

Jonathan Marshal is one of nine evangelists West-Ark (in association with the Elders of the Ankpa Church of Christ) have asked to move into Kogi State, Nigeria for a three year period of training the men and women of Kogi congregations in leadership for the future. The training program mentioned in this report is a part of that effort. The report gives us a glimpse of the interest of the Christians in Kogi, the results of the ongoing training, and the difficulties faced by our brethren. Interestingly, although Nigeria faces civil unrest and exorbitant inflation, those daily conditions are not put forth as excuses for not being active in the maturing of the Church.

## **Kogi State, Nigeria:**

### **LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM REPORT MARCH 2024**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, His Son, Christ Jesus and from us here

In continuation with the leadership training, last Saturday, I was at the Ette Center for this month's training plan. We also had about 26 persons in the class.

The class was so interesting as many congregational issues or problems were addressed, promising to put the church in a better shape.

After the training, brother Friday Alih, some members of the Efeche Ette congregation and I moved to Efeche for to worship there.

It was another intriguing journey that I cannot remember journeying such route since I began preaching. Apart from the sandy road, there is a great hill that if one is not an expert rider, he won't be able pass through the hill.

I could remember the bishop once said, he lost a vehicle as a result of driving on that same hill.

Aside the difficulty getting to Efeche Ette, the church is alive and active there. We had a great session of worship and Fellowship. Over 180 persons were in the worship service with many others been excused for traveling to attend one program or another. Am told that the church worships above 200 in attendance.



Their worship hall, apart from being old, it does not accommodate the worshippers any longer. I went to the back seats, there was great heat. I had suggested that, I door be opened at the back to reduce the heat before plans are made towards enlarging the worship hall.

The worship was very awesome as I only taught for one hour and used another one and a half hour to answer questions. At 11.30am, there was no need for a sermon. At the end of the service, four souls gave their lives to Christ through water baptism. They are: Brother Endurance Ogboji, Brother Godspower Odufu, SISTER JOY EZEKIEL, and SISTER SARAH AGADA.



Equally, I noticed that possibly because of the challenge in transportation, not many brethren are coming from their Congregations for the training. I thought that if one could be in a place for one whole month, the exercise could be more effective and successful on most (if not all) members of the congregations. That may not be easy though.

In another development, on 16th of March, the Ette Preachers organized an evangelism program at Isa-Lu Ette. Though I was not able to attend, but I was told that six souls gave their lives to Christ and a church was planted there on 17th March, 2024. Yesterday, an additional four souls were added to the newly planted congregation.

I learned that the number of worshippers were over 100 in yesterday's service. That was amazing. I hope to make time to visit the new congregation soon.

Brother Jimmy reported that the new congregation at Isa-Lu Ette needs some urgent work on the place of worship.

More so, sometimes last year, a lady came from Lagos to Ankpa for some medical attention, she was living with her sister who is a member of the church. I started studying with her. Surprisingly, while at Ugwolawo, I was called that the husband came and both of them wanted to be baptized.

They were both baptized on the 10th of March before they returned to Lagos. I have linked them up with the nearest congregation to them in Lagos. But before leaving for Lagos, the man requested that he would want the church to be established in his village, ETTITEKPE in Olamaboro LGA. I told him to prepare and come over so we can organize an outreach there and afterwards, the church could be established there.

Finally, we are still working on building and preparing the aspirants for the office of bishops and deacons before they are installed here in Ankpa so as to strengthening and sustaining the leadership of the church.

You would be updated as events unfold.

Sorry for the lengthy report, I just want to put you in the know of things in my zone.

Thanking you always for your encouragement and sacrifice towards the cause of Jesus here and beyond.

May the good Lord bless and keep strengthening you, your family and the entire West Ark Church in Jesus' Mighty name.

Amen.

In His Service,  
Jonathan Marshal

