

# The Bradford Exchange

## *Rick and Martha Bradford serving in Nigeria with SIM 2019 Report*

**What an exciting year, 2019, has been for us.** We are grateful to be back in Nigeria after a long 9-month absence. Martha's ministry, Egbe Music Academy thrived without our oversight which is exactly what one wishes to happen with their dreams and projects – that they have their own life outside of the original idea. CD's, DVD's and songs have been written and performed throughout the year. The music staff have added guitar and keyboard repair to their repertoire of skills, partly as a result of some electronic engineering studies. Students are now coming for month long classes on their instrument, and theory is progressing. Just yesterday we heard someone practicing Gm7 chord arpeggios on the saxophone which was taught the day before. (Music teachers will appreciate just how AMAZING that was!!!)

Our building was designed in 2008 by the community to be a place of youth empowerment and development in thanksgiving for one hundred years of Christianity, and as such, we continue to create a place where youth can flourish. This year to our great surprise the creation of STEM classes was added. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). The teachers were blessed with training by a returning US missionary and the supplies to teach robotics with Lego Mindstorms was also gratefully received. To have the young teachers, recent National Diploma graduates (2-year Polytechnic students), design

**What a huge help our son, Aaron, was** in his May visit to Egbe. Knowing we wanted to upgrade all the computer programs at Centenary, he tore apart all the broken systems and started repairing each from scratch with several helpers. They moved onto sorting many electronic parts for the STEM program and generally having grand talks about life and work and putting a vision together. Aaron also benefitted from trips to the field to see all of Rick's many ministries.



programs that will benefit Secondary Students to advance in school and life, has been a privilege to watch. The request for Rubik's cubes to aid in logical thinking was fun to source, thank you Value Village. More science and math games are urgently needed.



**Celebrating our son  
Aaron's birthday in  
our backyard with  
the Sunday after-  
noon crew**

We are so grateful to have him see where we live and work for three weeks. His office co-workers thought he went on safari to Africa and were shocked that he actually came here to work! To prove that God does not waste anything in our lives, he helped program the radio/walkies that he used to sell at Radio Shack, for the Egbe Hospital Revitalization team!



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## Christian Resource Centre

We were granted full use of Centenary Computer Centre, including the oversight of the Computer School and Internet Café in July. Curriculum upgrades are in the works, since technology has changed many times since the accreditation in 2008. In cleaning out an old office we discovered the first computer class was held on October 9, 2009 so we are busy planning a ten-year Anniversary. We also found student cards from a night class where our present King (The Elegbe of Egbe) took part. Our goal is to have a complete software and hardware engineering program in the computer side of things, plus a full-time music program to accommodate the many musicians who wish to play with more understanding and expertise.

The Christian Resource Centre (aka the library) has been in full time use of late with pastoral students from several institutions coming for help with their essays ("projects"). The students then hire the computer students to type their projects in house. We would welcome library inventory assistance again to make the database complete. **Any volunteers?** We are anticipating new books from the US on the next container, and will have the joy of distributing them to other seminaries throughout Nigeria. As SIM Nigeria creates a project for helping theological libraries build their resources and shelves (books are NOT enough, shelves are costly) we are always accepting contributions for this need. While e-books may replace paper

in North America, access to the internet is still sketchy, spotty and very frustrating.



## Acknowledging those who inspired us

This year we lost a great supporter of our work in the person of Chief Simoyan. He had just returned back from the US and was anxious to finish his three books that one of the STEM teachers has been typing and retyping for him for the last two years. Gabriel and others have learned so much about the history of Yagbaland (where we live) and the history of Egbe itself through the work. We are anticipating the Chief's autobiography to be available soon. He had an incredible life growing up in Egbe under the missionaries help in the 1950's attending Titcombe Col-

lege and after his post-graduate studies on to diplomatic appointments in Europe and the US. Personally, he was an encourager at Centenary Computer Centre welcoming all our efforts and blessing us with his frequent visits. We miss seeing his car and driver pulling up to the building, and his words of wisdom. He was an anomaly here in Egbe having lived in the West yet cared so much for Egbe culture and tradition. His Chieftaincy title was of Prime Minister!



Guitar Students in Children room



Solo with his Trumpet



Stephen Meed teaching Vocal, guitar and encouraging students

We mention again our beloved trumpet student, Solomon, who at 15 died suddenly from an illness. He asked to have the music for "Easter Song" by Annie Herring, to be written for the trumpet, to blow on Easter Sunday morning. He came everyday to practice but two weeks before Easter received his heavenly calling home. Culture here is that children are buried the same day they die. Solomon helped us define why we believe youth development and empowerment are so important. **All of us need to feel loved, feel valued and a place to belong.** This is Kingdom of God work. Solomon did belong, and was valued and loved – although we could not identify this at the time. (And we no longer have to hide the valve oil from his constant servicing the instruments...). Our youth are not just our future, but our Present. We do not know how long God allows them to be with us to bless and minister to us.



