

REPORT OF NWAG SITE VISIT TO FIVE ORPHANAGES

By Vivian Ujunwa Anih

Name of Orphanages Visited

- Rivers State: Adventist Rehabilitation Welfare Home and Orphanage Home
- Abia State: Susana Home of the Right Steps
- Akwa Ibom State: St. Anthony's Destitute Centre
- Cross Rivers State: Joy Dorcas Heart Foundation (now Abundant Love Orphanage)
- Ebonyi State: Izzi Motherless Babies Home

Adventist Rehabilitation Welfare Home & Orphanage Home – Rivers State

- According to the present coordinator, Elder Freeborn, Adventist Rehabilitation Welfare and Orphanage Home (ADRWOH) was established by the Seventh Day Adventist Church in 1984 and commissioned in June
- It is a charitable organization established for the purpose of helping the needy especially the orphans and the physically challenged people in the South Western part of Nigeria.

Activities

The orphanage started by training the physically challenged people on hair dressing, sewing, soap making, weaving of cane-chairs, shoe making, production of polythene bags, etc. and over 80 people benefited from that under the leadership of Elder Emmanuel Ewenike.

These programs phased out after some years due to lack of financial support to acquire resources for the training.

Elder Emmanuel also introduced admission and caring of the motherless babies, since then the institution has nursed over 50 children and many of them has been reclaimed by their parents. The home also carries out crop farming on annual bases for consumption.

Education Activities for the children

- Children between 0-2 years learn within the premises while those from 3 years and above are taken to school outside the home.
- After school hours, children normally engage in games, sports, domestic works and church activities on Wed, Fri and Sat. However, the home has no business activities at present.
- I suggested that the Home should organize a skill acquisition training for the grown-up children at least twice a week after school hours to equip them into better people for tomorrow with wider opportunities.

Challenges

- Lack of regular sustainable sources of income
- Irregular payment of worker's salaries
- Lack of mobility (vehicle) to take children to school
- Hospital is very far from the premises
- Schools are not close by to the orphanage

- The main building is dilapidated
- Insecurity of children and staff due to lack of finance to hire security personnel
- Despite all these challenges, Elder Freeborn highlighted that the children are living in good health.

Projection

- To start bakery business as source of income
- To invest in poultry as a source of income
- To build a cottage hospital
- To build nursery/primary school
- To buy a bus for the home
- To renovate the old building
- To complete the kitchen and dining building
- To pay our worker's salaries in arrears and regularly

Way Forward

- In view of all the challenges and projections on how to remedy them, the board of management has set up a planning committee to host their 22nd Anniversary/Fund raising of N250, 000, 000 to build a multipurpose building that can contain a cottage hospital, school, dormitory, offices, ICT Centers etc. on December 9th, 2018. He urged Miss Vivian to kindly send their invitation to the members of NWAG to seek their support towards the building project. It will be a great honour for them to participate in the ceremony as one of their sponsors over the years

S/N	AGE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	0-5 years	3	2	5
2	Above 5 Yrs	9	3	12
		MALE	FEMALE	
3	Staff	6	2	8



