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of course, are the teachers Fred George and Gilbert Kimeng. I am met at the airport by Fred. He and his wife Titi lead a region here, oversee several other churches in Nigeria and he leads the ministry training program. They are very busy. I travel from the airport directly to a midweek meeting of the Ikeja region for a class on Daniel. The traffic, not surprisingly, is very tough and we arrive after the meeting has begun. Welcome to Africa. I love it.

On Thursday, I have some time to rest, followed by a midweek devotional on "The Island." This is the business district of Lagos. I taught a class on Living by Faith from Hebrews to about 200.

Friday is a busy day, as I teach a class for the staff of the church and the School of Ministry students on Answering the Hard Questions (the trinity, the question of evil, of suffering, of warfare in the Old Testament and the question of hell). The questions afterward show very deep thought on these theological questions. Interaction with Muslims flavors the questions. Afterward, I have a lunch with Chris and Rolayo Ogbonaya, the lead evangelist couple for the church. We have great conversation about our dreams for the churches in Africa. Chris has a very interesting lunch. He tells me that it is cow skin. I ask, "do you mean you are eating leather?" He answers, "I guess so." "How is it?" "A bit chewy." "Not surprising," I respond.

This is followed by a discussion with the four elders of the Lagos Christian Church. The church here is really blessed to have four spiritual and mature elders who have great zeal for God's church. They are Israel Ereola, Omo Iyamu, Omagbe Igbinoba, and Frank Okoduah. Their concern is for the spiritual growth of the churches in Nigeria. They could use more interaction with elderships outside of Nigeria. The idea of doing an exchange of elders comes up. This would be a good idea. From this meeting, I travel directly with Titi George to a midweek meeting in the Shomolu-Mushi region, northwest of the city. They have rented land and put up a large tent for a meeting place. This is a bit of a unique experience for me. I speak to a very enthusiastic crowd of over 200 on Freedom in Christ. The singing here is so inspiring, with dancing and intricate clapping. It is hard to describe.

Saturday included a class for the Bible group leaders on Acts and Church History and on Life in Christ. There were about 300 in attendance, which his very impressive for leaders of a church to come out all day Saturday. From there, we hurry to the airport. I am flying with Fred George to Port Harcourt.

Editor's note: Please visit www.DisciplesToday.org for the entire story, this version was edited for space.

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- ***Introducing the ICOC Weekly Podcast***
  Rich Bartoli, Charleston, WV, USA — Wednesday, 09 August 2017
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  Kathy Rosario, All Generations Conference — Monday, 31 July 2017
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- ***"God, Women and Sexuality" — Los Angeles Women's Event***
  Jacqueline Morici, Los Angeles, CA, USA — Tuesday, 08 August 2017
  On June 25, "God, Women and Sexuality" was the title and topic of our Coastal Los Angeles regional women's service with Dr. Jennifer Konzen as guest speaker...

- ***Johannesburg Church Hosts "Crossing the Line" Workshop***
  Paul Smith, Johannesburg, South Africa — Wednesday, 02 August 2017
  In June, the Johannesburg Church of Christ had the privilege of hosting the "Crossing the Line" workshop facilitated by Michael and MyCresha Burns from...

• UPCOMING EVENTS

Christian Counselors Conference
Lancaster, California USA
August 18-19, 2017

2017 Family Ministry Conference
Denver, Colorado USA
September 1-3, 2017

SEC Singles Retreat
Asheville, North Carolina USA
September 1-3, 2017

Tri-State Singles Retreat
Granbury, Texas USA
September 8-10, 2017

ICOC Worship Conference
Dallas, Texas USA
October 13-15, 2017

DT Hawaii Cruise
Honolulu, Hawaii USA
October 28 - November 4, 2017

2020 World Discipleship Summit
Orlando, Florida USA
July 2-5, 2020

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John Oakes Reports on Missionary Teaching Trip to Africa

Written by John Oakes, San Diego, CA, USA

Lagos Nigeria, June 28-July 3



This is my fourth visit to Lagos. It is a sprawling city on the western coast of Nigeria with a population of just over twenty million. It is the economic and cultural heart of the most populous country in Africa. This is a very religious city, with a church on almost every corner. Most of the billboards advertise various churches. The form of Christianity here is prosperity gospel, with a charismatic flavor. The traffic here is legendary, but it is not a legend: It is true. However, I see many improvements from my past visits. Drivers have begun to obey traffic laws and the streets are in much better condition. The government here is very corrupt, but it is good to see that things have at least turned in a better direction. Of course, Nigeria is going through a very troubled time with the battle against Boko Haram militants, but this fighting is far away in the north of the country, where Islam is the dominant religion. The dominant religion in the south is Christianity.

The church I am visiting has 1800+ members and four elders. They have begun a ministry training program for the campus and singles across Western Africa, with thirty or so making a three year commitment for training and teaching. It is very gratifying to see the church planning for the future in this way. My closest friends here,

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