

FON to Gather in DC for Reunion

Friends of Nigeria (FON) members from all over will be gathering in the nation's capital September 22nd -25th for a reunion that will coincide with the 50th anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps. Already some one hundred former Nigeria volunteers have registered for what is shaping up to be an inspirational and fun-filled series of meetings, lectures and social gatherings.

The Sheraton Crystal City in Arlington, VA, will serve as host and headquarters for the group and is conveniently located to provide access to the full range



of reunion activities and Peace Corps 50th anniversary activities being conducted in the Washington area. FON has arranged a full schedule of events including a tour of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, a FON 50th Anniversary Dinner at the Mott House, and a FON Biennial Buffet Breakfast Meeting at the Marriott Crystal City located just a block away from the headquarters hotel. A full schedule of events is located on page 5 of the newsletter and updates to the schedule will be listed on the FON website and the Google-Group.

Among the agenda highlights will be a presentation at

the breakfast meeting by Stanley Meisler, author of *When the World Calls: The Inside Story of the Peace Corps and Its First Fifty Years*, and an early member of the Peace Corps Office of Evaluation and Research. Noted Nigerian Attorney, and current fellow at both the Human Rights Program and the Islamic Legal Studies Program at Harvard, Hauwa Ibrahim, will be speaking at the breakfast as well. Ibrahim is noted for her ground-breaking work in achieving human rights for Nigeria's women and for her defense of Amina Lawal, who had been sentenced to death for alleged adultery under sharia law. She was also presented the 2005 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament—an award that honors individuals or organizations for their efforts on behalf of human rights and freedoms.

FON President, Mike Goodkind, describes this year's reunion theme as being "a connection to the broader overseas service as represented by the Peace Corps celebrating an anniversary and to each other as many of us reflect on careers and look for ways to enrich our lives."

For those of us who will forever cherish our time in the Peace Corps and Nigeria, few opportunities for connection to broader overseas service or for the enrichment of our lives will be better than this one. So, for those not yet registered, it's not too late! You can find a registration form on page 4 of the newsletter. All you need to do is fill out the form, attach your check and mail it to Barbara Bush whose address is on the form.



President's Column

By Mike Goodkind (16) 65-67

Visit with old friends, listen to provocative discussions, enjoy good food and drinks in pleasant settings, and help FON set some directions for the future. All of the above and more appear on the agenda for our Biennial Meeting during the long weekend of Sept. 22-25, and I hope you are among the more than 100 members and friends who have already signed up for our FON events. If you haven't done so, please help us by registering in advance so that your fellow members don't have to sit around taking registration form when they could be participating in activities and that so we can make the best plans possible for your activities. Registering with the NPCA or making a hotel reservation won't provide access to your Nigeria activities. There's a coupon and details about how to register for our event in this newsletter, and updates will be posted as soon as available on our website (<http://www.friendsofnigeria.org/Announcements.htm>). The latest information will also be posted on the GoogleGroup which about 120 of our most active members use as a simple, unobtrusive tool to stay informed about FON and your friends (email me at mgoodkind@earthlink.net for an invitation to join).

While nostalgia is always a part of our activities – even for those who served in Nigeria LESS than 45 years ago — we promise we won't go around the meeting or the banquet room asking everyone for a story about their days in Nigeria (or for some of us, Biafra, too). If you want to do that on your own, I

heartily support you. Our committee, lead by **Steve Clapp, Barbara Bush and Ken Sale** have worked tirelessly to bring you entertainment, including a West African buffet where the music will consist of Nigerian songs and '60s Western pop that are almost too embarrassing to acknowledge remembering. But there's lots more. Our invited guests will help us keep connected with Nigeria and U.S. policy today. Expected to join us at our Friday banquet is Hauwa Ibrahim, a human rights lawyer who will return on Saturday to speak at our General Meeting. Also scheduled to attend our dinner is Atiku Abubakar, former vice president of Nigeria and founder of the American University of Nigeria, who will speak at an NPCA-sponsored panel on Saturday. Author and former Peace Corps staffer Stanley Meisler is our other confirmed speaker.

But, wait, there's more. One key component of FON's future is of course our charitable activities, and in this newsletter you'll read about FON's latest initiative. Over the past year we have invited the VSO volunteers whom we help support to request funding for small projects in their work sphere which otherwise wouldn't get done. Please take a moment to read in this newsletter about the first of those grants. I know I look forward to hearing from VSO volunteer Glynis Manger in the months to come about the rebuilding of the Cheta Community Primary School in Nasawara State.

See you in DC. Meanwhile, feel free to contact me at mgoodkind@earthlink.net.



FRIENDS OF NIGERIA NEWSLETTER

Quarterly publication of
Friends of Nigeria, Inc.
affiliate of the
National Peace Corps Association

Editor

Warren Keller
warrendkk@yahoo.com

Assistant Editor

Jim Clark
jclark7341@triad.rr.com

Nigeria News Editor

Virginia DeLancey
v-delancey@northwestern.edu

Book Editor

David Strain
destrain@pacbell.net

Layout Editor

Owen Hartford
hartfordo@earthlink.net

Proofreaders

Earl (Buzz) Welker
Steve Manning
Alice O'Grady
Mary Ann Palmieri

Printer

Leesburg Printing Company
Leesburg, Florida

FON BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Mike Goodkind
mgoodkind@earthlink.net

Vice President

Mike Malaghan
mgm@malaghan.net

Treasurer

Peter J. Hansen
pjhansen@ia.net

Secretary

Bob Wynne
sswynne@comcast.net
Lucinda Boyd
cindarboyd@mindspring.com
Virginia DeLancey
v-delancey@northwestern.edu

Greg Jones
gregory.j@comcast.net
Fr. Edward Inyanwachi
esinyanwachi@dons.usfca.edu
Warren Keller
warrendkk@yahoo.com
Anne Sherwood
anneshwood@comcast.net
Gregory Zell
gregzell@mindspring.com

Membership Chair

Barbara Tansey Bush
btbush@earthlink.net

WEBSITE

friendsofnigeria.org

Website Manager

Greg Jones

Website Newsletter Manager

CLeigh Purvis Gerber

Friends of Nigeria to Support School Reconstruction Project

By Jim Clark (12) 64-66

The unrestricted charitable contributions of Friends of Nigeria (FON) members will enable desperately needed repairs to be made to the



ninety-six-student Cheta Community Primary School (shown in the photos below) in the Gasiki/Cheta Community in Nasawara State.

In August, the FON Board of Directors approved a grant of \$2,812 to the Ummah Support Initiative (USI) at the request of VSO volunteer Glynis Manger to be used for school recon-

struction. The school repair initiative is the first in a new FON program created by the board to fund relatively small but concrete requests from VSO volunteers in Nigeria. Earlier this year, the board relayed messages to VSO volunteers welcoming requests for grants they felt would make a significant contribution to a program in their own work sphere

According to Manger, the existing school has major structural flaws with some walls completely missing, large cracks in others, no windows, no doors, a dirt floor and a faulty roof. In her grant request, Manger stated that levels 5 and 6 as well as levels 2 and 3 are in combined classrooms due to deteriorating building issues. With the rainy season coming soon, the existing problems will be exacerbated and the fear is that other walls may collapse.

The school was constructed in 1988 by the local PTA organization and focuses on educating children in primary levels 1-6. English, math, science, Islamic and Christian Religious studies, agriculture and health studies are currently being taught to the 57 male and 39 females now attending. According to Manger, the USI supports the school and the community because of its success in sending its graduates on to secondary schools and for taking initiatives relating to health, education and economic empowerment.



