

ALIVE-Nigeria

COME ALIVE EJESI Mission Report

ISSUE 01

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OUR VISION

As ALIVE, it is our vision to develop and support a Bible-based and youth-led revival movement across the continent of Africa in which every Seventh-day Adventist student and young professional is a missionary.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to prepare Africa for the imminent return of Jesus Christ. Through biblical spiritual training and evangelistic efforts, it is our goal to challenge African Seventh-day Adventist young adults to live a lifestyle of authentic biblical excellence, instill a missionary volunteer spirit in every African Seventh-day Adventist young adult, mobilize and support young adult missionary movements across Africa, create a meaningful impact in neglected areas, and finally change the continent of Africa by ushering in the imminent return of Jesus Christ.

Exploring Mission Opportunities... July 10-31, 2011

Within the period of 10th to 31st July, ALIVE-Nigeria - a team of young professionals and student volunteers found their way into the village of Ejesi, situated about 20km far into the jungles of Osun State in Nigeria. There they lived with a group of friendly villagers who had been aching for want of truth. The truth was presented to them as clearly stated by the word of God. With about 30 villages around it, Ejesi stands at the center, as a focal point by which the word of God as a shining light can shine into several other villages thereby setting people free from the devil's yoke.

Amidst the numerous sandflies and other uncomfortable circumstances encountered at that village, the Lord blessed our efforts. By the end of the mission, ALIVE-Nigeria recorded over 150 sick individuals treated naturally, more than 800 items of clothing given out and 41 people baptized. Lots of testimonies came forth from villagers and God was greatly thanked. After our departure more individuals indicated for want of baptism and presently, thorough bible studies are being given to them. Praise God! With the number of obstacles and opposition we faced at the concept of this mission, we can only say to God be all the Glory for the successful outcome. Please read on to have an idea of how the Lord used willing youth to move His work forward here in Nigeria.

How ALIVE-Nigeria Got To Know Ejesi

It all started from ADRA's relationship with the town...Read more to find out more on how ADRA-Nigeria met Ejesi!

Why the name "Ejesi"...

About 200 years ago, the reigning monarch in Ife, hungered for hippo meat. The message went round the kingdom to all the warriors that the King wanted to eat "esi" (hippopotamus) and that there would be a special award for whoever could get it for him. Of all those that tried, only one succeeded. A hippo was killed in a vast jungle several days' trek from the town. Out of awe, the successful warrior was called "Ejesi", which in Yoruba literally means the "owner of



esi". He was rewarded with the land area where the esi was killed, rumored to be about 20 square miles. The place till today is called Ejesi.

How it Started - SDA Church Ejesi...

In January 2011, an Adventist family invited the pastors in Ife to a chieftaincy coronation celebration in Ejesi village. They had never been that far into the interior but decided to go with the two elders. They met the people and prayed with the new chief before the celebrations began. Just before they got back to their vehicle, some of the community leaders ran to them to intimate them of a decision that had just been made. That one of the first buildings in the village, which had previously been an interdenominational building for all those with Christian affiliations in the village, had just been donated to the Seventh-Day Adventist (SDA) church! Taken aback, the delegation talked about the uniqueness of the SDA church and how their expectations might be or not be met. Their unequivocal response was "However you tell us to worship, we will worship".



Then... ADRA and Ejesi...

This eagerness was what attracted Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Nigeria to Ejesi village about two weeks later. Thus began a community assessment and development work in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector. This physical

work would go on during the weekdays and spiritual nourishment, at the request of the villagers, held on Sabbaths. About 21km from Ife, the road is very bad, making the place inaccessible to many. It however became obvious that the people needed, and actually deserved, more than they were getting at that time. In answer to prayers for help, ALIVE Nigeria was inaugurated and needed an outlet for its abundant talents and energies. In what turned out to be a mutually satisfying mission trip, Ejesi village provided that outlet.



Come ALIVE Ejesi...!

ALIVE is an acronym for Africans Living In View Of Eternity and a grassroots movement comprising young Adventist graduates and professionals desirous of becoming true missionaries. ALIVE was inaugurated in Nigeria on March 20, 2011 with 16 members, and officially became part of the global network that is fired up for soul winning. With the objective to go where nobody else wants to go to win souls for Jesus, Ejesi mission is the first rural mission program of ALIVE Nigeria. It was an eye opener in so many respects. It was a blessing. We learnt a lot. We endured a lot. In the final analysis, we feel privileged to have been counted worthy to work thus for our Lord. God took us there and He



was with us every step of the way. We're glad we went and we look forward to subsequent missions.

We've tried to report some of the activities there, enough to give you an idea of what the three weeks were like.... Thank you for your prayers and support, without which it would not have been a success. We hope you get an idea of what we are about in this document and want you to know that we still count on you for better mission trips in future.



From the President...

I would like to express my profound thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the Ejesi mission in one way or the other.

Many thanks to the church authority and Pastors for supporting us - Pastor Owolabi, President, SDA Church in Nigeria (Northwestern Union) for his constant support; Dr Samuel Amukele, Director, African Medical Missionary Institute (AMMI), Dr. Peter Opreh, Chief Medical Director, Ife SDA Hospital, Pastor Gift Gbenedio from Edo/Delta Conference, Pastor Maigadi, President, Northwest Nigeria Conference for his role as a mentor and guide; Pastor Ezekiel Oyinloye, President, West Nigeria Conference and his Executive Secretary, Pastor Oyedele, who was very instrumental and helpful to us in securing the services of a pioneer, Pastor Ogungbile, Olarenwaju district Pastor and Pastor Ogungbesan, Campus Ministries Director for Osun state, who both helped to baptize those who responded to the altar call. Special thanks also go to SDA Hospital Chapel of Redemption and Ajamopo SDA Church who released some of their communication equipments and chairs.

