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Someone once said that MK's (Missionary Kids) are often most at home in an airport. In some ways that statement may be true for missionary adults as well. In an airport, you straddle many cultures and even though you are a foreigner, there is a sense of belonging.

We found ourselves thinking about this idea while we were in the U.S. this past summer. We had jumped from the culture we live and work in (Nigeria) to our "home culture" which in many ways felt somehow foreign.

Trying to figure out how to swipe our bank card when a lengthening line formed behind us, really brought the point home. Trusting other drivers to actually stay in their lanes and to stop at intersections.... initially took great faith! Breaking to people made us aware that we were out of touch with local sports news, local news events, and the general "chitchat" that are such a part of everyday conversation...

As the weeks rolled by, life became more and more familiar and comfortable. We were blessed by the love and support that was so evident as we shared what God was doing in Nigeria with many supporters, family members and churches. The privilege of spending time with our children, parents and brothers and sisters, was delightful! As wonderful as it all was... it was also short. Before long we were back 'at home' sitting in an airport ready to take off for our Nigerian home.

Landing at the airport in Abuja, we enjoyed the familiar smells, language, laughing people, unspoken expectations and body language. We knew what to expect,

how to communicate and we felt a sense of *belonging*. As we arrived at our home in Jos, we were warmly greeted by Nigerians, missionaries and others who we work and live with (our family here).

In no time at all, Al was off to Hillcrest School to help new teachers get ready for class, and start to understand the culture they were just transitioning into. There were several teachers who had never taught before, so extra time was taken to help them feel more comfortable and competent.

Jacie started getting ready for the upcoming Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) year. Baking, cooking, cutting hair and sorting out guesthouse issues all got into high gear. Life shifted back into a familiar pattern... we were home.

One particular event over the summer helped us focus on where our home really is. As we were about to travel to the U.S. last May, one of the BSF leaders (Bunmi) asked Jacie to buy her a Study Bible. Jacie searched in many book stores but was having a hard time finding one for the price that Bunmi wanted to pay.

One day, Jacie and her mom went to a garage sale. As she walked up, she noticed a Bible on a table of books. She dashed over to it and saw that it was a brand new Study Bible!!! Jacie asked the gentleman how much. He looked right at her (I think, he saw her excitement.) and said, "That one is free!!!" "Are you sure???" She asked. He said it was with a big smile on his face. After thanking him profusely, she and her mom left with a song in their hearts and smile on their faces.

When they got into the car, they talked about how GOOD God is, in all the details.

When we returned, we gave Bunmi the bible and her money back and then told her the story. A couple of days later, Bunmi came over with the biggest smile... She said, "I spent hours looking through and reading all the study helps and I am so excited and thankful, I just love it!!" Then she added, "I looked at the front of the Bible and I noticed that it said; presented to _____ by _____. So I wrote in my Bible, Presented to Bunmi by the Lord!"

MISSION STATEMENT

Al and Jacie live and work in Jos, Nigeria where Al is administrator of Hillcrest School and Jacie is a teaching leader with Bible Study Fellowship. Hillcrest School plays a vital role in Nigeria by training the next generation of missionaries, church leaders, business men, politicians and others. The school of 300 students provides Christian education to children from more than 35 countries. Its alumni have gone on to be pastors in mission work, church development, medical facilities and education globally.

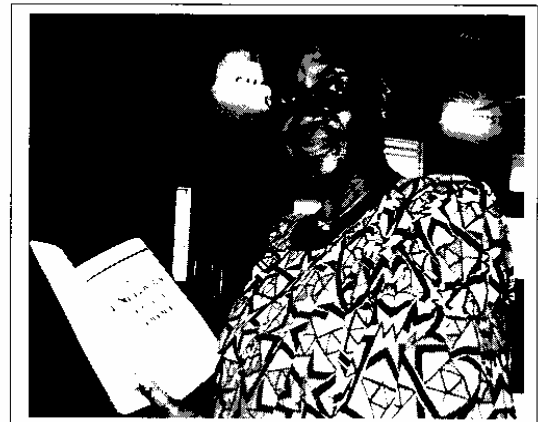
Al and Jacie's goal is to ensure that students are:

- Equipped to acquire and nurture knowledge
 - Encouraged to have a Biblical perspective of the world and their stewardship role in it.
 - Encouraged to practice discipleship and service
 - Encouraged to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) class that Jacie teaches has 30 women and 45 children. Our goal is that every member has a vibrant relationship with God and is being trained and equipped to serve in churches and communities.

Bunmi has it right... As we thought about how, when we get to heaven, we need to find this man and thank him... it occurred to us THAT is our real home.... not Nigeria, not the U. S. nor even airports. In our eternal home, we will all know each other and be known. Love, fellowship and our conversation will be about the One who has prepared our Home and called us there... God Himself.

Meanwhile, we are grateful for all of you, the faithful partners who willingly pray, give and serve with us here in Nigeria.

In Christ, Al & Jacie Penseairo



Bunmi and Her Study Bible

Prayer Points:

Please pray for:

- the continued adjustment of the new teachers at Hillcrest. Pray that God will use them to shape and mold these young lives for Christ.
- wisdom for Al as he faces daily decisions and challenges as the High School principal. Pray that he will be able to daily encourage the students and staff to be all that God has created them to be.
- the women and children who come to BSF as study the Gospel of John this year. Pray that they will see who Jesus Christ is and respond with lives fully committed to Him.