FON Annual Meeting September 22-25, 2011 Washington, DC

Please sign up early to help us plan the best event possible.

Name _____ # of persons _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

FON member: Yes, No, but I want information on joining, No, thanks.

FON affiliation: RPCV? Yes, group number _____ Other _____

I am coming to the September FON events. Enclosed is a check for \$120 per person.*

I am interested in a training group reunion during the weekend.

I would like to share a hotel room.

Make checks payable to Friends of Nigeria Anniversary Celebration and mail check and the completed form to:

Barbara Bush
30 Monument Square #405
Charlestown, MA 02129-3448

For further information, contact Barbara at the above address or btbush@earthlink.net or call 617-241-8643.

MEETING DETAILS WILL BE UPDATED ON THE FON WEBSITE:
www.friendsofnigeria.org or join a discussion at the FONmembers GoogleGroup site
<http://groups.google.com/group/FONmembers>

*A portion of any unspent funds may be used to fund FON's charitable activities in Nigeria.

Keep The Lorry Rolling!

As of January 25, 2011:

VSO Project (since 2004):

Total raised: \$40,159
Number of donations: 748
Number of donors: 357

Fantsuam Project (since 2008):

Total raised: \$14,511
Number of donations: 238
Number of donors: 176

VSO Blogs

Emily Bullock (UK) 2010-

Cicely Brown (UK) 2008-10

Glenn Dodge (Canada) 2008-9

Wil van Koningsbrugge (the Netherlands) 2006-7

<http://www.emily-in-nigeria.blogspot.com/>

<http://cicelyinnigeria.blogspot.com/>

<http://acanuckamuck.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.wilvankoningsbrugge.whereareyou.net/>

FON 50th Anniversary Activities

Sept. 22-24, 2011

✓ Events free with required FON registration. For registration form, go to: <http://www.friendsofnigeria.org/Announcements.htm> or contact: Barbara Bush, btbush@earthlink.net

Thursday, Sept. 22

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. — **Gather with your FON friends** at the FON Hospitality Suite or bar at our headquarters hotel, the Sheraton Crystal City, 1800 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA. You're steps away from both the Blue and Yellow Metro lines, one stop from Reagan International Airport. Free hotel shuttle available from Reagan, too. Break into groups of old and new friends to enjoy one of the DC areas great restaurants, including several Nigerian restaurants we will be talking about.

Friday, Sept. 23

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — **FON Board Meeting** (board members and invited presenters) Hospitality Suite and no-host lunch.

✓ **3 p.m. to 4 p.m.** — **Smithsonian National Museum of African Art**. Private tour for FON members. The museum is a short walk from both the Blue and Orange Metro lines in a complex of other museums and attractions on the National Mall.

✓ **6 to 9 p.m.** — **FON 50th Anniversary Dinner**. Mott House, 122 Maryland Ave. NE. An African themed dinner including open wine and beer bar. The historic Mott House is across the street from the Supreme Court and conveniently located to the Union Station Red Line station. Weather permitting we'll enjoy some Indian summer weather in the patio and music of both West Africa and 1960s pop.

Saturday, Sept. 24

✓ **8 to noon** — **FON Biennial Buffet Breakfast Meeting**, Marriott Crystal City, 1999 Jefferson Davis Highway, just a block from our headquarters hotel and the Crystal City Blue and Yellow Metro lines.

Speakers:

- STANLEY MEISLER, award winning journalist and author of *When the World Calls: The Inside History of the Peace Corps And Its First 50 Years*. In the early days, Meisler was deputy director of the PC Office of Evaluation and Research.

- HAUWA IBRAHIM, the young northern Nigeria attorney who gained worldwide attention and awards for her defense of Amina Lawal, who had been sentenced to death for alleged adultery under sharia law. The landmark case is as compelling as Ibrahim's own story, starting with her insistence on working to attend elementary school to her rebellion against an arranged marriage that would have derailed her dreams of a law career. While you enjoy a buffet, you can share ideas as we highlight stories about how your FON support has made a difference to our VSO, Fantsuam, Solar Suitcase and Ashoka partners. We'll finish in time to attend the NPCA program at the National Theater.



5 p.m. to 6 p.m. — **Gather again with your FON friends** at the FON Hospitality Suite or bar at our headquarters hotel, the Sheraton Crystal City before heading out in small groups for a Nigerian (or other) restaurant and/or to one of the PC or NPCA events. Complimentary snacks and drinks — and a chance to wind down a great weekend of fun, nostalgia, reflection, learning and opportunity.

Sunday, Sept. 25

✓ **Noon to 1:30 p.m.** — **Walk of Peace Corps Flags**. FON members will be joining representatives of the 139 Peace Corps countries in a walk from Arlington National Cemetery across the Memorial Bridge to the Lincoln Memorial. The walk follows a 50th Anniversary Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery (take the Blue/Yellow Metro the Arlington National Cemetery Stop) scheduled at 10 a.m. (Details on NPCA website). Rendezvous information and selection of bearer of Nigerian flag will be announced at our DC meeting.

(Registration for our FON events is separate from PC 50th anniversary events that most of us will be attending)

Eleven Candidates Vie for Eleven Slots in Board Elections

The current FON board of directors has approved a slate of 11 candidates for two-year terms. According to FON bylaws, if no additional candidates step forward before Sept. 12, the following candidates, all current officers, will be presented for approval at the Biennial General Meeting scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 24, in Alexandria, VA. (See related article on page 1.)

“We will definitely be looking for fresh leadership in the coming months,” said outgoing FON President Mike Goodkind. “FON is expanding into new philanthropic and advocacy areas and we definitely have a need for interested leaders and volunteers with diverse skills. I hope those who are interested will contact an officer or project leader to make their availability known.”

Lucinda Boyd (05) 62-64

Lucinda is an Illinois native and a graduate of Northwestern University. She was a teacher at the Government Girls Secondary School in Kano. After the Peace Corps, she entered the field of social work, and 1971, went back to graduate school at Tulane for an MSW. She retired from Illinois’ Department of Mental Health in 1968 and currently resides in Southern Pines, NC.

Barbara Bush (11)64-66

Barbara served in Nigeria XI as a teacher in Sapele teaching English, French, math and science. Upon



returning home, she settled in Boston, MA, and began a career working on mainframe computers for several Boston businesses as a programmer, systems analyst,

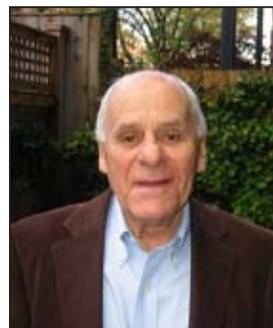
systems programmer and data base administrator prior to her retirement in 2002. She has volunteered for several community groups assisting an eighth grade math teacher, tutoring students, teaching English as a second language, and mentoring an extended family of Somali-Bantu refugees. Barbara ran for state Senate in 2010 and currently works in several political organizations

Virginia DeLancey (04) 62-64

Virginia taught in King’s College of Commerce, Buguma, in the Niger Delta, Rivers State. Since then, she has lived on the continent for more than twelve years, teaching or carrying out research in Nigeria, Cameroon, Somalia, and Egypt. She has taught at the University of Yaoundé, Somali National University, and American University in Cairo and has been a staff member of the African studies program at both Indiana University and Northwestern University. She has served on the FON Board for many years participating in general board work, and she provides a summary of Nigeria news for each of the quarterly newsletters.

