



"Salaam aleakum"

On November 22, Fairview looks forward to saying, "Salaam aleakum! Wa ga? Wa giri?" as we welcome Rev. Jabani Adzibiya from Ekklesiyar Yanuwa a Nigeria (EYN - the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) for Sunday morning! Jabani is currently enrolled in Bethany Theological Seminary's Master of Arts degree program. He has been the pastor of three churches in Nigeria and most recently served as the district church council secretary, overseeing fourteen congregations and nearly 9,000 members in his care.

Today the EYN has more members than the Church of the Brethren does in America. Years ago, when it was decided that the denominational General Board would no longer send missionaries to Nigeria, there was a great deal of discussion: was the new church able to stand alone and govern itself? It has proven to have been the catalyst that spurred the African leaders to preach the Gospel as Paul did: "I preach Christ and Him crucified." Their message is not to join a church or a social organization but to accept the death of Christ as the hope of eternal salvation in a country where there was not even the word "hope" in their language. Today the church in Nigeria faces persecution; churches have been burned and pastors killed.

The Seminary and the mission and ministry board of the Church of the Brethren are working together to make Rev. Adzibiya's study possible, including financial support from both agencies. While a student at the Seminary, he is still financially responsible for his family at home. A love offering will be received from Brother Jabani and to help defray the expenses of Jabani's travel to Fairview.

We look forward to hearing from Jabani during morning worship and again after a noon fellowship meal.

So practice up on your Bura phrases: "Salaam aleakum! Wa ga? Wa giri?" (I greet you in peace! How are you? How is your family?)

Two Choices

Thomas is the kind of guy you love to hate. He's always in a good mood, and always has something positive to say. Whenever some asked him how he was, he'd answer, "If I'd be any better I'd be twins!"

He's a natural inspiration. If a colleague had a bad day Thomas was there and told the colleague how to see the positive in the situation. I was curious about this, and one day I went up to Thomas and asked, "How do you do it?" Thomas answered, "Every Morning I wake up I tell myself: You have two choices today, you can choose to be in a good mood or in a bad mood. Every time something had happens I can choose to be a victim or learn from it. Every time someone complains to me I can choose to accept their complaint or I can choose to focus on the positive sides to life. I choose the positive sides of life " "It is:' said Thomas. "Life is about choices. When you cut away the crap, every situation is a choice. You choose how to react on the situations. You choose how people affect your mood. It is you who choose if you want to be in a good mood or a bad mood. In the end it is your choice bow you live your life,"

I thought about what Thomas had told me. Shortly after I left the firm to start a new business. We lost touch, but I often thought of him whenever I took a choice concerning my life instead of just reacting to it. May years later I heard that Thomas was involved in a serious accident with a fall of over 20 meters from a radio sender. After 18 hours of surgery and weeks in the recovery room Thomas was released from hospital with support along his spine. I met him about 6 weeks after the accident. When I asked him how he felt he answered "If I'd be any better I'd he twins! Do you want to see my scars?"