how great it was to see each other again. It had been at least four years since we said our goodbyes in Nigeria, never ever thinking we would see each other again and certainly not under these circumstances.

Father O'Connor explained that he had been imprisoned for several months and all of his money and personal documents had been confiscated by the Nigerian Government. He didn't even have a passport so the Red Cross supplied him with the necessary travel documents to travel to his home country, Ireland. The group was large and there were many priests who had lived many years in Nigeria and now were being forced to leave their

adopted home.

My flight for Frankfurt was being called so it was time for me to leave this incredible scene. I said goodbye to my dear friend, Father O'Connor and wished him well in his new life. I walked the other way and onto the ramp to my plane with one final wave. Here I was in my business suit with tears streaming down my face as I settled into my seat. It was an event that has never left me and I think often of my friend and wonder how he managed his return to Ireland. The fact that we both met in a land far away from our homes and found that we had a great deal in common and enjoyed each others company was more pronounced than ever. This obvious and more meaningful bond was that we both wanted to help people less fortunate than ourselves and that is what really forged our friendship. I often think of him and our wonderful adventure we shared in Obibi, Nigeria.

Thanks for the memories

By Bob Skapura

Bob was a contract teacher in Nigeria in the 60s and is married to Catherine Liddell (15) 65-67.

Slides, photos, letters, training manuals, language aids, invitations, pamphlets, travel guides, caps, traditional clothing, carvings, lesson plans, exam papers, schedules, language dictionaries, books, music, sound recordings, anecdotes and more are needed and wanted.

Peace Corps essentially ended its presence in Nigeria in the 1970s (there were three small groups that went in the 90s) and it has become very clear that with us the legacy of Peace Corps Nigeria rests. Nigeria touched us all and we in turn left our own small impression on Nigeria. Whether it was providing that middle level manpower the country couldn't provide or making close and important friendships with the "host country nationals" or, like me, bringing the whole experience home to be shared with other Americans, we were all touched.

Now is the time for us to do some-

thing with those experiences. FON would like to create an archival history so that our collective experiences and impressions will be available for study and reflection. FON has begun an archive at American University and perhaps they will be interested in expanding it. If not we will search elsewhere.

All of us should look to what we can contribute. Nothing should be thought of as unimportant or trivial, it's all part of our experiences. Look to your slide collections (you know – that box in the attic you haven't thought about in years). Find that pile of letters home that your mother saved. The journal you kept is ideal. Take a few moments and write up your favorite stories and impressions. Remembrances of projects and activities can be living, breathing artifacts (I have a tape of a local PC singing group).

The 1500+ members of Peace Corps Nigeria can create a significant and lasting memory of our time in Africa. We were there at the beginning – we witnessed and shared excitement of the creation of a

nation. We survived the struggles to bring it into being and we watched (frequently horrified) as it developed.

A piece of ourselves is there and we can pass it on. Think what you can share, find the things that others won't necessarily understand or appreciate and donate it to the archive.

Friends of Nigeria held its Biennial Meeting in Pacific Grove, CA. The Asilomar Conference Grounds were a spectacular setting for a weekend of reconnecting, reminiscing and planning. All weekend we laughed and told stories. It all seemed so long ago and yet it was only yesterday. People we had never met melded into one large family, sharing the bonds of the adventures of our youth.

Our next meeting (probably Nashville, TN in 2014) will be a good place to start. If all do just a little we can produce and complete a wonderful legacy. Don't allow Peace Corps Nigeria, the second largest operation in the early years, to disappear. Memories only last as long as we do unless we take steps to pass them on.

Peace Corps Mojo!

by Bob Criso (21) 66-67

What would our diplomatic service be like if one of the qualifications was prior Peace Corps service? We have West Point, Annapolis and the Air Force Academy which prepare us for war but how about a Peace Corps Academy? What if the Peace Corps included the element of exchange and a teacher from Kenya was swapped with one from Ohio? What about a Peace Corps Memorial in Washington?

These were just a few of the ideas put forth recently on a panel at Columbia University. Eight RPCV's and staff talked about their training, service and post-PC careers to an audience of mostly twenty-somethings, some recently returned PCV's, others thinking about joining. Most were connected to Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). I was there thanks to an email from Japan (John Fanselow, Nigeria '61-63) telling me he was going to participate by Skype. "You might be interested," he said, "since you live in the neighborhood." "Interested?" I was spellbound!

In addition to John Fanselow, Gary Schulze (Sierra Leone 61-63), Jim Phillips (Nigeria 67-69), Tony Barclay (Kenya 68-70), Jane Berliss (Ivory Coast 67-69), Henry Berliss (Kenya 68-70), Henry Greenberg (Cameroon PCMO 66-68) and Sharon Keld (Morocco 2006-08) reminisced about Kennedy's Ann Arbor speech, getting that letter of acceptance from Sergeant Shriver, sexual escapades during training, the shortcomings of the psychological evaluations and the deselection process and, best of all, the challenges and gratifications of service and how it influenced their career choices. Included were anecdotes about the bureaucratic confusion of those early years: one PCV got a letter of acceptance to China when there was no China program, another story about a group studying Igbo for three months to go to Nigeria only to learn at the end of training that the program was cancelled and everyone would start training for another

country. !!

One RPCV applied for the Foreign Service when he returned to the States but gave the wrong answer to a decisive question. "What is the primary goal of the Foreign Service?" his interviewer asked. "To provide aid and services to the host country," he answered. "Wrong!" his interviewer replied, "It's to further US interests abroad." He never made it into the Foreign Service. !! And then there's the story of the Nigerian RPCV who had a 1A classification from his draft board when he finished his two years in 1969 during the Vietnam War. He went to Fernando Po (now called Bioko) in the Gulf of Guinea, worried and directionless but stumbled, by chance, on a job loading cargo on the nightly Red Cross relief flights into Uli airport in what was left of Biafra. He made some quick bucks and held off the draft.

The Peace Corps generation in the audience had lots to say about their experiences as well, sometimes vividly illustrating how times have changed. If someone had a history of psychological problems before they applied, for example, they could have their treatment person submit a letter saying they were fit for service but there were no MMPI's (Minnesota Multi-phasic Psychological Inventory, the standard psych test back then,) and no evaluative meetings with psychologists during training. On the technology end, recently returned PCV's talked about calling home every week on their cellphones or talking to their families by Skype. Many had visits from their families during their two years abroad. One PCV called his parents about a problem he was having, they called PC Washington, PC Washington called the Country Director and the problem was addressed. Many RPCV's now stay in touch with their former students and co-workers by Facebook.

All of the above sounds like another world from the sixties Peace Corps I knew. We had an exceptionally large number deselected from my Nigeria XXI group. I thought some of those deemed

unfit would have made excellent Volunteers because they were bright, unique, out-of-the-box thinkers and doers. As for psychological evaluations, we all took the MMPI and worried about the results. And as for the value of psychologists during my training program, one of my friends was having an affair with one of the psychologists evaluating us!!

My family was not the writing type so I was pretty much cut off from them once I went to Nigeria, although I kept in touch with friends with letters. After the Biafran War started however, there was no mail coming into Eastern Nigeria through normal channels. The alternative was sending or receiving a letter by hand-carried diplomatic pouch (Enugu to Lagos round trip), that is if you could get the letter to the Enugu PC office to start with. I wonder about some of the trade-offs with these changes. Being cut off from things forced us to be independent and resourceful in dealing with whatever problem faced us, something most of our host nationals were accustomed to.