Murray Frank (Staff) 61-64

Murray served as a staff member and Western Region representative in



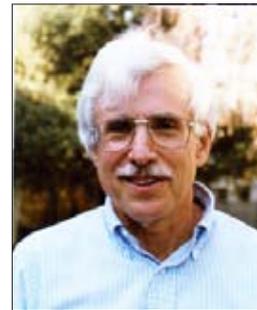
Ibadan for three years beginning in 1961. He worked for Peace Corps/Washington for a year and later directed training

programs for PC and VISTA at the Columbia School of Social Work. Murray is retired from a public policy research and teaching institute at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and currently serves on several boards including the alumni board of the Heller School,

Brandeis University.

Mike Goodkind (16) 65-67

Mike was a rural development volunteer assigned to the then-new Min-



istry of Rural Development at Mgbo near Abakaliki in the East/Biafra. He later became one of only a handful of folks to have served

in both the Peace Corps and the military in Vietnam. He spent most of the ‘70s at Associated Press, mostly as an editor, before becoming an information officer for Stanford Medical Center, leaving in 2001 to become a media consultant, mostly for medical facilities. He joined the FON Board in 2001 and became your president a few years later.

Peter Hansen (27) 66-68

Peter was a co-founder of Friends of Nigeria in 1996 and has since served on the board and as treasurer and database manager. He and his wife Katy



were members of Nigeria 27 and lived in Ibadan where he taught chemistry at the University of Ife and Katy taught math/chemistry at the Ibadan Grammar

School. Peter is a retired chemistry professor and remains active in community affairs.

Fr. Edward Inyanwachi (Friend)

Fr. Edward Inyanwachi was born in Afikpo, Ebonyi state of Nigeria. He became an ordained Catholic priest in



1994 for the diocese of Abakaliki and has since served as parochial vicar, university chaplain, high school

teacher and pastor. He came to the United States to pursue further education and received an MA in Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio in 2002. In 2007 he received an Ed.D in Catholic Educational Leadership from the University of San Francisco and is currently serving as associate pastor at St. Catherine of Siena of Siena Church, Burlingame, CA. Fr. Inyanwachi has served on the FON board since 2007.

Greg Jones (22) 66-68

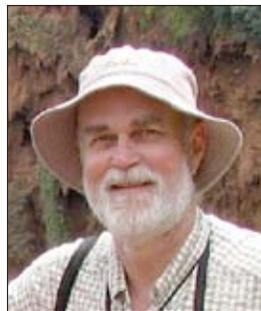
Greg taught English and math in a Craft School in Maiduguri from 1966-68. Upon returning home, he worked in the computer industry for 10 years and later worked in Iran for 2



years as a computer consultant. He assisted with the FON website many years ago, and with his son helped set up the first rendition of the website. He and his wife participated in the return trip to Nigeria and, while there, took a side trip to visit Kafanchan and evaluate The Fantsuam Foundation as a potential recipient of FON support for microlending.

Warren Keller (23) 66-67

Warren has been an FON board member and newsletter editor since fall 2006.



He taught in Uli, Nigeria, was evacuated from Biafra, and then served another year teaching in Uganda. Following Peace

Corps service, he spent the next 32 years working for IBM as a systems engineer and data base instructor until retiring 10 years ago. He and his wife Jody (also Peace Corps Nigeria/Uganda) have three children and three grandchildren.

Andy Philpot (VSO) 65-67

Andy joined VSO immediately after completing college and taught in the Mid-West from 1965 to 1967.



After Nigeria, he immigrated to Canada, met his wife, Anne, who worked for CUSO and they then spent three years teaching in rural Zambia. Back in Canada in 1973,

he taught in a private school until he retired in 1999. Andy has been on the board since 2001 and served as newsletter editor until 2006.

Greg Zell (Nigeria 6) 62-64

Greg served as a science teacher at the Ansar ud Deen Muslim Girls High School, Lagos from 1962 through 1964. He passed the bar in 1968, and is currently employed by a Fortune 300



company as an in-house counsel. He was the founder and three term President of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of South

Florida and been a Board member since founding in 1986. He served five years as President of Friends of Nigeria and has remained on the board for another nine years.

Letters to the Editor



Dear FON editor,

Several of the Nigeria XX Group, and a very helpful certifying officer at the U.S. Peace Corps Headquarters, have found out more about the life of our dear friend, Warren Michael Green. According to Warren's "Description of Service Letter" from 1967, he was stationed in Umuahia in what was then the Eastern Region. Warren taught

science methods at the Women Teacher's College and was involved in the instruction of over one hundred students whose classes related to the preparation of those teachers. He was one of fourteen faculty members there.

Later in life he taught with Nigeria XX Peace Corps Volunteers, Doug and Linda Holt, in the Brawley School District in California. He was a valued elementary school teacher. Warren was also a landscape

designer, and enjoyed having a side business caring for the gardens in La Jolla, California. Others, including this writer, remember him as a man with great enthusiasm, motivation, and love of all things beautiful. I cannot picture him without his huge, colorful umbrella as he walked through the city of Benin. He was truly one in a million.

Sandra Demerly, RPCV Nigeria XX

Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day

by Daryl Collins, Jonathan Morduch, Stuart Rutherford and Orlanda Ruthven,

**Princeton University Press, 2009
283 pages, \$19.95 paper**

Reviewed by David Strain (07) 63-64

Forty percent of the world's people live on \$2 a day or less, many on just a dollar a day. The situation in Africa is worse - two thirds survive on under \$2 a day. This \$2 must cover food, shelter, schooling, transportation, medicine . . . everything, and it has always seemed impossibly small to me. I've wondered whether the low figures are the sleight of hand of aid agencies seeking donations, or misstate reality because of the effect of currency exchange rates, or are misleading because statements of cash receipts where food is grown in subsistence farming. None of these concerns appears to be true, although some of these issues, exchange rates in particular, are dealt with at length in this interesting book. People are in fact making do with paltry sums, and are doing so, according to the

authors, who for a number of years followed 250 poor families in Bangladesh, India and South Africa. These people had a complicated, even sophisticated, financial life, usually limited to transactions in the tens, not hundreds or thousands, of dollars. This financial ledger, financial intermediation the authors call it, and how to make it work better, are the subjects of *Portfolios of the Poor*.

The authors reject the usual way of surveying the financial lives of the poor, which is through a series of balance sheet snapshots, that is, lists of what a poor family owns from time to time. Cash flow, not assets, captures the essence of the poor's experience. The ugly secret of the \$2 per day figure given above is that it is an average.

. . . on many days, work at this level almost by definition being sporadic and uncertain, there is no money coming in at all. On the no-money days, how do the poor put food on the table? And when emergencies arise, for example if a family member is injured and needs expensive medical attention, how is this paid for? And how at this income level can poor people put aside money for large expenditures: for furniture, school fees, weddings, and funerals (the last in South Africa with a customary cost (\$1500) almost twice the annual income of many workers).

The solution is a combination of financial strategies that the authors label as "informal," "semiformal" and "formal." Contrary to expectations, the poor do not spend each dollar as it comes in, but are engaged, actively and often, in borrowing, lending, and saving.

