

Nigeria



Today in Nigeria...

The first Lutheran missionaries went to Nigeria in 1936. Today, The Lutheran Church of Nigeria has grown to over 95,000 members, with more than 75 national pastors, and 150 evangelists and lay preachers in active ministerial services.

The Nigeria Lutheran Hour (NLH) office is located in the city of Uyo. The land and building are provided by The Lutheran Church of Nigeria, a partner church of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Until 1977, the Nigerian Lutheran Hour office broadcast Lutheran Hour programming twice daily over the Radio Voice of the Gospel (RVOG) station in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This station's strong signal reached all of the African continent and large areas of the Middle East (as far away as Iran). When this station was nationalized by the Ethiopian military regime, its use by the NLH was lost.



The Christian Radio Studio continues to write and produce eight 15-minute and one 30-minute devotional programs and Christian dramas for broadcast throughout Nigeria over 10 government-owned stations.

Indigenous instruments such as drums, and Nigerian-style singing are featured. These programs are well liked, and the NLH ministry center receives more than 5,500 listener letters each year.

The NLH takes part in many outreach activities in addition to its radio programs. The Nigerian government has commended the church body for its effective moral decency campaign, as well as for its campaigns against drug abuse and AIDS.

The NLH's audiocassette ministry provides religious information with music and information on health and personal development.

Printed materials including tracts, a calendar, and a daily Bible-reading guide are also made available through the NLH office. Films, recording studio tapes, and even the use of the studio's public address system for church conventions and evangelism programs all play important roles in the office's outreach ministry efforts.

Religion in Nigeria...

Christians make up about 40 percent of Nigeria's population, and Muslims make up 50 percent. The Muslim faith is strongest in the northern and western portions of the country,

The Ministry...

Media Outreach:

Office Established:

Uyo, 1958

Director:

Efiong James

Population:

137,253,133

- The Christian Radio Studio writes and produces eight 15-minute and one 30-minute devotional programs and Christian dramas
- The NLH office receives more than 5,500 listener letters each year
- An audiocassette ministry provides religious information, along with information on health and personal development
- Printed materials, films, and recorded tapes are used in this dynamic ministry

especially among the Hausa and Fulani tribes. However, animism (the belief in spirits who live in rocks and trees) is influential even among many who claim Christian or Muslim affiliations.

Among Christians, the Presbyterians were the first to begin work in Nigeria, starting in 1842. In the 1930s, the Ibibio tribe of southern Nigeria sent a representative to the United States to seek a "Bible-believing church." He was attracted to the Lutheran College at Greensboro, N.C., became a student, graduated, and returned to his people.

His return was followed by missionaries from the Lutheran Synodical Conference, who arrived in Nigeria in 1936. His memoirs on the founding of The Lutheran Church of Nigeria (LCN) are addressed in the book "Jonathan Udo Ekong—The Log-Bell Ringer." The book was published in 1997 by the LCN in cooperation with Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo.

The Country...

Located on the west coast of Africa, Nigeria is the seventh largest country on the continent, covering an area the size of Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas combined. It is the most populous country in Africa with more than 137 million people.

Nigeria is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC); petroleum accounts for 95 percent of its export income. The balance is derived from products including coffee, cocoa, rubber, timber, tin, and palm oil.

Great Britain ruled Nigeria from 1900 until 1960. Today, Nigeria is a federation of 30 states, with Abuja now the new federal capital city.

English is the nation's main language and is used extensively in the larger cities. It is also used to make communication easier among the more than 250 different tribal language

groups. These tribal groups are found primarily in the grasslands that make up the central section of the country. The northern region of the nation is semi desert and home to nomads who raise cattle.

The People...

Approximately one-fourth of Nigeria's population lives in larger urban cities, while the rest are farmers who live in small towns and villages.

Racial, social, and religious tensions have resulted in bitter fighting in the past. The bloodiest of these conflicts, the Biafra War, ended in 1970. A number of Lutherans lost their lives in this bloody struggle which greatly affected much of the area of the nation where the church was strongest. This war was a stark contrast to the generally simple and peaceful nature of Nigerians.



Your Opportunities to Serve...

Pray to the Lord for He is good... We give thanks for the opportunity given to us by our heavenly Father to bring His good news of hope and salvation to the people of Nigeria.

Indifference can be a powerful enemy to the work of the Lord. If we choose to do nothing, those that are without hope in their lives will not know His mercy and salvation. Through the blessed work of Lutheran Hour Ministries, we can break down the barriers of indifference.

Through your support, the ministry of Nigeria can continue to reach out to

the lost souls around the world. Become a sponsor or increase your level of giving to help us continue our mission of "Bringing Christ to the Nations – and the Nations to the Church."

Contact Information...

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Our world is full of people who NEED to know they are loved. Please join us in reaching out to them—with God's love.

How You Can Help:

Become a sponsor and assist LHM Ministry Centers around the world. Call

1-800-944-3450 for details, or visit our Web site at www.lhmint.org.

For the latest listing of fact sheets for all the countries in which Lutheran Hour Ministries is carrying out its vision of "All nations, all peoples, all in Christ," visit our Web site listed above.

For more information, write to the Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League at 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, St. Louis, MO 63141-8557.

The Int'l Lutheran Laymen's League, with its outreach through Lutheran Hour Ministries, is an auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church—Canada.



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