Martha had the special recognition of receiving an "Alumni of Distinction" award from Mohawk College in October, for her work in creating Egbe Music Academy. Although Rick was busy with Egbe Unity Day, all our children, Sarah and husband Chris, Aaron, and Patrick were able to celebrate along with several close friends. We then had Thanksgiving at the farm with the beautiful colours on the trees and great weather. Thank you to all who made this possible.



Egbe Music Academy was invited to participate in the Abuja National Music Competition as a judge. **What a great experience.** Meeting and conversing with the other judges, was refreshing and helpful in redefining our goals as an educational institution. Judging was a new endeavour, but being opinionated was not! The Senior Choir piece was "A Million Dreams." Just wasn't dreamy enough.

We arrived back in Ontario to say Goodbye to Clare Rorabeck, the last of dad's brothers. We celebrated Carly Dyck, our niece's wedding in Saskatoon with the oldest grandsons, and our children in August. Family reunions for which we are grateful

The music school was blessed for three weeks with SIM Canada missionary, Stephen Meed who came everyday after teaching how to use the lathes at the hospital workshop, to do vocal workshops and instrument arrangements of several new songs and Christmas pieces. His great voice convinced some that microphones aren't always necessary. We are looking for more music volunteers to come to do other master classes on instru-

ments, vocal ensemble or sound equipment training. If this is something of interest PLEASE let us know. Teams are forming to come to do this. Of course, other skills are needed in teaching, construction workshop, medical and library. Computer skills workshops, along with math and physics, are also of high importance to supplement the STEM programs. Our arts and crafts program in the children's room could use a boost.

Yes, some days we decide which hat we are wearing. Many awesome possibilities exist for which we are grateful. Summer intern students are also welcome through the SIM Nigeria ENGAGE program. Please mention EGBE as your destination, otherwise one will be sent North to Kano. Rick spent the month of September there learning the Hausa language to help with his outreaches around Egbe. Hausa is a trade language used throughout West Africa. Although Nigeria has over 250 languages, Hausa is one of the top three, along with Yoruba which Martha is learning to read.

## New school opens with over 170 students

Early this year we went around to different communities to see where God was leading us in reaching out in Love to the people. Traveling along the dusty dirt road that gets washed out in rainy season, 16 km from Egbe, you come to a town called Okuran, This town is divided into three major people groups, Yoruba, Hausa, and Fulani. We noticed that in our visiting there were many children who didn't go to school. When interviewing the local chiefs about the needs, we were surprised that education for their children was their top priority as well as clean water. How can we help?

We established a base line metrics interviewing 48 Fulani Children and 98 Hausa children. Knowing that in June and July would bring heavy rains season, we needed to build something soon. With many donations, we were able to build a two-room school by September. The school official opening was not until October and the first day of school was Oct. 21/2019 and over 150 students came. Even the next day more came and by the end of the week we had to stop accepting students because we had no capacity. We have 175 student now divided into three classrooms as we converted the teachers office into a classroom. Most students have never been to school before and this is their first time. Over flowing at the seams yet every

single one wants to be at school. The Lord has answered our prayers with a young Fulani teacher who has come to teach at the school.



Waiting for the classroom to be finished



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*Site of the first school near Omi Dam, Ejiba  
See if you can find the village and school on Google Earth*

Water is a need in all communities. When visiting one of the bush villages, we found the hand pump had broken down again. During the rainy season it wasn't much of an issue for the village as they could still get water at the river behind the village. Now it is dry season and water is more difficult to find. Thank you for those who have donated to help fix this pump, the only pump for the village of 600 people. Two other villages close by could use a hand pump and well for water.



We received exciting news that a businessman in Abuja is donating a solar pump for the new school's well that was just dug. God answers prayers in many ways, even before we know what to say.

**For special projects please designate your  
donation for MINISTRY, not SUPPORT**

**THANKS FOR ALL THE PRAYERS**

## Special projects connect at the right time and place

At the mission hospital, ECWA Hospital, Egbe, many people come and are happy with the healing they receive. There are a few in particular that we meet who have had to have amputations which have left them with a life of disability. Just one of those cases is a young man called Olayemi. We found him slumped behind his house not moving. His younger brother was very worried and wanted to help him. Carefully we were able to get him back up and sitting on the rock. All he could think of is there was no more reason to live without both his legs. He was in a motorcycle accident and lost one of his legs. Compassion overwhelmed us and a few people from Alberta, Canada heard the story and did much work at trying to develop a limp by 3D printing. The first attempt at casting a mould wasn't done quite right, but the second attempt was with a volunteer nurse from McMaster Hospital in Ontario with the help of one of the Nigerian



**Forming cast and doing precise  
Measurements for mold**

doctors. This nurse knew exactly what needed to be done, was able to do the cast and bring it back to Canada. Pray with us as we wait for the final new prosthetic.

We continue to be encouraged by Sunday's progress and his enjoyment of life. He came to greet us recently.



**Sunday is happy and grateful to be  
able to live with his friends now**