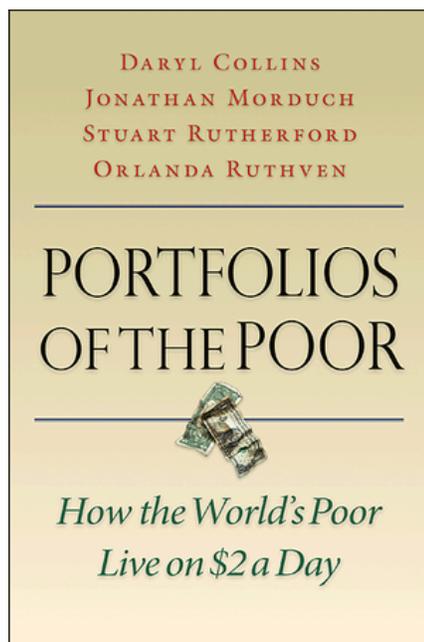
At the top of the informal list is borrowing from friends and relatives, usually without interest, but with a downside of shame and embarrassment and an often unwanted obligation to reciprocate. Wage advances, loans from shopkeepers and landlords all figure in the mix. As do loans from moneylenders whose high interest rates (as much as 30% per month) require prompt repayment but whose terms are more flexible than lower rate "formal" bank loans. Formal loans from

banks are generally not available in small amounts, or contain inflexible payment schedules, or require collateral. Flexibility in repayment and convenience are often more important than the interest rate. When informal loans are not available, sometimes cash may be raised by sale of assets, land or cattle as examples, if one has them.

When trying to accumulate larger sums there are sometimes community solutions. An example is an arrangement where small amounts are collected weekly by a local person who after a year returns the amounts collected, less one week's amount as payment for the service. This arrangement risks the insolvency or dishonesty of the holder but is convenient, particularly because most formal banks are not located near to where the poor live. Sometimes amounts are just given to a friend or relative for safekeeping – out of sight, out of mind (or out of one's spouse's mind). In South Africa with its expensive funeral obligations, there are burial associations, where members make small weekly contributions (or promise to provide food or other funeral needs) that are available if a death occurs in the family of an association member.

These strategies show an understanding that to accumulate, when there are so many competing pressing needs, you must save in small regular bits, which must then be put out of your hands. Loan repayments must similarly be in small amounts paid daily or weekly rather than, for example, in a larger monthly amount.

What surprised the authors was the frequency of these borrowing, lending, and saving transactions. In many cases the amounts borrowed, loaned and paid, when added together over the year of the survey, exceeded the family's total income. In other words there was a lot of cash flowing. Another surprising feature was that poor families, far from living hand to mouth, were often engaged in borrowing, lending, and saving all at the same time, borrowing, for example, to provide cash for daily living while lending or saving to accumulate larger sums



**William F. Schroeder (13)
64-66**



William F. (Bill) Schroeder died on June 12, 2011 in Macandrew Bay, Dunedin, New Zealand. Bill had made his home in New Zealand since since 1967. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Nigeria, Bill taught math at Ngor-Okpala High School in Ngor-Okpala near Owerri. Bill was born in Tyler, Minnesota on January 11, 1938. He completed his B.Sc and Dip.Tchg at St Cloud State College, Minnesota in 1960 and M.Sc (Mathematics) at University of Notre Dame, Indiana, in 1964. In 1967 he went to Greymouth on the West Coast of New Zealand and taught math and science at the high school there. He later studied at St John's Theological College in Auckland where he gained L. Th in 1976 and S.Th (Ecclesiology) in 1981. From 1976 until his official retirement in 2011 he was vicar in five different parishes, all in the South Island. His interests included

stained glass work, trams and tram restoration (many of the trams currently running in Christchurch City were wired totally or in part by Bill), amateur radio, computer technology, home brewing and the psychotherapy of Carl Jung. One of Bill's greatest pleasures, however was his bike - a 1987 BMW R80

RT. Bill is survived by his wife, Val-Mai; daughter, Annelise, her husband David; and one son, Ben.
[Sources: Val-Mai Schroeder, Clare Yates]

William D. Craven (05) 62-64

William D. Craven died May 10, 2005 from heart failure at the age of 73. William served in the Peace Corps as a volunteer teacher teaching math and physics at the Merchants of Light Secondary School in Oba (via Onitsha) from 1962-64. He was born in New York City on March 27, 1932, and lived in several places around the country before moving to Washington, DC, at the age of 33. William received two degrees in Electrical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University: a bachelors in 1954 and a masters in 1957. He served in the US Navy from 1954 through 1957, achieving the rank of Lieutenant, junior grade, after which he entered graduate school. He served as a teaching assistant from 1957 through 1962. In 1965, William joined the faculty at Howard University where he served as assistant professor emeritus of systems and Computer Sciences in the College of Engineering. In

his forty-year career at Howard, William served with distinction teaching and mentoring more than three thousand students.

Nancy Ruth (Chase) Boyd (04)

Nancy Ruth (Chase) Boyd passed away July 24, 2011, at the Hospice Hyder House in Dover, NH. Nancy was among the earliest Peace Corps volunteers in Nigeria serving as a member of Nigeria IV from 1962-1964. She was born in Milton, MA, graduated from Nowell (MA) High School and later from Boston University receiving a degree in liberal arts. Prior to joining the Peace Corps, she taught in the Foreign Languages in Elementary Schools program with the Washington, DC school system. She later owned and operated Drakes Hill Antiques in Northwood, NH, for twenty-five years and was a member of the NH Antique Dealers Association. She served on the Museum Properties Committee for the Moffatt-Ladd House Museum in Portsmouth, NH, and was a past proprietor of the Portsmouth Athenaeum. She travelled extensively with her late husband, Lt. Col. James A. Boyd, Jr., especially enjoying medieval and historic sites in England and Scotland. Nancy Ruth (Chase) Boyd is survived by her two children: Jamie M. Boyd of Burlington, MA, and Claire Grossin of Paris, France.

[Source: Jamie M. Boyd]

Book Review *continued from p.8)*

needed later.

This leads the authors to emphasize the opportunity for microcredit banks (like Muhammad Yunus's famous Grameen Bank), whose branches usually are locally situated and whose employees meet regularly with borrowers, to expand their services. Historically these banks, which in the authors' classification are semiformal, have limited themselves: loans only for business development; loans only to women; joint liabil-

ity among a group of borrowers upon default by any in the group; lending but no savings accounts provided. The poor whom the authors followed usually have both savings and debt, and their needs for borrowing extend beyond the early microlenders' purpose of financing business development. As it happens in recent years Grameen and other microlender banks have relaxed their insistence on business use of loans, and have encouraged savings accounts at the banks. To date the relaxation seems both to have revived Grameen whose financial situation had been severely strained, and

improved the lot of the poor. Informal devices are still being used but less frequently than before, and the poor have more privacy and better security with the banks than with the informal devices.

The authors have provided a detailed appendix, which lets you explore how the various financial devices play out among a number of the families surveyed. In the words of Nicholas Kristof of the "New York Times," *Portfolios of the Poor* is "a fascinating discussion of the finances of the world's poor." I think you will agree.

"Ask Not..."

By Clay Hollister (07) 63-65

What was it like for a 22 year old, new college graduate, product of suburban Connecticut to teach in a village school in the bush of West Africa? I have never really found the words to capture that first day, in the fall of 1963, when I entered the classroom at Ondo Boys High School in the former British Colony of Nigeria. I knew, however, that I was not in Greenwich anymore!