Another possible sign of the times at Columbia that night was the white male majority on the panel in contrast to the diverse and largely female audience. How much this reflects the actual PC statistics I don't know but it was striking.

So there I was, sitting in the first row, getting all nostalgic and watery-eyed at times, just like some of the old-timers on the panel, rapt by all the personal stories being told. What is it about those two words "Peace Corps" that still penetrates my emotional armor, forty five years after leaving Africa? What is it that makes me feel I know something profound about a stranger, regardless of their age, when I learn they were in the Peace Corps? Sometimes I wonder if I'm too sentimental or have bought into Peace Corps myth too much. Have we lost our objectivity when we hear those emotionally-laden words: Peace Corps, John Kennedy, Sergeant Shriver? Peace Corps mojo.

My Life in Nigeria

Editor's note: The following interview with Abdullahi Edward (fka Edward Tomaszewicz [25] 66-67) originally appeared in the Nigeria daily newspaper This Day on November 2, 2013. The interview was conducted and written by Aisha Umar Yusuf, Nasiru L. Abubakar and Amina Albassan and is published here with the permission of Abdullahi Edward.

Abdullahi Edward is a naturalized Nigerian. Born in the USA over six decades ago, he first came to Nigeria as a Peace Corps activist in 1966. In this encounter he speaks about his four decades of living in Nigeria, including his marriage to a Nigerian (from Katsina State) with whom he has nine children, his being labeled a spy for Biafra, his conversion to Islam, his long-time relationship with some of Kano's great merchants like Alhaji Garba AD, Alhaji Nasiru Ahali, and Alhaji Audu Lukat (father of Hajiya Amina Sambo, wife of the vice president Arc. Namadi Sambo) and his many other interesting experiences.

Tell us a bit about yourself?

My grandfather left Poland in 1910 and went to live in America; he had my father there and my father had me. So now I am doing the same thing in Nigeria. I have a few more children than my father – my father had seven of us and I have a dozen.

Are all your children Nigerians?

No, I have two in Britain, one in the US and nine here. In fact in July my eldest son got married in London and my eldest daughter had a baby. My son in America went for the wedding. And I went from here with four of my children and my wife, Hauwa.

How did you come to Nigeria?

I came with the Peace Corps. When I was in university in America, there was a nationwide conference on South-West Africa (Namibia). So they asked universities throughout the country to send their representatives to this conference which was held at the University of Maryland. I was one of the persons selected to go to the conference. As an American, I didn't know anything about Africa at all except what

I saw in the Tarzan movies. I am talking about the late 50s coming into the 60s. I went to university from 1962 to 1966. So in 1962 when I went to the conference for the first time there were representatives from all over America and some students from South Africa and Zimbabwe (then called Rhodesia). They came and the whole conference was a white-wash. They had a program and an agenda and included in that was the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman in charge of Africa, Senator Eileen Eilander from Louisiana. Now you can imagine a senator from Louisiana with the mentality of an American from the South in the 1960s, being the chairman of a committee on Africa. Up till today Louisiana, where my son lives, is racist. So imagine what it was like in 1962.

The senator was white?

He was white of course. They didn't have black senators back then. He had an hour and a half to speak and answer questions; he spoke for an hour and 20 minutes, and left 10 minutes to answer questions, which means he didn't answer any question. That was an example of how the whole conference was. There was no chance for us to talk. Then they had a follow up conference in 1963. But before they started the conference, those of us who had been in the previous conference said, "Wait a minute. Before you give us the brainwashing that you gave us last year, we want you to know that we don't want to do it like that this time. We have students here from Africa. We want to hear from them, not you." They put it to a vote and

we won the vote. So the students from South Africa came forward and told us the real story of what was going on in that part of the world. And it was an education. This was even before apartheid became known



L-R: Edward's daughter Amina, behind her daughter Zainab, daughter Rebecca holding daughter Aisha, Abdullahi Edward holding son Abdullahi, the Emir of Kanem, the Emir of Kano, eldest son Abdullahi, at his lower left son Ayuba, daughter Hannat, behind wife Hauwa, son Mohammed Gaddafi with Ilyasu in back and Yahaya in front.

to the world, but it was already being practiced.

So I put it at the back of my mind that I had to go to Africa some day and see the real story. As things turned out, John F. Kennedy got elected and he formed the Peace Corps, and, therefore, I had a vehicle to come to Nigeria because I couldn't afford it before then.

Where you still a student then?

Yes, I was a student when Kennedy was president. In fact I can tell you exactly where I was and what I was doing when he was assassinated. It will be fifty years this month.

Where were you?

I was at the Yale co-op (co-operative society) because I worked there, packaging shirts in small containers. Yale is a big university, you know, and they have alumni all over the world, and they have their famous shirts that you can only get from the Yale co-op. So people ordered them by mail or by phone, and my job was to package and send them. The guy working next to me

was then the lead singer in The Five Satins. The Five Satins is the first black American group that made the largest selling record between 1956 and 1963 called "In the Still of the Night." He told me he was working in the warehouse with me because he did not make any money off the record.

How was that possible? Was it because they were Black?

It was because they were practically stupid. They had the sound and kept practicing, and when they were ready, they ran down to New York and said they wanted to record. The recording studio said "Good, It is 500 dollars an hour. But they did not have any money. The studio gave them a document to sign. So they signed off all the rights to the song and the song sold millions of copies and they did not get a dollar. So I will never forget that day because I had two lessons in the same day; the first was Kennedy's death and the second was about how the record industry ripped off Black people back then.

Let's go back to the conference

Yes, as I was saying, we learned about what was going on in Africa. So the bug hit me that the way White people in collaboration with some Black people were running the continent was immoral, which must also be illegal. How can they get away with this? So I decided to come but then I could not afford it. Since my second year in secondary school I had been paying for my education because my father had seven kids and he could not afford to sponsor us all. So I started working to raise money for my education at the age of eleven, selling newspapers and all sorts. I did not have any money to come to Africa so I joined the Peace Corps.

When I joined the Peace Corps, we were to start our training in October 1966 and I then found out that I had hernia. So I had an operation and in the rules of the Peace Corps, you could not be part of them if you had hernia. So I did not tell them. I had to do all the physical training that everyone was doing even though it was tough for me. I had to take the drill because if I had complained they would have kicked me out. Half way through the training program, I was appointed an

instructor because our instructors had to be sent out to Africa to start organizing our coming there. So I was an instructor and a trainee at the same time. We were classified under community development; prior to that they had mostly teachers and health workers in the Peace Corps in Nigeria. Our group in 1966 was the first that was posted to Nigeria for community development. At the end I was posted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry. I came to Nigeria on the 13th December 1966. That time there was a lot of fire going on.

That means you came after the coup?

It was after the second coup because the first coup was in January and the second was in July. I arrived through Lagos and stayed at the Mainland hotel and it was smacking of raw colonialism. I dropped my fork while eating and about eight waiters banged their heads together to see who was going to be the first to pick up my fork. It was just weird. I said I didn't like the atmosphere so I was moved to Kaduna. I got to Kaduna which was the seat of the Northern Nigerian government, and they told me I was going to be posted to Kano once my motorcycle was ready. They gave me a Honda 90. During that period the country was celebrating Christmas, Boxing Day, Sallah and then eventually New Year all together. So some friends and I went down to Minna for an extended Peace Corps Christmas party. From there we went to Ibadan for a New Year's party by train and on our way back the train was five days and five hours late. So instead of coming back on the second on January, we came back on the seventh of January to Kaduna.