We began this mission with so many hurdles that seemed insurmountable from the onset, but with faith in God and His leading us daily, we were able to see His mighty Hands every step of the way orchestrating the outcome of every event. In retrospect, we are now able to say, Glory be to God for the great and marvelous things He wrought at Ejesi! He blessed our efforts with baptisms of 41 precious souls.

It is not a small feat to have endured the conditions under which we had to live in during those 3 weeks. But though the physical terrain was unfriendly as well as the sand flies, we were all able to cheerfully endure all the discomfort for the sole purpose of winning souls for our Lord JESUS, who also endured untold hardship and suffering to save us from our sin and provide salvation for us.

Witnessing is the very soul of a Christian, and the more we tell others of what Christ has done for us, the more our souls are revived. We plan to go on more missions because true salvation demands it, and it is commanded of us by our Creator. There will be more experiences to acquire, more stories to tell of Jesus, more hardship to endure, and no matter how hard or smooth the journey may be, we are certain that the LORD Himself will be with us always, even onto the end of the world. Amen.

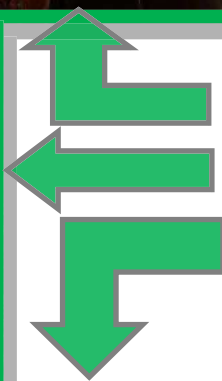
Thank you to all who made this possible and may God keep and bless you all.

Regards,

Paul Ogaga,

President, ALIVE-Nigeria





Sermons /Evangelistic meetings at Ejesi

Baptism of a willing Soul

The Ejesi children worshipping the Lord

Testimony...

On our 2nd Sabbath in Ejesi, 25 people were baptized in a stream about 1km from where we held meetings every night. More people wanted to be baptized the following Sabbath but by the time we got there on Thursday, the water level had gone down. We prayed for a solution. On the 29th a heavy rain fell and stopped just at the stream, unknown to us, without disturbing our Friday night meeting. By the following morning, our stream had water and praise God 16 more were baptized that day!



JOIN US!

An easy way to get involved with ALIVE and our work is to become a member!

As a member of ALIVE, you will be provided with email updates on missions in Nigeria and Africa, prayer and financial needs, upcoming events in your area, and volunteer opportunities.

Through this membership, you will have an opportunity to become actively involved spiritually and by physically supporting the work of ALIVE.

You can choose to sign up by:

Filling out the form on the registration page of our brochure, detaching and returning to any ALIVE member or scanning and sending via email to this email address

alivenigeria@gmail.com

OR

Choose to register at

www.alivenigeria.net

WELCOME!

Daily Schedule each evening:

- ⇒ 30 mins health message
- ⇒ 1hour Bible study
- ⇒ 1 hour Bible Message



About Our Mission Approach

Our goal was simply to just preach the word!

Our strategy included different ways of preaching - speaking, studying, showing, etc. Our focus was to be a part of the lives of the people of Ejesi and we tried to achieve this through the following:

▪ Door to door evangelism

Every morning after devotion, we split ourselves into groups (depending on how many Yoruba speakers



we had on ground). We then went from house to house to pray with

them and answer questions they had about the previous day's bible study. The villagers came to look forward to it and even the staunch Muslims among them became very receptive after a few visits. Initially some of the heads of Muslim households did not participate in our prayers, then gradually they joined, but refused to say amen. By the time we left, they had all come to expect the morning prayers in their homes and shared freely with us of their pains and joys. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with them at different levels.

▪ Bible studies

These were essential to the success of the mission. Every evening for one hour, we took time to delve



deeply into the bible. We gave the villagers the opportunity to read the bible themselves and ask questions. We

gave out over 50 bibles in both English and Yoruba languages and we were thrilled to hear them answer questions that required them to study quoted verses on their own. It was wonderful. Prior to the evening sessions, we took time to thrash out the topic for the day.

▪ Sermons

The sermons were rich and well presented by Cyprian and Samson and God used them mightily to beam the light on His precious words to an average of 120 adults every night! The villagers describe their current state as "being enlightened, well-armed to respond to false doctrines on the authority of the bible, and the bible alone" Praise God!



▪ Health

Health was the forerunner of our mission! By the time we were ready to preach, several whose ailments had been cared for were at the forefront of inviting people to the evening programs and ready to participate fully themselves. This aspect sweetened our subsequent messages from the bible and left a lot of sick souls revived.



Contd on Page 5...

HONORABLE MENTION...

- ❖ **Danjuma Daniel (Business Administration) ALIVE Nigeria - Logistics Committee Member** - Driver, Logistics Officer (accommodation in Ife, canopies, transportation)
- ❖ **Oyin Adediran** - Driver, Electrician, Plumber, Purchasing Officer, Logistics Officer (accommodation in Ife, canopies, chairs); involved in almost all aspects!

They worried about us from the beginning till the end. God used them mightily to make things work here. Thank you for your help.

If you cannot be the watchman ...pointing out the path to heaven...you can be like faithful Aaron holding up the prophet's hand.- SDAH

MEDICAL MISSIONS

Truly the Right Hand of the Gospel...