I was a senior at Duke, with a degree in English, lots of interests but no par-



Clay Hollister at Ondo Boys High School, 1963

ticular skills. Kennedy's inspiring words were in the air: "Ask not what your country can do for you- ask what you can do for your country". This new program, The Peace Corps, was a chance for a real adventure and a chance to make a positive contribution...that was enough for me and thousands like me!

I was accepted and assigned to be a teacher in Nigeria. I had never taught a thing and I did not even know where Nigeria was located! Not to worry! Ten weeks of intensive training in history, culture, politics, world events, language, health, climate and teaching at Columbia University and Sargent Shriver pronounced us "Good to go!"

We arrived in country in early October and after two weeks of "orientation"

we were dropped into our assignments and I was standing, chalk in hand, before a Fifth Form class of 20 boys who were ready to learn English grammar. The challenges of the first few weeks are hard to imagine. Everything was startlingly strange: the stifling heat, the bugs, the smells, the land, and the sounds. This was truly another world. All of those external, however, were manageable. The real question on my mind was how I was going to do with my new students.

By the end of my first week, I knew it was going to be good. More than anything else, those kids wanted to learn. A secondary school certificate was the key to a life other than a bush farmer and they would work very hard to get it. They were highly motivated and consumed information. They wanted all that I could provide and were cheerfully tolerant of my frequent stumbles.

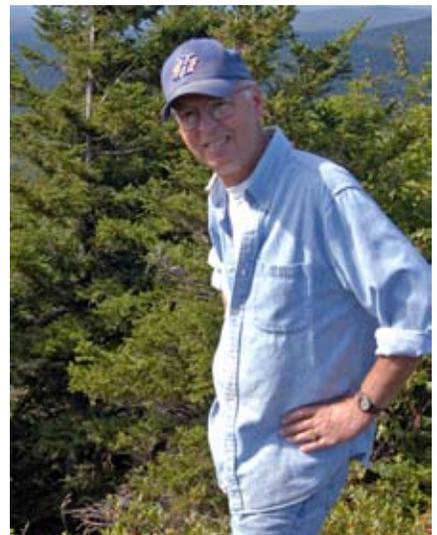
Within a month, I felt welcome and useful. The Nigerians are a warm and open people and they welcomed me into their world. In November, I was in my small house on the campus correcting papers when I looked up and saw out the window a line of students walking down my path. I had no idea why except that I had probably done, or not done, something. The senior student knocked on my door and said, "Master, we are so sorry about your loss". I clearly did not understand and then he told me our President had been killed. Every student, the entire faculty and the village headman came to my house to offer condolences. The power of that moment, on many, many levels, was profound.

My students did learn about sentence structure, the plays of Shakespeare and they got their High School certificates-

their passports out of the bush. I learned much more. I learned that I could do what seemed impossible, take what had seemed overwhelming, I gained perspective, flexibility and self confidence that certainly were well beyond what I brought to the experience. The mental, emotional and physical challenges of my Peace Corps experience made my time in Vietnam easier to handle. It has made the challenges of life easier to handle.

On a broader perspective, I learned just how lucky we are to be Americans. World travel, generally, will provide this sense of uniqueness, but travel through the less developed parts of our world and you see a difference that literally takes your breath away. It is one thing to look at pictures and quite another to live in it. And finally, after that time at Kennedy's death, I started to pay attention to what others thought of us. Sure, they joked about my horses and six-guns, but they looked to America as the leader of the world. They wanted to come to America; it was the land of opportunity. And, it still is.

The Peace Corps was a life changing experience and I still feel that in many ways, it is our country's best foreign aid program because it also aids us.



Clay now

Learning by Teaching

By Sandra Demerly Wittenbrink (20)
66-67

The questions we ask about education are always more important than the answers. Having been assigned to Asaba Girls Grammar School in 1966 to teach secondary English, after being trained by the Professors Poppem at UCLA to teach teachers (a job I later enjoyed at St. Thomas Teacher Training College in Ibusa), gave this educator an insight into some of the questions educators are still researching.

What is most critical? Is it scholarly expertise in the subject? Possibly it's careful planning to prepare students for exams? (Sound familiar yet?) Could it be whether or not the student identifies with his or her teacher? Whether or not he or she identifies with the subject matter? I found that these questions remained for me in Peace Corps service as well as in a college teaching assignment in Japan.

My assignment was at Asaba Girls Grammar School. Its neatly painted, single-story classrooms and dorms, its trimmed grass, and its fully equipped principal's house surrounded by a garden of well-tended flowers, had a student population of girls who spoke Yoruba, Bini, Igbo, and a few other languages. This was not a teacher training college, but flexibility is a life lesson of every PCV.

English had been my undergraduate major and I loved literature. African literature had recently been added to the subjects that could be on exams. It was the sixties after all; colonialism's influence on the curriculum was beginning to ebb.

The first-term classed I was assigned including the Romantic poets. Wordsworth and Keats, poets every student of English literature in the U.S.A. can quote. I was ready and eager to give my students an opportunity to enjoy the rhythm, rime, and meter of these classic poets.

To my dismay, I was spending more time explaining what a daffodil was than showing off my knowledge of iambic pentameter.

Teaching the poetry of Wole Soyinka became an opposite challenge. (Yes,

Soyinka wrote poetry before he became an activist; never underestimate the power of a poet.) I was enraptured with the idea of my students reading these well-crafted and powerful pieces, but this time they had to tell me what the Yoruba words meant. I found my students explaining to me a rich tradition of animist practices and the pantheism of gods that went with it.

In both cases the class time became consumed with a vocabulary and cultural lesson. "Not acceptable" thought I.

PCV's are supposed to be agents of change. I decided to have a chat with my Nigerian colleague. "How about if I asked the principal if you can teach a class in Soyinka and Achebe next term?" His eyes lit up. "Oh, she will never allow it," he said. "It's on the exams," I responded. "I know," he said. "Well, you can try." He was encouraging, but the light in his eyes was dimming.

I made an appointment to visit that house with the neatly trimmed garden on the following Friday. During her shouted order to her "houseboy" directing him to "draw her bathwater" and the sharing of excellent cups of tea, she listened to me make my case. Shouldn't a Nigerian who was a fine teacher, respected and loved by his students, teach some of Africa's finest literature? She was kind to me. She listened. She said she would think about it.

I may never know what went into her decision, but next term "destiny" struck. I received notice that I was to teach the African literature. Expertise in the subject matter: Could the students relate to the subject matter, to the teacher teaching the subject matter? My Nigerian colleague would continue teaching writing and even teaching the Romantic poets. When I told him, he merely shook his head. "I'm sorry," he murmured.

Decades later I earned a law degree and lived in Japan. It was the anniversary year of Brown V. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas. I wrote a curriculum for a class that marked that event, among other aspects of diversity in the U.S.A. To my delight Doshisha Women's College accepted it.

I was thrilled and honored. Japan is a country of great beauty, honored antiquity,

and people without whom I couldn't have survived a single day. They were always polite and helpful to me. However, there is almost no diversity in this ancient land.

The young women and I were just beginning our study of how Thurgood Marshall and lawyers at the NAACP had launched an attempt to provide equality in education for African American children. Americans know how complex and bitter this struggle was. Some also know that, as a young lawyer, Thurgood Marshall did not succeed in his first attempts.

Instead of giving up in shame, he kept trying. These facts, I felt, could be an important life-lesson for my students in a culture where perfection was the goal and failures were perceived harshly.