What happened back at the Peace Corps?

The Peace Corps then was under the impression that I had gone out of the country because they did not know where I was. When I came back, I was told that they had reports that I was in Ghana, Lagos and some other places. So they scheduled me for debriefing. This briefing was going to be on how to send me back home. Anyhow I survived that meeting and ended up on my way to Kano. In Kano I was posted to the Ministry of Trade and Industry under the Northern Nigerian Government.

I was the second in charge of the Provincial Commercial Office. I was in charge of Kano and Katsina provinces for the small credit loan scheme, a joint venture between the Ford Foundation of America and the government of Nigeria. There was a process that helped people who applied for these loans to get their funds if they made their businesses more sophisticated. My job was to investigate those who applied for loans and see if they had a worthwhile idea, a proper record-keeping system and good modern technology.

Can you remember some the applicants at that time?

Yes, Nasiru Ahali, Audu Lukat and Garba A.D were some of the people I worked with. I also worked with block makers, cobblers etc.

Do you mean the late Audu Lukat, father of Mrs. Amina Sambo, wife of the Vice President?

Yes, Audu Lukat was one of my oldest friends in Kano until he died. He was one of the first people I worked with because he was working for Lucas Motors and he wanted to build his own garage. I can tell you how he got his name. Audu Lukat was not his original name. He was originally Abdullahi Abubakar Zulu. He was from Jos. When he was in Jos working for the tin mines, somebody in Kano purchased new diesel trucks and they started breaking down and nobody knew how to fix them. Then someone said there was a guy in Jos named Audu and that I had better go and get him. They got Audu to come, and he fixed all the trucks in about two days. So the Lucas people said he was not going back but was going to stay with them there. Whenever people went looking for him they would ask, "Where is that Audu Lucas?" So when he started his business, he did not take Lucas but decided to use Lukat. He put a 't' instead of an 's' so they would not complain that he took their name. That was how he became Audu Lukat.

How were you able to communicate with your clients given that you could only speak English at the time?

I learned a little Hausa.

Before you came to Nigeria?

English was the *lingua franca* for the country. These people were all down here trying to get up there. They were always trying to improve their English and I was trying to improve my Hausa. So we were able to communicate. Nasiru Ahali was on Court Road in Sabon Gari. He started making money from the cement blocks before he became a printer. Garba A.D. had a bakery. He had one bakery in Kofar Mata, and another one he built in Hausawa, which was Dajin Allah a lokacin (bush at the time). I really enjoyed it. In Kano I saw 30-40 people a day, and then I would go to Katsina and see some more people.

Were you also providing them with the capital to do the work?

I was monitoring their businesses; if they improved their processes, we then advanced their application for loans forward. So in the end Audu Lukat was one of the beneficiaries of the loan. He bought the garage on Ado Bayero Road from the British man who built the place and it was a properly built garage. He was able to pay back his loan and he improved his business.

How long did you stay the first time?

I got here in December 1966; the civil war broke out in April/May of 1967. I was thrown out in September 1967 accused of being a spy for Biafra. You know what they did with spies in the time of civil war. They killed them.

What made them think you were a spy; what did you do?

I did nothing. But two years later I found out what happened. The Peace Corps hired someone in Kaduna to come down to Kano and make that accusation against me publicly, so that they could come to my rescue when I was in jail and send me back home. Because when they wanted me to go, I told them, "Read your contract. If I work for you, you can then tell me what to do. If I do not work for you, which I am not going to do anymore, then you can't tell me what to do." So that got them annoyed and they did everything to get me out of the country. I was invited down to Kaduna. I went there with my journal where I recorded every single thing I had done since I came to the country.

When I went for the meeting, they started saying what a terrible person I was.

So I listened to them and at the end I told them I did not come there for that. I came to do a job and as far as I was concerned I had been doing my job to the best of my understanding and capabilities. I presented the journal of all my activities to them. And I challenged them that they never once asked me if I had enough work, if I needed assistance with my work, if there was a way the American government or the Peace Corps could help me with my work, etc. "This is why I am here, and you were not asking me any questions about my job, so basically you are not interested. You were only interested in if I was living my life according to how you wanted me to live. And it is not your choice to make. I am over 21, I know how to live my life and I would live my life my own way." So from that time they started scheming on how they could get me out of the country. They ended up paying this guy 50 pounds in 1967 to come to Kano and accuse me of being a spy for Biafra. I spent the night in a police station, naked, in the cell. In the morning they came and said, "Well, we've been told you are not a spy. You can go, but the Peace Corps said they are going to take you out of the country."

When I got back to Washington DC, I looked at my ticket again. I think it was drawn up three days before I was arrested. That did not make me very happy. I was arrested on Friday and arrived in DC on Monday; all through those days I did not sleep, I did not eat and I was taken half way around the world but with no money. In fact, when I landed at the DC airport, I borrowed a dime from someone on the street to make a call to the Peace Corps to inform them I had arrived in DC. They said I should take a taxi and get to the office. I said I had no money and they said they would pay the taxi fare at the door. I went there by 11am and I was asked to come back by 1pm that same day for my first debriefing. I then asked them if they were aware of the fact that since Friday morning I had not eaten, slept or had a bath and they wanted me back there in two hours. "Won't you ask me if I was hungry, if I wanted to sleep?" They said sorry that

it was a policy, so I had to be back there in two hours.

You never got to rest?

No, I went back in two hours and I started talking as I am doing now. At the end of it I told them that what was happening was job interpretation. The way I interpreted my job was the way I did it to the best of my abilities. The way their people were determining my abilities had nothing to do with my job. They were talking about my person and that's not their concern. So they had to change their policy. I have a record of what I was doing. So eventually, after three days of arguing, they said, "We agree with you." They said they could not change the policy; that was under the direction of the Peace Corps and by then Kennedy was dead and his brother-in-law Shriver was in charge. I asked to see him and my appointment with him was approved. I then told them that when they get my luggage and journal from Nigeria I would be ready to meet him. That was the only way I could prove my case to him. Eleven months later my things came from Nigeria and I said to them, "Tell him I am ready for my appointment." But they said, "Sorry your time has expired."

Then, as now, there was such a huge difference between Nigeria and the US in terms of comfort, etc. How were you able to cope and what kept you coming back?

Nigeria back then was not a problem. We had electricity all day, every day, water all day, every day. I was a government official and given a government residence of a two-bedroom flat and a boys' quarters in Kano on Durbin Katsina Road. Mud huts came later. They came in 1974 when I lived in Hokkaido in Hadejia, a village with a population of about 900. It is about two miles west of Auyo.

How did you cope with mosquitoes since you were living in a mud hut then?

To tell you the truth I don't remember anything about that. All I remember is that if you wanted a chicken, you picked the chicken; they slaughtered it, cleaned it, washed it and roasted it all for 40 kobo. So I had a chicken a day. Goat was N4. They slaughtered it, cleaned it and you cooked

it. The old money was a lot stronger than the new money. The comfort was there and that was all that mattered to me.

You didn't have any discomfort?

To tell you the truth, I did not really notice because I was always busy. For me I had the best job in my life, and I got the job I had always wanted to do. I was doing something that those people who were controlling South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe should have been doing. So I was happy.

Why do you think your critics despised you?

Basically I think they did not like the way I blended and mingled with the locals. As a matter of fact my application to be a member of the Kano Club was rejected. This was an automatic ticket for anyone as long as you were White.

Was it a purely White club then?