Ejesi mission was made easier by the work of medical missionaries from African Medical Missionary Institute, Port Harcourt. 9 of them arrived Ife on Sunday, July 10 after an 8-hour journey. It was not possible to get to Ejesi that night because of a heavy rainstorm that flooded many towns and cities all across West Africa. This made the only road to Ejesi slippery and impassable. To the glory of God, the sun came out the following morning and hardened part of the muddy spots on the road, as a result of which we were able to get to the village on the 11th.



Over a 10-day period, the medical missionaries attended to over 150 clients



from 6 villages. They combined a variety of methods to meet the immediate and long-term health needs of the people. These included health education and training, use of natural remedies like hydrotherapy, green juices, use of activated charcoal, fresh and dried plants. Every intervention was used as an opportunity to point the people to God as our Creator and ultimate healer of body and soul. Needless to say, the evening training

sessions were packed full.

Perhaps the most accepted of the health messages was the use of activated charcoal for domestic and medical purposes. It sounded incredible to the villagers at first but as they observed that, according to one elderly villager, it "worked like magic", its acceptance caught on and before we knew it, over 20 people turned up for the practical class on charcoal activation. The kids who most mornings „forgot“ to brush their teeth started looking forward to when their teeth would be brushed with charcoal. Many of the Ejesi villagers went with us to nearby Sagi and Oyo to testify of the benefits of charcoal and green juices and the need to „believe in the God of the SDAs“.



God used the medical missionaries as forerunners for the important message of salvation of the soul. The villagers received healing of their bodily ailments through the grace of Christ and they were ready for the critical messages of salvation of their souls as a result.

Children's ministries

We had children coming from Oyo and Sagi, two neighboring villages, each about 50 minutes of brisk walk each way. Most of them were Muslims and did not know Christian songs or bible verses. We eventually „graduated“ to the point where we had to teach these children separately, using animated bible story cartoons projected on screens and explained to them from the bible. On the last Sabbath, these children were able to sing three songs well to the adults during Sabbath school.



Welfare Services

In what was a complement to our bible messages, we gave out over 800 articles of clothing; shoes, toothbrushes & toothpaste. Within a few days, almost everybody in the village had something on their bodies or feet that had been given out to them in love. There was fear that they would not go round and things almost got rowdy but eventually everybody was happy and they prayed for the donors.



Community Service

To buttress the holistic nature of our faith, we talked about and demonstrated God's expectations of us as His children. Our goal was to leave the community better than we met it and we were out with cutlasses, hoes, makeshift rakes, shovels, brooms etc, to clean up the village. Several villagers of different age groups joined us and when visitors to the village who could not help commenting on the „new look“ the village wore asked how it happened, they proudly beamed and said it was part of the new gospel the SDA church had given them!



And so we preached, with our hands, our mouths and our hearts... and the Lord blessed...



Testimonies ...



Volunteers at the mission

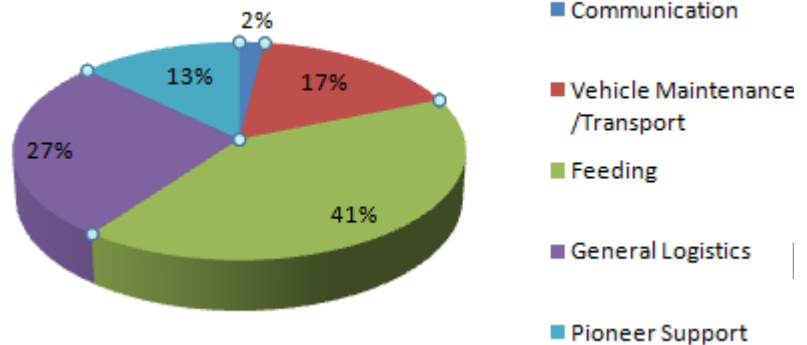
- ◆ It's a wonderful experience for me, hard to explain. Day by day I saw God's hands in Ejesi and I just thank Him for using me there. - **Giddy**
- ◆ When I came here I saw that I couldn't leave. I'm so happy that I was fully part of this mission. - **lyk**
- ◆ Simple people but with great minds! Thankful that God has made something out of nothing. Thank God for good health, for spiritual families. It's such a joy to go out together for missions as a family. - **Paul**
- ◆ Thank God for protection. All our doors, windows and walls had holes & cracks that can easily let creatures in. Yet, God protected us from all harm. - **Esther**
- ◆ When I got here I was discouraged at the sight of the place called Ejesi & wanted to leave. I thank God that as unworthy as I am, He didn't allow me to cheat myself. - **Success**

Come ALIVE_Ejesi Financial Report...

Money was very hard to come by in the course of planning for this mission trip. At a point it seemed as though we would postpone to a later date. Our faith was strengthened when one of our fathers asked for an update on our financial situation a

Expenditure		Income
Communication	6,800	N210,000
Vehicle Maintenance /Transport	57,100	
Feeding	140,600	
General Logistics	91,370	
Pioneer Support	44,000	
TOTAL	N339,870	

few weeks to the program. When we told him that we had „zero naira“ he responded by telling us that that was the reason why the mission would be successful! We believed! Today the mission has held and we're counting our success by the number of precious souls that are worshipping there now, who have already started to spread light to other communities around them. They, out of their gratitude donated land to ALIVE Nigeria for evangelistic purposes. So, we're far from done with the people of Ejesi. We have a pioneer living there now to continue teaching them. Look at the way we spent money...



“Your coming here has given us hope. Please come back again & again!”