Then came a basic misunderstanding, one that nearly upset the whole point of my lessons. It brought up one of those universal questions in education. What is most critical? Could it be the ability of the student to relate to the teacher and the subject matter: I was not a woman of color. I was teaching Japanese women in a country with little diversity. The lessons were about one of our most accomplished Black Americans.

It happened the day a student asked a question while viewing excerpts from a film in which Sidney Poitier played Thurgood Marshall.

"So, Thurgood Marshall was an African American?"

They had seen pictures of the younger Thurgood Marshall surrounded by other Black Americans in the struggle. Apparently because of the lack of diversity, the little experience, a king of literal color blindness; she had been thing that this was a white man stepping into the fray on the side of justice for Blacks. She would have left the class without an understanding of a moment in history when, after years of discrimination, African Americans had a hero to lift them out of oppression.

As usual when something like this occurs in a classroom, there is an opportunity for learning on both sides of the teacher's desk. I will always be grateful for the lessons I learned from thinking about these classic questions.

President Jonathan Swears in New Cabinet

President Jonathan submitted a list of 34 cabinet nominees to the Senate for approval, the first set of appointees since being sworn in for his first full term as president. He returned 12 cabinet members who had served in his previous cabinet in the same ministries. He justified this, stating that in the past cabinet ministers have come and gone too quickly to learn their jobs.

Jonathan returned Ministers of National Planning, Mines, Information and Justice, and the minister in charge of the oil-rich Niger Delta state. He also reappointed Oil Minister Alison-Madueke despite criticism for delays in passing long-promised reforms in an industry which has been plagued by corruption.

Abubakar Sambo, head of the Energy Commission, will become Jonathan's special adviser on energy. Reuban Abati, an official of Nigeria's Guardian newspapers, will be the special adviser on media and publicity. Kingsley Kuku will remain as special advisor to the Niger Delta region, and Mike Oghiadomhe will remain as Jonathan's Chief of Staff.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the World Bank managing director who helped negotiate \$18 billion of Nigerian debt relief in 2005 will return as the Minister of Finance. She served previously as Minister of Finance from 2003-2006 before serving briefly as Foreign Minister in former President Obasanjo's administration. The previous Minister of Finance, Olusegun Aganga will remain in the cabinet in charge of a new Ministry of Trade and Investment.

President Jonathan added billionaire businessman Aliko Dangote; the Managing Director of Access Bank, Aigboje Imoukhuede; Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, Ifueko Omoigui-Okauru; and the President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria to his newly-formed economic management team to add more private sector weight. Dangote was ranked by *Forbes* as Nigeria's richest man. His cement business is the largest one listed on Nigeria's stock exchange.

The Nigerian Academy of Science

(NASENI) berated President Jonathan for composing his economic team without a single scientist in it. The Director General of NASENI stressed that there is a need for government to be committed to the development of science and technology.

President Jonathan announced that he will be the Chairman of the 24 member Economic Management Team, and that Vice President Namadi Sambo will be the Vice Chairman. The President also set up a 15 member Federal Government Economic Implementation Team to be headed by Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala who will serve as the Coordinating Minister for the Economy as well as the Minister of Finance, and who will supervise the effective implementation of decisions of the Economic Management Team. The Implementation Team will meet every week while the National Economic Management Team will meet every two weeks for the next three months and once a month after that. (Sources: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 8/19/11; *Daily Trust*, 8/22/11, 8/26/11; *Leadership* [Abuja], 8/17/11; *This Day*, 8/17/11; *Vanguard* [Abuja], 8/17/11; *VOANews.com* [Dakar], 7/6/11, 7/7/11; 7/2/11, 7/8/11, 7/28/11).

World Bank Predicts Double Digit Growth for Nigeria

The World Bank has predicted that the Nigerian economy will grow at a double digit rate in 2011 and beyond, as a result of its new focus on investment, emphasized by the creation of a new ministry to take charge of trade and investment. The Country Director for Nigeria noted that the economy is already growing at 7 percent. However, the Country Director also identified unstable power supply, inadequate access to capital, high taxation, transportation problems, corruption, and an unfavorable macroeconomic environment as current constraints to Nigeria's rapid economic growth.

The Country Director reported that 3,157 businesses throughout the country had been studied recently to examine their performance and factors responsible for it. He noted that 83 percent of the firms complained that electricity was a serious obstacle, while 50 percent said that the ability to obtain finance and the cost of

financing projects were serious obstacles. The companies also reported that they suffered huge financial losses on transportation, and that they spent 3.2 percent of sales on bribes. The study was initiated by the federal government with the joint support of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the World Bank Group. (Source: *Daily Champion*, 8/15/11; *Daily Trust*, 8/22/11).

Morgan Stanley Projects Prosperity for Nigeria

With one of the fastest growing economies in the world, Nigeria is projected to overtake South Africa as Africa's largest economy by 2025, according to a report by the US bank Morgan Stanley which noted that Nigeria grew by a very robust 8.4 percent last year. The bank emphasized that vibrant retail trade, increasing oil production, and a current account surplus are key factors driving the economy. Although oil and gas exports account for 90 percent of Nigeria's exports, the country is expanding its revenue from other sectors, as well, especially the agriculture, trade, telecommunications, and manufacturing sectors.

Some concerns, however, are that 74 percent of the budget is for recurrent expenditure, leaving little for capital. Moreover, increased investment is needed in employment-generating sectors, as some 50 million youths are unemployed. Insufficient power supply is another major concern; Nigeria currently generates 3,500 megawatts of electricity, while needing 104,000 megawatts. Corruption is another major problem; an anti-corruption agency recovered \$9 billion from corrupt public officials between 2005 and 2010. President Jonathan has promised to fight corruption more energetically. (Source: *Africa Renewal* [UN, New York], Aug. 2011, p. 37).

Nigeria is Highest Exporter of Crude Oil in Africa

One of President Jonathan's achievements in his first 100 days in office is the recovery of Nigeria as the highest exporter of crude oil in Africa, overtaking Angola, following the amnesty program and return of peace to the Niger Delta. It also makes the country the second largest oil exporter

in the world, next to Saudi Arabia. Nigeria currently produces about 2.4 million barrels per day from about 1.8 million barrels per day during the Niger Delta crisis. (Source: *Vanguard* [Abuja], 8/26/11).

Nigeria Introduces Islamic Banking

Nigeria is introducing Islamic banking for the benefit of the country's estimated 70 million Muslims, but many Christian leaders say that it will lead to further religious violence. The Christian Association of Nigeria says that it violates Nigeria's secular constitution and that it comes at a time when security forces are battling Islamic fundamentalists who are fighting for an independent nation ruled by Islamic law. Other Christian leaders say that the system has potential economic benefits, but believe that the country is not mature enough for it at this time. The Christian Association says that it will challenge in court the introduction of Islamic banking.

Islam prohibits paying or receiving interest or investing in businesses that provide goods or services that are contrary to Islamic principles. This has led to the development of interest-free, Islamic banking in more than 50 nations where customers share in profits and losses. For example, in an Islamic mortgage, the bank buys the house then resells it at a higher price, allowing the new homeowner to pay for it in installments.

Nigeria's Conference of Islamic Organizations believes that some political leaders are trying to link Islamic financing to terrorism at a time when London and Paris are competing to be the center of Islamic banking. (Source: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 8/18/11; *Vanguard* [Sapele], 8/22/11; VOANews.com [Lagos], 7/15/11).

