

I finished another semester. Somehow they seem to get tougher every year. Of course I must remember that I am no “spring chicken.” In fact I can remember a time in my life when I never imagined living fifteen years into 21st century.

We just finished another final’s week, and I am marveling at God’s blessing on our ministry. A few weeks ago our graduate students chose to invite two lecturers to respond on behalf of the faculty to a series of student lectures. The lectures were focused on one of the greatest challenges in the African church. How do we deal with the tendency to mix ancestral beliefs with Christianity? They chose me to respond to their papers. It was more than just an honor! With this gesture they affirmed my efforts to contribute to the resolution of this problem. This challenge was introduced to me before I set foot on African soil, and its resolution has been a key theme throughout my ministry here.

Meanwhile, another group of students asked me to write a brief article on the importance of rearing godly children in Africa. Once again, this invitation could hardly be described as accidental. Many of my students and former students have expressed their gratitude for the encouragement I have given them in this vital matter. Typically, they say that their attitudes toward parenting have been transformed by my responses to this challenge. My face still glows every time I mention Janel.

Please continue to pray with us for Janel. She filled our hearts with joy last night by giving us an update on her progress at SPU. She continues her march to adulthood, even though she is starting to find the path before her to be a bit intimidating. She is determined to use her gifts to build God’s kingdom, and she remains undeterred by her desire to find a husband. She is ready to wait for God’s response to our prayers.

Pray also for Salome’s petition to the Nigerian government to grant me Special Immigration Status. We met with immigration officials last week, and we have another important meeting with them this week. With the new Muslim government, there is always a danger that they will reduce the number of visas for missionaries. Special Immigration Status would establish my right to stay here no matter how much they reduce the ECWA Quota (the number of missionaries ECWA is authorized to invite to serve Christ in Nigeria). This has become a serious concern and we ask you to pray for us in this hour of testing.

God is so good! I have recently celebrated the 33rd anniversary of my first arrival to Nigeria. I chose to focus my graduate education on Biblical Studies because I wanted my life to count for something eternal!

God has not disappointed me!

God has blessed our whole ministry team with a ministry beyond my imagination.

Accordingly, we are thanking God for your prayers, which continue to make this ministry possible and productive.

Salome, Jim [and Janel] Crouch

Finally, as we begin our mid semester break, please pray with me for a productive month of preparation for the new semester. Furthermore, please pray with me for a restful month. We just finished a tough semester and I need to recharge my “batteries” before I start a new one.