

But what do these people struggling to survive in the rural areas wish for? They hope and pray for: resources of all kinds and in huge quantities, better health care and good public schools, employment opportunities and skills training. The list is endless. Above all, the people who have never been to school desire desperately the skills of reading and writing. Why?



Literacy, both Hausa and English, is highly valued: vehicle drivers can read signs; business people can develop their businesses and manage their finances; couples getting married can sign the register; parents can read their children's reports; people can read and write letters and can participate more fully in Church activities, workshops and even leisure activities, and can understand politics a little better.

Some are young and see themselves pursuing a course of studies. Certificate holders are entitled to an increase in their wages when cleaning offices, working in maintenance in hospitals and schools



While a little of this is happening, the progress is slow. As with the people in the village, the daily scenario clamours for attention. Contact was made by an elderly lady from the Lutheran Church, who came to talk about the literacy programme. She is presently principal of a school project which offers a more formal education to those students who have mastered literacy. Most of her professional life she has worked in 'Mass/Adult Education' and for some years she was in charge of the Ministry of Education in Gongola state, now the two states of Taraba and Adamawu.

Her Bishop, the present Lutheran Bishop, has asked her to explore extending literacy to the villages. This is exciting especially if she presents the possibilities to all who are interested in the community and not to have it specifically Church based. The determining factor is the location of the literacy school. It is hoped to choose a place where people, both Christian and Muslim, will feel comfortable. This process is on-going.

