

21 MC alumni unite in Nigeria

How the Baldwin and Good families spent their winter vacation

By Lois Baldwin '72 Good

David Good is a dreamer. Coach Good took the MC soccer team to parts of Europe and Nigeria in January 1988 because of a dream he had one night. Another night, MC's grounds coordinator dreamed about his whole family on a work camp in Nigeria. That didn't seem so far-fetched to him. After all, his family has a history with Nigeria.

Dave's parents, Monroe and Ada Good, were missionaries in Nigeria from 1952-64 and 1984-88, so Dave has lots of childhood memories of West Africa. He is married to **Lois Baldwin '72**, whose parents, Elmer and **Ferne Strohm '58 Baldwin** (professor emerita of sociology and social work), also were missionaries in Nigeria, from 1944-62.

So why not have a family nostalgia work camp trip back to Nigeria?

The families thought that was a grand idea! So, on Dec. 15, 2004, after a lot of work and rearranging of schedules, 22 people, including 17 Manchester College alumni, departed for Nigeria. (Dave's parents arrived earlier to plan their schedule.)

The travelers included **Ferne Strohm '58 Baldwin** and her three daughters, **Barbara Baldwin '66x Bryant**, **Louise Baldwin '69 Rieman** and **Lois Baldwin '72 Good**; and their husbands: **Tim Bryant**, **Phil Rieman '69** and **Dave**.

All of Ferne's grandchildren went: **Kevin Bryant '95**, **Jonathan Bryant '97**, **Ted Bryant '00** and their spouses, and **Ken Rieman '93**, **Tina Rieman '94**, **Cheri Rieman**



Photos by Lois Baldwin Good

Ferne Strohm '58 Baldwin, fluent in the local B reminiscing about her mission days in Nigeria.

'96, **Christopher Good '02** and **Michael Good '04**; and two of their spouses: **Rachael George '97 Bryant** and **Heidi Beck '01**.

Also making the trip were Dave's older brother, Ron Good and his wife, Gussie, and Dave's sister, **Deb Good '74 Gantz**. (A younger brother was unable to make the trip.) Joining the group were two family friends: Adam Smith and **Ben Long '03**.

The Baldwins/Goods packed a full schedule into 2½ weeks, focusing on the African communities of Abuja (the capital), Jos, Marama, Garkida and Shaffa. In Jos is Hillcrest School, which six of the travelers had attended. There, they met up with teacher **Matt Haren '01**, who gave a grand tour.

The Baldwin/Good group headed for Madu Bible School in Marama for their four-day work camp. They carried stones. They hand-mixed cement, then carried it in headpans and wheelbarrows to pour floors for classroom buildings. They also helped build a library building from the foundation up, ready for the roof.



MC groundskeeper Dave Good (center) dreamed up this hard work.



ura language, quickly drew audiences when

Many Nigerians worked alongside the Baldwins/Goods, including students, members of the Marama church and representatives of other districts of the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria (EYN). After work, they often had extra time for conversation.

Ferne had served as a translator in Nigeria and is still fluent in the local Bura language. That delighted the Nigerians, who eagerly gathered around her for conversation and her stories about Bura. Indeed, Ferne wrote the only existing dictionary in the Bura language.

Usually almost 100 people were working on the projects, sharing meals prepared by women from the church, singing and fellowship.

The group attended church services and were guests at fellow-

ship meals at each place they visited. They found the EYN church to be a rapidly-growing and dynamic force in Nigeria.

Many of the members have influential and prominent jobs in all levels of the government and in other visible arenas, largely because of the quality of life and education emphasized from the very beginning of the Church of the Brethren mission program in Nigeria. The church is an integral part of the daily lives of its members, with programs to fight corruption, educate about HIV/AIDS, and improve communication and cooperation with Muslims in local communities and across the country.

The trip included checking out homes the families had lived in,

Continued on Page 29



From left, First Row: Christopher Good '02, Ferne Strohm '58 Baldwin and Michael Good '04. 2nd Row: Barbara Baldwin '66x Bryant, Rachael George '97 Bryant, Jesse Shinggu '81, Lemsu Shinggu '83x, Louise Baldwin '69 Rieman, Tina Rieman '94, Heidi Beck '01, Lois Baldwin '72 Good and Deb Good '74 Gantz. 3rd Row: Cheri Rieman '96, Jonathan Bryant '97, Kevin Bryant '95, Ted Bryant '00, Ben Long '03, Ken Rieman '93 and Phil Rieman '69.