There were a few tokens, like Uba Adamu, Magajin Garin Kano and a few others. But I was rejected and I found out it was because I was fraternizing with the

staff. That was 1967, which to me was modern age. I met the people with the short white knickers and tall white socks. When I got rejected, I got pissed off and went to Sabongari and joined every club I could possibly think of, just for contrast. While going through the files when I assumed office not in one single place did I see the name of my predecessor mentioned anywhere. This simply meant that he wasn't really in touch with the people he was supposed to be working with. So I sort of started from the scratch again. I then scheduled everybody for an hour each for three and half weeks to really know what their problems were and what ideas they had in mind for improvement. We upgraded the files of those that came and whose files we discussed. After that my motorcycle was fixed and now it was me going to see them and not them coming to see me. At the end of the month I filled in my log on how I was utilizing the government motorcycle. Nobody said I was not doing my job. In fact they paid me my two pounds two pence at the end of every

month. Obviously they saw my record so there was no question of falsifying my record. When they started criticizing me, it was because the principal commercial officer, some chap from Kwara or Kogi, was annoyed because people always came to the office asking for me instead of him and he started giving negative reports to the Peace Corps

You were taken back to the US. How did you make your way back to Nigeria?

In 1971, the civil war was over. So the problem was off the table. Whether a spy or not, the war was over and there was nothing to spy about. So I used my own money, but interestingly I could not get a visa in Washington, so I flew to London trying to capitalize on the fact that there was more exchange going on between both countries. I got a visa and I came down to Nigeria in December 1971, four years after I was repatriated.

(Part two of the interview will be published in a later version of the newsletter.)

(Robert Pastor *continued from page 7*)

pointed Vice President of International Affairs at American University, and he was tasked with helping to coordinate and facilitate this extraordinarily challenging project—the founding of a first rate, American-style university in one of the poorest regions of rural Nigeria.

As Pastor later recalled, “I had just been appointed Vice President of International Affairs at AU, and President Benjamin Ladner asked me to lead a team to Nigeria to determine the feasi-

bility of establishing such a university. When I arrived here, the land was dry, the heat was oppressive, and the poverty was pervasive. It was hard for me to see how a university could grow in this soil. I suggested a different location. “How about the French Riviera?” He laughed. “Or how about Abuja?”

“Atiku had a different vision. He saw a university that could lift Yola and Adamawa up like Stanford University lifted Silicon Valley in California. He saw a university that would attract the very smartest students in Nigeria and Africa and give them an education that was better than anything they could get on the continent.”

The challenges were enormous. But ten years later he was celebrating one of his greatest accomplishments in the largest hall in northern Nigeria, receiving an honorary degree on Nigeria's only wholly wireless campus from the university which he had so courageously and tirelessly supported, the first ‘development university’ in Africa.

Bob Pastor believed in democracy and he believed in the central role higher education must play in the creation of democracy. He found a way of making a real contribution to democratic and educational history in Nigeria by providing his advice, his wisdom, his enthusiasm, and his enduring support for the fledgling American University of Nigeria. It is part of his wide-ranging international legacy, and to those of us in Yola, Nigeria, he will be remembered with great love, great respect, and boundless gratitude.



Margee Ensign, President, American University of Nigeria.



The late Bob Pastor.

In Memoriam

Alvin T. Kajita (12) 64-67

Veteran TV sound engineer, Alvin T. Kajita died May 7, 1997 of lung cancer at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles. He was 55.

Kajita was a returned Peace Corps volunteer having served in Nigeria as a member of Nigeria 12. He served as a community development volunteer from 1965-67 and was stationed in Kontagora (Niger State). Prior to his Peace Corps service, Kajita attended UCLA where he majored in history.

Kajita entered the industry in 1972 as an apprentice sound editor and subsequently became a member of Local 776. He cut sound effects for 20 years, working primarily for Columbia and Warner Bros. He won three Emmy awards for editing on "Police Story," "QB VII" and "China Beach" and also won Golden Reel awards for each of these projects.

Kajita is survived by his parents, a sister and numerous nieces and nephews.

[Source: *Variety*]

Francis Jerome Method (11) 64-69

Francis Jerome Method died on Dec. 21, 2013 in Washington, D.C. He began his career in the field of education as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in Abuja, Nigeria serving from 1964-66. Following his Peace Corp service, Method returned briefly to the United States to train a new group of PCVs to become tutors in Peace Corps' pilot Teacher In-Service Education Program, a program that the Nigerian Ministry of Education had unsuccessfully attempted to deliver via a correspondence course for two years to Grade III primary school teachers.

Method subsequently returned to work as Peace Corps staff member in Northern Nigeria. One of his missions was to ensure the success of the TISEP program. In spite of the Biafran War causing him problems, he helped maintain the safety of 60 PCVs who were scattered over thousands of miles throughout primarily remote areas in the North. He

survived bullets fired by young soldiers at one of the checkpoints set up on roads leading into each city.

Method was born Sept. 21, 1941, in Duluth, MN. He received a BA degree from The University of St. Thomas, MN and an MPA, University of Wisconsin. Following his Peace Corp tours, he worked with the Ford Foundation from 1970 to 1976 and with USAID from 1981 to 1996. He was chairman of the board of Multicultural Community Service at the time of his death. According to friends, he dedicated his life to international development efforts through his service to Peace Corps, USAID, UNESCO and Americans for UNESCO.

The end of 1969 was the end of the third year of the highly successful TISEP program, and the end of Peace Corps in Nigeria. Method was instrumental in closing the Peace Corps office in Kaduna and returning all assets to the U.S. However, his five years of Peace Corps service was just the beginning of what became a life-long career of helping provide quality education to 20 countries around the world, especially in less-developed nations. Yet, he maintained strong ties with his TISEP group throughout the years, celebrating with them their 47 years together at their biennial reunion in San Francisco last month. Long-time resident and active community member of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood in Washington, D.C., he is survived by his wife, Bonnie Cain; son, Joseph Method; mother, Lucille Method; siblings, The Rev. Fredrick Method, Michael Method, Suzanne Morris, Christie Kangas, Auralee Bussone and Kelly Shadowens.

[Source: Karen Keefer]

Lewis S. Brooks (12) 64-66

Lewis S. Brooks died on January 24, 2005. Brooks was a member of Nigeria 12 and served in the Northern Nigeria city of Zaria as a community development coordinator.

Brooks was born on December 18, 1942 in Wilmington, DE. He attended schools in the Wilmington area and later attended Mount Saint Mary's College where he majored in economics.

Richard Asia (16) 65-67

Richard Asia passed away December 23, 2012. A lifelong resident of Seattle, Asia joined the Peace Corps in 1966 serving as a volunteer teacher in Western Nigeria, assisting with various development projects, including the construction of several bridges. He was respected by fellow corpsmen and the Yoruba with whom he worked and was given the Yoruba name "one who brings home honor".

After the Peace Corps, Asia received his BA in history from Simon Frazier University in Vancouver British Columbia. Shortly after completing his education, he became a successful real estate agent in the Greater Seattle Area.

He soon fell in love with the water in and around Puget Sound, becoming a passionate sailor. "Going out on the boat with Dick" became a rite of passage for close friends and family. He was an insightful, active, engaging man with a big heart, who loved laughter, children, music, reading, biking, birding, attending lectures at the Seattle Art Museum and many other activities in the city he loved.

Asia is survived and will be remembered by his wife, the love of his life, Kim Christie; a sister, Susan Asia Hannan; a brother, David Asia; many nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and many close friends.