—
Balogun of Ejesi



Mr FESTUS—
One of the first to request to be baptized.

REFLECTIONS OF THE TEAM...

Ejesi mission was not the work of one person! Several people supported the mission with their prayers, encouragement, counsel, money and other resources. Below are comments from some of those that were present at the mission field...

Paul Ogaga (Estate Management)

ALIVE Nigeria President

July 11-15; 25-31 (Lagos)

My experience was one of surprise. I had no intuition it would be as rural as it was. My bed was made of 4 uneven tree trunks overlaid with planks to serve as the bed, with no mattresses. My first night was horrible as my mind kept wandering what could or could not happen. But after that first night, I quickly adjusted.

The food was delicious and nourishing. Maybe we could have added a little more tofu and spice.

Did not know that a place like this existed in Nigeria. Grateful for the reception of the villagers and their open mindedness. Great people. Lots of fruits. Great potential, they truly have a lot to offer.

Helped in tidying up the environment. Specifically with the sand around the well. Coordinating on behalf of ALIVE with the conference. Securing fully the services of the pioneer. Carried chairs to and from the site, prayed with families in the morning etc.

It was interesting watching the villagers be themselves as we lived among them. No doubt they were happy to have us and when it was time to leave, it was hard to say goodbye, both by them and for us to them. My joy is in knowing that the work that has been started there lives on. The people have shown that if mobilized, they can reach the neighboring villages around them and we are committed to seeing this happen.

I had a tough time with the sand flies. Their situation really required the spiritual injunction „put on the whole armor...“ Any opportunity they got they used to bite and leave big bumps on our bodies, I didn't get used to that till I left. And then the villagers make smoke to chase them and we had to endure this every time we gathered. That was hard but I learnt to make the smoke too.

So much that we take for granted that the villagers treated like gold – used clothes, gum boots, bibles – sharing these almost became a problem but God intervened and everybody got something and was happy at the end of the program.

I'm glad that this mission trip was blessed by God and that it was successful. I'm grateful to God that He made me a part of it and I can't imagine where else I could've been that I would have felt as fulfilled as I feel now about it. I'm already looking forward to the next one!

Samson Fatola (Chemical Engineering)

ALIVE Nigeria Secretary

July 22-30 (Babcock U., Ilishan-Remo)

I knew I was coming to a village, but I didn't know it would be as remote! The road is discouraging. The kind of buildings here are unexpected but having arrived, the readiness of the people to learn, their enthusiasm and their commitment made the whole exercise worthwhile.

The accommodation was not too bad for this kind of place, the villagers gave up their homes to house us! It was a test of faith, which will help us in future mission.

Feeding was excellent. Fruits, grains, vegetables, carbohydrates were regularly served & well prepared; food was always ready as & at when due; the villagers kept up a steady supply of food. I particularly enjoyed the pounded breadfruit.

I loved our outreach trips to nearby villages like Sagi and Oyo. The bible studies/training sessions for missionaries were superb! I enjoyed the highly-revealing discussion.

I was involved in preaching. It was a wonderful experience for me as I have never preached for a week before. I really thank God for this privilege given me by ALIVE Nigeria. I was also part of the community service where I weeded the church environment. It was fun!

Our morning visitation & prayer sessions for each household was a blessing. This greatly helped us to be associated with their joys, wants and needs.

I'm grateful for the support & encouragement received from the District pastor, Pastor Ogungbile; Conference Secretary, Pastor Oyedele & North-West Nigeria Conference President; President I.B. Maigadi.

We need to improve in our singing. Our hosts are majorly Yorubas, but most of us were not fully prepared for Yoruba songs. In subsequent missions, we should arrange for people who can sing very well in the local language of our hosts.

The lectures on health were wonderful and educative especially the usage of activated charcoal. I praise God for the testimonies of the people after starting to use charcoal for a lot of things.

The whole exercise was worthwhile. I enjoyed every aspect of the mission. It is highly commendable. I will come again and again!

Cyprian Nwasuka (Agric/Mechanical Eng)

ALIVE Nigeria – Vice President
(Evangelism)

July 17-23; 28-31 (Port Harcourt)

I'd been Ejesi is a really rural village but I still wasn't prepared for what I saw the first time I came. After a few kilometers I had to quickly call people to try to describe the terrain to them but it was difficult. I just told them „it's better experienced than explained“!

The first thing I did on arrival was to quickly adjust my sermon to fit the locality. I've been going for what I used to call „village evangelism“ but I had not even gotten to the village before I realized that I'd actually been running „town & city evangelism“. But the people are so warm! Very teachable, zealous, nice such that the sand flies, no electricity, mats on uneven floors, all the inconveniences paled in comparison to the hospitality of the people. They were very attentive to our needs and only the Lord can reward them for how they took care of us.

The food was good. We couldn't even finish all that the villagers brought, they kept bringing more & more.

I enjoyed our trips to neighboring villages, to the stream where we had baptism, going from house to house every morning to pray with the people, meeting the people at the well, church, under the tent, they are just wonderful.

There were a lot of things to do and I helped with some of them. I preached, taught bible sessions, handled morning devotions, mobilized the community youths to work, ran training sessions for volunteers & ALIVE members, baptismal classes etc

It was amazing to see the faces of the villagers grasping new truths and immediately starting to apply them. I saw people who genuinely want to know and grow. Living with them for two weeks gave us the opportunity to not just preach but to watch them live their lives and to show them how they can do things differently, but better.

