

Right Steps is a program that provides shelter, care and rehabilitation to beggar mothers and their children.



Most of the mothers go back to the streets where they once were – not to return to their old way of life but to bring food and medication to those still languishing on the streets.

ical support is sent from all over the United States.

"Sometimes we even get things we don't need," laughs Chi. "I thought the microwave might be helpful, but the children just stand around and stare at it, waiting for it to come on. Our electricity is generator-operated, and we don't have it on all the time to save gas. I can't wait to get some popcorn from the States and see what they do when I turn that thing on," she giggles. "They think it's a television!"

Chi's upbeat and visionary attitude has kept this project underway and even staffed it. Chi had the foresight to send her nephew, M.C., through the school of preaching in Nigeria so he would be ready to work with the church when Right Steps began.

She also financially supported her niece, Ngozy, to go to nursing school through Nigerian Christian Hospital. Ngozy's husband is now the General Grounds Manager while Ngozy runs the medical personnel and teaches the mothers how to cook and care for their children. Chi smiles and says, "Who better than family to help you in the work of the Lord?"

Chi has not faced much opposition

from the government of Nigeria. "Well, I stay out of people's territory," Chi laughs. "When one gets into someone else's business, they get threatened, so I stay put. I am not making demands on anybody. Other than being legally registered, people don't seem to know I'm here. No one bothers me. In the past couple of months, people have started to see what is going on and who is doing it, but I will not push myself in their faces. Right Steps just does the work, and the work will speak for itself. We don't need to advertise. We just do the work to the best of our ability and wait for God."

Chi did have to exercise this patience quite significantly in early June while waiting for a container of important supplies from their supporters in the United States.

"The normal procedure for getting a container out is very long," Geisemann explains, "but with an exemption from duty, the application has to be made through the president's office. Then the application has to be processed. But if you don't bribe everyone who has to read the letter, it will take forever."

Chi labored diligently to have sev-

eral high officials push the application through without bribes. However, they kept stalling, promising to deliver but never showing up. So Chi took all the staff and residents of Right Steps to the Port Authority to picket.

"We got what we wanted," says Chi, "but it was no fun. I hope we never have to do a thing like this again. It was close to 90 degrees with high humidity. The children were hot and cranky, and we were all filthy as pigs by the time we were done sitting on floors and in the middle of roads. However, we are choosing not to count the cost."

This one-in-a-million green card winner, who worked patiently on her education in the United States for years to be prepared to help her people, sees nothing as a wall that God cannot break through. Her drive and focus have motivated and inspired many.

Nigerian beggar women, incarcerated men, village children, street dwellers, and innumerable others have finally grasped that no one human being has a corner market on goals. Many formerly destitute women and children of Nigeria are finding purpose and their dreams are being realized through one Christian woman who was willing to go the distance for them. □

Anne-Geri' Fann, born in New Zealand, has a master's degree in youth and family ministry from Abilene Christian University. She and her husband, David, live in Atlanta, Ga., where they worship with the North Atlanta Church of Christ. Anne-Geri' will begin teaching cultural anthropology in the Bible/Missions department at Atlanta Christian College and helping to direct this beginning short-term missions program. Besides beginning work on another master's, Anne-Geri' plays the piano and flute and loves to play chess with her husband.

MAKING the Right Steps

If you wish to contact Right Steps, their United States office is at 3545 Chestnut Drive in Doraville, GA 30340; telephone (770) 457-9696. The Nigerian office can be contacted c/o 42 St. Michael Rd., Aba, Abia State, Nigeria – West Africa.