

## **AFRICA PEOPLE AND CULTURE**

### **A Presentation at St. Margaret Mary Church, Parkersburg, WV**

#### **Map of Africa**

##### **Geography**

- In the North Africa is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea
- In the West it is bounded by the Atlantic Ocean
- In the East it is bounded by the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea.
- Land Mass is about 11, 620, 451 Square miles.
- Two deserts in Africa are the Sahara and the Kalahari. The Sahara is in the North and the Kalahari is in the South.
- The important rivers are the Nile, Zaire, Zambezi and Niger.
- Nigeria derives its name from River Niger which cuts across the center of the country.

##### **Africa's Climate**

Not every part of Africa that is hot and humid. There are many parts of Africa that are not hot and humid:

- Temperatures in some parts of Nigeria come down to 25 degrees F.
- In Johannesburg, South Africa temperatures come down up to 39 degrees F.
- In Accra, Ghana, temperatures come down up to 64 degrees F.
- There are two seasons in most parts of Africa: the rainy season and the dry season
- Some mountains such as the Mount Kenya and the Mount Ruwenzori do have snow almost all year round.

##### **Nigeria: Some Facts**

- Independence: 1960 from Britain
- Most populous African country. 149 million people
- Land mass about the size of Texas.
- Climate is equatorial in the south, tropical in the center and Arid in the North.

- 3.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS
- 36 states.
- Democracy since 1999.
- Economy is oil based: 95% of foreign exchange earnings from oil.

### **OBUDU RANCH**

- Obudu Ranch is located on a plateau of 1,575.76 meters above sea level.
- It has an altitude of 1716 meters above sea level.
- Between November and January, the temperature is about 79 F and between June and September, it is 39 F.
- Temperature in Obudu today is 61 F.

### **Africa's wild life**

- We do not have lions, elephants and tigers as pets just as you would not have a Deer or a Bear as a pet.

### **Religion**

- Most Africans belong to either Christianity, Islam or African Traditional Religion.
- Culture and religion are always inseparable. Christians and moslems belong first to the African Traditional Religion.
- Core beliefs of African Traditional Religion:
  - Belief in Supreme being
  - Sacred places, persons and objects
  - Belief in after life.
  - Spirits and ancestors
  - Ancestors as mediators

- Intercessory prayers
- Notion of social sin
- Forgiveness is permanent.

### **Criteria for Ancestors**

- Lived a long life
- Die a natural death
- Lived a good moral life.
- Have children
- Given a proper burial

### **Marriage**

- Marriage is between two families.
- Both families are scrutinized before marriage can take place.
- It is a celebration of both families
- Marriage is marked by two days of celebration.
- Invitations are always open to everyone though courtesy invitation cards are sent.