

THEN

Aba 1966

NOW

Aba 2015





Invitation to teach in Nigeria



LDS mission in Austria 1961-63

PEACE CORPS

Washington, D. C. 20525

August 10, 1965

Miss Peggy L. Hansen 40 West 500 South Prove, Utah

Dear Mass Bansens

It gives me great pleasure to invite you to train for Peace Corps service as an english teacher in Rigeria. Training for your project is scheduled to begin September 25, 1965 at Michigan State University. At present there is no program in your stated area preference which requires your particular skills. However, we hope that you will give our invitation to this program serious consideration. We will also send you a description of the project you will enter as soon as one is available.

Out of a large number of applicants for the Peace Corps, only a few are invited to enter training. You are smong this group because we think you have the bankground and ability required to work with the people of Higeris to improve their lives and their country. The work will be difficult but there will also be great personal estimation from the full use of your capacities where they are most needed. The France Corps is a rure opportunity to test and develop your resources and prepare to participate effectively in the life of this country and this world. I hope you will accept it and use it well.

Including training, you will serve a total of twenty-seven morths. I invite you to read the enclosed Peace Curps Handbook carefully, particularly pages 7-16 which describe our selection and training procedures. Fill out the enclosed invitation Acceptance Form and return it within ten days. If you are mable to give an immediate answer please send a note talling when you will be able to let us know.

I have maked Mr. Claude L. Franklin (Selection Division, Peace Durps Washington, D.C., 20625) to handle your assignment, and he will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Please note your question-maire number and country assignment on any correspondence.

You have my best wishes for a successful career in the Peace Corps.

Vargent Whrive

Questionnaire No. 141904 Enclosures



BYU Hawaii A.A. 1961 BYU Provo B.A. 1965

Peace Corps journey to Nigeria



Teaching English to boys in Aba

We organized a school library



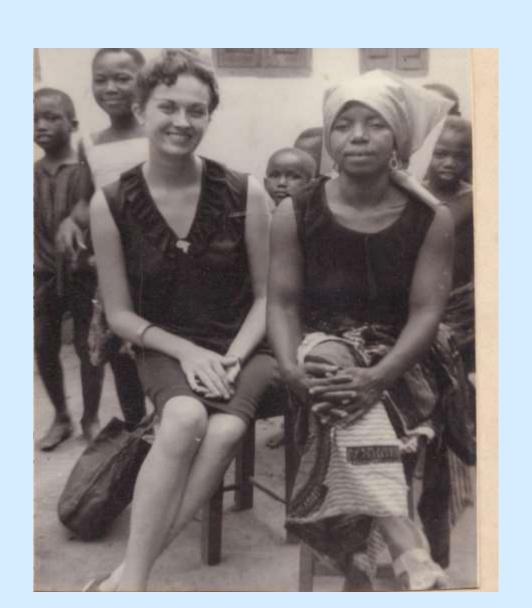


My house near school
(Phillip Benjamin, houseboy, in doorway)

Unbelievable sign in front of an Aba house



Met women of great faith in Aba



Unbaptized "Mormons" in Aba, 1966



THEN in broader perspective

1950s:

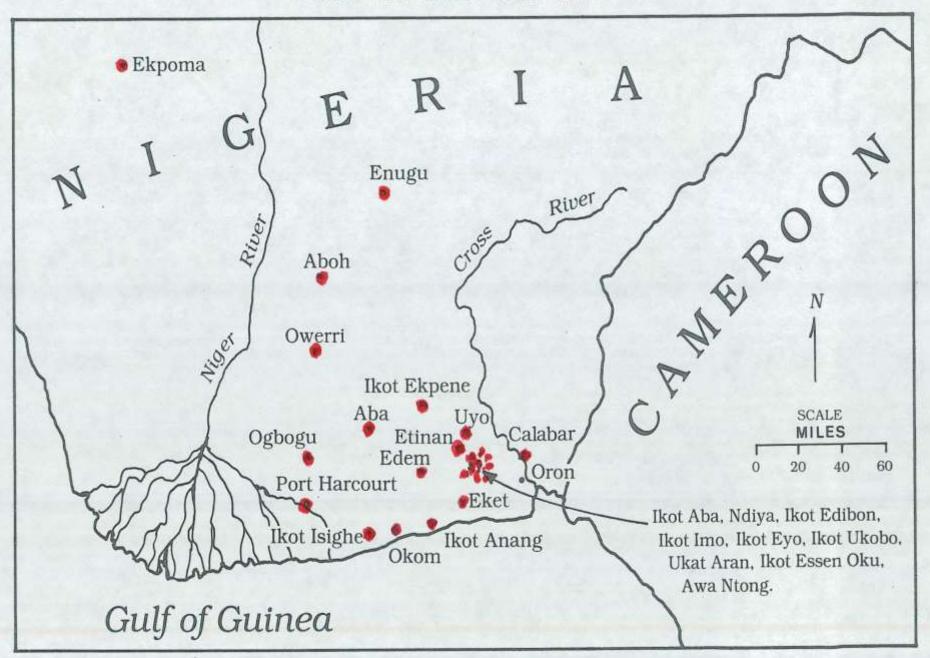
 Letters from West Africa to Church headquarters requesting literature and missionaries

1960s:

- More letters from West Africa than from the rest of the world combined. Missionary visas unavailable.
- LaMar Williams got temporary visas in 1961, 1963 and 1965; visited 30 groups, 16,000 converts in Nigeria and Ghana (most were unaware of other groups); none were baptized.

