

REPORT OF THE 9TH QUADRENNIAL AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2018 OF THE NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL HELD AT THE HILL STATION HOTEL, JOS, PLATEAU STATE – NIGERIA BETWEEN 9TH AND 14TH DECEMBER 2018

The last Nurses Christian Fellowship International (NCFI) Africa Regional Conference held between 3rd and 8th October 2010 at the National Headquarters of the Ghana Nurses & Midwives Association in Accra, Ghana concluded with a mandate to the Fellowship of Christian Nurses, Nigeria (FCN) to host the next edition scheduled for 2014. The last time FCN Nigeria hosted the region was in 1994 when Rev. Micah Tswabki was still serving as staff of NCFI for Africa region.

FCN Nigeria took the challenge of hosting the conference by immediately setting up a Central Planning Committee headed by Abalis Dasat, the current National Vice President of FCN Nigeria. The conference was never to be in 2014 due to lack of registrations received from intending participants from other member countries. The conference was then shifted to 2015 but the reported outbreak of Ebola affecting some West African countries did not allow the conference to hold. At that point, FCN Nigeria had given up the possibility of hosting the conference and communicated her concern to the then Regional Executives. However, at the African Regional Forum held during the NCFI World Congress 2016 at Tagaytay, Philippines, the region resolved to still give Nigeria the opportunity to host the conference in 2018. With this renewed mandate, FCN Nigeria reaffirmed her commitment to host the conference in Jos, Nigeria and with assurance that participants from member countries shall be mobilized to attend. The conference had to be postponed from the initial date of 7th – 11th October 2018 to 9th – 13th December 2018 due to the sudden unrest in some parts of Jos city just about a week to the conference following reported attack to a community by alleged Fulani herdsmen. The postponement however, was not without an effect as it affected the participation of intending delegates from Ghana, Zambia, Rwanda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Cameroon.

To the praise and glory of God, 142 delegates from Nigeria and 6 from Niger Republic participated in the conference held at the prestigious Hill Station Hotel, Jos with some other 40 student nurses from the College of Nursing & Midwifery Vom and Jos serving as conference mass choir. The Nigerian delegation was also comprised of 2 persons from the United Kingdom.

The official opening ceremony was well attended with dignitaries from the government, church and Non-Governmental Organizations in attendants. The occasion was chaired by Rev. Dr. Obed Dashan, the Vice President of Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) while the Special Guest of Honour was the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Rt. Hon. Simon Bako Lalong represented by the Commissioner of Science and Technology, Mr. Dan Manjang. Rev. Ishaku Izang delivered the welcome address on behalf of the Regional President, Laari Luke at the occasion. Goodwill messages were delivered by the Director of Nursing Services, Plateau State and representatives of various Christian organizations present.

The theme of the conference, “Meeting Africa’s healthcare needs: The role of the Christian Nurse” Matthew 9:36 was handled in 3 talks by the Guest Speaker, Dr. Ilufoye Ladipo Oyetunde, a retired chief veterinary research officer and a Baptist church leader for over 15 years committed to evangelism, discipleship, leadership development and counseling. Rev. Godfrey Jidauna handled the Bible Exposition in 2 sessions on, “The life and times of Moses: A challenge to the Christian nurse”. Rev. Jidauna is a lecturer with the Department of Christian Religious Studies, College of Education, Gindiri – Plateau State and a minister with the Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN). 5 plenary sessions were presented during the conference. They include “Holistic healthcare needs in modern/contemporary Africa: The role of the Christian nurse” by Rev. Eno B. Egbe; “Attaining excellence in nursing practice” by Zechariah Msugh; “Evidence based care in Africa: The journey so far” by Dr. Margaret Jemilugba; “Global Standards of nursing care and practice” by Ishaku Yakubu and “Revitalizing your National Fellowship through mentoring leaders in NCF” by Rev. Ishaku Izang. 2 concurrent sessions were observed with various topics for participants. All presenters received a special award from the organizers as acknowledgement and appreciation for their presentations.

Participants in 3 groups had the opportunity to undertake guided tours to some selected sites in the city of Jos with staff of the Plateau State Ministry of Culture and Tourism as guides. The sites visited are the Naraguta leather works, Jos museum & Ecological garden, and the Plateau Covenant Rock. Each group visited the 3 designated sites at different times but also made a stop-over at the newly completed FCN National Headquarters complex.

The African night was a beauty to behold with the array of Africa’s rich culture and traditions. 2 professional cultural troupes were on hand to entertain the audience with songs, dances and cultural displays. The conference choir in different African attires made renditions in selected African languages. It was quite a refreshing moment for all.

The closing ceremony was dedicated to thanking God through prayers, songs and dances for making the conference a reality despite the challenges encountered. It was climaxed with a special offering by all participants in support of the Nurses Christian Fellowship International, Africa Region.



Delegates from Niger Republic with Rev. Ishaku Izang, Abalis Dasat and the 2 francophone translators at the conference



Conference band making a presentation at the conference



Rev.Ishaku Izang receiving his award after presentation during the conference