I really enjoyed the health messages so much. The medical missionaries had paved the way and by the time we started preaching, their hearts followed the rest of their bodies that had received healing and it wasn't hard at all.

I thank God for bringing me to Ejesi to be a part of this. God chose the place for us Himself and it's such a privilege to be able to work with God in this kind of fertile ground. Looking forward to the next one!

REFLECTIONS OF THE TEAM...

Ejesi mission was not the work of one person! Several people supported the mission with their prayers, encouragement, counsel, money and other resources. Below are comments from some of those that were present at the mission field...

Tomi Daniel (Law)

ALIVE Nigeria – Vice President
(Programs)

July 10-31 (*Ife*)

I remember traveling the long stretch of terrible road to Ejesi and wondering what God could have in store at the end of the very bumpy ride. Since that first time, the village has remained relatively unchanged but I have gone through several transitions because of the wonderful people that God has planted in the village.

Makes me think of heaven -long, rough ride at the end of which is a community where you feel the ride was truly worth it!

Can't say that I'd ever met any group of people before who are so warm, so eager to learn new things and apply them. Ejesi was my introduction to that kind of life and I've learnt a lot from them. They panicked at first when they heard that young people from Lagos, Port Harcourt, Abuja & other big cities would live and eat with them for 3 weeks. It seemed impossible but God has made it happen beyond our wildest imaginations.

I have enjoyed their hospitality & passion for life and truth. In the space of 3 short weeks, our lives have become intertwined such that I will never really forget this place. So many exciting things -beds made within 15 minutes; fresh fruits & veggies straight from the farms to the pot; every adult parenting every kid; a chance to sleep in a mud hut – it was great!

My duties during the mission included shopping for supplies, translation/interpretation, working during community service session, etc.

It's exciting to see communities taken over by Jesus! Where old, young, male, female are testifying that their lives have been transformed for good. Most of the newly-baptized souls are not merely members, they are disciples all fired up, that have started sharing the little they know with people from neighboring villages. This is what challenges me to review my faith and walk with God. Several of them asked me, „why are you doing this?“ Unexpected question to which I had no clear answer. But I grasped the opportunity to think about it and I realized that I need to be part of missions like this for my own salvation more than anything else. My faith is renewed seeing Jesus again through the eyes of those meeting Him either for the very first time or rediscovering Him again out of the chaos in their own lives. I'm so glad to have been a part of this & I am eagerly looking forward to our next mission trip

Esther Imeh-Ogaga (Mathematics/ Computer)

ALIVE Nigeria – Programs Committee
Member

July 25-31 (*Lagos*)

My first impression of Ejesi was that it's a real village. The villagers were friendly. It appeared so far away from town. A lot of valuable vegetation in the village.

The medical missionaries made our work much easier as the people were more receptive after receiving medical attention. They taught the villagers how to utilize the resources around them for their health and we also learnt a lot from them too.

I believe that the community service program went a long way to warm the hearts of the villagers as we worked alongside them to clean up the village. I'm glad that we had this.

I felt very happy that our speakers were very charismatic and apt. The Lord used them to deliver core Adventist messages that went straight to the heart of the people.

I tried to be useful and was engaged to do some things as follows:

- Conducted bible study in the tent
- Coordinated eating at mealtimes
- Gave out charcoal mix to volunteers
- Carried out bible study amongst members
- Was part of a group that went door to door to pray and discuss with villagers
- Weeded (amongst others) around the church and Baba Pastor's house
- Tidied up after meals
- Carried chairs to tent
- Did a morning devotion
- Prayed with others during evening meetings
- Sorted out clothes for distribution
- Went to Oyo for medical evangelism

Now that God has blessed us with a resident pioneer, I know that the little we were able to do will not be in vain but will be the seed that will grow to become big trees in the future. I look forward to our developing the land the community gave us as soon as possible. This will further cement our relationship with them.

Overall, I see the Ejesi mission as a wonderful program and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to be part of this mission. Looking back, I see how the Lord was so good to us and I look forward to the next one!

Imoh Imeh-Efre (Chemical Engineering)

ALIVE Nigeria- Evangelism Committee
Member

July 18-31 (*Lagos*)

As we travelled to Ejesi from Ife, the roads began to narrow and it looked like a perfect setting for tales by moonlight. We were greeted with a small settlement at the end of the journey called Ejesi and worshipping with them that evening gave me a glimpse of their dedication and love for God. The sand flies were part of that welcome & stayed with us all through ...

Accommodation comprised mud huts with zinc roofs and tree trunks were used to support wooden boards. However intimidating it looked, after a long day of outreach, the hours of the night passed quickly. With time I got attached to my hut.

Breadfruit pounded yam, plenty of fruits and walnuts with boiled corn and coconut made food o'clock very interesting! During the first two days, the medical missionaries cooked for us and were quite innovative even when there was not enough foodstuffs. Iyke constantly kept on asking for Cyprian's meal when Cyprian travelled. But we all marveled at the fact that he still remained tall and lanky.

I helped out in many ways and remember that I

- ☐ Delivered bible studies to the villagers
- ☐ Prayed with the ministers
- ☐ Prayed everyday during the sermon
- ☐ Coordinated sharing of clothes/bags/shoes
- ☐ Coordinated sanitation exercise
- ☐ Handled bible studies/training for ALIVE members
- ☐ Handled the debrief session
- ☐ Shared food
- ☐ Coordinated blending of bitter leaf
- ☐ Planned for the bible studies, topics & speakers
- ☐ Coordinated the selection of health lecture topics
- ☐ Walked to Oyo, Ejesi to pray and invite them
- ☐ Prepare the pathway / pool for baptism

The sanitation exercise greatly surprised the villagers. They didn't expect us to do some manual labor alongside laboring for their souls.