Islamist Insurgents May Have Al Qaeda Link

The Islamist insurgency in Northern Nigeria appears to be expanding and collaborating with Al Qaeda's affiliates, alarming Western officials and analysts who had previously viewed the militants as an isolated, if deadly, menace. The Islamist group known as Boko Haram does not recognize Nigeria's constitution or the federal government in Abuja; it says it is

fighting for the creation of an independent country ruled by Islamic law. Two years ago it became nearly extinct when Nigerian soldiers shelled its headquarters, killed its leader Mohammed Yusuf, and left more than 800 dead. Since then, insurgents have been striking at the military, police, and opponents of Islamic law nearly daily, using improvised explosive devices that can be detonated remotely, resembling the acts of Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. It is feared that extremists bent on *jihad* are spreading across Africa and planting roots in a major, Western-allied state that had not been seen previously as a hotbed of global terrorism.

About 140 people have died violently since January, according to Amnesty International. Most of the attacks have occurred in Maiduguri, but they have also occurred in Kaduna and Abuja. In June, members of Boko Haram threw three sets of explosives from the back of motorbikes at a drinking spot in Maiduguri, killing around 25 people. They appeared to be targeting police officers. A joint military task force of soldiers, navy, air force, police, immigration, and customs officers took control of Maiduguri following the bombing, but on July 3 an explosion at a bar near a police barracks in Maiduguri killed at least five people and injured 10 more. Since then, Nigerian security forces say that they have arrested more than 100 "key cell commanders" and dissidents in connection with a series of bombings across the northern states of Bauchi, Bornu, Kaduna, Kano, Yobe, and Adamawa. Officials said that the suspects would undergo "deradicalization" and "perception management" programs so that they can return to society. (Sources: *Leadership* [Abuja], 8/16/11; *The New York Times* [Maiduguri], 8/17/11; VOANews.com [Dakar], 6/27/11, 7/4/11, 7/5/11, 7/6/11).

Sixteen Killed in Adamawa Bank Robbery

Gunmen suspected of being members of Boko Haram bombed a police station and robbed two banks in Gobi, killing up to 16 people. The group killed four police officers and a soldier guarding the area. Armed with explosives and automatic

weapons, they then shot their way into two local branches of two banks, killing seven bank employees, before speeding away with an unknown amount of cash. Four others suffered injuries in the attack.

Boko Haram has been blamed for scores of bomb attacks and shootings, leading to over 700 lives lost this year. (Source: *This Day*, 8/26).

Suicide Bomber Attacks UN Offices in Abuja

A suicide bomber attacked the four-story building, housing about 400 people working for 26 United Nations agencies, in the center of Abuja on August 26. The blast left at least 18 people dead and at least 40 others injured, although the National Hospital said that more than 60 persons were brought in. After the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) completed its initial search and rescue operations, its director said that there was a likelihood that there were more bodies and that they would need more sophisticated equipment to help detect their locations in the rubble.

The bomber rammed his Honda car, laced with explosives, into the building, causing serious damage to the building, breaking all the glass and setting the ground floor ablaze. The building is guarded by Kings Guards Security, a private security organization. No policeman was around when the incident happened. A spokesman for Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attack, the most serious incident by the group so far. "More attacks are on the way, and by the will of Allah, we will have unfettered access to wherever we want to attack," said the spokesman, Abu Darda. "We have more than 100 men who are willing to lay down their lives for the cause of Allah."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that he had dispatched Deputy UN Secretary-General, Asha-Rose Migiro, and UN Security Chief, Under-Secretary-General, Gregory Starr, to meet with Nigerian authorities. He also said that he planned to call President Jonathan himself. (Sources: *Chicago Tribune*, 8/27/11; *Daily Trust*, 8/26/11; *The Moment* [London], 8/26/11; Radio France Internationale, 8/26/11; Ra-

dio Netherlands Worldwide, 8/26/11; *This Day* [New York], 8/26/11; United Nations Foundation [New York], 8/26/11).

Former Speaker of the House is Accused of Misusing Millions of Dollars

The former Speaker of Nigeria's House of Representatives was arrested and charged with graft and misappropriation of funds. He is believed to have misappropriated a 25 billion Naira (\$161.25 million) budgetary allocation and secured a 10 billion Naira (\$64.5 million) loan from the United Bank of Africa that was shared with senior parliamentarians. It is also believed that he was involved in fund diversion schemes, inflating the cost of hundreds of computers, printers and televisions for the National Assembly and rigging a bid to purchase luxury cars. He was arrested after it was suggested that he was planning to leave the country. (Sources: VOAnews.com [Dakar], 6/7/11, 6/10/11).

Ojukwu Lives

Chukwuemeka Odumegwu-Ojukwu, Head of State of the defunct Republic of Biafra has played many significant roles in Nigeria's history and has long been a person of public interest. He has been in the news once again as a result of rumors of his death. The Anambra State Governor was inundated with calls inquiring about Ojukwu's health. He reported that Ojukwu is alive and that he had talked to officials at the hospital in London where Ojukwu is recuperating.

Last December, Ojukwu suffered a massive stroke and was flown to a London hospital for specialist attention. Since then, there have been many speculations about the state of his health. (Source: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 8/15/11).

Nigeria Launches Two Satellites

On August 16, Nigeria made history with the launching of two satellites, NigeriaSat-2 and NigeriaSat-X, in Russia, after several postponements. NigeriaSat-X was built by and will be operated wholly by Nigerian engineers who were trained abroad.

Following the launch, the National

Space Research and Development Agency, NARSDA, said that the two satellites were being monitored from the ground station in Abuja and that they were working perfectly in orbit. The Head of the Media and Corporate Affairs of NARSDA reported that the two satellites were undergoing an orbit commissioning process during which software for effective performance would be loaded into them from the ground receiving stations. He said that as soon as the commissioning process was completed, the download of data and images for various applications would commence. The ground stations that will be receiving data from the satellites are equipped with sophisticated and advanced equipment that rank them among the best in the world according to NARSDA. The Abuja ground receiving station has the capacity to track any Earth Observation Satellite in the middle and low earth orbit in any part of the world. (Sources: *Daily Trust*, 8/22/11; *Daily Independent*, 8/16/11; *This Day*, 8/17/11; *Vanguard* [Abuja], 8/22/11).

Five Nigcomsat Products are Ready for Commercialization

Five products produced by the Nigerian Communication Satellite Ltd. (NIGCOMSAT) are now available in local and international markets. The products are to be sold to both local and foreign computer companies that will produce them for the market. One of the products which detect absenteeism and lateness is already in service in some parastatals and agencies. It is believed that if federal ministries and state governments buy into the equipment, efficiency would be enhanced in the public service throughout the country.

Other products ready for commercialization are an electronic voting system, a counterfeit detection system, a budget monitoring and controlling system, and aerial monitoring and mapping equipment. (Source: *Daily Trust*, 8/17/11).

Art Foundation to Produce Documentary on Ngwa People

ARTS for Behavioural Change Foundation, the producer of the TV documentary series "Echoes from the Valley", has begun a new project, a documentary on

the Ngwa people of Abia State. It is the first in the new series that focuses on the impact of the Nigerian diaspora on their communities in Nigeria. The Echoes from the Valley series began in 2004 with a program which focused on the Brain Drain in Nigeria. It was produced in conjunction with the Nigerian Television Authority and funded mostly by the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria.

Production of the edition on the Ngwa people began in June 2010 with recordings in Ngwaland of traditional rulers, political leaders, local indigenes and prominent sons and daughters of Ngwa, including His Royal Highness Eze Bernard Enweremadu and many others. The next phase of the recordings will be interviews with Ngwa sons and daughters in the diaspora at this year's Ngwa Convention in the U.S. (Source: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 8/20/11).

