

## The Hope of True Freedom

*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ~John 8:36*

Recently, revelations have emerged from the northeast section of Nigeria of parents who are willfully donating their children, particularly their daughters, to be strapped with improvised explosive devices (IED's), and blown up. They are convinced that this is their contribution to help Boko Haram and advance Islam throughout the region.

In other areas of Nigeria, Reach the Rest church planters are reporting on a rampant practice known as "money women." In this situation, misguided

and heartless parents sell their daughters to a man who is often old enough to be their grandfather. These young women will then be hypnotized and enslaved. These victimized girls are forced to endure sexual abuse and other horrific experiences by their captors.

The Nigerian Army has appealed to religious leaders, traditional rulers, and community leaders to help dissuade their people from donating and selling these innocent young girls.

The bondage of sin and false religion is real and intense in a variety of ways throughout this



## Prayer Points

- Pray that the gospel will penetrate the hearts and minds of those who have never heard the Good News and they will see their need for a Savior.
- Pray for the church planters working among the Bacheve people as they share the story of Jesus and give testimony to God's work in their lives.
- Pray against the activities of those who oppose the gospel and seek to control the population with terroristic activities.
- Pray for the young people who have been harmed and abused. May the light of God's love penetrate their hearts and heal their broken bodies and spirits. Pray that they will grow and rise up to win future generations for the sake of the gospel.

region. Our Reach the Rest team in Nigeria knows that if true change is to come to those who are perpetuating and/or participating in these types of appalling deeds, there must first be a change of heart. Fortunately, our RTR team knows the One who holds the key and is actively sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ to as many as will listen.

The girls pictured belong to the Bacheve people group located in the Cross River state of Nigeria. Some of these girls were sold for as low as 20,000 Nigerian Naira (about \$55 US).

The Bacheve are part of an unreached people group that practices African traditional religion. Generally, these



traditions are passed along through oral and verbal means. Their understanding includes a belief in a supreme creator, belief in spirits, veneration of the dead, ancestor worship, and the use of magic.

Through the communication and sharing of the gospel by supported RTR church planters, these young ladies, as well as others, have been liberated not

only physically, but spiritually! They have become followers of Christ. Efforts are being made to teach and disciple them in their newfound walk of faith.

Additionally, James O., RTR's Field Coordinator for Nigeria, reports that although the work is challenging and persecution real, eleven church planters are now sharing the gospel and working among the Bacheve people. As the response



RTR's Nigerian Field Coordinator, James O.

to the Good News grows, church planters continue the discipleship process with ongoing

teaching, instruction, and house church formation. God is breaking the chains of those held in captivity by many years of false teachings and beliefs.

James shares, *"The dramatic changes and newfound peace and joy that only Christ can bring into the lives of these new believers cannot be hidden or shut down!"*

## ***Join Reach the Rest in their vision to plant 50,000 churches among the unengaged and unreached in the next 5 years!***

**Reach the Rest** is training and equipping church leaders and national believers to make disciples and plant local churches among their unengaged neighbors. These are called "proximate" people groups.

The **50/50 Vision** is an initiative to **plant 50 thousand churches, for \$50 each, over a 5-year span.** Imagine the impact you can make for so little — hundreds of thousands reached with the gospel, gathered into local communities, and discipled. All for a minimal cost.

### ***Make a Commitment. Make a Difference.***

Invest in what God is doing through Reach the Rest. You can make a significant difference. All it takes is a small monthly investment.

- Plant 6 churches this year .....\$25 per month
- Plant 12 churches this year .....\$50 per month
- Plant 24 churches this year .....\$100 per month

Call **(877) 811-3742** or visit **[www.reachtherest.org](http://www.reachtherest.org)** to make your commitment.



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