

Dono-Manga, Chad

The **Jordan Health Center** continues to see hundreds of people each month. The rainy season is underway which means that mosquitoes and malaria are a major threat. The Chadian Government recently provided almost 3,000 mosquito nets which will protect thousands of people. Our Health Center was just given authorization to do blood testing and minor surgery. This is a major vote of confidence on behalf of our staff.

Our Primary and Secondary Schools, like schools here in the US, have been closed because of COVID 19 concerns and this includes our 1,100 students. We elected to continue paying our 16 teachers during this downtime. We are so fortunate that COVID 19 has not reached our area and its spread has been greatly limited by the quick and constant action of the Chadian government.

We have completed a fifth school building made possible by a generous donation from the John Von Dolen Estate. We now have 10 classrooms which mean that fewer of our students will be in thatched huts when we are able to open school again. If you do the math, you can see we still need additional buildings to provide classrooms for all students. A building with two classrooms can be built and furnished with benches for only \$14,000.

Orphan Care. We continue to provide care for the 125 orphans that are supported by so many of you who receive this newsletter. A second full-time nurse is on board with the responsibility of giving each of these children a checkup twice each year.

Well drilling program. We recently sent funding for four more wells and after completing one and starting the second a conflict arose in this exceptionally large village of more than 18,000 people. The conflict between nomadic cattle herders and the local farmers resulted in the death of one person, and the local military stepped in quickly to prevent further fighting. Over the next few weeks, there was a battle in the courts, and the entire Dono-Manga District was given a large fine which was due by July 24.

All of that is to say that our drilling machine is still in this village that has been locked down since that time. We are hopeful that we will be able to get it out soon and begin drilling in another area. But for now, it has our drilling program halted. Working in developing nations presents challenges from time to time, but none of them take away from the great need to press on. The lives of young and old depend on our faithful, patience, persistence to get the job done.



LIVING WATER FOR NORTHERN NIGERIA



September

2020



Dear Partners and Friends

It has been his dream since I heard about him back in 2008. Yusuf Buba (center) wanted to start a preacher training school in his home state (Borno, Nigeria) because none of the existing schools would send their graduates to preach there. The high Muslim population in this part of Nigeria was the main concern. Then to make matters worse, in 2009 Boko Haram was born. In the years to follow the terrorist group ravaged Borno State, displacing 2.5 million people and killing more than 40,000.

During this rampage, Yusuf lost everything. His home burned to the ground. He and his family escaped by night to a neighboring state to regroup, but he never lost his dream of reaching people for Christ.

My wife and I first met Yusuf, his wife and a group of Christians back in 2014 during a visit to Gombe, a border state to Borno. This was a short time after 276 schoolgirls were kidnapped by Boko Haram. The group I met brought with them the father of one of the kidnapped girls. Even with all that had happened, Yusuf still wanted to train young men to share Christ's message in the war-torn area of northeast Nigeria.



In October 2019 Hope Springs board member Jon Harris and I met with Yusuf during our visit to Gombe State. Yusuf's dream to train preachers was still alive and well. I asked Jon to share his impressions of Yusuf from that visit and his impressions of a new project planned for the near future.



"I met Yusuf in October 2019. It was my first trip to Nigeria and also my first trip out of the United States. Our mission was to check on finished projects, projects in process, prospective locations for new wells and any other needs in the smaller communities of Gombe State. Yusuf had been in contact with Lee for many years and was spoken of very highly. Lee was especially excited about me meeting him.

"After meeting Yusuf and talking about life in Nigeria, I instantly realized he was probably the smartest person in the room. Relying on his background as a teacher, we went into a deep conversation about how western influence collided with the indigenous traditions of the area in terms of commerce and spiritual culture. He was passionate about uniting others in

Christ with the sole purpose of creating a stable community and saving souls.

"Yusuf has recently been inspired to grow his community of ministry leaders. With the violent activities of groups like Boko Haram wreaking havoc in his community, he is on a mission to train others to help deliver the message of Christ's saving grace to the ones who need it most. Yusuf's first training program had four minister trainees that were killed by terrorists on their way home for the holidays in Akwa Ibom State. They now must meet in more secret locations and stay under the radar as much as possible. Transportation, educational materials and other supplies are need for this to continue in a more intentional and secure way.

"I am excited to see this new project get started. People like Yusuf who voluntarily take on an endeavor like this need to be supported like no other. They are the mouthpieces for the greatest message that has ever been delivered to Earth. I look forward to us all playing a role in whatever way we can."



Let me tell you more about the "project" that Jon referred to. We are calling it "Operation Living Water." Today we are launching an appeal to raise \$12,000 to fund a two-year program which will train six young men to carry the gospel throughout Borno State, Nigeria. At the end of the two year program, the six trainees will be

sent to Hope Springs' Skills Acquisition Center in Gombe State to continue their training in Scripture and learn a skill that will enable them to be self-supporting. When their training is complete, they will move to a village where Christ is not known or accepted. Being able to support themselves will help them serve and befriend the local people and eventually lead them to Christ.

The long-range goal over the next two years is to complete the construction of the Skills Acquisition Center in preparation for these first trainees, and then continue training more men to take the Gospel to northern Nigeria.

Yusuf will train these young men to do what he has successfully done for years. He has established several small churches and in the last month baptized four young adults into Christ. Yusuf is a proven leader with the ability to not only reach people for Christ but to train others as well. He has been doing this on his own without support, but he does not make enough on his teacher's salary to pay for the students' transportation, food and necessary supplies.

You may support "Operation Living Water" by one-time donations or monthly commitments of any amount for 24 months. To assure that there is no downtime once the project begins, we want to fund it completely before we begin. The sooner we raise the necessary funds, the sooner we can begin this pro-

gram. Many of you have provided funds for clean water and now we are asking you to help us provide "living water" that has eternal benefits.

A note of caution. We will not talk about or promote this project on social media for the protection of Yusuf and the young men he will be training. There is a level of danger living in Borno State as a Christian, something that is hard for us in the USA to imagine or appreciate. As Jon mentioned earlier, we have already lost four young men to terrorist activity, so we want to take every precaution necessary as we move forward. Yusuf and these young men are willing to lay everything on the line for Christ. Will you honor their faith with your support?



Pictured above are those who have come to Christ in the last month.

COVID 19 and Nigeria.



As I write this, we are still under a lockdown in Gombe State because of COVID 19. We have heard the lockdown could be lifted soon, so we are hopeful. Our drilling crew has been doing much-needed maintenance on our equipment and as soon as we receive the word, we will be ready to get back to work digging wells.

Just this week we learned that one of our World Bank Projects in the community of Kushi was given the go ahead and will be near completion in the next few weeks. This is especially encouraging as all these projects were halted when the

shutdown was imposed by the governor back in March. We will have much more information on this project once it is completed.

Join us in praying that the lockdown will soon be lifted or at least eased so that more World Bank Projects can be completed and our drilling crew can get back to work. There is still so much to do and so many people waiting for clean water.