

Nigeria

THEN

Aba 1966

NOW

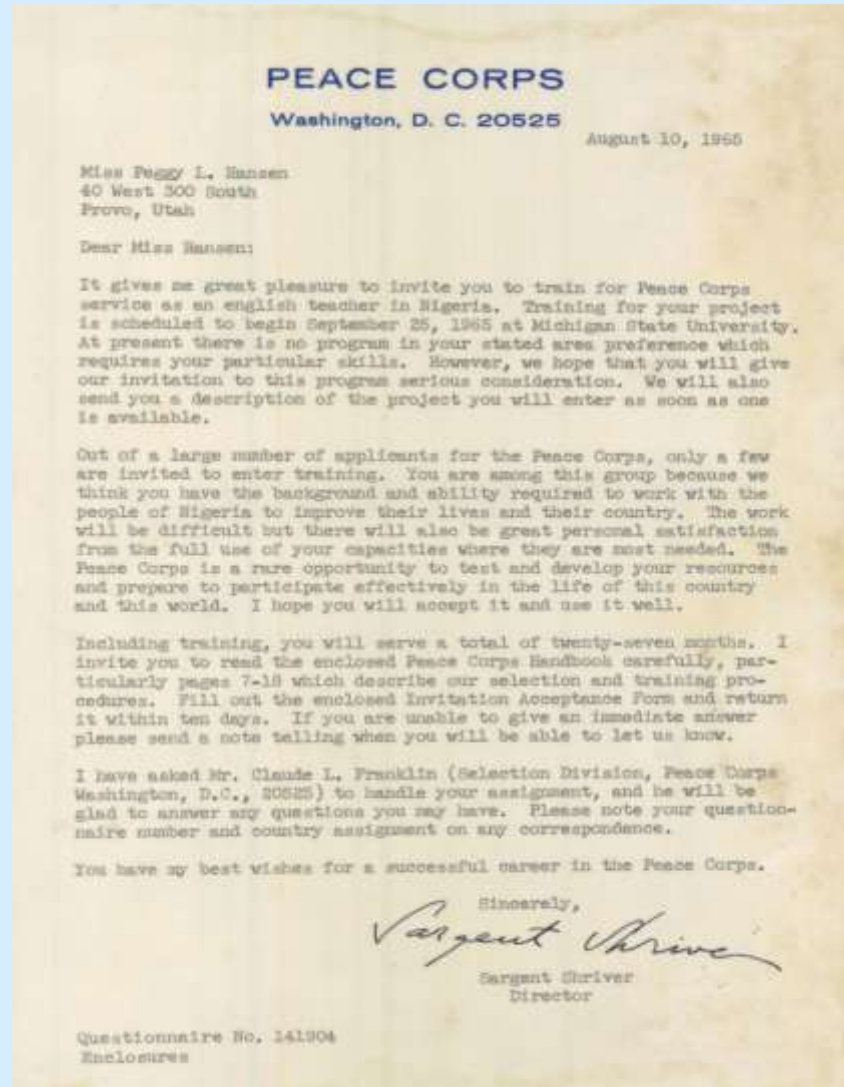
Aba 2015



Invitation to teach in Nigeria



LDS mission in
Austria 1961-63



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

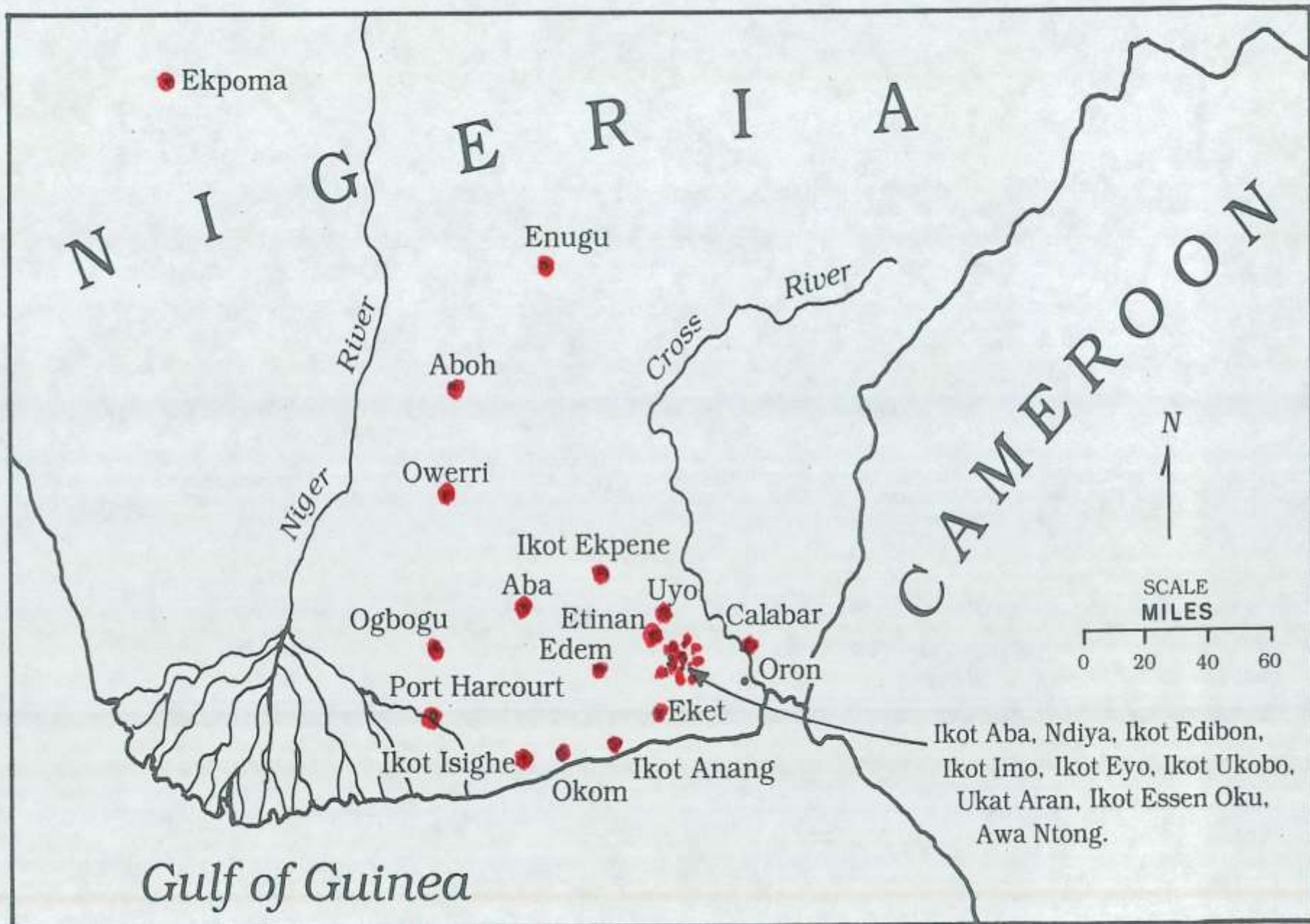
1950s:

- 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.
- .

SOUTHEAST NIGERIA



Many conversions through dreams and spiritual experiences



Anthony Obinna

When Obinna came upon the September 1958 *Reader's 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

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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