Children presenting a welcome song to Ms Vivian



Pastor Destiny Job presenting a gift to NWAG on behalf of the regional President



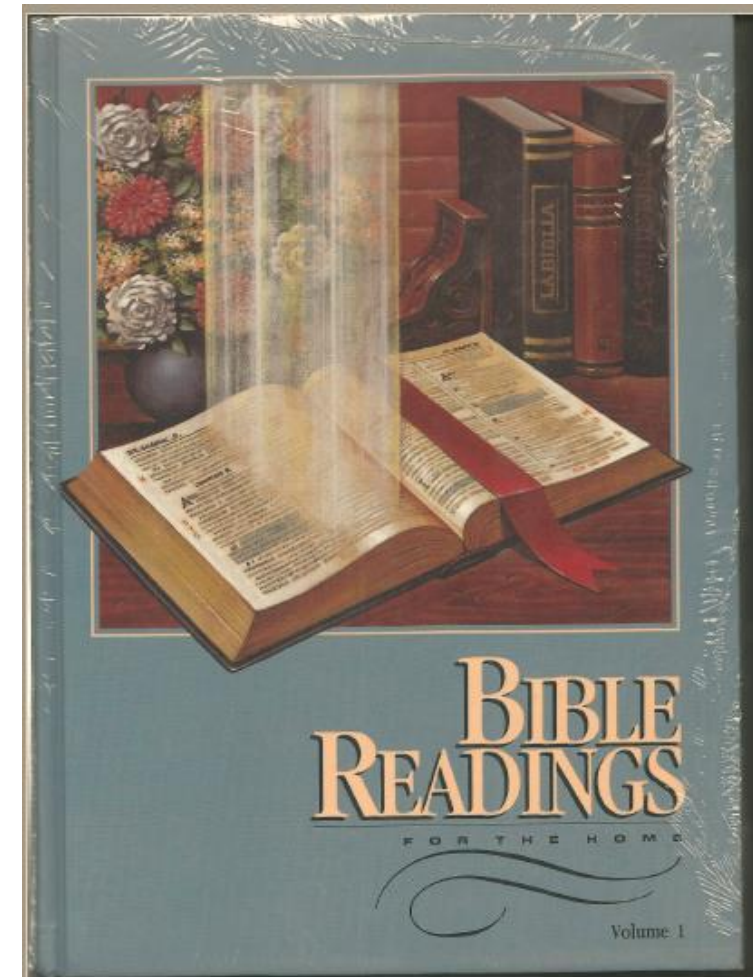
NWAG Representative with the Orphans



NWAG Representative with Management board and elders of ADRWOH



Building and Entrance of ADRWOH



***Gift to NWAG from the
management board***

Susana Home of the Right Steps – Abia State

- Susana Homes Orphanage is the first of the three major projects of Right Steps Family Inc.
- It was established in the year 1998 and is run simultaneously and dependent on the other two projects.
- Initially the Home focused on beggars on the streets especially mothers and their children. They go out to pick them up on the street, rehabilitate and emancipate them through empowerment programs
- This program stopped after a while as a result of the uncertainty in the society. People became scared to join the home as they are not sure of what they stand to gain.
- Susana Homes then focused on the orphans, the needy and the disabled members in the community.

- Within the past two decades of existence, Susana Home has raised over 75 children in the Orphanage and has also carried out many other humanitarian activities. Amongst the children raised in the home include 9 University graduates, 6 undergraduates, 12 children in the College/secondary school, 11 in nursery school and 8 toddlers.
- The children and staff are classified by age as shown in the table below

