



Schadt, with some Nigerian children

● By Funke Oduwole

Expressing His Love



*US-based Seekers
of Souls
Ministries
embarks on a
fact-finding
mission to
identify areas of
assistance to
Nigerians as it
expands the
frontiers of the
gospel*

Bearing a message of hope and restoration, Mike Schadt, field director, Seekers of Souls, SOS Ministries, a pioneer church planting ministry, was not bothered by the horrible news of kidnappings and hostage taking of foreign nationals and the news of other terrible things being peddled by the international news media about Africa and Nigeria in particular, and recently headed for Lagos, Nigeria.

He set out on a mission to seek out the lost sheep, not just in Lagos but also in other parts of the country, east, west and even the north. Not basing his fact-finding work in Nigeria on preaching in formal church set up, he also went to the remote villages and towns where there are no established churches to preach the good news of the gospel to the villagers and share with them the love of God. He offers them the opportunity to be partakers of the salvation won for mankind through the shedding of the blood of sinless Jesus.

Armed with the words spoken by Apostle Paul in Roman 15:20, "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation", which he said is the guiding light of the SOS Ministries. Schadt, with the assistance of some friends to guide him, made voyages to villages in Ogun State, and some rural communities in Lagos State, preaching the gospel fearlessly, expressing the love of Christ.

With headquarters in Clearwater, Florida, United States, US, the SOS Ministries which has a vision and mission to take care of the spiritual needs of the

people while not neglecting their physical needs sent Schadt to Nigeria “to see where Nigerians need help and how we can help.”

During the two and a half-week visit to the country, he ministered on the topic ‘God of Mercy’ at Shote and Arepo villages in Ogun State, and also gave the message of the gospel to the congregation at the Jehovah Jireh African Church in Isheri, Lagos. Not hesitating to identify with other set-ups, he was also at the Truth Believers Bible Church, an independent gospel mission, where he interacted with fellow believers ministering to their needs.

Apart from visiting rural communities in Ogun and Lagos states, he paid a visit to the Home of Special Children in Abeokuta, an orphanage established by Reverend Isaac Newton Wusu, to cater for the needs of children of martyred Christians and those who lost their lives during religious crises in the northern part of the country. Schadt said time would not permit him to go to the east, the north and the south-south on this first visit “but very soon, within the first quarter of next year, I hope to come again with some of my colleagues, a team of about 15 people including teachers, doctors, nurses, among other professionals to minister to both the physical and spiritual needs of the people.”

The SOS Ministries is a faith-base non-profit making organisation whose primary purpose is to fulfil the commission Christ gave to the church to be His witnesses locally and abroad by proclaiming the message of salvation to the lost spiritual soul of man and ultimately making disciples of them.



Schadt: Fulfilling the commission



Schadt, cares for elders too

Schadt stated that “this, we achieve by pioneering into communities, villages and cities where no evangelical church or witness exist and planting a church.”

The secondary purpose of the ministry which has been in existence since the year 2000 is “to strive to minister to the physical need of man in keeping with the scripture in Matthew 25:31-45 which says “For when I was hungry you gave me something to eat, when I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink...” and what was recorded in Mark 6:34-44 where Jesus saw the large crowd and he had compassion on them and fed them with the word (spiritual need) and with food, (physical need),” he explained.

Having travelled to several countries in different continents of the world including El Salvador, the Honduras and Guatemala in Latin America, Italy, Pakistan and some other countries in Asia, Schadt came to Nigeria to spread the message of hope and restoration while exploring the possibility of planting churches to disciple and train indigenous pastors as co-labourers in the vineyard and use as a place to impart knowledge, (education), give medical attention and as food pantry.

Schadt said the ministry got the vision and inspiration to come to Nigeria about two years ago “and we started to pray about it. The journey actually started in the Nigerian community in Florida, US, where the family of Fola and Bola Oni, who are friends of the ministry, did the facilitation, giving all necessary support and encouragement to make it possible for the SOS Ministries to extend hands of fellowship to Nigerians.”

In all the places the SOS has registered its presence and made impact, the ministry get actively involved in providing service, giving support to mankind and offering supplications. ■