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SOUTHEAST NIGERIA

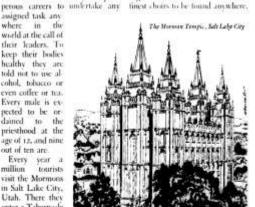


Many conversions through dreams and spiritual experiences



assigned task any where in the world at the call of their Jeaders, Tokeep their bodies healthy they are told not to use alcohol, tobacco or even coffee or tea-Every male is expected to be ordained to the priesthood at the age of 12, and nine out of ten are.

Every year a million tourists visit the Mormons in Salt Lake City, Utah. There they enter a Tabernacle so acoustically



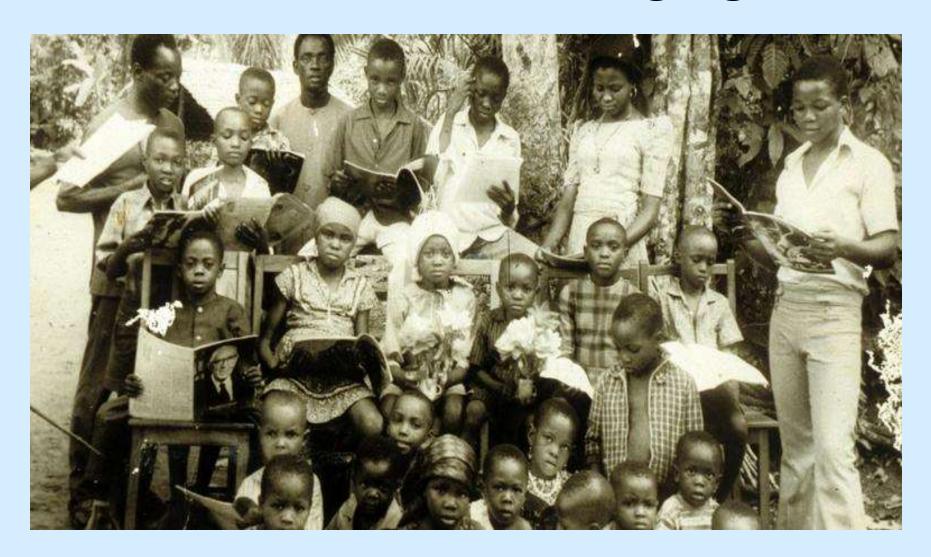
Condenied State Look



Anthony Obinna

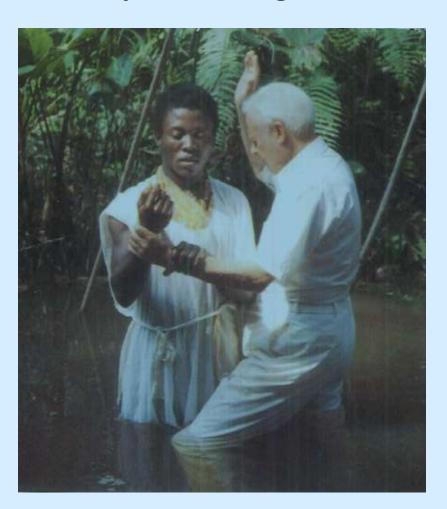
When Obinna came upon the September 1958 Readers Digest he said, "There was an article entitled 'The March of the Mormons' with a picture of the Salt Lake Temple. It was exactly the same building I had seen in my dreams."

Obinna and his 1971 congregation



Obinna baptism and temple ordinances

First baptism in Nigeria 1978



Temple in Logan, Utah 1997



Events leading to the LDS Church **NOW** in Nigeria

1978

- June: Church President announced revelation extending priesthood to all worthy males.
- November: two couples (Mabey, Cannon) got resident visas; first missionaries to Nigeria.

First LDS Baptisms in West Africa September 1978



Events leading to the LDS Church **NOW** in Nigeria

1978

- June: Church President announced revelation extending priesthood to all worthy males.
- November: Two couples (Mabey, Cannon) got resident visas; first missionaries to Nigeria.
- 1979 1,700 had been baptized in 35 branches
- **1988** First Nigerian stake created, in Aba
- **2005** First Nigerian temple dedicated, in Aba

Aba temple - 2005



LDS Church statistics THEN and NOW

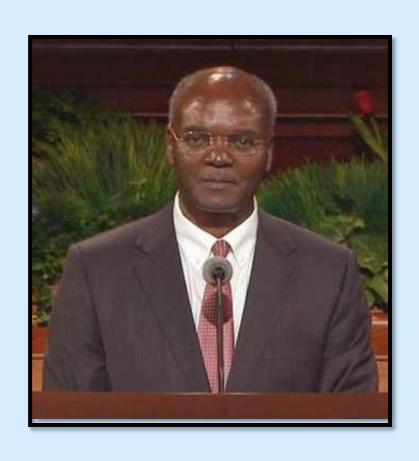
	Members	Congregations	Family History Centers
1965	0	0	0
1987	9,900	150	0
2015	129,989	416	46

