



In a nutshell

We've had a great first year; we have settled in well to life in Nigeria, and we've had a good few weeks back in UK reconnecting with churches, family, friends. We hope to build on all this in the year ahead.

Rick and Alanna Creighton

ECWA-SIM, PMB 2009,
Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria
creighton@crosslinks.org

Postal Health Warning

As far as we know, 100% of letters have gotten through to this address, but only about 75% of packages/parcels...

July 2013

Looking back

Rick writes:

The normal seminary year ends in late May with, of course, exams. I do not enjoy marking (especially in bulk – there were 150 exam scripts), but it has its uses. I get to see how much, or little(!), the students have learned. The range was wide: some did very well, many were getting there gradually, a few seemed to have made little progress. But it seems like there is plenty to build on going into the next year.

The seminary also runs a “Summer School” for people who aren’t able to study full-time. The Summer School is more intensive. Instead of each subject being studied for three hours a week for 15 weeks, students do three hours a day for 15 working days (i.e. three weeks). I taught two courses on the first

summer module in early June, which kept me busy enough (five hours of classes each day). I was glad to have the new solar panels: there were only three days during those three weeks when the mains electricity was on. And on one of those days it was only on for 10 minutes!



Alanna writes:

At the beginning of May, while the students were sitting exams, I travelled to Abuja to do exams for my own degree. I was delighted that our American neighbour

Dee offered to accompany me. In between the papers and revision we had a lovely restful break – it was a strange mix of exams and a girls' trip away!

Once study was out of the way I had less than two weeks to catch up on things that had been overlooked during revision and prepare for our trip to the UK and Ireland. I left for England with the kids and we spent the last week of May in Newcastle upon Tyne with my sister Emma. The kids enjoyed lots of holiday fun including a beach trip with ice cream, a trip to the swimming pool and a visit to an open farm with a bouncy castle. We then travelled to my home town of Strabane and enjoyed some beautifully summery weather, and time with Uncle Chris, Granny and Grandpa.



The kids have all been noticeably growing up. Asha is reading well. Conor is obsessed with knights and armour. Jack loves nothing better than to kick a ball in the garden.

Looking forward

Alanna writes

We have been loving our visit to the UK, but are also looking forward to settling back into life in Kagoro. In terms of the family some of my goals for the year ahead are:

- to establish useful routines for living, learning and keeping fit and healthy
- for us all to learn Hausa, and more Nigerian culture so we can integrate even better to campus life
- to develop closer relationships with our Nigerian friends

Rick writes:

We are travelling back to Nigeria at the end of July. The new semester begins on 19 August. This semester I will be teaching four subjects (the Gospels; John's Letters; Systematic Theology; and Biblical Theology), and I'm planning to run some 'extra-curricular' preaching classes again. Various practicalities also need dealt with – there always seems to be some plumbing issue or other that needs attention (This time it's a septic tank that is getting close to full; but I rather think I'll leave this one to the local experts to sort out!).

PRAYER POINTS

Points of thanks:

- that we had a good first year in terms of building relationships, teaching, and general settling in
- that we were kept safe, and in good health
- that the area where we live has been stable and peaceful.

Requests

- that we build on the relationships we've made so far, and continue integrating (including learning more Hausa)
- that Rick continues to learn how to communicate effectively and faithfully in the Nigerian context
- that we can establish good routines for family life
- for continued safety, health, and political stability

Please contact your local Crosslinks office to change your contact details

Crosslinks, 251 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1XF Tel: 020 8691 6111 pletters@crosslinks.org
Crosslinks, 32 Montgomery Road, Belfast BT6 9HL Northern Ireland Tel: +44 (0) 28 9079 6028
Crosslinks 28, Bachelor's Walk, Dublin 1, Republic of Ireland. Tel: 00 353 (1) 8729508