

July 2008

Summer 2008 Outreach Update

Greetings! I hope this note finds you and yours in good health and peace. I know, personally and for some of you, the year has been especially fast and extremely eventful. I wish you God's grace in all you do.

First, let me say "thank you" for your support of A.O.O.F.'s efforts over the years. This year's events will mark our 5th year anniversary. Amazingly, you have stayed with us along this journey, and have encouraged us every step of the way. We appreciate you.

2007 Recap:

In 2007, we set out to (a) increase our scholarship offerings from 36 to 45; (b) increase the number of lives we touched with the health fair events from 1200 to 1600; and (c) help an adopted primary school erect a new functional classroom block, equipped with a simple library. At the close of 2007, we were close to meeting all those goals.

Although we fell short of our fundraising goals for 2007 by nearly \$6,200 (\$24,926 vs. \$18,753), we had a very successful year. We went live with our 1st-generation website, commissioned our first borehole, increased our scholarship offerings to 47, and served nearly 1300 children and adults in 4 days of health fair outreach events!

Onikooko Primary School Building Project:

Because of our shortfall in budget in 2007, we postponed the start of the construction of the classroom block at the Onikooko Primary School until we had enough funding to complete the project. By the middle of Spring 2008, and due to the strong commitment of some of our supporters to see this project to completion, we successfully raised the necessary incremental funds. On May 29, 2008, we broke ground on the construction of the new classroom block. In an amazing feat of disciplined construction project management in a small remote village in Nigeria, the building is now erected, waiting to be fitted with doors and windows!



This is current uninhabitable primary school building block.



This brand new building would bring 80 students in from the rains.

Please do visit our newly re-designed website (same address at www.aooof.org) for regular updates on our progress with this exciting project.

AOOF Website In-sourced To Provide More Current Updates:

Yes, earlier this year, we felt it necessary to re-build our website to offer greater flexibility and control over content. The original website was intended to quickly get us up and running with basic information to our supporters. Many thanks to Doug Jackman, our original volunteer webmaster, for his dedication and support toward the enablement of that 1st-generation website! This new website, also constructed by volunteer efforts, should be more active, and would be the source of regular and current information about foundation events and activities.

First Partnership Project To Deliver Water Well:

In March 2008, the first AOOF partnership project to deliver water well to a rural community was commissioned. To underscore our commitment to leveraging all resources to deliver value to the AFIJIO community, AOOF partnered with Wells4Africa and the IITA (International Institute for Tropical Agriculture) School to deliver the first water well funded exclusively by Wells4Africa in the AFIJIO community. This water well was a crucial element to the onsite formation of the cement blocks used for the Onikooko School building.



School children drawing water from new water well for the workmen. Students & parents lending a hand in building their new classroom block!

New Dates for Annual Outreach Events:

We fell a bit short of our goal to reach 1600 people with the health fair outreach efforts principally because we didn't have as many volunteer workers as we needed and anticipated. We discovered that while travel expenses for those coming from abroad were less in the Fall, the Summer was more convenient for our local volunteers. To alleviate this constraint, we are returning to holding the AOOF Annual Outreach Events in the Summer. The dates for this year's events are August 24 – 30, 2008.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you again for your support during the last five years. Some of you have been a part of this vision right from the beginning, offering unwavering support and encouragement in many different ways. Some of you joined us along the way, and your new energy and commitment to this work continue to sustain us along this journey. But without question, we need each one of you supporting us in your various ways to make a difference in this small corner of our world. I know that with your help, we will only grow from strength to strength. So, from all of us to all of you, we say "e seun pupo pupo". May God bless and enrich you greatly for your love and support.

Thank you for your confidence and trust in the vision. Have a wonderful rest of the Summer!

Best Regards,

Roland Odeleye