

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

Research Response Number: NGA17703
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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

1. Does the Catholic Church in Nigeria have a youth wing with the name “Charismatic Renewal?”
2. If so, does it have a particular set of stated aims?
3. Who were its national presidents between 1986 and 2003?
4. Who were its Yobe state presidents in the same period?
5. Who were the presidents in the town of Geshua in Yobe state in the same period?
6. What are the names of Catholic Churches in Geshua?
7. Please locate a map of Geshua.
8. Where in Kaduna is “St Peter’s Catholic Church”?

RESPONSE

1. Does the Catholic Church in Nigeria have a youth wing with the name “Charismatic Renewal?”
2. If so, does Charismatic Renewal have a particular set of stated aims?

Although none of the sources consulted mentioned that Charismatic Renewal was a youth wing of the Catholic Church in Nigeria, one source stated that charismatic churches attracted the “educated youth” (Ojo, Mathews A. 1995, ‘The charismatic movement in Nigeria today’, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Vol. 19, Iss. 3, 1 July – Attachment 1).

Writing generally, Wikipedia reports that Catholic Charismatic Renewal, also known as Charismatic Catholicism, is a movement within the Catholic Church which adopts some practices and beliefs more commonly associated with the Pentecostal movement within Protestantism. Ojo writes that, in the Western world, the term “charismatic” is “generally applied to Christians within Protestant and Roman Catholic churches who testify to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, who experience its accompaniment of speaking in tongues, and who exercise the gifts of the Holy Spirit, principally the gift of healing”. He states that Charismatic Christians in Nigeria share these same features as their Western counterparts

(‘Catholic Charismatic Renewal’ 2005, Wikipedia, 7 November http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_Renewal – Accessed 29 November 2005 Attachment 2; Ojo, Mathews A. 1995, ‘The charismatic movement in Nigeria today’, *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Vol. 19, Iss. 3, 1 July – Attachment 1).

Activities of Charismatic Renewal in one diocese in Nigeria, Zaria Diocese, were said to include revivals, retreats, seminars and crusades (Asogwa, Jude S. C. 2005, ‘Conference Report – Zaria Diocese, Nigeria, Oct 2005’, The Catholic Charismatic Center on the World Wide Web website, 23 November <http://ccc.garg.com/modules.php?op=modload&name=News&file=article&sid=25&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0> – Accessed 1 December 2005 – Attachment 3).

Of some interest is the attached article concerning a Catholic priest “healing” in Nigeria (Benton, Joshua 2005, ‘Moved by the Spirit Nigerians blend Catholicism, traditional beliefs’, *Dallas Morning News*, 22 May – Attachment 4).

An October 2005 news article stated that a series of rules and regulations have been introduced to guide the activities and actions of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. It is not clear from the article whether they apply to Nigeria nationwide or only to the Lagos Archdiocese. The rules and regulations include merging certain ministries, proof of having a livelihood and “that every prayer group be “closely guided at the parish level by a priest”” (Chinenye, Ibe 2005, ‘Catholic Church Bans 14 ‘Ministries’’ *Daily Champion (Lagos)*, 22 October <http://allafrica.com/stories/200510240666.html> – Accessed 28 November 2005 – Attachment 5).

Information accessed from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website indicates that Charismatic Renewal is in Catholic archdioceses and dioceses throughout Nigeria. It is variously described in the website as Charismatic Renewal, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Charismatic Renewal Movement, Catholic Charismatic Movement and Catholic Charismatic Renewal of Nigeria (‘Diocesan Information: Abuja Archdiocese: Health Institutions’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=1&INST=13> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 6; ‘Diocesan Information: Benin Archdiocese: Main Catholic Societies’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=6&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 7; ‘Diocesan Information: Calabar Archdiocese: Catholic Societies/Associations’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=10&INST=5> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 8; ‘Diocesan Information: Ibadan Archdiocese: Catholic Societies/Associations’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=15&INST=5> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 9; ‘Diocesan Information: Jos Archdiocese: Catholic Societies/Associations’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=20&INST=5> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 10; ‘Diocesan Information: Kaduna Archdiocese: Catholic Societies/Associations’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=25&INST=5> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 11; ‘Diocesan Information: Abeokuta Diocese: Main Catholic Societies’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=34&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November

2005 – Attachment 12; ‘Diocesan Information: Onitsha Archdiocese: Main Catholic Societies’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=35&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 13; ‘Diocesan Information: Owerri Archdiocese: Main Catholic Societies’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=40&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 14).

3. Who were Charismatic Renewal’s national presidents between 1986 and 2003?

4. Who were Charismatic Renewal’s Yobe state presidents in the period 1986-2003?

5. Who were Charismatic Renewal’s presidents in the town of Geshua in Yobe state in the period 1986-2003?

No information was found in the sources consulted of Charismatic Renewal’s national, Yobe state or Geshua town’s presidents.