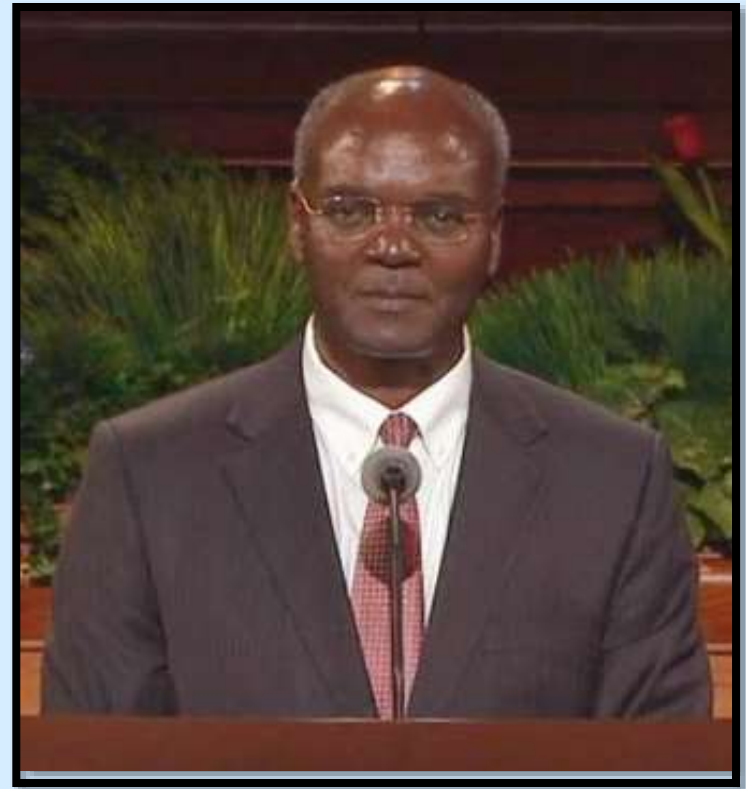
LDS Church statistics THEN and NOW

	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



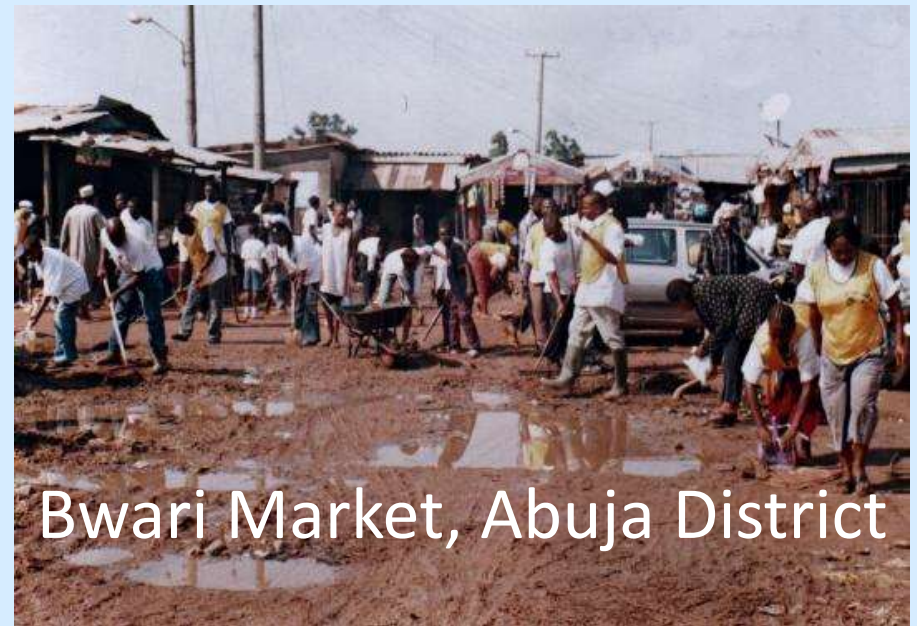
Aba



Port Harcourt



Lagos



Bwari Market, Abuja District

Church sponsors Law and Religion Conference and Course Held in Lagos



