

6-23-09

On Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> Rev. Mike Henry and the Wenatchee Free Methodist Church team distributed wheelchairs to seventy-six disabled men, women, boys and girls - mostly polio victims – mostly Muslims – at a celebration that included music, gospel messages, fellowship, fun and food! Chief Bature, guest of honor along with another Fulani chief, Arduli, listened with the others as Rev. Mike told the story of how the gift of a wheelchair for Salihu, our disabled student at Hope for Little Shepherds, resulted in two hundred wheelchairs given to the needy poor in Nigeria. I shared the story of King David and Mephibosheth, explaining that in the same way David showed mercy to this crippled boy for the sake of his beloved friend Jonathan, so God shows saving grace to us, crippled and broken as we are by sin, for the sake of His son, Jesus.

One by one, our guests were called out and assisted into their own personal wheelchairs amid great excitement and loud applause! And just as we settled the last person in her chair, the heavens opened up and a cool and refreshing rain, a wonderful shower of blessing began to fall – bringing sweet relief from the heat. We served rice, meat and pure water to the seventy-six guests who enjoyed their meal sitting for the first time, not on the dusty ground, but on their own new wheelchairs – filled with dignity, respectability and joy.

As Michelle spoke to our disabled guests of the real threat of pressure sores and how to avoid them, Kevin and other team members knelt before each individual, here adjusting a foot rest, there tightening a wheel. Faithful imitators of Jesus, they were in a true sense, bathing these poor, twisted feet.

Truly, the point of this wheelchair ministry was summarized well by the children of Emi-woro choir, in this chorus which they sang for us that day. Maybe you know it!

“God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name, I’ve been born again in Jesus’ Name, and in Jesus’ Name I come to you to share His love as He told me to...”

“He said, “Freely, freely you have received...freely, freely give. Go in my Name and because YOU believe, others will know that I live.”

I tell you truly, there are at least seventy-six Muslims in Kogi State today who Knows for sure that Jesus lives!

Phyllis Sortor

