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Healing in His Wings

A Story of Transformation



by David Tyokighir
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"For you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture." —Malachi 4:2 (NLT)

Christians rejoice and celebrate Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. He rises with healing in his wings. He brings light to a dark world. He reaches out to those traumatized and marginalized in a distempered world. Matthew Henry's commentary on Malachi 4:1-3 says, "The saints' triumphs are all owing to God's victories; it is not they that do this, but God who does it for them." God's imagebearers are strategically placed in different places with varying degrees of comfort and pain. The differences in climate, language, and topography from one part of the world to the other show God's greatness and sovereignty. Communities around the world have varying levels of living and coping with challenges. World Renew continues to work diligently in communities to identify strengths and mobilize resources locally and globally to support communities in pursuit of wholeness and justice.

A recent tour of troubled areas in northern Nigeria shows evidence of massive destruction in several communities in need of restoration and healing. People are living with severe trauma, and the environment is evidently stressed at different levels. Events such as the March 7, 2010 massacre in Dyemburuk, Plateau State, after which 384 people were buried in one grave, are mind-boggling.



World Renew donor visits mass grave of 384 people massacred in Dyemburuk



Supported orphans in Rim community

Through the efforts of African Widow and Orphan Support, some of the many orphans in northern Nigeria are able to go back to school. Some widows are experiencing trauma healing and are engaged in small businesses and looking to God for their future.

The ongoing Boko Haram insurgency in northern Nigeria has killed many people and destroyed private and public property and farms, leaving thousands traumatized and internally displaced. In many places, religious worship buildings have been completely destroyed, and residential homes have been ruined and abandoned. In some communities people are still living in fear of repeated attacks. Many homes are overcrowded because of the influx of internally displaced persons seeking refuge and safety. The situation in many places is heart-breaking.



World Renew staff visits destruction site in Wukari, Taraba State



Destruction in a village near Anyiin, Benue State



Trauma healing community sessions in Jos.



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World Renew is grateful to God, donors, and committed partner staff members who are working hard to make a positive impact toward restoring the health and vitality of individuals and communities in affected areas. The need for trauma healing and peacebuilding continues to grow in view of so much hurt and pain people have experienced.

The trauma healing program in Nigeria witnessed two successful events in Nov. 2016 sponsored by Artevel Foundation. A community event brought together trauma healing practitioners and mental health workers on Nov. 14 with encouraging testimonies of progress in northern Nigeria. This was followed by an advanced trauma healing training with Mary Crickmore of World Renew as the lead master facilitator. Participants for these two events came from various states across northern Nigeria. They left encouraged, motivated, and equipped to serve in their localities.

Our Hope and Source of Joy

The day is coming when God's creation will no longer experience pain and misery but rejoice in the Lord forever. As we celebrate Christmas and the New Year, may we rejoice that Christ comes to his people around the world, no matter where they are, with healing in his wings to heal the sick, provide hope for the brokenhearted, feed the poor and hungry, reconstruct lives and homes, and liberate the captives to leap with joy "like calves let out to pasture."

Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry.

A Blessed Christmastide to you and yours.

Sincerely,

*World Renew
and partner staff in Nigeria*



Prayer Items

- Thank God for the release of 21 Chibok girls on Oct. 13, 2016, as well as two others who regained freedom this year since their abduction on Apr. 14, 2014. Pray for their trauma healing and rehabilitation and for all those who are still in captivity.
- Praise God for sustaining Nigeria in spite of much violence in the land and despite the current economic recession. Pray that the president and other government officials may have the wisdom and commitment to do the right things at the right times.
- Thank God for the church in Nigeria, and pray for courage to continue to be salt and light.
- Thank God for all World Renew donors (individuals, organizations, churches, and groups), and may his blessings be on all throughout this season.
- Give thanks to God for the impact of the trauma healing initiatives in Nigeria. Pray for the various healing group members and facilitators as they meet and share their stories; may God encourage and build them up.