(Note: No references were found in the sources consulted on a town spelt as “Geshua”. This may refer to “Gashua” in Yobe state).

In respect of Charismatic Renewal being present in Gashua, information accessed from the Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website indicates that Gashua parish is in the Maiduguri Diocese. The “Cath. Charismatic Ren. of Nigeria” is listed as a Catholic society within that diocese (‘Diocesan Information: Maiduguri Diocese: Parishes’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=22&INST=1> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 15; ‘Diocesan Information: Maiduguri Diocese: Main Catholic Societies’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=22&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 16).

6. What are the names of Catholic Churches in Geshua?

(Note: No references were found in the sources consulted on a town spelt as “Geshua”. This may refer to “Gashua” in Yobe state).

The Catholic Bishops Conference website lists one Catholic Church in Gashua: St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, Box 20, Gashua, – Yobe State. Ph.076-700069 (‘Diocesan Information: Maiduguri Diocese: Parishes’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=22&INST=1> – Accessed 30 November 2005 – Attachment 15).

7. Can you locate a map of Geshua?

(Note: No references were found in the sources consulted on a town spelt as “Geshua”. This may refer to “Gashua” in Yobe state).

A map of Gashua town was not found in the sources consulted.

Attached is a map showing Gashua and the surrounding towns/villages. Also attached, although not a clear definition, is an aerial view of Gashua accessed through Google Earth

(‘Gashua’ 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas* – Attachment 17); ‘Gashua’ 2005, *Google Earth* – Attachment 18).

Gashua is approximately 1,100kms north-east of Lagos (‘Gashua-Lagos’ 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas* – Attachment 19).

8. Where in Kaduna is “St Peter’s Catholic Church”?

Two Catholic churches named “St. Peter’s” in Kaduna were found in the sources consulted.

The churches are:

- St. Peter’s Church in the Kaduna Archdiocese with the address: Sabon Tasha, Box 89, Barnawa Post Office, Kaduna (‘Diocesan Information: Kaduna Archdiocese: Parishes’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=25&INST=1> – Accessed 28 November 2005 – Attachment 20; ‘African Missions: Nigeria North’ 2005, The Society of African Missions – Irish Province website, 12 April <http://www.sma.ie/default.asp?article=Nigeria%20North%20Personnel> – Accessed 28 November 2005 – Attachment 21).

Sabon Tasha has been described as a “largely Christian neighbourhood” (Oloche, Samuel 2002, ‘City mourns after Miss World riots’, *The Guardian*, 26 November <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,3604,847658,00.html> – Accessed 2 December 2005 – Attachment 22).

- St. Peter’s Church in the Kaduna Archdiocese with the address: Kabala West, Box 9402, Kaduna. Kabala West has been described as an area of Kaduna and predominantly Christian (‘Diocesan Information: Kaduna Archdiocese: Parishes’ (undated), Catholic Bishops Conference of Nigeria website <http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=25&INST=1> – Accessed 28 November 2005 – Attachment 20; Gulloma, Abdullahi M. 2003, ‘Mourned By All: Late Major General Joshua Madaki (rtd)’, *Weekly Trust (Kaduna)*, 17 May <http://allafrica.com/stories/200305210404.html> – Accessed 2 December 2005 – Attachment 23); Gulloma, Abdullahi M. 2003, ‘Kaduna Police Restate Ban On Public Rallies’, *Daily Trust (Abuja)*, 31 January <http://allafrica.com/stories/200301310381.html> – Accessed 2 December 2005 – Attachment 24; Human Rights Watch 2003, *The “Miss World Riots”: Continued Impunity for Killings in Kaduna*, Vol. 15, No. 13(A), July – Attachment 25).

List of Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

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Online Subscription Services: Africa Confidential; All Africa

Library Networks

Databases:

Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)

RRT	ISYS	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i> .
RRT Library	FIRST	RRT Library Catalogue

List of Attachments

1. Ojo, Mathews A. 1995, 'The charismatic movement in Nigeria today', *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*, Vol. 19, Iss. 3, 1 July.
2. 'Catholic Charismatic Renewal' 2005, Wikipedia, 7 November. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charismatic_Renewal – Accessed 29 November 2005)
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(<http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=35&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November 2005)
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(<http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=40&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November 2005)
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(<http://www.cbcn.org/aspscripts/page5.asp?IDX=22&INST=12> – Accessed 30 November 2005)
17. 'Gashua' 2000, *Microsoft Encarta Interactive Atlas*. (CD ROM)
18. 'Gashua' 2005, *Google Earth*. (Internet)
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(<http://www.sma.ie/default.asp?article=Nigeria%20North%20Personnel> – Accessed 28 November 2005)
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