

MIKE & VICTORIA VAN DER DYKE | ENCOURAGING THE MISSION EFFORTS OF THE CHURCH OF NIGERIA | JOS, NIGERIA | JULY 2023 | RAINY SEASON ISSUE #2



Veteran Pastors Reunited on Mission

In 2001, Rev. Istifanus B. Bahago was elected as President of the Christian Reformed Church in Nigeria, and Rev. Joseph U. Ajaver was chosen as the Vice President. For the next ten years, these servants of God worked tirelessly to lead the CRC-N. When their second term as leaders was up in 2011, they continued to serve the Lord in other roles like Urban Ministry Coordinator, CRC-N Mission Board Director, and pastor of various local congregations. Rev. Bahago also served faithfully for eight years as a CRC-N missionary in Sierra Leone.

In 2018 when Rev. Ajaver retired from full-time service with CRC-N, he was looking for a place where he could serve the Lord while he was still in good health. Resonate Global Mission had been looking for someone to serve at the Daniel Center in Abuja, Nigeria. Rev. Ajaver was stepped in to serve in July as the Interim Director. Under his leadership, the Daniel Center continued working as a transformational network that seeks to foster relationships and develop trust between the leadership of partner churches, holistic mission networks, and learning clusters to engage youth, renew the church, and transform

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God that the elections in Nigeria were relatively peaceful and there was a safe transition of government on May 29. Pray for the new government as it faces many challenges.

Thank God that Rev. Istifanus Bahago and Rev. Joseph Ajaver have been reunited in ministry at the Daniel Center in Abuja. Pray for a fruitful ministry together over the next six months.

Pray for the evaluation of the Nigeria field by Resonate Global Mission that will take place in July. Pray for wisdom and the leading of the Holy Spirit for the evaluation team and the ministry partners they will be talking to.

The economy of Nigeria has suffered since the inauguration of the new government in May. The price of fuel (gasoline) has tripled and food prices have gone up significantly. Pray for wisdom for government officials as they determine how to deal with the rising inflation.

OUR MINISTRY

Mike serves as the Nigeria Team Leader for Resonate Global Mission in Nigeria and as an Advisor to the CRC-N Missions Department.



With your support, we were able to expand Timothy Leadership Training to Cameroon! Andrew Gwaivangmin (center) and the participants

communities. As the Daniel Center Coordinator, Rev. Ajaver has worked over the past five years to connect with and encourage Nigerian leadership in business, politics, and the church to live out our Christian world and life view and make a positive impact in society. Rev. Ajaver has made a tremendous impact in trying to create peace among various tribes in Taraba State who have been in conflict for many years. Rev. Bahago finished his service with CRC-N in Sierra Leone in the latter part of 2021 and was assigned by the church to be the CRC-N Church Planting Coordinator in Abuja.

After suffering a number of health challenges over the past year, Rev. Ajaver decided that it was time to retire once again and return back to Taraba State.

Rev. Ajaver and Rev. Bahago will work together at the Daniel Center over the next six months. In January 2024, Rev. Ajaver plans to move back to Taraba State and Rev. Bahago will take over the ministry at the Daniel Center as well as his Church Planting Coordinator role with CRC-N. Please join us in praying for Rev. Bahago!

Timothy Leadership Training in Cameroon

Our Timothy Leadership Training ministry in Nigeria has expanded to the neighboring country of Cameroon! Andrew Gwaivangmin from the Nigeria Evangelical Missions Association has made two trips to Cameroon in 2022 and 2023 in order to train 27 clergy from the Anglican Communion of Cameroon. Thank God for this wonderful opportunity!

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