

VOMedical:

Beyond Anything I Have Ever Seen

A Report from the Frontlines in Nigeria

On March 7, 2010, gunshots awakened Christians living in Dogo Nahawa, a small village south of Jos. By morning, more than 500 Christians in Dogo Nahawa and two nearby villages had been slaughtered by a roving Muslim gang armed with machetes, guns and knives. Just days later, VOMedical Director “Dr. Kim” was in Dogo Nahawa and Jos interviewing attack victims and providing medical care. Here is Dr. Kim’s firsthand account of the devastation he witnessed.

“This is beyond anything I have seen in my 33 years of medicine.”

“Greetings from Jos. After 20 hours traveling by plane I arrived late Saturday and got settled in, and then Sunday morning we drove out to Dogo Nahawa and were appalled at what we saw. There were burned-out churches and many burned-out homes.

We were shocked to see the site of a mass grave where the Christians who were savagely slaughtered were buried. In more than three years of providing medical service for persecuted Christians for VOM, this is the first time that the word ‘carnage’ comes to mind. This is beyond anything I have seen in my 33 years of medicine, including doing autopsies and working in emergency rooms. We found out that in one village we visited there were only 20 or 30 survivors in the entire village.

“Today we were able to see numerous patients at several hospitals. There were fewer gunshots and far more machete and knife wounds than I have seen in the past in northern Nigeria. It looks to me like the Muslims had sharpened their weapons before the attack, because the wounds on these folks were significantly deeper and more destructive than any of those I saw in January when Muslims attacked Christians in Jos. The epitome was a 4-year-old little girl whose left arm was slashed and amputated above the elbow.



Dr. Kim helps a four-year-old whose arm was severed by a machete-wielding Muslim militant during anti-Christian attacks in Nigeria on March 2010.

“We examined one wounded 8-year-old girl who lost both her parents and is now in the care of her aunt. Another woman told us that while she was trying to escape with her babies, who were tied ‘papoose style’ so that they lay on her back, the infants were killed by machete strikes.

“It is good that I came because many of the people were visibly relieved and comforted to see someone from

the Western church here. We began providing assistance immediately, so now Christians can get the necessary medical tests and treatment. Now that we have examined people firsthand, we can start sending people to surgery through our VOMedical program.

"It was amazing when we were allowed to worship with the believers. Even with all the death and destruction around them, they were praising the Lord for his goodness and mercy. The service was held in the village square, complete with charred, burned-out buildings in the background.

"The pastor who addressed them stressed that this was indeed the persecution foretold by Jesus as a sign of the end times and that our duty was to carry our cross and forgive the attackers. This will be significant, as many of the attackers were actually long-standing Muslim members of Dogo Nahawa village and during the attack pointed out the Christians to the raiding Fulani-Muslim mob. The people are doing amazingly well. I am so proud of their character."

Seven days after the attacks in Dogo Nahawa and two nearby villages, Christians were attacked in the village of Byei, south of Jos. Thirteen Christians were killed in that attack and six were injured.

Violence against Christians is common in Jos. The city is the largest in Plateau State, which sits in the middle of the country between the heavily-Muslim north and the predominantly Christian south. Clashes between Christians and Muslims in the area date back to the early 1900s, when British soldiers who landed on the southern shores of Nigeria met Muslims from the Islamic-dominated north run by the ethnic Fulani tribe. In recent history, Christians have been regularly attacked by violent Muslim mobs in Jos and other cities in the 12 Northern Nigerian states that have enacted Sharia law.

The raids on Christian neighborhoods are horrific, leaving in their wake hundreds of injured Christians, most of whom have no means to pay for medical care. In 2010



Above: An injured church elder sits near the rubble of his firebombed church in Maiduguri, Nigeria.

Left: Believers visit the remains of their destroyed church near Jos, Nigeria.



Special Update

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alone, VOMedical has helped more than 241 victims of religious violence in Nigeria. VOMedical provides needed surgeries, prosthetics, medicine, physical therapy, payment of medical bills and even counseling to Christians who are attacked and injured as a result of their faith. Since 2002, this ministry has helped treat the wounds of these Christians so they can heal and continue spreading the gospel.

This year in Nigeria, VOMedical has treated Christians for a variety of injuries, including gunshot wounds, deep cuts, amputations and broken limbs. We have provided prosthetics and physical therapy for gunshot victims, and we have paid thousands of dollars for medical bills of Christians injured in the attacks. Although the violence continues, Nigerian Christians have hope in

“This is the first time in my work at VOM that the word ‘carnage’ comes to mind.”

Hear how Nigerian Muslim militants coordinated the attacks on three Christian villages in March 2010 at www.persecution.com/newsletter



VOMedical Director Dr. Kim examines Danladi Bauza, who was injured by religious violence in Jos in 2008. VOMedical sent him to Kenya to get fitted for a prosthetic leg. He now leads worship and is going to Bible school.



Two victims of attacks on Christians in Plateau State, Nigeria, in March 2010



the Lord, and they are very grateful for the help they receive from VOMedical.

“The day they came to the hospital and I saw Dr. Kim, I didn’t know who he was,” said Walter Ezeorah. On Jan. 17, 2010, Walter was shot at point-blank range by a Muslim disguised as a Nigerian soldier. Because of the injury to his shoulder, Walter lost his job and could not afford to pay for his medical bills or feed his two children. “But I explained what had happened to me, and he explained to me that all my medical bills would be paid for [by VOMedical]. I was very happy, and I told him how joyful I was about that. I’m feeling better, and I’m overwhelmed and I thank God for everything.”

Thank you for keeping our persecuted Nigerian brothers and sisters in your prayers. Pray for healing of those injured in the recent attacks and those mourning the loss of loved ones. Pray that they will continue to look to the Lord for strength and that they will forgive their persecutors. Pray that the Muslim attackers will come to know Jesus Christ and the forgiveness they can find only in him.



Nigerian Christians still have joy in the Lord, despite vicious attacks against them.

Walter Ezeorah, who was shot during an attack on Christians in Jos, was surprised and grateful to God to meet VOMedical Director Dr. Kim.

Hear Walter tell his story at
www.persecution.com/newsletter.

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