

# Transforming Teachers

MARK WIERSMA & ANNE LUCASSE  
DEVELOPING CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA

MARCH 2024



## Prayer Points

- Continued persistence by the 10 EC trainers with the teachers they're leading during Mark's current medical displacement.
- Mark's health and recovery following his procedure on March 28, and his swift return to Nigeria.
- Blessing for these handovers of PRACTICED leadership for both EC training and Hillcrest.
- Prayerful responses to our Lord's preparation for EC training's next Nigeria Specialist and for Hillcrest's next Superintendent.

## Prayer Calendar

### Dates

- **March 28**- Mark's ablation for atrial flutter (GR, MI).
- July- Mark retires from Resonate and Anne hands over responsibility for Hillcrest School.



Moses (right), an Advanced Facilitator, training Interns in Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

## 10 Years in Nigeria...

Anne and I have had the honor of being on mission as your partners in Nigeria for 10 years! We thank God for blessing YOUR commitment of prayers and gifts to improve a variety of Christian schools across Nigeria.

In these 10 years, Educational Care (EC) became one of a handful of training programs that are beginning to reverse the academic neglect that has plagued Nigeria for decades. Hillcrest School, where Anne has served as Superintendent, has grown enrollment, strengthened academic programs for all learners, and maintained financial stability, as they educate global disciples of Christ.

This growth is the FRUIT of your support. We are deeply grateful for the trust you placed in us to join God on mission in Nigeria.

## ...and nearing change.

Since coming to serve in Nigeria, a major part of the call for BOTH of us has been to anticipate leadership transitions that will carry on professional improvement in Nigerian Christian schools.

After months of prayer and strategic team preparation, I made it known that I will retire come July. Anne and I will return to Michigan. I will maintain limited contact with this ministry. Part of that will be to help seek candidates for the next Educational Care Specialist for Nigeria.

Your commitment, giving, and prayers have produced a largely independent training team in central Nigeria, and a developing training team in the Abuja, the capital of Nigeria.

We thank you and praise God for all that He's doing among Nigerian schools!

# Your Help is Needed

## PERHAPS?

Would you like to continue supporting the development of Christian schools in Nigeria? We **STRONGLY** endorse Sarah Kluitenbergh-Aderemi, my Resonate colleague in education development (based in Lagos, Nigeria).

We will include better introduction to her and her family in our next letter. In the meantime, please continue supporting us until August 31.

## SECOND...

The EC Specialist -Nigeria position is an amazing role. It was posted over a year ago, More promotion will surely attract candidates. Still, it's likely to take a YEAR before a new Specialist is packing to come. It's critical that we temporarily help Coordinators in Jos and Abuja. as they shoulder some temporary tasks.

EC trainers serve IN ADDITION to their school jobs--some of Nigeria's lowest-paid workers with college degrees. Know also that Nigeria is in its 3rd year of unprecedented national economic strain. To bear up with extra tasks, EC Coordinators will need added income.

Our next letter will detail a "Project Giving" opportunity that will permit Coordinators to keep EC growing in both cities while a new Specialist is recruited.

As always, Anne and I thank you for your prayerful support in this meaningful work in partnership with you.

Mark Wiersma, EC Specialist &  
Anne Lucasse, Supt. of Hillcrest School



Anne's Child Safety Protection presentation at Hillcrest's Christian educators conference, a statewide professional event.



Volunteers Bob and Tammy visited to assist training team facilitators.

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