

# Trans World Radio

*Broadcasting the Gospel Worldwide*



International Christian Broadcasting

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Dear Family, Friends & Prayer Warriors:

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, as the plane gently touched down on the runway in Jos, I wondered how the day would unfold. As the project coordinator I was off on yet another trip to Nigeria, but this one was different than the other trips. For the past couple of years, TWR has partnered with four other organizations in a project called OneStory. Two of the projects that TWR has been managing are based in northern Nigeria. When I have travelled to Nigeria in the past I have never been able to travel out of the city of Jos due to time constraints. However, on this trip I was joined by a OneStory language consultant and an on-site manager. Together the three of us would be travelling to an area of Nigeria that has been resistant to missionary activity down through the years. In fact, there are so few believers among the Kanuri Yerwa people group that there is no known church among the 6.6 million.

As I joined my colleagues, we headed out of Jos on a four hour journey to the town of Gombe in Bauche State, four hours northeast from Jos. While there we spent two days camped out in a village about an hours drive from Gombe. The Kanuri storyteller for this language group tested his stories and checked for worldview and word usage accuracy under the watchful eye of the OneStory language consultant. What a joy it was to be welcomed by the chief of the village, and to be given the opportunity for God's Word to be presented through stories to the Kanuri. At one point, a nearly blind elder, who was sitting next to the chief, said to us, "The chief is younger and stronger than I, but I am nearly blind and I'm at the



**Storyteller (on right) telling a Bible story to young seekers.**

edge of my grave. I want to know the truth." Later that evening as we sat outside our tent and the elder's statement was translated back to us, I pondered these words as they pierced my heart, once again realizing the deep spiritual hunger that was so earnestly expressed in this old man's words. Over the two days spent in the village, there were a few "seekers" who came to meet one-on-one with the storyteller to hear more stories from God's Word.

The goal of chronological Bible storying is to spread Bible stories using indigenous methods so that an oral Bible can be made accessible to people. Stories are produced by a team of story crafters and a storyteller. Each set of stories has a redemptive theme flowing through from beginning to end. Pray for us and for TWR as we continue to work together with our partners in Nigeria to see a complete set of stories developed in audio form that will bring the words of God's redemptive plan to the Kanuri-Yerwa people and the many other unreached people groups in Nigeria. Currently the two OneStory projects that I am coordinating in Nigeria are for the Kanuri Yerwa and the Fulfulde-Kano people groups.

Another joy in our lives right now is the privilege of leading a Young Adults Bible Study group from our church here in Kempton Park. When we began a little over a year and half ago there were only about five people coming but the group has grown so that each Wednesday night between 10 to 15 young adults meet in our home to study the Word and have fellowship together. Pray for these young people as they are in that stage

of life looking for what they would do in the future. Pray God would give us wisdom and Godly council that flows from the Word of God.

On the home front we are doing well and enjoying the challenge of staying warm in a house that has a wood stove, but very poor insulation. It is our first full winter with the wood stove and we are enjoying the warmth that it provides. The winter has also brought with it a season of cold and flu viruses, so we are doing our very best to stay healthy and strong.



**Pray for us as we lead these "Young Adult's" in studying God's Word.**

Recently, we enjoyed the spectacle that arrived in South Africa with eight international football (soccer) teams that participated in the 2009 Confederations Cup tournament which is the forerunner (dress rehearsal) to next years 2010 FIFA World Cup tournament. Jean Marc and I were able to attend one of the opening games with the USA pitted against Italy, the 2006 FIFA World Cup champions. The USA lost their match against the Azzurri, but went on to play out an exciting tournament, taking them all the way to the final match against the eventual winners, Brazil. As you can see by now, I (John) am the one writing this letter. So, if any of you are interested in joining us down in South Africa next winter (June & July) and braving the cold to watch a few football matches, you are welcome to join us as we have a nice big tent that can sleep up to six adults. Fortunately it doesn't rain much this time of year so it is mainly the cold that one has to deal with.

It is that time of year again, when Jean Marc undergoes his annual checkup with the pediatric neurologist to see if there is any further growth in the partial tumor that resides in his brain. We praise the Lord that after his MRI scan on July 14<sup>th</sup>, the tumor appears to have only grown about one millimeter since his MRI last year. The doctor told Jean Marc he just needs to realize that for now this tumor seems to have made it's home in his brain and that we will monitor it's progress each year. Thank you for your prayers and join us in praise to the Lord that there is no rapid growth of the tumor.

We want to thank you for your continued prayer and support for us as the ministry grows into new areas of outreach spreading God's Word through the airwaves of Trans World Radio's ministry in Africa. Please drop us a note sometime as we would love to hear what God is doing in your life.

Yours in Christ,

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**Your TWR Missionaries in Africa**

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