The speakers were able to connect well with the audience.

I'm very privileged to have been a part of this mission. By God's grace, I wish to be part of subsequent ALIVE mission trips.

REFLECTIONS OF THE TEAM...

Ejesi mission was not the work of one person! Several people supported the mission with their prayers, encouragement, counsel, money and other resources. Below are comments from some of those that were present at the mission field...

Nancy Imeh (Electrical/Computer Engineering)

ALIVE Nigeria – Communication Committee

July 10-31 (Lagos)

After spending a night here, I sincerely felt that the apt description of life here was less than the "zero comfort" we had used to advertize the mission. The winding and extremely terrible road to the place seemed never-ending. Seeing an Adventist church signboard brought joy to me and meeting the excited villagers made me feel welcome...until I faced the billions of sand flies eating me all over...

Accommodation was even better than expected. First night was not so bad as I had a roommate for company. Subsequent nights were even more comfortable than the first. I didn't think I could survive in a hut with cockroaches on the wall and sand constantly pouring on my bed from the walls. But after dressing my bed with a nice looking mat and bed sheet, it didn't look so bad after all. Holes in the doors and cracks in the walls... led me to trust more in Jesus for protection.

As one of the first few volunteers that came on board, feeding for the first day was dry wheat bread with granola in water. It seemed like life was so hard. Over the next few days, we didn't have food coming in from town and so we had to make do with boiled corn as breakfast and made-up coconut soup with boiled beans & rice. Subsequently, feeding was perfect as the cooks did very well and the variety of native foods were great. Eating together with more people was more fun.

I carried chairs, served meals, prepared children's materials, prayed with & for the ministers during the program, handled bible studies, prepared green juices, coordinated the debrief sessions, led out in devotion, participated in general welfare. Activities were not so hard because I had been handling several of these activities before this mission.

The medical missionaries through their influence taught the people about the Sabbath and had a chance to talk to individuals personally about knowing Jesus. The people were most ready to attend the evangelistic programs in the evening. They could trust our messages.

Our work of cleaning the community – weeding round the houses, leveling grounds, clearing the church... encouraged the villagers to join in keeping their place clean.

I really enjoyed the missions, I'm very happy that I came around to join the team. It gave me a good training base for subsequent missions and has greatly encouraged me for personal evangelism.

Francis Adewunmi (Music)

ALIVE Nigeria – Communication Committee

July 25-31 (Lagos)

The warm reception by the villagers was impressive. Their support as per accommodation; also, while we worked to keep the community clean, both the young and old helped out.

The accommodation was fair, did not expect much since it was village evangelism. Was a little disappointed about sleeping on a mat, but later grew to enjoy it.

Feeding was okay, except for sometimes when we ate late. I somehow enjoyed the bitter leaf juice that we drank a lot of, I think it was one of the things God used to keep us healthy while there.

With a few of us there was work to be done! And so I

- assisted to carry chairs to the study venue
- helped to carry the generator on my head from the program venue.
- assisted in the children's department.
- helped to conduct songs service.
- interpreted for the first time.
- helped out during community service.

The community service program was the one that really showed that we were well accepted by both young and old in Ejesi. They all came out and we worked together to give the village a new look. It was fun!

I'm very happy that I was a part of the Ejesi mission and look forward to subsequent ones in the future. By God's grace, I will be there!

Kenneth Ubani [lyke] (Computer Science)

Volunteer

July 18-31 (Port Harcourt)

At first I thought „do people in Nigeria live in places like this?" When I tasted the hospitality of the people I felt very welcomed. Muslims & Christians living in one accord! The lesson of true love/brotherhood is one I've taken home from there.

Accommodation was hard floor, yet peaceful sleep. Big rats in the boys' lodge that ate through almost everybody's bag. The mud walls are coated with palm kernel shafts which diffuse an offensive odor in the daytime. We needed to adjust and we did!

There was enough food to go round, ate a lot of food (more than I'm used to)☺; the villagers kept bringing more even when we asked them not to. I discovered so many new fruits here that I'd never seen before. I nicknamed one „brain-fruit" since it looks so much like a brain. How can I forget the „yam" that grows on trees?

My tasks during were varied, and included devotion & prayer with the people every morning, outreach to neighboring villages; organize transfer of over 100 chairs every evening to the venue & back; built 3 bathrooms and 2 toilets out of sticks & plastic bags; was on the laptop typing reports, organizing sermon slides, prompting the projector, coordinated community service, photography, video, observer of almost every act, went to the stream. Sounds like a lot of stuff, but all was worth it!

The impact of medical missionaries should be a continuous process, for me this partnership is good and should be improved upon.

Some villagers didn't want to participate in the community service at first. In the end, we all united and it was fun. We fixed the bad roads, cleaned the environment, taught them how to clean up their homes better.

We need to make schedule for quarterly revival, delegates should be sent and they are to give reports.

I would love to be a part of this next time.

HONORABLES...

- ◆ **Elder Fajoju** – Community Leader, Resident Liaison representing church, community, ALIVE-Ng interest, etc
- ◆ **Wale** – Driver, Interpreter, Electricals, Carpentry
- ◆ **Kola Fajoju** – Interpreter, Electricals
- ◆ **Sylvester Afanga** – ALIVE Nigeria Member – Training/Orientation, Supplies
- ◆ **Ayo Asa** – ALIVE Nigeria Member – Pathfinder/Youth Band
- ◆ **Abigail** – Children's ministries, Song Leader

REFLECTIONS OF THE TEAM...

