

# *“The Lord's Church has won the hearts of the folks of Uruk Otong and its environs”*

## A Report on the arrival of a container shipped to Nigeria



On September 11, 2017 we loaded a container that was shipped into Port Onne, Nigeria. It was going to a mission point overseen by the Bethlehem church of Christ (Lebanon, TN). The container was loaded and shipped. The shipment encountered multiple problems that revealed the corruption of Nigerian authorities. Eventually our brethren were told that if they paid a fee they could have the container released. They paid the fee by taking a loan. The container was delivered and unloaded.

Below is a report on this container. I think you will really appreciate the spirit of our Nigerian brethren as they anticipate the container's distribution and its impact on the Lord's Church.

Dear Brethren,

Today has been a very busy day at Rhema Christian Academy. All staff are involved in arranging and packing the contents of the container which was delivered last Saturday. The materials took over classrooms and offices. Today has been a day of great joy. The staff, pupils and students all dance in glee as they all filed out to take a look at such assets and materials to our school from the US saints in Searcy.

Work will continue tomorrow. Pictures will be sent as email attachments when I'm out of the jungle. Network signal is very weak in our area now and does not support much email attachments.

The clearing agent handed over to me all receipts of payments with the shipment documents. He kept back some papers from the shipping company so that he will process for the refund of the deposit charged by the shipping company for the container. We unloaded the materials and returned the container to the shipping company that Saturday.

I'm planning to go to the city on Wednesday so that I can have access to a strong network which will allow me send all the official papers of the shipment which reflect all the charges we paid. I have the official receipts from the customs, Port terminal, shipping company, Telex Release charges, clearing agent's charges, and additional payments for the two extra days after Wednesday.

I'm so delighted to hear of the two Senators' readiness to pursue the unjust charges for the container. It is very painful. We will appreciate it much if there's any way the Senators could help. I'm not sure of what the implications would be, but I feel that something must be done about it.

However, I'm somehow afraid of what would be the consequences of the Senators' action. Most of the Nigerian officials are very corrupt and wicked. They might take offense and block us in the future. This could as well be life-threatening to me because they will see me as someone who is standing on their way and trying to block them.

I'm praying about this. I want you to pray about it too. God will definitely guide us on a way forward. Whether the Senators take any action now or not, they could be of help in the future. In subsequent shipments, they can contact the authorities in Nigeria and obtain the approval for us before the container is sent. If the Senators write to the officials directly from the US, they will not hesitate to release the approval to us in time.



But please, I want to happily and confidently announce to you that God has opened the way for us. Our connection with the port Secretary and port Manager is a big deal. Our connection with the clearing agent who helped us cleared the container is a big plus too. My eyes are opened and I've been rightly connected with the authorities at the Port. We will never pay demurrage on subsequent containers. Without approval from Abuja, we will pay relatively small duties to clear our containers. The secret is to begin the container shipment project in time. The clearing agent will submit application for approval in Abuja. He will then submit the copies of the application to the customs and other related agencies at Onne Seaport. If Abuja refuses to give the approval, the customs at Onne will grant the permission to pay duties and clear the container as donated items.

Everyone at the Port treated our container with great respect when they discovered that it was sent to the Church community. National Agency for Food Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) put the container on hold at the final stage of the release process. The port Secretary intervened and explained to the NAFDAC officials that our container had nothing to do with them because they were no consumables (foods and drugs) in the container. They obliged and released our container and even apologized to us.



How exciting it is to see the children sitting in the desks that were sent all the way from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas!

Finally, I want you who worked on and supported the container shipment project to know that you have laid a solid foundation for the accreditation of our school by the government. No government officials will come to our school and still go ahead to close down our school. The container has elevated our school and Lord's Church greatly. It's just like a dream that within the twinkling of an eye, we could be blessed with such materials. Sharing and distributing the relief materials will really enhance the ministry of the Lord's Church, but that has to wait until the loan has been repaid. We will distribute some of the hospital equipments to government medical and health centers located in our jungle area. We will use some of the medical items in our school SICK BAY. It is one of the requirements for accreditation that a school like ours must have a health unit called "Sick Bay" for first aid and healthcare in case of emergency. We worked on

the auditorium foundation today until very late in the evening. Work will continue on Monday.

What we need now is to complete the auditorium, acquire enough computers and science laboratory equipments and our school will receive an express accreditation status.

We are prayerfully trusting that God will grant us the grace to pay back the loan and go ahead to distribute the relief items FREE for the benefit of our christian brethren and our community. These relief items will help build the Lord's church in Nigeria. We owe God and all of you an obligation to discharge this ministry faithfully.

Thank you once again for the container shipment project. The humanitarian relief ministry will help us to build and grow a great congregation. The Lord's Church has won the hearts of the folks of Uruk Otong and its environs with the arrival of the container. The news is spreading like wildfire and our people have come to respect the Lord's Church so much for this outstanding benevolence ministry which is lacking in the denominational churches. A total of 84 individuals gathered to worship God today at our campus church. A student-preacher of the World English Institute & School of Ministry (WEISOM), Akaninyene Ukanga preached the sermon today and did a great job. We are already running out of space. After we distribute the relief materials and the news begin to spread, there will be a large number of worshipers that we will not have a room to accommodate until the new auditorium is completed. We solicit financial assistance from Brethren who could help to enable us repay the loan so that we can go ahead to distribute the relief items donated by our Christian brethren from Alabama, Arkansas and Tennessee. There's a medical facility in our area called GRACE HOSPITAL which offers FREE medical services to the elderly. We are planning to share the medical equipments with them. Thank you once again for your heart of love, compassion and generosity.

In Christian service,

Aniefiok & Queen Akpan

PS: We will send our letter of appreciation to the brethren and churches involved in the container shipment project.