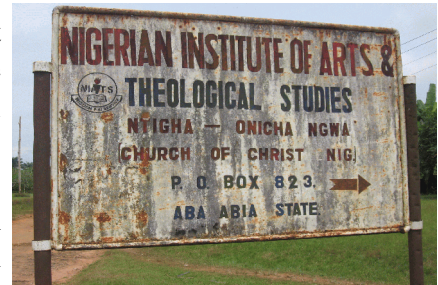


# Report on African Training Schools

by Jerry V. Hogg

*Nigerian Institute of the Arts and Theological Studies, Aba, Nigeria*

During March and April of this year, I was blessed to visit five (5) different African training programs. After agreeing to serve the Lord last year through the *Sunset International Bible Institute* (SIBI) as Dean of African Training, I have become extremely impressed with the scope and intensity of their efforts to assist churches around the world in training local workers in the Vineyard. I have developed an even deeper love and appreciation for African brethren as I witness their determination everywhere I go to advance the Cause of the Lord in their respective countries. With their zeal and faith in the Lord, the church in Nigeria, South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi will be blessed for years to come because of the training that is ongoing in those countries I have visited since November of last year. Please rejoice with me as I give some background and progress of each school or institute that I have surveyed since becoming involved with SIBI.



From Lagos, Nigeria the school is about an hour's flight to the Owerri airport and then 1-2 hour's drive to Aba, the location of the school. The drive to the compound, just outside of Aba, was somewhat of a difficult trip because of the potholes. There were several large enough that hawkers were positioned to sell their goods as the traffic had to slow down in order to successfully traverse the potholes. One was so large that several guys were down in the pothole directing cars to the best "rut," in order, hopefully, to be paid a few cents for their help.

There are really four different facilities on the same compound with the school. (1) The Nigerian Christian Hospital, (2) the Nigerian Christian School (Primary), (3) the Nigerian Christian High School (secondary school), and (4) the Nigerian Institute of the Arts & Theological Studies (NIATS). The hospital was started in the early 50's by Dr. Henry Farrar, Nashville, TN. In 1957, NIATS was started with the help of Billy Nicks and other early workers. According to Chris Swinford in his report after his visit to the school in November, 2006, the hospital and school were overrun with members of a rival tribe on March 2nd, 1988 that resulted in one school employee being beheaded and three others were kidnaped that have never been located. The teachers and students fled, and the school abandoned for more than a decade.



*Left, burned out section of the School  
During Tribal Conflict. Right, New  
School Rebuilt After Conflict.*

In 1999, the local brethren worked to resume classes and the name was changed to NIATS. The school has been offering classes for the past 10 years, but is still struggling in various ways. They are hopeful that an affiliation with Sunset will help them return to their former glory and even surpass

what was accomplished in the early days. NIATS is blessed with several qualified and capable teachers, including an experienced and dedicated director, Jacob Achinefu. Glenn Boyd, of Searcy Arkansas, has been a long-time supporter and fund-raiser for the school. The brethren in Nigeria love and appreciate him very much.

After returning from Nigeria, I made the following remarks about the church and the school, "...the thing that stood out in my mind was the beautiful spirit of God's people. Even though outside the fellowship of God's church, there were so many things WRONG in Nigeria, within the church there were so much that was RIGHT! The students at the Bible School were just absolutely wonderful and dedicated to the Cause of the Lord.

One of the graduating students, selected to speak at their graduation service while I was there, said, *"I will neither forget nor fail to mention the love and championship that existed among the students, we lived together as one big family...the time devoted to prayers and fasting were especially of much benefit to us...however it was not all a bed of roses, as we passed through very difficult times such as when there was not enough food...stressful task of going almost outside the premises to fetch water...not enough beds for students to lie on, as some are lying on the floor....in conclusion, we call on those who desire to work for Christ to enroll into the institution..."* In the face of their own difficulties as students, they were excited about taking their place alongside a number of several great evangelists in the country to help build a strong church and to preach God's message to their people.



**2008 - Thirteen Graduates of NIATS**

Highlights of NIATS, the School of Preaching:

1. 13 Graduates in November 2008
2. Regular Evangelistic Trip by Students
3. House to House evangelism and working with congregations
4. Students Preach & Teach at different churches.
5. Fifteen to twenty students in 2009

Present Needs for NIATS:

1. Improved Library, especially Additional Bibles. A Dickson Bible is Requested.
2. Updated Student Dorms, Including Beds for Students. Many are sleeping on the floor.
3. Additional Student Monthly Support.
4. The School Would Like to Invite a Missionary Family to Work with the School.
5. Visiting Teachers are Very Much Needed at NIATS.
6. Curriculum development is Required.

– Jerry V. Hogg, SIBI, Knoxville, TN 37922 - [jvhogg@charter.net](mailto:jvhogg@charter.net)