

## AOOF: 5<sup>TH</sup> YEAR REFLECTION

WE thank God for His mercies and grace in the work we started together five years ago. Looking back, it's difficult not to appreciate how far we've come in such a short time, and how many lives we've touched forever. We've made a difference! In concrete terms, the following table highlights our major accomplishments thus far:

	AOOF Outreach - Major 5 Year Stats				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Scholarships</b>	21	31	36	50	40
<b>Health Fair</b>	800	1200	1200	1250	1350
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Mortuary Building	Borehole	Water well & School Bldg		

In addition to these substantial tangible achievements, AOOF has also reached the community in very important ways. We are inspiring others into action within their own communities, we are encouraging volunteerism across many spectrum of the society, and we are getting the attention of the general public in a positive way.

But our work is by no means done. In fact, it's only just started. It's not the time for us to rest on our oars. The next five years would see us expand our outreach efforts into new programs and communities, begin to reap the rewards of the foundation we've laid in people's lives, and build up a new generation of leaders filled with integrity and a generous spirit - a spirit to serve and lift others up. AOOF is excited to be a part of this important new journey, and we hope our friends and supporters will stay with us to keep us strong.

## ONIKOOKO PRIMARY SCHOOL PROJECT

Grand Success! From the vision to the execution of the project, we can confidently declare the Onikooko Primary School Project as an overwhelming success. Together, we gave hope to hundreds of children of a small remote village that the world cares and want to help.

The terrain was tough and quite a ways from civilization. There is no clean water supply nor

electricity anywhere, and the road leading to the Onikooko village is near impossible to navigate without a super-durable and, preferably, a 4x4 vehicle.



With nearly four hundred primary students enrolled at the school, it is amazing how difficult it is to spot the living quarters of the villagers! Yet, we embarked on this project and it was executed successfully in record time.

According to Princess (Mrs.) Stella Sobowale, permanent member of the Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) who came down for the dedication event, "this project is the first of its kind in our state, and maybe in the country!"



The school dedication event was well attended by members of the Parents Teachers Association and representatives of both the Oyo SUBEB as well as the Oyo State Ministry of Education. And yes, although school was officially out, Onikooko Primary School students also came to witness this memorable event!

## THE EYE CLINIC . . . A MAJOR HIT!!

Every year, we listen to the local communities we serve, consult with the local healthcare practitioners to determine specialized services we could add to our core healthcare offerings. This Summer, our 4<sup>th</sup> day of Healthfair Outreach was in the form of an Eye Health Clinic.



In addition to our normal core of volunteers, 19 eye specialists including 5 doctors and 14 nurses joined us at the Eye Health Outreach program this Summer. This was an extension of the 3-Day AOOF Annual Healthfair Outreach Events, specifically designated to address the annual plea of the people for free eye examinations and care. The event was lightly advertised but word got out, and attendance was very heavy.



Over 350 people were attended to, about 80 free reading glasses were allocated, allergy drugs were administered

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

as necessary, and 30 cases of extreme cataract were referred to Oyo State Hospital in Ibadan for surgery.

Of the 30 referred cases, 6 of them were for individuals diagnosed as functionally blind. These folks essentially walked to the outreach event with assistance of a helper and a cane. Although we were unable to pay for the expenses, cataract cases referred from the AOOF Eye Clinic outreach event enjoy a 60% discount from the normal rate of (N20,000 or approx. \$180) for the in-patient surgery.

## FINALLY, MORE VOLUNTEERS . . .

Finally, after a couple of years of stagnation in the number of volunteers at the Annual AOOF Healthfair Outreach Events, 2008 enjoyed a generous support of new volunteers. We had a strong team of 19 volunteers from the University Teaching Hospital and the Oyo State Hospital, both at Ibadan. We also saw a number of student volunteers from the Lead City University, Ibadan.



The influx of new helping hands was very welcome, and it enabled us to reach a few more people than we would otherwise have. We welcome our new friends and honorary members of the AOOF, and look forward to their continued support in the upcoming years.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!!**

**AOOF**

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