

## **LUCIS TRUST/ARCANE SCHOOL VISIT TO NIGERIA**

### *Building Right Human Relations – Challenging Times in the Transition into the Aquarian Age*

For ten days in early September Lucis Trust meetings were held in three cities in the southern region of Nigeria: Benin, Port Harcourt and Lagos. There have been Arcane School students working from the West African nation for many years, and several Units of Service have formed for full moon meditation and study. In 1990 during a Lucis tour meetings were held in four cities and this 2019 tour was planned in response to a request from co-workers in Lagos. The purpose of the meetings was to provide an opportunity to shine a light on the work of building right relations and to re-vivify the Unit of Service work. Harrison Juwe and Val Usifoh of the Africa Goodwill Meditation Group put in a great deal of effort coordinating planning for the events and ensuring that complex travel arrangements flowed smoothly.

Students and co-workers living in Nigeria face challenges not normally encountered by students living in Europe or the Americas or the Pacific. Daily travel in cities tends to be chaotic and stressful. Internet and power connections are unreliable. The southern part of Nigeria is predominantly evangelical Christian and many students report that their families and close friends often suspect that their work with the Arcane School is 'Satanic'. Although there is a strong wealthy class, much of the population is living in poverty and Nigeria has one of the highest rates of extreme poverty in the world. Yet there is a big-heartedness in the country and a generous spirit that was hugely evident at meetings and in informal encounters with students and co-workers. It was a deeply moving experience to be see how difficult life is for co-workers and fellow students and how dedicated so many are to the Work and to the School.

### **BENIN**

Meetings in Benin were ably coordinated by Dr (Mrs.) Isoken Ogboro and the [Benin Unit of Service](#). Over 50 people attended the Public Meeting, including several Arcane School students and Department Heads and faculty members from the Edo State University (where Dr Ogboro is Registrar) as well as representatives of the Hare Krishna Temple and a Christian group, the Church of all Nations. Following talks by Dr Ogboro and Steve Nation we worked with the Group Radiation of Energy meditation, there was a lively discussion and the meeting concluded with the Goodwill Meditation.

The Co-workers meeting, held at the Unit of Service's Esoteric Library, began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, marking the official opening of the library. Building work began on the library seven years ago. When the Festival Week of the New Group of World Servers was celebrated in 2012 the library still lacked a roof! Although the building is now complete, power and running water will be added in the future. The library contains books by Alice Bailey and several other esoteric writers as well as copies of the Beacon and Lucis Trust publications. As a service, copies of books are mailed to Arcane School students around the country who request them. The Unit of Service meets every Sunday for study and meditation as well as for full moons.

During the rainy season the roads to the Library are often flooded, making transport extremely difficult and this happened on the morning of the co-workers meeting so that only four people (all Arcane School

students) were able to attend. After a deep discussion about the work of the School and the service activities the meeting concluded with the letting in the light Meditation, using the keynote: “The great need of today is the loving intention to fire the entire world with the ‘spirit of relationship’. Despite the low attendance and the difficult circumstances there was a sense, expressed by all those present, that this had been a useful and successful meeting.



## PORT HARCOURT

At Port Harcourt, a centre for the oil industry in Nigeria, meetings were ably coordinated by Fubara Iyagba, co-ordinator of the well-established [Port Harcourt Unit of Service](#). The public meeting was addressed by Fubara Iyagba, who spoke on theme of bridging between soul and personality, and Steve Nation. After a meditation on the Group Radiation of Energy there was a very energetic and thoughtful discussion and the meeting concluded with the Letting in the Light meditation. A significant part of the discussion was concerned with how to balance subjective and outer service in the lives of individuals and groups.

Approximately 12 people attended the Co-workers meeting which was held in the library of Mr Iyagba's law office, which is where the Unit of Service meets every Sunday for study (the group is currently reading *Glamour: A World Problem*) and use of the money meditation. The group also meets for full moons. There was a wide-ranging deep discussion, particularly about the challenges and opportunities facing Nigerian students in the Arcane School. Some commented that the difficulties made regular reporting and written work in the School especially challenging, but that even though they were no longer able to maintain the rhythm of the Work they continued to study and consider themselves active School students. One former School student noted that for 37 years he had used the Great Invocation every day with concentration and purpose, including using it quietly in his office where he noted that it had transformed the atmosphere. After the meeting participants were invited to a wonderful meal at the home of one of the organizers, Andy & Belema Ogbuiwe.







## LAGOS

The tour ended with meetings in Lagos. Several co-workers (including Dr Ogboro who travelled from Benin) gathered at the Guest House where a number were staying and shared a delicious meal prepared in advance by Harrison Juwe on the evening before the full moon meeting. In the past the Lagos Unit of Service had held regular meetings, but largely because of travel difficulties in Lagos (a vast sprawling city) in recent years it has proved impossible for the meetings to continue and many of the co-workers had lost touch. The meetings on this trip, and preparations for the meeting, provided a useful opportunity for older co-workers to meet up again and, together with some newer students, refresh their intention to find ways of working together in service.

The full moon meeting at the Guest House was attended by around 10 students and co-workers and characterized by a deep and potent meditation. The public meeting, held the following day at a large University hall, attracted very few members of the public – there were around 20 attendees. A great deal of effort had been put into promoting the event but there were heavy rains on the day making transport especially difficult. Despite this it was a successful meeting, with addresses by Dr James Ojiabo a medical doctor and Arcane School student and Steve Nation. After the meditation on Group Radiation of Energy there was a lively discussion which was greatly enhanced by three students at the university who offered penetrating thoughtful questions about the relevance of the Work to young people in Nigeria. The co-workers meeting the next day at the Guest House was attended by 7 people. Unfortunately, due to various circumstances the two local facilitators, Harrison Juwe and Val Usifoh, were unable to attend and joined the meeting for brief periods by phone links. Again, there was a lively animated discussion about the Work revealing a depth of commitment and concern to persist despite difficulties. Because of problems travelling to meetings Harrison Juwe and Val Usifoh have been working with co-workers in South Africa organizing monthly Skype meetings for the full moon through the [Africa Goodwill Meditation Group](#), although even this is challenging because of regular power failures and internet outages. However, as a result of the tour there was agreement that through a new Whatsapp group, co-workers in Lagos and Nigeria would continue to keep in touch and carefully plan future events for the Festival Week and other occasions.



It is difficult to convey the deep love of the teachings and the Work that is so palpable amongst Nigerian students and co-workers who attended the meetings in all three cities. They live in the most challenging circumstances, yet the will to persist with esoteric work is strong, and the activities and focus of the Trust and the School are deeply valued. It has been especially useful for the Headquarters Group to have this fresh experience of the generous, dedicated open-heartedness of the network of co-workers and students in this vast West African nation, and to sense something of the qualities that they are contributing to the group as a whole.