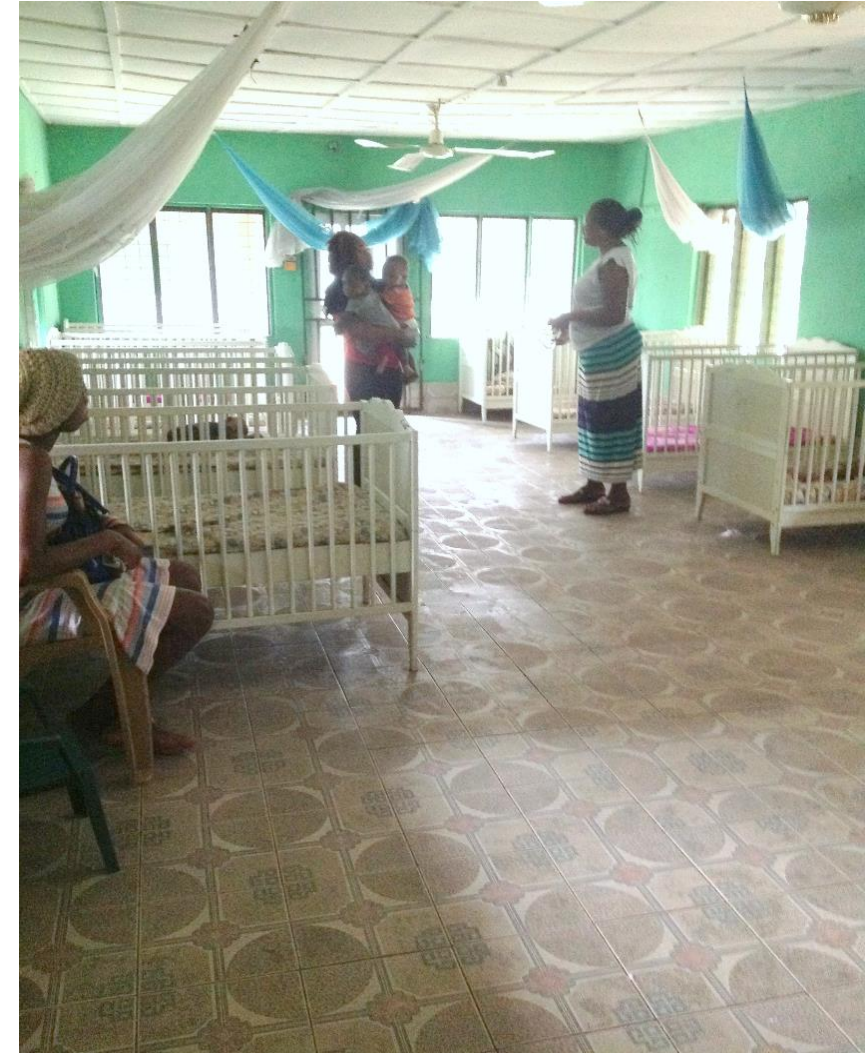
S/N	AGE	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTALS
1	0-5 years	9	9	18
2	Above 5 years	17	22	39
		MALE	FEMALE	
3	Staff	7	9	16

Activities

- The following activities are carried out by/in the home and within its premises
- Farming –piggery, cow and goat rearing, crop production (vegetables, corn, cassava, pumpkin, etc.)
- Palm oil production
- Home health care for the elderly
- Skill acquisition program such as hair making, sewing/dress making, interlocking, blocks molding, art & craft painting, house painting, palm oil production, animal rearing, tree planting, etc.
- School activities at the Susana Homes Christian School
- Church activities in the Church of Christ at Susana Homes, etc.
- The older children actively participate in the productive activities going on in the home. They produce virtually all the food they consume within the home. Parts of the items they produce (pigs, cassava, pumpkin, oil, etc.) are for consumption, while part are sold to make money for the orphanage.

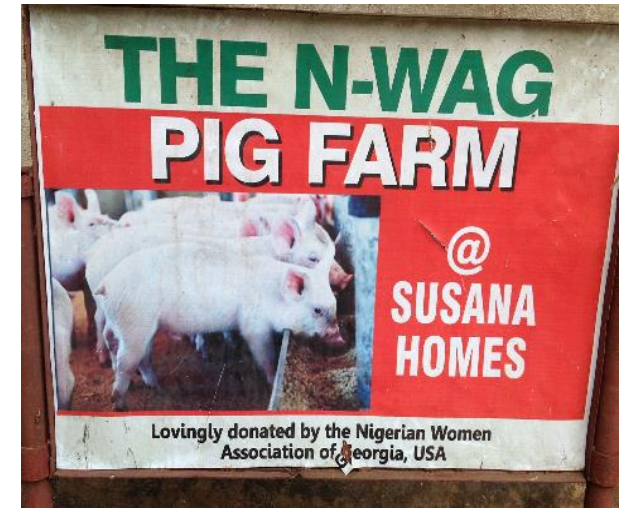
Observations

- Management of Susana Home has good management team, staff give selfless and excellent efforts to ensure the progress of activities in the home, especially the welfare of the children.
- Susana home is good place to be, the coordination of activities and the trainings given to the children are very encouraging.
- The environment is very clean which promotes good health within the home.
- It has a very beautiful natural environment with numerous green plants – fruits and vegetable planted by the children in the orphanage.
- They carry out all the productive activities by themselves and for themselves; hence each one of them has acquired not less than two entrepreneurship skills.