Nigerian youth empowered by mentors



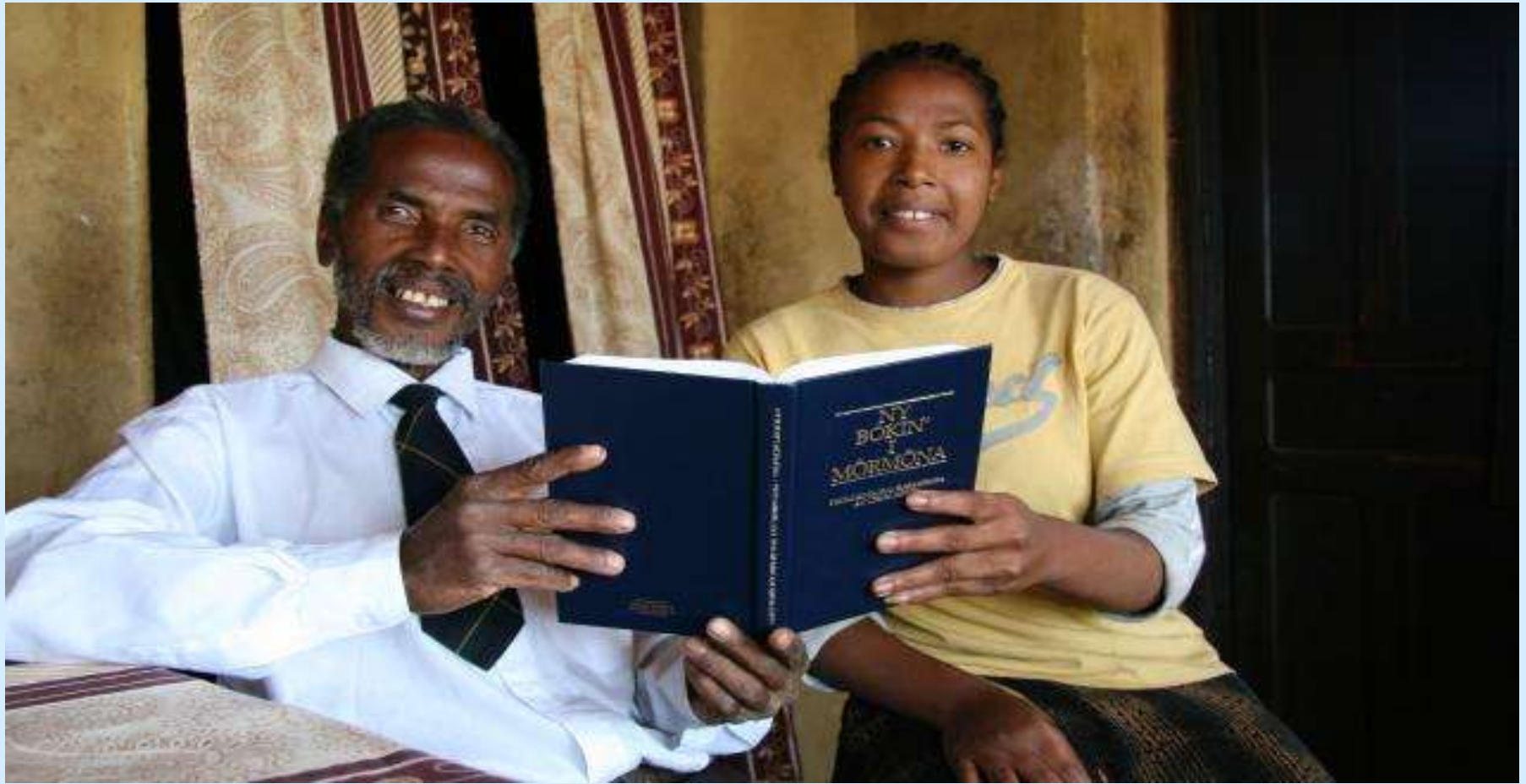
Largest source of family history in Nigeria is in Oral History held by Village Elders



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-and-statistics/country/nigeria>