

Nigeria

Federal Republic of Nigeria

James G. Poitras, Area Coordinator

Gerald C. McLean, Field Superintendent, First UPCI Nigeria

Population: 134,500,000

Area: 356,668 sq. mi.

Capital: Abuja

Languages: English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani

Religions: Islam, 50%; Christian, 40%; indigenous beliefs, 10%

Missionaries appointed to Nigeria: Gerry and Darla McLean

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is Africa's most populous nation. It lies on the Gulf of Guinea, between Benin and Cameroon. This former British colony is one of the world's largest oil producers. Other natural resources include petroleum, tin, columbite, iron ore, coal, limestone, and lead. After several military coups, civilian rule was reestablished in Nigeria in 1999. However, political liberalization ushered in by the government has allowed militants from religious and ethnic groups to express their frustrations more freely and with increasing violence. The imposition of Islamic law in several states, primarily in the north, has embedded divisions and caused thousands of Christians to flee.

The United Pentecostal Church of Nigeria opened in 1970 through the evangelistic efforts of the UPC of Ghana. It now has 3,996 constituents, 78 licensed ministers, and 72 churches and preaching points. The statistics of the reorganized church belie the great revival that is occurring in Nigeria. In the last few years, over 1,500 Trinitarian pastors have attended Oneness seminars, received a revelation of the mighty God in Christ, been baptized in Jesus' name, and many have baptized their whole congregations in Jesus' name.

The main UPCI Bible school for Nigeria is in Enugu, Enugu State, in southeastern Nigeria. In January 2007 the Gerry McLeans opened a second Bible school in Lagos, the commercial capital of Nigeria and home to 14 million people.