

My Illinois Sunbeam leader, Mrs. John Zimmerman, told me about the Abeokuta Rock in Nigeria where children could not play in the moonlight for fear of evil spirits, when I was six years old. At the same time, she shared that mothers who gave birth to twins must sacrifice the babies to the Oshun River gods or they would bring evil, perhaps death, to their family or village. I determined that God wanted me to go tell these people about Jesus. The year was 1940.

We arrived in Nigeria in September 1965. I stood in the shadow of the Abeokuta Rock on the banks of the Oshun River near a large juju shrine. The stories and the call came into full circle. God had lead me to Nigeria to tell fearful children stories of Jesus. Working with Illinois WMU leaders while on furlough kept the call alive and real as we spoke at Lake Salateeska and interacted with RA, GA and WMS camps and meetings, World Mission Conferences throughout the state, and GA house parties. Leading mission studies at Christmas and promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was both work and pleasure at the same time, as we shared our mission jobs with blessings and challenges.

The prayers of Illinois WMU brought us through many times of difficulty, including lack of supplies, loneliness, and war.

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