

## MISSIONS SPOTLIGHT



**Ovey Embu**  
**Beacon of Hope**

The special offering today is for the Nigeria Partnership, established in 2009 between River Terrace Church and Beacon of Hope Initiative and the Universal Reformed Christian Church (URCC) in Nigeria. The funds we give provide school funds for orphans and vulnerable children, HIV/AIDS prevention materials and education, group micro-loans to help families provide for their financial needs, HIV test kits, and trauma healing training manuals for those who in turn help people to recover from trauma.

The following is an email received from Ovey Embu, Director of Beacon of Hope Initiative, updating us on COVID-19 in Nigeria, and how Beacon of Hope is able to continue its ministry during this time.

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Dear River Terrace friends,

My family and other BHI staff are all doing well. My little Elle is about 7 months old now and quite active. She has two little teeth already. We thank God for His continuous protection as always.

So far 44,129 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Nigeria as of 4 August, 2020 with 896 recorded deaths. A total of 20,663 persons have been discharged from treatment centers and are doing well since the pandemic. The impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian economy is traumatic with sharp decline in productivity, jobs and revenues. The government projects at least 39.4 million job losses in 2020

Also, due to COVID-19 pandemic, students including beneficiary orphans have to stay back

home for safety as schools are temporarily shut down. Most children in the meantime are home schooled. The government at the moment is proposing partial opening of secondary schools (High schools) to enable those graduating take their final exams this August.

The impact of COVID-19 continues to affect businesses due to closure of some markets, restriction of movements, physical contacts and gatherings which has largely affected program beneficiaries. Some restrictions were only recently relaxed, with offices, some economic activities especially food and medical services allowed to operate. Worship centers in some areas are still shut down with services in other places held with restricted number of worshipers as physical distancing is observed. People are generally required to make use of face masks when in public, and the elderly from 65 years of age encouraged to stay at home as much as possible.

With the recent ease of restrictions especially on movements, Beacon of Hope Initiative activities are picking up but with strict adherence to safety measures. Trainings are carried out in smaller groups in order to maintain physical distancing as well as participants having to wear face masks, wash hands and use hand sanitizers. Additional trainings are organized to meet up targets due to the safety need for smaller groups.

We are encouraged with the fact that God will never leave nor forsake us and this trying time too will pass. We thank the RTC family for prayers and sacrifices and pray for His blessings on every one of you.

Warm regards,  
Ovey Embu

