

feared, could result in health breakdown as it is characteristic of me whenever I undertake protracted journeys. Nevertheless, having presented my assigned lesson at the forum on the first day of the program, I felt a bit happy that I did not miss the annual event altogether. On arrival at home I scarcely rested as Lami began to experience painful signs of labour. The pains "officially" kicked off at 12 midnight entering Friday and went on and on and on. We endured till 5 a.m. when we labouriously made our way to the hospital about 2.5 kilometers away. The pitiable sister and I had to get on board a motorcycle as taxi drivers were still asleep. Finally, there we were in the hospital where the nurse on duty confirmed that it was labour pains she was undergoing. Fortunately, sister Judith of Mile One Church is a nurse in that hospital. Her help was really unquantifiable. Lami struggled from that 5.00 a.m till exactly 5.00 p.m when the innocent-faced baby girl signaled her arrival in the world by a tension-relieving cry. Throughout the twelve hours of fulfilling the divine pronouncement of Genesis 3, prayers from my dry but praise-singing lips poured out like never before. Thank God we are rejoicing now because the baby and the mother are doing well in health. There was no complications, no blood transfusion, nothing except the normally excruciating agony of child delivery.

After sending this mail, I will immediately forward a few pictures of the baby and the mother. We are now embarking on the journey of parenthood. "To God be the glory" according to Fanny Crosby
 -Abasiama John Archibong
 P.S.I forgot to tell you our child's name. She is named

Nsikanima Abasiama

Nsikanima literally means, "what is greater or stronger or more powerful than love?" and Abasiama means, "God loves". Have a great day, Sir.

(Rec'd May 23, 2008)

P.S: The baby weighed 3.5 kg at birth instead of 2.5kg as said earlier. It was a mistake of oversight. Thanks for launching Nsikanima into the hall of fame in and around the West African Missions community through your bulletins. I have written to Tom about all this events, and I know he will be joyous about it. I told him to start saving money now so that he will be able to support his younger son, God's will in the bride price in case the boy will eventually indicate his intent to marry my daughter. In Africa, people pay huge bride price.

Email from Nigeria (Rec'd May 20, 2008)

Hello my dear brother,
 Greetings from Jos. We returned last Sunday night from Gombe State. We had a wonderful outing though it was rough. The weather was not friendly at all, and the people some how tough to deal with. Well, as I mentioned sometimes ago, Gombe is a Muslim state. We had several studies conducted and many people were reached with the Gospel. I will give you the detail brief later. What about Mom, Dad and the Church? We are having our lectureship next week Monday, and some of the people have started arriving. Come this Saturday, we are having our graduation. All of these programs are directly on my head.

Tom

Announcements

Social-today after morning services

Meetings-tonight after evening services

Labels-Remember the labels we are saving

Food Pantry-Remember the Pantry as you shop

Change Jar-proceeds go to the Mothers' Day Appeal for Raintree Village

Truck from Raintree will be here next month. The list of needs is on the back pew

Cans-save cans – we are trying to buy bicycles for the missionaries in India

Medicine Bottles-Remember to save prescription bottles for African Christian Hospitals.

Email from Nigeria (Rec'd May 20, 2008)

Hoping its well with you and the entire family. We are doing well. Tom sr is scheduled to go to the hospital tomorrow. It's very difficult for Tom Jr. to go as we thought. Tom jr. is so busy that I do not even know how to handle things before he runs into health problems. From now till two weeks time, he is the sole organizer of all the event that has to take place and during the lectureship next week, he just told me that one of the Americans who is supposed to have about three classes had just written in that he is not fine so my husband has to prepare all the lessons for the three days to cover up for him. its so taxing for him. Do please join me in praying for Gods strength for him.

Do please have a lovely day.

Love

Sandra

(Rec'd May 23, 2008)

I like to let you know that I was not admitted yesterday for surgery as I thought I would. When my B.P was tested it rose to 190/120, the doctor told me that he cannot operate me until the B.P goes down. I was given some drugs to take daily until 12th of June when I should come back for surgery.

When my BP was tested on Monday it was quite normal, but I was surprised to have seen it risen to 190/120 which I never have expected.

I want to tell you that the remains of late S.O Ekanem will be buried on 21st June, 2008.

I will try and visit Agoi Ibami and Ugep next week. I am having enough medicine to go with, I will try and come back on 2nd June if I will leave here Monday, 26th May 2008. Thank you for your prayers continue to pray for us.

Thank you and bye for now

Yours,

Tom Ekpot Snr.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE TIME HAS

CHANGED TO 7:00 – SEE YOU AT 7:00 PM EVERY

WEDNESDAY