*Sleeping area for children
between 0-1year*













St. Anthony's Destitute Centre – Akwa – Ibom

- According to the former director of the center, Rev Fr. Dr. Anthony Ekong, the Destitute Centre was established in the year 1987 by Mrs. Carritas, Elder Joseph Asuquo and three other lay faithful to provide succor to the less privileged persons in the society such as widows, women suffering from abuse and violence, beggars on the streets, orphans, children from indigent homes whose parents cannot afford to feed/send to school, deserted pregnant teenagers, people with disabilities, etc.
- The home is organized to bring in these groups of individual and shelter them for a period of not more than 2-5years, rehabilitate them by providing quality care and support and subsequently send them back home as productive and more independent persons.
- The Catholic Church took over the ownership and management of the Centre and delegated it to her priest Rev Fr. Anthony Ekong who became the first administrator of the center in the year 2005

Structure

- After the handover was done, the Church through the tireless efforts of Fr. Anthony developed the Centre into a more modern care and support place.
- There were structures which the destitute live in and others for hospitality use, guests could come in to lodge in the center, the Centre also had a functioning restaurant to support its hospitality activities, and also a pig farm.
- One of the buildings has two big multipurpose halls which people they rent out for social events to generate money for the home. The Center also had an entrepreneurship and skill acquisition unit where the inmates are trained on skills programs before leaving the home.
- Sunday Masses were being celebrated in the Center which increased the traffic. There were a lot of recreational activities going on in the center which made it busier and more attractive environment.
- There was a good administrative system on ground and the center has a functioning website which brought it to the whole world and gave it the advantage of getting grants and donations from individuals, groups, local and International organizations such as Mobil, NWAG etc. The inmates were enjoying quality care and support as expected.

The Challenge

- St Anthony's Destitute Centre remained highly rated as best of its type then due to its strong management structure and organized system of activities until the year 2010 when the flood disaster befall the Centre and took away its glory.
- Fr. Anthony narrated bitterly the adverse effect of the flood devastation on the center's resources as it has been reoccurring since then and has destroyed virtually all the assets of the center such as buildings, pig farm, household items, brand new cars for the home, 20 KVA Generator, borehole water supply system donated by Mobil, Tricycle machine (Keke), properties of inmates, resources in skill acquisition unit, items in the administrative office etc.
- Everything he acquired over the years to be able to sustain the Home was destroyed by constant flood leaving the management with nothing to work with. Fr. Anthony said the cost of the drainage system that need to be done is huge and that the church cannot afford it, he has written severally to the government about the issue but they are yet to intervene.

- As a result of this problem, the inmates lost most of their belongings and the houses are also in a very bad condition, so the management decided to send them back to their various homes pending the time the facilities are properly fixed. They are allowed to come in everyday for their relief materials such as food.
- On the 27th of August 2018, based on Fr. Anthony's recommendation for change in administration and approval by the Archbishop, the administrative management of the center was handed over to the sisters of the Witnessing Members of Christ Family.
- Rev Fr. Anthony pledged his constant support to the new administration until the Centre is fully rehabilitated; however his role as the legal practitioner for the inmates remains.

Numerical Strength

- Staff: Male – 2, Female – 4
- Children:
 - 0-5 yrs: Boys – 1, Girls – 2
 - 5-10 yrs: Boys – 15, Girls – 5
 - Above 15 yrs – 23



***Fr. Anthony and Rev Sisters
in a round table meeting
with Miss Vivian***

Some of the damages caused by flood devastation









*After a Sunday mass at St Anthony's
Destitute Centre before the Flood*





***Vivian while
addressing the
children***



Joy Dorcas Heart Foundation – (Abundant Love Orphanage)

Cross Rivers State

The Foundation was founded in June 1st, 2012 by Deaconess Getrude Bassey to care selflessly for people living with HIV, Orphans, widows, vulnerable children and the less privileged in various communities in Cross Rivers State, Nigeria.