[Source: *The Seattle Times*]

Lillian Miles Lewis (03) 61-63

Lillian Miles Lewis, wife of U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-GA), passed away on December 31, 2012 at Emory University hospital in Atlanta, GA. Having a life-long interest in Africa, Lewis first served as a teacher in Nigeria in 1960 as part of a student program and later returned as a member of Nigeria 03 teaching in Yaba, Nigeria.

It was in 1967 after taking a job as a librarian at Atlanta University that she met Congressman John Lewis. In 1968 she became his wife and trusted political adviser. "I was attracted to him before I knew him," Lewis said years later. "Every day and every night on the news was something about what was happening in the civil rights movement, so I felt like I

knew him.” When they met, John Lewis was already a civil rights legend and she played a key role in his transition to a career in politics. “She was a feisty lady,” said Temi Silver, an event planner and longtime friend. “He was so sweet and gentle; he needed her to take care of his back. And she was the one to do it.”

Lewis attended Los Angeles High School with the late Johnny Cochran and received an undergraduate degree in English from then-California State College at Los Angeles and a master’s degree in library science at the University of Southern California. She is remembered by her friends as being a voracious reader with a wide-ranging intellect, who fascinated the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by being able to quote his speeches verbatim. While Lewis forged his political career, his wife continued her career as an educator with an international perspective. She was associate director of the Institute for International Affairs and Development at Atlanta University from 1984 to 1989, a job that called on her to help develop a major in international studies, with an emphasis in Africa and the Caribbean. In a 1984 *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* story, she called the assignment “the moment I’ve been waiting for.” From 1989 to 2003, she was director of external affairs in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs at Clark Atlanta University.

Mrs. Lewis is survived by her husband and her son, John-Miles Lewis.

[Source: *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*]

Julienne (Judy) Brownrigg (29) 67-69

Julienne Brownrigg passed away November 25th, 2013 after a lengthy illness. As a member of Nigeria 29, Judy taught middle school at the state school in Ondo. She served with her then husband Peter Brownrigg.

Following their Peace Corps service, Judy and Peter settled in the Baltimore area, and she became a homemaker raising two children. She later taught high school English in the Baltimore area until her retirement.

[Source: Peter Brownrigg (29) 67-69]

Alma Ruth Steward (02) 61-63

Alma Ruth Steward of Santa Rosa, CA passed away in November 2013. Steward was a member of Nigeria 02 and served in Nsukka.

Charles Robert Ellis (14) 65-67

Charles Robert Ellis, artist, writer, and activist died Friday, Sept. 5, 2013 in Wendell, MA. He joined the Peace Corps and went to Nigeria in 1965 as a member of Nigeria 14.

Upon returning home, Ellis immediately began to raise money for family relief. Later on, he helped launch the Restorative Justice Movement in Franklin County, a program designed to involve both the victim and the offender in a process of healing the hurt created by the crime. Bob was the president of the Bear Mountain Preservation Association which was formed to stop the state from re-routing Route two through the pristine forests of Bear Mountain in Wendell. The Full Moon Coffeehouse, the oldest non-profit coffeehouse in the state, was founded to raise funds for this effort. He was Director of the Kestrel Trust in Amherst which put many acres of land into conservation in Amherst. He helped launch the Restorative Justice Movement in Franklin County in 1996, which involves both the victim and the offender in a process of healing the hurt that has been created by the crime.

His art appeared in many publications, including *Massachusetts Wildlife* and *Canadian Wildlife*. His illustrations also appeared in the *Wild Earth Magazine*, a publication grounded in the Deep Ecology Movement. Ellis was often moved to tears by the insensitive nature of acts of destruction or violence against the natural world. He made the conscious decision to live his life simply in the woods of Wendell as an artist amongst his fellow creatures that would often come to his back door for a visit.

Ellis was a veteran of the US Army which he writes about in his first book, *Nuked: A GI Memoir*. There are two other books he wrote still to be published.

Ellis is survived by his brothers William and Joseph and his sisters Harriet, Kitty, Virginia, Theresa and Rita, as well as many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

[Source: *The Recorder*, Greenfield, MA]

Peter Anson Schneider (21) 66-67

Peter Anson Schneider died on October 6th, 2013, in his Pacific Palisades, CA. home. He served as a volunteer from 1966-67 as a biology teacher in Okitipupa, Nigeria.

Schneider was born in was a Brooklyn, NY but moved to California in the mid-1960s and remained. He was a man of many vocations and interests. He studied in Brooklyn, Washington State, London, and the Philippines and his professional accomplishments were many.

He was a commodity broker in Berkeley and Manhattan. Later, in Los Angeles, he was an equine veterinarian and TV writer. He was a respected presence at southern California’s racetracks and several Hollywood studios. As those who knew him well can attest Schneider could not pass up a pickup basketball game, a fruit stand, a vintage microscope auction, or a black long-sleeved shirt. But his true passions were his family and friends. Max’s glowing Beluga whale skeleton and the unexplained visitation of masses of pelicans at Will Rogers State Beach, a miraculous event, also brought pleasure in his last weeks. While Schneider has passed to another state he is neither gone nor forgotten. He lives in the objects, relationships, and atmospheres he participated in creating and continues to inhabit.

He is survived by his son, Max Hooper Schneider, Barbara Hooper, his life-partner of forty years; his sister, Carole Goodman; and Max’s partner, Frida Escobedo Lopez.

[Source: www.legacy.com]

Richard Lee Barr (24) 66-67

Richard Barr passed away on Sept. 1, 2013 in Calgary, Alberta, Canada at the age of 69. As a member of Nigeria 24, Barr was assigned to work in Agbede,

(In Memoriam *continued on page 23*)

By Virginia DeLancey (04) 62-64

President Jonathan Replaces Nigeria's Military Leadership

President Jonathan replaced his Chief of Defense and also the heads of the army, navy, and air force, although he gave no reason for doing so. The move occurred, however, as Nigeria continues to struggle with a 4 ½ year old insurgency by the militant Boko Haram and within days of a bombing in Maiduguri that killed 43 people and injured many more. The previous month Boko Haram carried out an overnight attack in Maiduguri, damaging an army base, a police station, a gas station, and dozens of vehicles. It also attacked an air force base.

Some say that it appears that the president is trying a different approach to the security crisis. He has also created a new anti-terrorist unit within the Nigerian military. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 1/16/14, 1/17/14).

U.S. Lists Boko Haram and Ansaru as Foreign Terrorist Organizations

The U.S. formally designated the Nigerian Islamist militant groups Boko Haram and Ansaru as foreign terrorist organizations, making it a crime to provide them with material support. The White House directed U.S. agencies to block financial transactions with the two groups. "By cutting these terrorist organizations off from U.S. financial institutions and enabling banks to freeze assets held in the United States, these designations demonstrate our strong support for Nigeria's fight against terrorism and its efforts to address security challenges to the north," according to President Obama's top homeland security and counterterrorism advisor. A senior administration official said that it was not immediately clear what assets Boko Haram and Ansaru held and that the U.S. Treasury needed the official designation in place before it could determine their holdings. Washington worked with the Nigerian government in making the designation.

For Nigerians, the U.S. decision means that their country is now the home of two internationally recognized terrorist organi-

zations, and some fear that the U.S. move could do more harm than good, that the designation could damage the reputation of Nigeria and scare away developers. Others think that it will make it more difficult for ordinary Nigerians to travel overseas, as international airport authorities might fear that any Nigerian could be a terrorist. Some security experts warned that the label could give the group more prestige among Islamist militants and potentially draw support. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 11/14/13; *The Washington Post*, 11/13/13).

