



**F**ran Boer explains fractions to her third-grade class at Hillcrest School in Jos, Plateau State.

Christian Reformed World Missions in West Africa  
NIGERIA  
IMPACT  
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## Pioneering New Ministries for Nigeria's 'Urban Jungles'

When most of us think about overseas missions, a sprawling, smog-choked city is not usually the first thing that comes to mind. Nigeria has its share of 'typical' evangelistic ministries to groups of unreached people like the Avadi (story, page 2) and the Fulani (story, page 4). But the vast majority of Nigerians live in cities, 24 of which have populations of 100,000 or more.

The burgeoning cities of Nigeria have, especially in the past decade, captured the attention and imagination of several Christian Reformed missionaries who have responded to the needs of city dwellers with new ministries—an urban ministry center, media services, and music ministries. These new programs, as well as the mission's business and field director offices, are located in Jos, capital of Plateau State.

In his five-year-old media services venture, Steve Jameson has trained a staff of six Nigerians in desktop publishing, photography, audio production, and scriptwriting so they can begin to meet the overwhelming demand for media materials in Nigerian churches. Media services staff provide essential training so churches can effectively use media in evangelism.

Filmstrips with cassette-taped narrations have proven to be an effective and appropriate medium. A filmstrip projector, powered by a rechargeable battery, can be used by evangelists in remote villages that have no electricity.

Not all Jos-based ministries are new. Missionary John Boer works with the Institute of Church and Society (ICS), which was formed in the 1960s by an ecumenical alliance of Nigerian churches. John serves as a writer and consultant attempting to develop a Christian world-and-life view in various areas of life.

"ICS is a place where I experiment with a Reformed approach to life in a culture where this has never been tried before," says John, a missionary here since 1966. "It is a very exciting ministry that I often describe as a daily adventure with the Lord."

ICS staff members, which now number 25, study issues facing the church and society in the light of the Bible and encourage discussion among Christians through conferences and workshops. ICS has stimulated Christians to action that has resulted in programs of wholistic health care, community development, literature, and Bible correspondence courses.

As part of the ICS market ministry, evangelist Ibrahim Lafé, a converted Muslim who was discipled by John Boer, roams throughout the huge market "sharing the goodness of the Lord. If the person will listen," says Lafé, "I will present the Gospel and pray with him and follow up with further visits." Converts are referred to local churches for further discipleship.

Hillcrest School in Jos is where many Christian Reformed and other missionary children have been educated over the years. Now, 70 percent of the students are Nigerian or of other nationalities. "It's a school that really makes a big contribution in the country," says missionary teacher Nelle Evenhouse. "If it's true that future leaders are being trained here, then now more than ever there's a need for such a school in Nigeria."

All of these missionaries have a vision for Nigeria's future. In all their outreach—through modern media technologies or popular music, in theological education or through writing curricula that will be used in the churches for generations—Christian Reformed missionaries continue to bring the Reformed perspective of the Gospel to the people of Nigeria wherever they live.

### Christian Reformed World Missions in Nigeria

#### PLATEAU REGION Jos

Jack and Mary Beeksma  
John and Fran Boer  
Bill and Nelle Evenhouse  
Andy and Linda Horlings  
Steve and Karen Jameson  
Dennis and Kathy Kooiman  
Robert and Esther Koops  
Al and Jaci Persenaire  
Jim and Sue Ritter  
Christine Roos  
Dick and Margaret Seinen