Ejesi mission was not the work of one person! Several people supported the mission with their prayers, encouragement, counsel, money and other resources. Below are comments from some of those that were present at the mission field...

Gideon Ikpong (Physics & Computer Sc.)

Volunteer

July 18-31 (*Eket*)

The road to Ejesi is rough but wasn't so bad with the pickup, in fact, it was fun! When I got here, I was impressed with the environment and the people; they are very accommodating, kind and receptive.

I slept on a single mat on the floor all through. This made me cold. We had some troublesome rats that disturbed us in our room, ate our bags and some of the contents. But I survived it! I also enjoyed the food, like the way it was served.

The medical missionaries who got there before us did a great work. I learnt so much from them and experienced anew their importance in groundbreaking of new mission fields. I look forward to working more with them in future missions.

My tasks during the mission were varied & included

- ▣ Pray with ministers before & after the program
- ▣ Welcome the audience and start the program.
- ▣ Transfer & set up electrical gadgets, generator & electronic equipments.
- ▣ Fix toilets and bathrooms.
- ▣ Repair the road between the village & program venue during community service. The community service was very good because it made the people to know that we are out for service and not just talking. We left an example for them to follow.

Follow up plans?

- ▣ Oversee the construction of a sturdy church building as the one they have currently is collapsing on the side.
- ▣ Get TV set and connect them to Hope Channel.
- ▣ Get a solar street light for the village.
- ▣ Further training for pioneer and send him materials
- Send representatives every quarter to visit.
- ▣ Send truck to pick up members for 13th Sabbath with other members in town.

My journey to Ejesi took three days from Adamawa to Uyo to Eket to Uyo to Lagos to Ife and then to Ejesi. If not for the sand flies, this place is super & there's no other problem. But I'm very happy that I

Success Abah (Medical Missionary)

Volunteer

July 17-31 (*Minna*)

The road to Ejesi! If not that I was with people from SDA Hospital I would have thought that they were taking me to a slaughter house. I had never seen such a bad road in my life. The only vehicles that can ply that route are hilux pickups, trucks and motorcycles. Ejesi is a hamlet without electricity, school or decent houses, yet the people are so wonderful, happy and extremely hospitable.

Accommodation was awesome because it's taught me how to prepare for the trouble of National Sunday Law. We were three in my room and had to formulate the idea of mobile bathroom because of sand flies.

When I first got here, there was not enough food to eat and I had to rely on fruits. Afterwards there was more than enough and the villagers kept bringing more even when we were ready to go!

It was exciting doing different things with the rest of the team on this mission. Some of my tasks were:

- ▣ Health consultant – treating, teaching in the villages around, every evening at the program, etc
- ▣ Welfare activities- clothes sorting, distribution etc
- ▣ Sabbath school superintendent

We should always visit Ejesi from time to time to encourage them in the Lord. I thank God that He gave me the opportunity to be one of those that took the gospel to Ejesi. I will do this again and again!

Tina Abel (High School)

Volunteer

July 26-31 (*Ife*)

When I thought of coming to Ejesi, I didn't know that the road was as bad. But then I told myself to prepare for an adventure and I enjoyed it. The villagers made me feel homesick. My bed was ok & food was good. I helped out with the children's class, community service, serving meals & carried chairs.

I think God brought me here and used the people here to bless me. I'm definitely looking forward to more mission trips in the future!

Ogechi Macaulay (2nd Year Undergrad)

Volunteer

July 25-31 (*Abuja*)

From Ife, the road was smooth until we entered the road to Ejesi. The road was rough, bad, as if no one lived in the area. Our vehicle almost slipped off the road, if not for God. Coming here I saw joyous people that wanted, needed and expected nothing less than God's words! They are simply wonderful.

Immediately I got here it dawned on me that I was here for a mission and that it's not about my comfort. This helped me adjust quickly to the camp houses here.

I prayed for and with people officiating during the evangelism, carried chairs back and forth the two venues, ushered people to seats, served during mealtimes and helped prepare green juice. I particularly enjoyed the community service as it brought people together to work towards a common good.

Though there was not enough time to eat, the food was well balanced. I didn't have any trouble except with beans.

I feel so blessed about the whole program. I'm so glad that I came and would love to do this again! God bless ALIVE! God bless Adventist youths! God bless Nigeria and God bless Ejesi! Amen & Amen

Nifemi Ayodeji (High School)

Volunteer

July 22-23; 26-31 (*Ife*)

The road was rough and bad. My first impression of the village was that "I'm so glad to be here" because the village is beautiful in its own way. The sand flies were very „welcoming" and we had to cover up fully!

My bed was rough and I was just tossing at night, but it was fun sleeping in a village house. I also enjoyed the food, the cooks were very good.

I handled the children's class with was easy for me as I'm used to it. I also helped with making green juice, which was the very first time for me. Community service was fun, I'm glad I took part.

I'm happy that I came and will like to go for more mission trips in future.

REFLECTIONS OF THE TEAM...

Ejesi mission was not the work of one person! Several people supported the mission with their prayers, encouragement, counsel, money and other resources. Below are comments from some of those that were present at the mission field...

Kwarbai Jerry (Accounting.)