Boko Haram Attacks Near Border Cause Fear in Cameroon

Border villages in Cameroon's north have been deserted following heavy fighting between the Nigerian army and Boko Haram militants in Banki, Borno state. About 30 Cameroonians and Nigerians are said to have been wounded in the attacks, and five are feared dead. The fighting created panic in Cameroon border villages, as residents said that Nigerian troops fired indiscriminately at fleeing militants. Many of the wounded were sent to hospitals in neighboring villages, and five were evacuated to a specialized hospital in Maroua in northern Cameroon.

Suspected Boko Haram members also met heavy resistance from Cameroon's military as they tried to escape to Cameroon. The Cameroon government has established security control posts along the border to reduce illegal entry. However, authorities admit that it is impossible to completely secure the border. There are ethnic communities in Cameroon's Far North and northeastern Nigeria who have family on either side of the border, speak the same language, and share common culture, making undetected cross-border movement easy. But, the insecurity has also reduced the movement of people and trade across the border and many Cameroon traders have been forced to seek markets in neighboring Chad or other regions of the country. Northern Cameroon traders have typically exported livestock, rice, groundnuts, and soya to Nigeria and imported vehicle spare parts and other industrial products, construction materials,

and cosmetic and pharmaceutical products from northeastern Nigeria.

President Jonathan has urged Cameroon to help in combatting Boko Haram militants who have been driven out of the main cities in northeastern Nigeria. The two countries have agreed to conduct separate but coordinated border patrols, as it is believed that the militants take detours through Cameroon territory to move from one Nigerian state to another. (Source: *IRIN*, 12/24/13, 12/27/13; *VOA, Voice of America*, 1/17/14).

Nigeria Bans Gay Rights as President Signs New Bill into Law

President Jonathan signed the Same-Sex Marriage Prohibition Bill into law. The law criminalizes same-sex relationships and contains penalties of up to 14 years in prison. It bans gay marriage, same-sex "amorous relationships", and membership in gay rights groups. The bill was passed in May, but President Jonathan delayed signing it into law.

Activists say that the law will have disastrous consequences for the gay community and for others, as well. It will prevent some men from getting treatment for HIV; the prevalence rate for gay men in Nigeria is around 17 percent, compared to an overall prevalence rate of four percent. It will also reduce the availability of treatment as organizations that provide services shut down.

Political analysts say, however, that the popular law will be a gain for the president whose party is going through severe internal struggles ahead of the 2015 election. The president is said to have received overwhelming support from Nigerians after signing the law, as it reflects the religious and cultural preferences of the Nigerian people. His spokesman also maintained that the law does not violate the Nigerian constitution, either section 42 which talks of freedom from discrimination or other parts of the constitution, and that it does not violate the criminal code or the penal code. However, the U.S. State Department maintains that the law is "inconsistent with Nigeria's international legal obligations and undermines the democratic reforms and human rights protections

enshrined in its 1999 Constitution". U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that it also dangerously restricts freedom of assembly, association, and expression for Nigerians.

The UK also released a strongly worded statement that matched the request by the Global Fund and UNAIDS for Nigeria to review the constitutionality of the law. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights also expressed concern about the law, while Amnesty International had urged President Jonathan to reject the bill, calling it "discriminatory" and warning of "catastrophic" consequences for Nigeria's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. (Source: *AidsSpan* [Nairobi], 1/20/14; *Chicago Tribune*, 1/14/14; *Daily Trust* [Abuja], 1/14/14; *Devex Newswire* [Washington, DC], 1/28/14; *Human Rights Watch*, 1/14/14; *This Day*, 1/14/14, 1/15/14; *VOA, Voice of America*, 1/14/14, 1/16/14).

Mob Stones Accused Gays

Police used tear gas outside an Islamic court in Bauchi to disperse an angry mob throwing rocks at prisoners accused of being gay. As nine men, including a college professor, were brought for trial, the crowd shouted, "God will punish you."

Homosexuality is illegal in Nigeria, and in Islamic courts it is punishable by death. However, a person convicted under Islamic law has the right to appeal in a secular court. In the Islamic court in Bauchi, only one defendant, a high school principal, had a lawyer and requested bail. Court officials said that the judge did not decide any of the cases that day because the defendants could be in danger if they were set free for lack of evidence. The final decision, according to the official, would be made inside the jailhouse. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 1/22/14).

Nigeria Arrests Gays Under New Law

Human rights defenders say that it has always been illegal and dangerous to be gay in Nigeria, but the new law that criminalizes gay organizations and punishes gay marriage with imprisonment is leading to

a surge of hostility. Eleven men are on trial in Northern Nigeria and Amnesty International says arrests have been made in four other states, with police working off long lists of names. Activists say that because the law criminalizes anyone who provides services for gays or supports gay groups, the list of people who could be arrested under the law is long and varied. They also say that the law could have other negative consequences, such as increasing HIV rates among gay men, and eventually the general population, as it becomes difficult or impossible to access health services, as organizations go underground. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 1/21/14).

Nigerian Minister of Aviation is Under Investigation

Nigeria's Minister of Aviation Princess Stella Oduah is under investigation for her role in the controversial inflated purchase of two BMW bullet-proof cars by the Civil Aviation Authority for N255 million (\$1.56 million). Many Nigerians have called for her to be sacked and prosecuted. However, in an incident bound to generate more controversy, the Federal Capital Territory Commissioner of Police confirmed that on Saturday, November 23, Ms. Oduah escaped an assassination attempt by an unknown gunman, although she was not in her vehicle at the time that it was shot.

When the scandal broke, Oduah's aides said that the armored cars were purchased for the protection of the minister, who they claimed had received death threats in the past, and for foreign dignitaries who represent international aviation organizations. However, Oduah stated that the aides were not authorized to purchase the cars. The scandal prompted President Jonathan to set up an investigative panel which found that in addition to the purchase of the armored cars, Oduah had overspent the 2013 appropriation act. While the 2013 national budget had approved N240 million (\$1.5 million) for the purchase of 27 vehicles, the Minister had raised the amount to N643 million (\$3.9 million) for the purchase of 54 vehicles. In its report, the House indicted the minister and recommended that the

president make a decision, as the offense of the unbudgeted expenditure entails a three-year jail term and a fine.

Ms. Oduah has also been investigated for her qualifications. As a ministerial nominee in 2011, she presented a resume to the Senate stating that she had earned a Bachelor's Degree, as well as a Master's Degree (an MBA) from St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, VA, USA. However, college officials stated that the college had never in its 125 history had a graduate program. It was also not clear whether she had even earned a Bachelor's Degree from St. Paul's College, because the current president of the college could not confirm it as the college had been closed since June 2013 when it lost accreditation. Ms. Oduah also claimed that Pacific Christian University in Glendale, California had awarded her an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration in 1998. This degree also proved to be false. Since then, Ms. Oduah's aides have revised her online resumes and Wikipedia page.

The Lagos State House of Assembly has described the scandal around the Minister of Aviation as an embarrassment to the nation. The spokesman of the House, Hon. Segun Olulade, noted that there were too many scandals and that the president should sack Oduah. He also noted that rather than resigning honorably and apologizing to Nigerians, Oduah had simply erased the fake section of her online profile. The Federal Ministry of Aviation followed up by removing her profile from its website, as well.