Nigeria Plans to Build New Railway

The Federal Government has announced that it is committed to building an East-West railway line to boost economic activities and enhance the nation's transport system. (Source: *Daily Champion* [Lagos], 8/15/11).

Social Media Used Extensively in Nigeria's Polls

Social media were used extensively in Nigeria's most recent elections. In September 2010, Goodluck Jonathan announced his intention of running for President to his more than 217,000 friends on Facebook. Within 24 hours, 4,000 more fans joined his page. By election day, in April 2011, he had over half a million followers.

A report by two researchers who helped track online traffic during the month-long polls stated that the country's use of social media reached unprecedented levels. In addition to the approximately 3 million registered Nigerians on Facebook and 60,000 on Twitter, almost every institution conducted aggressive social networking outreach, including the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), political parties, candidates, media houses, civil society groups, and

even the police.

The report noted that from March 10 to April 16, 2011, INEC posted almost 4,000 tweets. Commission officials at polling stations around the country were also able to communicate among themselves using Twitter. The report noted that Twitter became the most efficient way to interact with INEC. The commission's use of social media led to its website receiving a record 25 million hits in three days during the presidential election.

The report concluded that social media tools revolutionized the efficiency of election observing by increasing coverage and reporting, while minimizing costs. They also allowed citizens to access information directly and more accurately, resulting in unsurpassed participation in politics during the election. However, it must be remembered that the estimated 65,000 people who posted online during the elections were just a small fraction of the registered 73 million voters. (Source: *Africa Renewal* [UN, New York], Aug. 2011, p. 35).

Flying Eagles Win Fair Play Award in FIFA U-20 World Cup

The Flying Eagles were unable to take home the winner's trophy at the U-20 World Cup in Columbia, but they won the FIFA Fair Play Award. Brazil lifted the winner's trophy for the fifth time in the championship's history. The Flying Eagles finished in 7th place, but were the second highest scorers with 15 goals in five matches. They recorded four wins and became the only African team in the last eight contenders, bowing out 3-2 in extra time to the European Champions, France. (Sources: *Daily Trust*, 8/21/11; *This Day*, 8/22/11).

Ex-Militants are Rejected at Rehabilitation Camp

No fewer than 1,075 ex-militants from Rivers State, who reported for training at the Obubra Rehabilitation Camp in Cross River State, were rejected for lack of space. The Camp Commandant said that they were not invited to the current program (batch 16) which consisted of 1,500 ex-militants. In addition, Itsekiri youths

under the aegis of the Itsekiri National Youths Council have cried out against what they described as deliberate exclusion of Itsekiri former agitators from the amnesty program, particularly the different training schemes which former agitators in the region are undergoing. They complained of ethnocentric bias, as not a single Itsekiri youth among the former agitators that submitted thousands of arms and ammunition through the Itsekiri National Youths Council to the then Amnesty Committee has been considered for any of the training programs. (Source: *Vanguard* [Calabar], 8/22/11).

Refusing a Polio Vaccination is Cause for Jail Sentence

Authorities in Kano announced that people would be jailed or fined for refusing to immunize their children against polio. The threat was announced on July 28 at the launch of a four-day immunization drive targeting six million children in the state. The prosecutions would be justified under an existing law forbidding parents from barring access to health care for their children. Health workers who fail to report refusals or who falsify data about coverage would also be prosecuted.

Nigeria, one of four countries that remain polio-endemic, has been "a global epicenter of transmission" according to a spokesperson for the World Health Organization's polio eradication group. Twenty-four polio cases were reported in Nigeria between January 1 and July 27, 2011 compared to six cases during the same period last year. (Source: IRIN [Kano], 8/11/ 11).

Female Farmers to Get Labor-Saving Technologies

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development disclosed that the Federal Government will soon introduce labor-saving technologies for female farmers to boost agricultural production. Although he did not provide specifics of the equipment to be provided, he stated that the technologies would limit the time wasted on processing farm produce and reduce the number of school-age girls engaged in farming and food processing activities.

He pledged to conduct a gender audit in his ministry with a view to mainstreaming gender into its programs and operations. In addition, the Minister of Women Affairs said that her ministry currently has over 1,000 registered women cooperative societies and women-based NGOs focused on women and gender mainstreaming. (Source: *Daily Trust*, 8/22/11).

Nigeria Celebrates Highlife Legend, Fatai Rolling Dollars, on 85th Birthday

The highlife music community of both veterans and upcoming artists gathered on Sunday, August 28, in the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos, to celebrate Fatai Rolling Dollars on his 85th birthday. The event is the monthly O'jez Entertainment Forum award that honors distinguished Nigerians who have excelled in their various fields. Fatai Rolling Dollars is recognized as the oldest performing musician in Africa. (Source: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 8/20/211).

Nigerian Soccer Player's Father is Kidnapped

Michael Obi, father of Super Eagles and Chelsea soccer player John Mikel Obi, was kidnapped in Jos. Obi, a retired civil servant who runs an inter-state transport company failed to return home from work on Friday, August 12. Calls to his mobile phone went unanswered and the phone became unreachable the next day.

After 12 days in the custody of the kidnappers, Obi was rescued by nineteen members of the Kano State Police Command. There were about eight kidnappers, including two soldiers, members of the Special Task Force known as Operation Safe Haven which maintains security in the state. The abductors had asked Obi to give them \$4 billion, but it was not known if any portion of the ransom had been paid. Obi's son earns \$5.8 million a year and is the seventh highest-paid African football player in Europe, according to *Forbes* magazine. (Sources: *Daily Independent* [Lagos], 8/18/11; *The Moment* [London], 8/15/11; *This Day*, 8/17/11 8/26/11; *Vanguard* [Lagos], 8/17/11, 8/23/11, 8/24/11).

Friends of Nigeria
c/o Peter Hansen
1 Oaknoll Ct., Apt 439
Iowa City, IA 52246
Summer 2011

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
PERMIT #1040
Leesburg, FL 34748

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Make a Contribution (Tax Deductible) to FON
Join or Renew Your Membership
Support VSO Volunteers in Nigeria...Keep the lorry rolling!
Support the Fantsuam Foundation program

For new members, please provide all of the information requested.
For renewals, please include any changes (please check mailing label above for renewal date).
For donations, specify how it is to be used - VSO or Fantsuam Project and/or unrestricted.

Name Friends of Nigeria
Address _____
City/State/Zip supporting
Preferred Phones _____
Email _____
Current Occupation/Employer _____
Peace Corps Nigeria group _____ PC Service 19 _____ to _____ PC Town _____
PC School/Agency _____ PC Job _____

Permission to use this information on the FON website Membership Directory

I do not wish this information to be shared with the NPCA



Friends of Nigeria Membership - **Individual** \$20 x _____ years = _____ - **Family** \$30 x _____ years = _____

National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) - Individual Membership \$35

FON **VSO** Project Donation (Tax Deductible) - \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

FON **Fantsuam** Project Donation (Tax Deductible) - \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

FON **Unrestricted** Donation (Tax Deductible) - \$35 _____ \$50 _____ \$75 _____ \$100 _____ Other \$ _____

I'll help with the newsletter

I'll help with special projects

Comments and ideas welcome: _____

Make your check payable to Friends of Nigeria and mail to Treasurer Peter Hansen, address at top of this page.