Joseph Sitati: First African General Authority

Sitatis with Apostle Nelson, wife

Elder Sitati at General Conference





Humanitarian Work

Annual neonatal resuscitation training in Nigeria

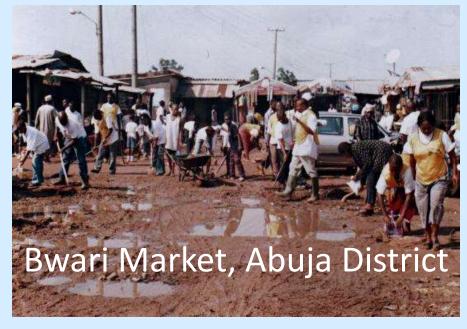


Helping Hands in Nigeria





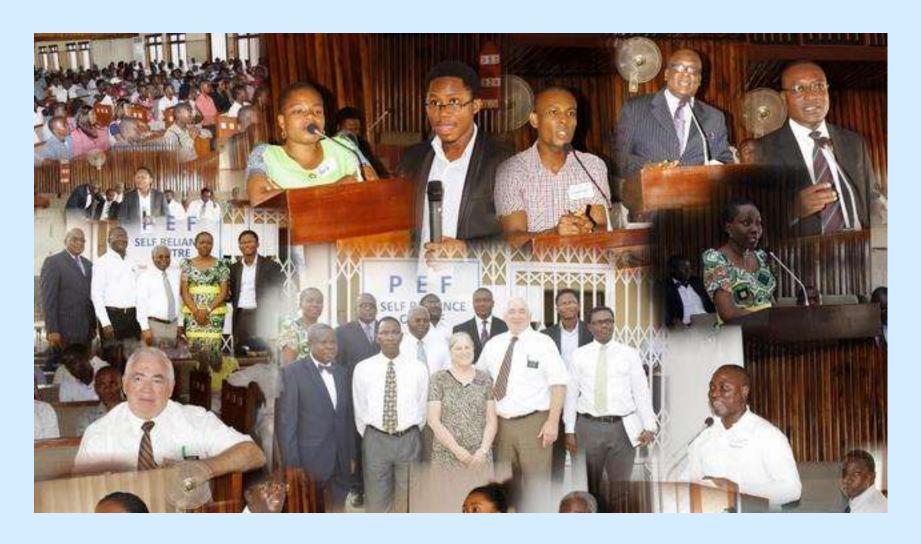




Church sponsors Law and Religion Conference and Course Held in Lagos



Nigerian youth empowered by mentors



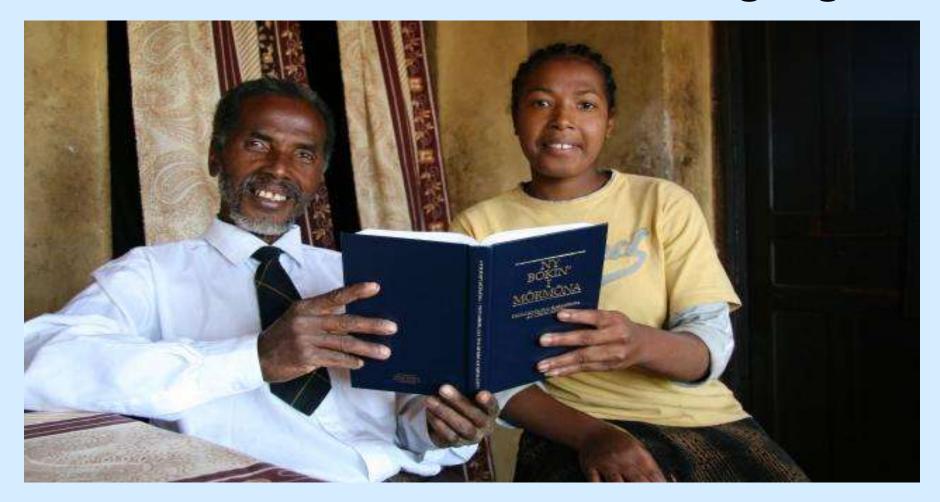
Largest source of family history in Nigeria is in Oral History held by Village Elders



Digitizing Family History Records

- 2015 Church starts digitization of Nigerian historical records
 - 100,000,000 documents (Births, Deaths, and Marriages)
 - Over 100 locations across Nigeria
 - 20 cameras for 12 years
- Church has 46 Family History Centers

Book of Mormon in African languages



"And this gospel shall be preached unto every nation, and kindred, and tongue and people." D.&C. 133:37

Aba stake choir at interdenominational concert at Aba temple: December 2014





For information on Mormons in Nigeria NOW, see

http://www.mormonnewsroom.org/facts-andstatistics/country/nigeria