

Tushima's Updates for December 2023

"And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty."(Luke 1:46-53; ESV)

Dear Friends,

I bring your season's greetings in the name of our Saviour and Lord. It is my prayer that during this period of Advent, leading up to Christmas, the good Lord will fill you with hope, joy, peace, and love, which the first Christmas ushered in for all humanity and God's creation.

As in the passage above, coming to the end of this year - with Mary - I am full of thanksgiving to our God for His faithfulness that has been shown to us all. His miraculous deeds on my behalf are without number. It has been about 20 months since I left my regular employment with Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA), and with the dramatic decline of support through FIM and increase in my financial responsibilities, our God did not abandon me or forsake me. Again and again, he come through for me, delivering me from the grasp and snare of the fowler (Jer 15:21; Psa 91:3).

As you may know, I have change to a new support platform – Global Horizons Inc. Please, take a look at the Hesed Academy webpage on their website: [Hesed Resource & Development Foundation - Global Horizons Inc. \(globalhz.org\)](https://www.globalhz.org). I have scaled down my budget significantly to just bare bones, being a lot more modest in view of the realities of my present circumstances. Notwithstanding, and I am still a longshot from meeting my monthly support target. I would encourage you to participate in supporting the students, teachers, and me as we prepare the students to become emerging leaders who uphold our Kingdom values within their workplaces and communities. Here are examples of a few areas of need:

Items of Interest	Cost per Student	Duration: Month/Term/Session	Remark
3 daily meals for one student	\$30	Month	\$1/student/3 meals each day
Bus service (to/from school)	\$20	Month	\$0.67 to transport each student to and from school
Textbooks / notebooks for one student	\$25	Academic year	\$3/student/month to provide all book needs in one academic year
Rent (and instruments) for Discipleship Center	\$200	Month	An estimate of what is needed to start the Discipleship Center next year. The facility should be as close to the city center as possible, but rents are higher than in outlying areas.

The first three items above are the major areas in which most of our resources are expended in the school. If they are taken care of, we will be able to provide for teachers' salaries, infrastructure maintenance, operating costs, and administrative overhead.

As the photographs below show, I have become more engaged with the administration of Hesed Academy and the discipleship of both the staff and students. The Lord is showing us his favor, particularly as we have seen growth in the enrollment in the school. For the first time since the school was founded five years ago, our enrollment has crossed the 100-student population mark! We are believing God that better days are in our future.

Recently doors have been opened in the communal conflict resolution and peace mediation space. I have become a part of an instrumental team that has helped resolve two perennial conflicts in two different communities, both of which spanned over four decades. It is exciting to be used a vehicle in which the Lord is working great miracles!

I continue to serve in adjunct positions in theological organizations locally in Nigeria, as well as helping to guide churches attempting to start new theological institutions. For instance, I just received an invitation from a pastor to provide guidance for his non-profit as they seek to start a new institute focused on conflict resolution and peace mediation. Even though I receive minimal economical remuneration, I feel privileged that the Lord is bringing different ways for me to actively build his kingdom. I am anticipating that more avenues of service along these path in the new year.

One new development I am prayerfully mulling is the possibility of starting a discipleship center, which would form the nucleus for a church plant in the future. I invite you to pray alongside me; I will keep you abreast of any developments (see the above chart for how you can financially help this dream become a reality).

Finally, Salome has been home since early October. Her school was shut down because the students were demanding basic infrastructure (e.g., a perimeter fence for security, dormitories, and laboratories, and studios) be provided to make learning easier. Please pray that they will be called back to school early next year.

PRAISE & PRAYERS: Praise God for provisions (in unexpected ways), protection, and his deliverances. Praise God for Salome's continue growth in every area of her life. Pray for direction for Cephas, and that God will raise up supporters and ministry team members for Cephas and his ministries in Nigeria and beyond. Pray for Hesed Academy, the spiritual growth of the school, the staff, faculty, and students, and for God's protection and provision for all needs of the school.

CEPHAS' MINISTRY IN PICTURES



Cephas, attending the wedding ceremony of one of his mentees about 300 miles away from Jos



Cephas, in a discipleship session with Hesed Academy faculty



Cephas, on a citywide campaign trail, advertising Hesed Academy



Cephas giving a talk at Parent-Teachers meeting at Hesed Academy.



A cross-section of parents and teachers listening to Cephas keenly.



Cephas at meeting with community elders toward mediating a longstanding intra-communal feud.



New students listening to Cephas, as he introduces them to Hesed Academy's Discipleship Program



Cephas introducing new students to discipleship program at Hesed Academy



Cephas at a major FM radio station (Jay FM) in Jos for listener phone-in interview session on the state of Education in Plateau state



Cephas with his interviewers at Jay FM, after his interview.

Click on this link <https://globalhz.org/hesed-resource-&-development-foundation/donate> to make a donation on the Hesed webpage on GHI's website. If you are making the donation via a computer, you will see that the donation page has the Hesed logo. If you are making the donation on a mobile phone, you will see a short version of the donation page without the Hesed logo.

Funds for our project can also be sent via check to the following address:

GHI/Hesed, P.O. Box 64059, Eagan, MN 55164-0059

Please make checks payable to: **GHI/Hesed**