ALIVE Nigeria – Logistics Committee Member

July 18-21 (*Babcock U., Ilishan-Remo*)

My experience at Ejesi was really an awesome one though brief but impacting. I was moved by the unity of the villagers even though they had little or no knowledge of God.

To be candid, I loved the worship style, the way we were all free to have a personal encounter with Christ, the boldness to ask question regardless of age, they villagers ability to take us as family.

The environment was really a home to be, I mean the fruits of various kinds, the vegetation, the birds, the domestics animal, just to mention but a few.

There were lots things to be done but I was able to assist in the technical and logistic department, it is really a privilege to serve the lord and I am ready for subsequent missions.

I want to appreciate ALIVE Nigeria Initiators for drawing me to such a great movement; I WILL BE A PART OF THIS AT ANY TIME, ANY DAY...!



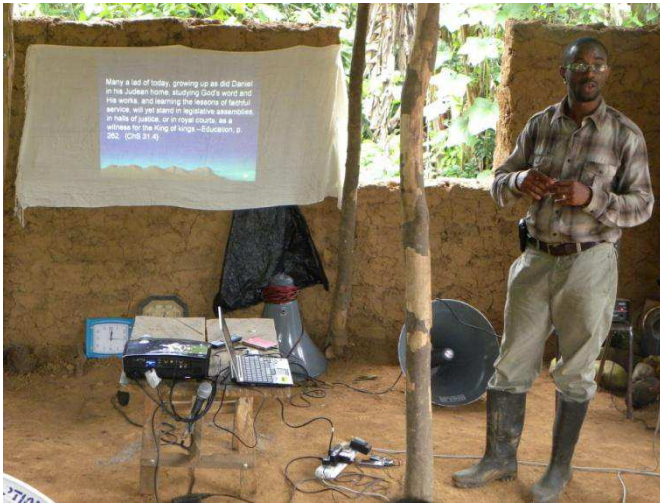
“Jesus invites us to come to Him and He will lift the weights from our weary shoulders and place upon us His yoke, which is easy, and His burden, which is light. **The path in which He invites us to walk would never have cost us a pang had we always walked in it.** It is when we stray from the path of duty that the way becomes difficult and thorny. The sacrifices which we must make in following Christ are only so many steps to return to the path of light, of peace and happiness. Doubts and fears grow by indulgence, and the more they are indulged, the harder are they to overcome. **It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.**

God calls upon you to **mingle the trusting simplicity of the child with the strength and maturity of the man.** He would have you develop the true gold of character, and through the merits of Christ you can do this.”{4T 558.2}





ALIVE Nigeria Team's Bible Study Session



One of the Team's Training Sessions

BAPTISMAL STATISTICS

(1ST SABBATH =25

2ND SABBATH=16

TOTAL=41)

AWAITING BAPTISM=6



COMMUNITY SERVICE

It wasn't all talk about "Jesus loves you" that we did with the villagers.

We worked together with them to demonstrate that because Jesus loves us so much, He wants us to live holy lives. And one of the ways to show this is by living in clean environments.

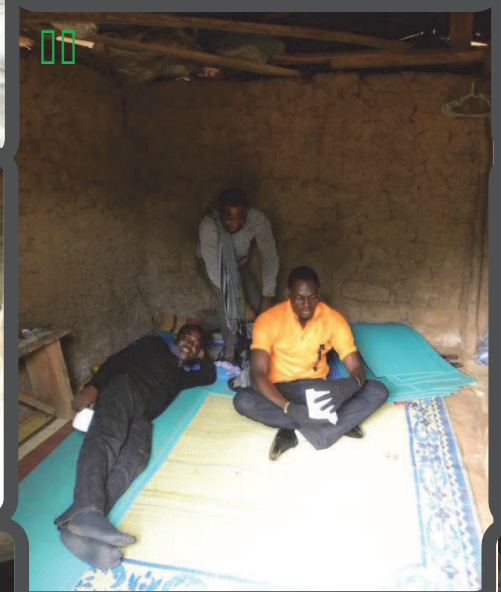
So, on our last Thursday there we got really dirty with them – sweeping, cutting, raking, hoeing, clearing, the full works. We worked on roads, in and around houses, the village square, and at the end of three hours, everybody loved the effect! Visitors to the village noticed the difference too, which the villagers were proud to tell them was as a result of the good work by the SDAs.

It was a lot of fun mixed with sweat!



JUST FOR LAUGHS!

Some people got caught by the ALIVE paparazzi team at different spots, doing different things! Check them out...



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Goodbyes and Thank Yous...

Before we knew it, our three weeks were up and it was time to go. We knew the parting would be painful; we didn't know it could be as creative and dramatic as the villagers made it! It replaced what could have been tears with sounds of glee and we left with laughter ringing in our ears

Upcoming Events

When is our next event?

Our next event will be more missions. Look out for our dates and location on our webpage www.alivenigeria.net. e'll keep you posted.



ALIVE-NIGERIA

"Young men and young women, cannot you form companies, and, as soldiers of Christ, enlist in the work, putting all your tact and skill and talent into the Master's service, that you may save souls from ruin? Let there be companies organized in every church to do this work. . . ."

Signs of the Times, May 29, 1893

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A.L.I.V.E is an acronym for Africans Living In View of Eternity, and ALIVE-Nigeria is the Nigerian Chapter of this global movement. ALIVE is a grass-roots movement of Seventh-day Adventist students and young professionals determined to hasten the second coming of Jesus Christ in this generation.

Africans Living In View



ALIVE-Nigeria