The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has also criticized the federal government and the president for not asking Oduah to step down, indicating that the government is not serious about its anti-corruption crusade. (Sources: *Daily Trust*, 11/25/13, 11/27/13, 1/8/14, 1/9/14; *Leadership* [Abuja], 11/26/13, 1/8/14, 1/9/14; *Premium Times*, 11/24/13, 11/25/13, 1/7/14, 1/8/14, 1/9/14; *This Day*, 11/26/13, 1/6/14).

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's Sentence is Upheld

A U.S. federal appeals court upheld the life sentence of Umar Farouk Abdulmutal-

lab, the Nigerian (dubbed the “Underwear Bomber”) who tried to set off an explosive hidden in his underwear while aboard a U.S. airliner with 289 passengers flying from Amsterdam to Detroit on Christmas Day 2009. The incident ended when the explosives failed to detonate, injuring only the bomber before the pilot landed the plane and authorities escorted Abdulmutallab into custody. He was later tried for attempted murder, conspiracy to commit an act of terrorism, and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction. (Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 1/14/14; *This Day*, 1/14/14).

Police Arrest Mastermind of Lagos Airport Robbery

Lagos police arrested the leader and three members of a gang that robbed some Bureaux-de-Change of N500 million (\$3.1 million) around Murtala Mohammed International Airport in February, 2012. The arrest took place in Ikorodu, Lagos, by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS).

During a search of the gang’s hideout, the SARS found one general-purpose machine gun, one AK-47 rifle, two double barrel pistols, 10 GPMG magazines fully loaded, 8 AK-47 magazines, fully loaded, and 32 live cartridges, as well as a Volkswagen Sharan Bus. The leader confessed that he received N45 million (\$280,000) as his share of the robbery. (Source: *Premium Times*, 1/14/14).

ECOWAS Leaders Approve \$50 Million for Lagos-Abidjan Road

The Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) approved the sum of \$50 million for feasibility studies and design of a six-lane Lagos-Abidjan highway project. The road, when completed, will also serve Nigeria, Ghana, Benin, and Togo, and will provide better regional integration of West Africa.

The approval of the funds was made at a meeting with ECOWAS Ministers of Works and Infrastructure chaired by President Jonathan during the on-going 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union in Addis Ababa. An addition-

al \$16 million is expected from the African Development Bank. It is also expected that additional funds for completion of the project will come from development partners and multi-national agencies. (Source: *Leadership* [Abuja], 1/30/14).

Nigeria Makes New Investments in Health

Nigeria has committed \$1 billion for investment in treatment, care, and prevention for people affected by AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, as part of the “Saving One Million Lives” campaign begun by President Jonathan last year. At the launch of the Global Fund’s Fourth Replenishment in Washington D.C. in December 2013, Nigerian Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala announced \$150 million in new investments in HIV prevention and treatment in Nigeria. She also announced a \$30 million contribution to the Global Fund. Four other African countries also made pledges to the Global Fund—Kenya, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and Cote d’Ivoire. The Executive Director of the Global Fund acknowledged that these commitments by African countries are demonstrating that not only high income or emerging economies can contribute to an organization like the Global Fund, but that “We are all in this together.” (Source: *The Global Fund*, 12/6/13).

Chinese Firm to Build ICT Plants in Nigeria

TORO-Atlantic Global Limited FZE, a Chinese firm, has signed a partnership agreement with a local investment company, SLOK Nigeria, to build three ICT equipment manufacturing plants in Nigeria. The plants will manufacture mobile phones, tablets, laptops, and other ICT equipment, as well as home appliances. An organization to be called SLOK Toro-Atlantic Nigeria Ltd. will establish plants in three major cities. (Source: *CAJ News Africa* [Lagos], 1/14/14).

Nigeria Received \$3.6 Million from the Global Environment Facility

Nigeria received \$3.6 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) over the past four years under its Small Grants

Programme (SGP) for 113 environmental projects in 25 states. About 40 of the projects have already been completed. The GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity and climate change, as well as international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. The SGP is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services. (Source: *This Day*, 1/14/14).

Nigerian Universities to Develop Biomedical Engineering Programs

Transporting Western health care technology to the developing world is often impractical and expensive. Northwestern University (NU), in Evanston, Illinois, will instead begin working with Nigerian universities to develop the country’s first biomedical engineering departments, with a particular emphasis on developing products related to HIV/AIDS testing and treatment. NU will begin training programs to help Nigerian universities set up biomedical engineering curriculums, invent medical devices for the country’s health care needs, and manufacture and market those devices.

The directors of the initiative are Robert Murphy, M.D. (Director of the Center for Global Health, Professor of Infectious Diseases at NU’s Feinberg School of Medicine, and a physician at Northwestern Memorial Hospital), Matthew Glucksberg (Director of the Center for Innovation in Global Health Technologies at NU’s McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science), and Kara Palamoun-tain (Executive Director of NU’s Global Health Initiative at the Kellogg School of Management).

The NU team will be working to develop the new curriculum with the University of Ibadan and Lagos State University with whom NU already has faculty and student exchange programs. The project, funded by the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health, builds on ongoing biomedical projects between Northwestern and African universities.

An infant warmer to keep a baby

warm during surgery is an example of the kind of devices that need to be developed. In the U.S., an infant warmer costs up to \$12,000 and uses \$300 worth of disposable products for each surgery. Instead, Northwestern and the University of Ibadan developed a device that costs less than \$50 to build and accomplishes the same thing.

Another project being developed is a tablet-based implementation of a set of World Health Organization protocols to improve diagnoses and child health where implemented. The tablet will be used to train nurses and other health care workers in the use of the protocols.

Nigerian faculty members will visit Northwestern to participate in classes taught by Glucksberg. They will also join NU teams in the field in other African countries where they are doing product development, market research, and commercialization of technologies. (Source: Northwestern University News Center [Evanston], 11/4/13).

Nigeria and the UK to Repatriate Prisoners

Nigeria and the UK have officially signed a prisoner's transfer agreement that will see hundreds of prison inmates of Nigerian origin sent back home, while Nigerian prison inmates of British nationalities will be returned to the UK. The British government is also expected to assist Nigeria with technical and financial support in the management of its decaying prison facilities. The UK Minister of Justice said that the partnership would benefit both countries in the long run, including the provision that the prisoners would serve their sentences in their own countries, an arrangement that he believes will be better for their rehabilitation. He said that the countries have two prior arrangements on prisoner transfer, including one that is being implemented under the commonwealth scheme which provides transfer with consent.

One of the high profile prisoners expected to be returned from the British prisons includes former Delta State Governor James Ibori who is serving a jail term for money laundering. (Source: *CAJ News*

Africa [Lagos], 1/10/14).

Pirates Kidnap Two Americans

Pirates attacked the *Retriever*, a ship owned by U.S. marine transport group Edison Chouest Offshore, and kidnapped the captain and chief engineer, both Americans, on October 23. The men were released three weeks later after the Nigerian military ordered its Navy to rescue them. (Source: *Chicago Tribune*, 10/25/13, 11/13/13; *The Washington Post*, 10/24/13).

"Queens of Africa" Dolls Outsell Barbie in Nigeria

Seven years ago, Taofick Okoya could not find a black doll in Nigeria for his niece and realized a gap in the market with little competition from foreign firms such as Mattel, the maker of Barbie. He set up his own business, outsourcing the manufacture of doll parts to China, but assembling them in Nigeria and dressing them in traditional Nigerian costumes. He now sells between 6,000 and 9,000 of his "Queens of Africa" and "Naija Princesses" a month.

