

10 June 2010

Dear Friends, Family and Colleagues;

As many of you already know, my wife Tijen and I began raising money to help construct classroom buildings for Bebor Model Nursery/Primary School (BMN/PS) in the villages of Bodo and Bane in the Ogoni region of Rivers State, Nigeria in October 2000. As of June 10, 2010, we have delivered nineteen rounds of funding to the schools worth US\$98,600. This funding has resulted in 1 partially finished classroom building being completed (Bodo); 4 classroom buildings built from the ground up (2 in Bane, 2 in Bodo); 2 boreholes for drinking water installed (1 in Bane, 1 in Bodo); one set of boys, girls and teachers' toilets completed (Bodo) and another set under construction (Bane); the establishment of a sewing machine workshop for women (Bodo); and annual tuition fee scholarships for dozens of poor students at both schools since 2003. Photographs and documentation of the progress made so far can be seen throughout the school's <http://www.bebor.org> website.

I am writing to you today to ask for your support. I realize that many of you have other outstanding and worthy charitable commitments, but I believe this project merits your support for a number of reasons.

First, 93 cents of every dollar you donate goes directly to BMN/PS. Starting in July 2010, our partners at the Timmy Foundation will receive seven percent of our incoming donations to fund their general administrative costs. Otherwise, this project has almost no overheads or administrative expenses and those that it does have are covered out of pocket. As one example, the school's website was originally designed and hosted for free by one of our donors and it has recently been upgraded for free and is now hosted free of charge by another donor and his company. When I visit Nigeria, I pay for my own plane tickets and all other expenses out of my own pocket. In short, nearly all of your money goes straight into this project and almost none of it goes into overhead or administrative expenses.

Second, this project now has a long-term proven track record of success. The significance of this accomplishment should not be underestimated. The non-governmental organization Christian Aid has described the Niger Delta region where the schools are located as "a veritable graveyard of projects, including water systems that do not work, health centers that have never opened and schools where no lesson has ever been taught." In our case, not only are lessons being taught but they are being taught to growing numbers of pupils in improved facilities that now include toilets and better quality drinking water.

Third, in spite of Nigeria's justifiably horrible reputation for corruption, we have established a viable system of accountability for this project. At the local level, the school directors in each village are accountable to a Board of Governors, the local Council of Chiefs and the vibrant Tijen Pegg Mothers' Association which provides an institutionalized channel for women to have input into each school's governance. Internationally, in addition to posting photographs of the progress made on the buildings and infrastructure, we have now posted eight annual reports, a history of our funding rounds, summary information on our donors and a variety of other documents from or relating to the schools in the "documents and reports" section of the <http://www.bebor.org> website. We have also brought seven donors with us to Nigeria to see the project first-hand.

Fourth, this small-scale project was initiated by and retains strong support from the local communities. This project remains focused on the most basic level of education, nursery and primary school. Its benefits flow directly to rural villages comprised overwhelmingly of subsistence farmers and fishermen.

Finally, unlike many charitable organizations, we do not bother you three or four times a year with emergency appeals. We obviously accept donations at any time but remain committed to leaving more than a year's worth of time between each round of fundraising.

Our immediate priorities for the schools are four-fold: 1) to provide boys, girls and teachers' toilets for the school in Bane; 2) to continue and hopefully expand our provision of tuition fee scholarship funding for the poorest pupils at each school; 3) to re-roof some of the now rusting roofs on the classroom buildings and replace them with rust-proof aluminum zinc roofs; and 4) to finish construction on a permanent home for the Tijen Pegg Mothers' Association sewing machine workshop in Bodo. In achieving these goals, we will stay focused, remain humble, minimize costs and continue to promote transparency and accountability.

Individuals have accounted for about 80% of all the funds we have raised for this project (with foundations, schools and churches contributing the rest). Donations are welcome at any level. Our continuing partnership with the Indianapolis-based children's charity [The Timmy Foundation](#) means that American donors can make your donations payable to the Timmy Foundation and receive a 501(c)3 charitable tax deduction from them. Overseas donors with access to US dollar bank checks should also make your contributions payable to the Timmy Foundation. Please send your checks payable to the Timmy Foundation to our home address:

Scott and Tijen Pegg
5639 Spindrift Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46220 USA

Please contact me at smpegg@iupui.edu if you need to make bank transfer or other special arrangements. If you wish to donate online with a credit or debit card, you can do so by visiting <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/TimmyFoundation/OnlineDonation.html> and selecting "Bebor, Nigeria" as the fund.

As I have said in previous fundraising letters, this project won't save the world. In 2007, UNESCO estimates that there were 72 million children in the world out of school, 54% of who were girls. That same report notes that almost 12 million girls in sub-Saharan Africa may never enroll in school. This project obviously cannot solve that problem on its own, but last year we kept give or take 1,000 kids from joining those statistics and more than half of our students are girls. According to former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, "Study after study has taught us that there is no tool for development more effective than the education of girls. No other policy is as likely to raise economic productivity, lower infant and maternal mortality, improve nutrition and promote health – including helping to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS." This project has already made a huge difference in the lives of thousands of kids and their families who did not start life with the same advantages we had. In a world filled with misunderstandings, intolerance, war, and terrorism, it remains a shining beacon of hope representing all the best things that globalization really can and should be about. Thanks in advance – your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Scott Pegg,
Chairman, International Friends Committee, Bebor Model Nursery/Primary School