



HOPE FOR NIGERIA

JANUARY 2011



But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? (1 John 3:17)

What It's All About

Hope for Nigeria is working together with the Mennonite Brethren Charity Organization of Nigeria in the organization and operation of successful poultry operations for beginning poultry farms in Nigeria. Our ultimate goal is to portray Christ's loving by helping the poor people of Nigeria in this material way.

What We've Been Doing

In early November, Charles and Dennis, together with their wives, traveled to Nigeria to visit the four farms and meet with our contacts in Nigeria. We inspected the existing farms, and Dennis gave training sessions in basic bookkeeping. The farms have become profitable, and the loans to the farmers are being paid back. However, some improvement was needed in the record-keeping, both to satisfy our government's requirements, and for the farmers' own benefit in managing their new businesses.

Charles and Dennis also met with Dr. Gbenga Idowu of the Christian Veterinarians Nigeria organization. Dr. Idowu has been invaluable in providing direction, advice and oversight for the farmers. It was good to meet with him and discuss the current issues affecting the project in Nigeria. Two of the farmers have switched to raising layers, and Dr. Idowu had a lot of valuable insight to share with us on raising layers and producing and marketing eggs in the Nigerian setting.

What's Next

Much experience has been gained in raising chickens, seeing market conditions, and the logistics of running a poultry farm. As mentioned earlier, two farmers, Lawrence Udochi and Pius Jeremiah, have changed over to layer production. At this time, both farmers have received their first shipments of pullets. Collins Aizebeokhai and Stephen Masagbor will continue producing broilers. The chicken produced by the farmers in the Fugar area has become very popular with the locals, and Collins and Stephen are having no trouble selling their birds locally for a good price. Many of the locals have also expressed interest in buying eggs, so we are looking forward to the time when Lawrence's and Pius's birds start to lay.

What Can I Do

On the ground in Fugar, the Mennonite Brethren Charity Organization (MBCO) oversees the poultry projects, and some members are the first to participate as chicken farmers. By operating their own chicken farms, they in turn can train and oversee other local farmers who are in need of an income to help them out of poverty. Our role in the project is to provide the members in Nigeria with advice, direction and funding. We are excited about this project, but we cannot maintain this work alone. We need willing participants to provide funding, advice, and other material aid. We earnestly solicit your prayers, advice, and generous donations for this worthy project. Donors from the USA can send donations to Roger Ensz of Center, Colorado (719.754.3270) or through their local deacon.

What Else

While we are very enthused about the progress of our poultry project in Fugar, we realize that not everyone's interest lies with chickens and poultry production. When we travel to Nigeria or communicate with our friends over the phone, we are often asked about the possibility of loaning funds for many legitimate needs and business ventures. At home in North America, we have been approached about the possibility of sending funds or aid to Nigeria for specific requests. As a result, we are planning to initiate a microfinance program that will enable donors and lenders from North America to connect directly with borrowers and recipients in Nigeria or any other part of the world. We feel that offering small loans together with a personal connection between the lender and the borrower can be a blessing for both individuals. We are now in the process of registering this program, so watch for further updates on this exciting new initiative.

Who We Are

For more information, please contact Charles Goossen at 306.547.3353 or Dennis Goossen at 204.548.4500. We would like to begin distributing this newsletter primarily by email in order to cut down on printing costs. If you prefer receiving this letter via email, please notify Dennis at dennis@goossenaccounting.ca. Also, please contact us if you no longer want to receive this newsletter. To view past issues and to read CVMC's blog about this project, please check out their website at www.cvmcanada.org.



Christian Veterinary Missions of Canada

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"Serving Jesus through the Veterinary Profession"

Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Designated gifts will be applied as directed. If need is satisfied or changed, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such program or project will be used where needed most. Gifts will be acknowledged as received, and an official income tax receipt will be issued at year-end.

NIGERIA POULTRY PROJECT DONATION FORM

YES! I agree to support Nigeria and the work that you are doing!

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____ to support the Nigeria Poultry Project!

(Please make all cheques payable to CVMC, with "Nigeria Poultry Project" on memo line.)

NEW! To donate online, go to www.cvmcanada.org, click on the blue CanadaHelps.org button and be sure to select the Fund/Designation "5. Nigeria Poultry Project."



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