Mattel, the world's largest toy company, has been selling black dolls for many years, but its presence in sub-Saharan Africa is very limited. At a small factory in the Lagos suburb Surulere, Okoya's workers stitch brightly patterned West African fabrics into miniature dresses for the collection. Thus far, the Yoruba, Igbo, and Hausa are represented in the "Queens of Africa" collection, but Okoya plans to represent other African ethnic groups, as well, and he is in talks with South Africa's Game, owned by Massmart, a part of Wal-Mart, to sell to 70 shops across Africa. The dolls sell for between N1, 300 (\$8) and N3, 500 (\$22) for the special edition, while the cheaper "Naija Princesses" sell for between N500 (\$3) and N1,000 (\$6) each. Okoya makes a profit of about one-third. He is also increasingly shipping the dolls to the U.S. and to Europe.

Like Barbies, the dolls are slim, despite the fact that many Africans dislike the Western ideal of "stick-thin models". Okoya said that his early dolls were larger bodied, but that the children did not like them. However, he still hopes to change/

increase their proportions after further building the brand. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, by Reuters, 1/15/14).

Nigerian-American Creates Opera about Harriet Tubman

A new opera written by a second-generation Nigerian tells the story of Harriet Tubman who, a century-and-a-half ago, escaped from slavery and later led others to freedom through a series of safe houses and hiding places that became known as the Underground Railroad.

When Nkeiru Okoye was a little girl, her mother used to read stories to her and her sister. Those stories turned into a fascination that Okoye has now turned into a work of art. "Harriet Tubman: When I Crossed That Line to Freedom" is presented by the American Opera Projects. The group received an award from America's National Endowment for the Arts to present works commemorating the 100th anniversary of Tubman's death.

Okoye spent three years studying about Tubman before creating a "folk opera". Most of the music in the opera is rooted in traditional African-American folk idioms, including gospel, jazz, blues, and also a "field holler". It includes ragtime, work songs, and songs that sound like spirituals throughout the opera.

The opera is being performed in December, February, and March in New York's Fort Greene, the location of an actual Underground Railroad station. (Source: *VOA, Voice of America*, 1/2/14).

Half of a Yellow Sun Premiered at Toronto Film Festival

Half of a Yellow Sun, a film based upon the novel of the same name by Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie, features Chiwetel Ejiofor (who recently starred in the film *Twelve Years as a Slave*) as a revolutionary who falls in love with Olanna, one of two sisters whose stories unfold against the backdrop of the Nigerian-Biafran War. The film, which premiered at the Toronto Film Festival, will open in theaters in early summer. (Source: *Deadline Hollywood* [www.deadline.com], 1/13/14).

Great Year for Nigeria Football

Nigerian football teams won continen-

tal and world titles at the youth and senior levels this year. In February, Nigeria's national team, the Super Eagles, won its third Africa Cup of Nations trophy with a 1-0 victory over Burkina Faso in Johannesburg. Nigeria's U-17 team also won their fourth FIFA World Cup championship with a 3-0 win over Mexico in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates.

In 2014, the Super Eagles will enter the FIFA World Cup competition in Brazil where they are grouped with Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and two-time champion Argentina for the first round of play. This will be Nigeria's fifth World Cup appearance. The team is led by Stephen Keshi who was

a defender on the first team to play in the competition in the U.S. in 1994. (Source: VOA, *Voice of America*, Blogs, 12/1913).

Nigeria Dominated Confederation of African Football Awards Night

The Confederation of African Football (the governing body for football in Africa) held its annual awards night in Lagos, where Nigeria took five of the ten prizes. Nigeria's Stephen Keshi won the Coach of the Year award. Kelechi Iheanacho was named the Most Promising Talent of the Year, while the Super Eagles were judged the National Team of the Year. The Golden Eaglets were named the National Youth

Team of the Year, and the Nigeria Footballers Support Club was selected for the Fair Play Award. However, Cote d'Ivoire's Yaya Toure was again crowned the African Footballer of the Year, as in 2011 and 2012. And, Nigeria's Sunday Mba lost the Best African-based Player award to Egypt's Mohammed Aboutrika. Other awards included the CAF Legends award which went to the late Senegal coach Bruno Metsu, the Referee of the Year award won by Haimoudi Djamel, and the Club of the Year award won by Egypt's Al-Ahly. (Source: *Daily Trust* [Lagos], 1/10/14).

(In Memoriam *continued from page 18*)

Nigeria as a community developer. In the aftermath of the Biafran war, he was evacuated to Lagos and subsequently to Ghana where he completed his volunteer service as an auditor for a cocoa marketing cooperative

Barr worked in the transportation industry, mostly in Saskatchewan and Alberta, Canada and spent the last 15-20 years working for the Southern Alberta Institute for Technology (SAIT), beginning as an instructor and serving the last 10 years as the curriculum coordinator for the transportation department.

Barr was a lifelong supporter of international travel and cultural exchange ever

since he spent a summer as an exchange student to the Netherlands under the American Field Service (AFS) Program. During the mid-1980's he became active in organizing an AFS Program in Alberta where he and his wife, Geri, hosted several students. From 1985-87 he served as President of the Alberta Chapter of Intercultural Canada and as a counseling coordinator for AFS students in Alberta. He also served two terms as National Vice President of Intercultural Canada.

Barr was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Cleo (Folts) Barr and his wife, Geri. Richard is survived by a brother, M. James (Carol) Barr of York; sisters-in-law, Betty (Tom) Girling

of Lacombe, Alberta, Diana Ludwig of Montreal, Quebec, Elaine Leavitt of Calgary, Alberta; and brother-in-law, Arne (Marge) Ludwig of Strathmore, Alberta. Nieces, Sarah (Dan Ruth) of Lincoln, Amy Barr of Santa Fe, N.M., Rhonda (Greg) Wookey and daughter, Leah of Calgary, Alberta, Susan (Andy) Fielder and children, Taylor, Alexandria, Rheana and Owen of Calgary, Alberta and Julie Ludwig of Calgary, Alberta. Nephews: David Barr of Lincoln, Michael (Tammy) Ludwig and children, Tyson, Cody and Avery Ludwig of Calgary, Alberta and Christopher Ludwig of Calgary, Alberta.

[Source: Rose Koch]

(Legacy *continued from page 5*)

be digitized using a free computer program which can be found on line under the name of Audacity. Apparently, the quality is not great but it does the job.

Robert Skapura has used a slide copying service called Scancafe (<http://www.scancafe.com/>) where slides work out at about 25 cents a copy but includes some simple photo shopping for each slide. Robert is seeing if he can get a deal for a bulk quantity from FON. A cheaper alternative is a slide copier that can be found on line or at Staples for about \$100. The results

are not great but a little photo shopping works wonders and it is much quicker than scanning.

Some of you have already put your memories together, either publically or privately or passed your letters on to archives, and I am sure that those about to or are thinking about how to get started, could use any advice or ideas that you may have. If this scheme to bring our letters and memories out into the open catches on, perhaps we could establish a set of useful references and information on our Web site.

I talked to Paul Logie, Archives Assistant (Library, Special Collections and

Museums) The Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen about our letters from Nigeria and he wrote back saying, "the letters of the members of FON sound really interesting. I would recommend passing them to the Peace Corps archives – this sounds like the most appropriate place. They will offer another viewpoint of life in Nigeria at that time and as such should be retained. Obviously, any additional information would be useful for the archive in building up a picture of life in Nigeria and providing some context to the letters but it would be perfectly fine to deposit them as they are."

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