It is organized to bring in the Orphans and vulnerable children in the home for close attention until they grow to become independent before they vacate the home.

Since its establishment, the Foundation has enjoyed all manner of favours from individuals, churches, groups, local and international organizations such as NWAG. This gave the management an opportunity to accept additional inmates as they come for help and to deliver more quality care than before.

JDHF engages in various humanitarian activities such as sheltering the orphans/needy, provision of sound education for the children, feeding, health care, farming, skill acquisition and empowerment through enrolment of inmates for apprenticeship.

- JDHF has impacted many lives; it has settled up to five of her inmates who have grown to be independent.
- According to Deaconess Bassey , one of her daughters in the home will graduate as a nurse in November this year before getting married in January, 2019. Also one of her sons vacated the home last year got married and is doing well, another one who declared interest in skills other than education was registered under apprenticeship and will be settled by the end of this year
- The Foundation continued with its name as Joy Dorcas Foundation until January 2018 when the Cross River State Social Welfare Department directed the management to officially register the Foundation as a home not as a foundation to enable the name correspond to its basic activities and programs. Hence the Foundation was registered with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) as **ABUNDANT LOVE ORPHANAGE HOME, No: 113124**
- They would therefore prefer to be addressed as that and not Joy Dorcas Heart Foundation to maintain a single entity.

- **Numerical Strength:** The Home has a total of 50 children and 10 staff
 - 0 - 5 Years: Boys (6), Girls (6)
 - Above 5 years: Boys (18), Girls (20)
 - Staff: Male (2), Female (8)
- **Achievements in the past one year:**
 - Construction of Borehole Water system
 - Construction of the corp members' lodge
 - Payment of Children School Fees
 - Feeding
 - Health and general care of children: The assistant director is a nurse and is always available to provide health care support to the children and other staff in the home.
 - Crop Farming: cassava, maize, yam, melon etc.
- **Resources:** The home has a farm land of about 4 plots in size. It is located 1.5km outside the premises and that's where they farm for both consumption and commercial purposes to sustain the children.

Challenges

- Mobility to take children to school daily: The available Peugeot goes up to four times when dropping the children for school.
- Accommodation: the children are increasing per day, so a larger facility is needed
- School fees as soon as school resumes







Izzi Motherless Babies Home – Ebonyi State

- Izzi Motherless Babies Home is owned and managed by the Nigerian Reformed Church.
- The church branch in Onuenyim Izzi is a local church with a lot of responsibilities to its members and internal groups though with a very low income generation.
- The Church appointed a board of directors, otherwise known as the technical committee led by Rev Sunday Nkwuda to manage the affairs of the orphanage and report directly to the Church board on either quarterly or annual basis or on demand.
- The home has about eight paid staff; out of which four serve as field workers, two nannies, one cleaner and one security man.
- It is mainly sponsored by Board for Special Needs in Netherlands (BSN), an organ of the Global Reformed Church that oversees the welfare of the needy focusing more on the developing or less developed countries of the world.

Activities

- The major activities carried out in the home include;
- Feeding and meeting the health care need of orphans, 0-3 months
- Providing educational support to the outright orphans in the home
- Farming for both consumption and commercial purposes

Resources

- IMBH has no resources on its own since it is run as part of the Church. Its plan of activities revolves around that of the church. The land they use for their crop farming belongs to the church, though within the same premises as the home.

Achievements within the past one year

- Renovation of the Home building where the Orphans are sheltered with financial support from Universal Basic Education Board (UBEB)
- Cultivation of Cassava and Sweet potato on about 7 plots of land with the 2017 financial support from NWAG.

Challenges

- As a lead donor to the welfare of the orphans BSN has an upper edge in the decision making power in all the affairs of the home over either the church board or the technical committee.

Prospects

- According the board secretary Elder Patrick Ugwuru, the management wish to run the home as an independent body from the church and even if it will still be part of the church, let it be responsible for its own activities by having a strong source of generating income internally. That will enable them provide quality care for the children as long as they wish to. He believes that the team can do more than now to achieve a better IMBH and be fulfilled in their service









