

Date:

Dear Family and Friends,

I have an opportunity next spring on March 19 - 29, 2020 to participate in the Basic Institute for the Zonal Advancement of Africa (BIZAA) annual mission trip to Nigeria. Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa with about 174 million people and it is situated on a land mass as large as the state of California. BIZAA's mission (www.bizaa.org) to eliminate child trafficking and child labor through education in Nigeria is desperately needed. For one, this most populous nation in the world has witnessed successive governments that ignored the plight of their youngest citizens, due to their faceless policies in education. According to the latest statistics,* Nigeria has the largest number of out-of-school children in the world. Being the commercial center of Africa, Nigeria has equally become both a breeding ground, and a lucrative channel and destination country for child trafficking. These children are trafficked for reasons ranging from forced labor in domestic service, to commercial sexual exploitation, and everything in-between.

I am looking forward to developing a better understanding of global needs, and also expand my perspectives. Our 10-day trip includes: reception ceremony with the community kings, assisting with interviewing identified victims of child labor and trafficking, visiting sponsored children in school, and helping to dispense donated over-the-counter medicine and personal care products to community members. We will be travelling with BIZAA's founder, Okey Anyanwu, and approximately 10 other missionaries.

Can you imagine the pain of parents who have to choose to have their children work instead of attend school due to poverty? Do you know that children who face restricted opportunities for education will receive lower wages as adults? Do you believe that all children should grow up in a world that provides them with security, joy, and a chance to develop their potential? Do you embrace the idea of giving developing countries more "hooks" instead of "fish" in order to end the cycle of poverty? Do you agree that child prostitution, human trafficking and domestic servitude are disguised forms of modern day slavery? Statistics alone can never capture the suffering, fear, health hazards and loss of human potential that comes with child trafficking and child labor.

If your answer to the above questions is "yes", I humbly ask you to please consider supporting me in whatever amount you are able. I am excited about the opportunity and experience that lies ahead. I hope you see the value in what we will accomplish. As you can imagine, a trip like this is not inexpensive. I need to raise \$4,000 by January 15, 2020 for my flight ticket, local transportation, accommodation and meals for 10 days. **You can support me by making out a tax-deductible donation to BIZAA. Please, be sure to put my name in the comment section and send the check to: BIZAA, 13570 Grove Drive, #279, Maple Grove, MN 55311.**

While money is important, it comes in a distant second to my need for your prayers, because your prayerful support is the ultimate guarantee for the success of this mission. I thank you in advance for your prayers and for your consideration of financial support.

Sincerely,

*<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-33592634>