



WINTER 2009 **LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.**

Dear Prayer Partner,

A few weeks ago, Billie opened the front gate for me (David) to pull the car in. Suddenly, our neighbor came running from across the street, carrying her screaming grandbaby. Something was clearly wrong. The baby was holding his arm straight out, and his hand was covered with oil. "What happened?" we asked. "He stuck his hand in a pot of boiling sauce!" the grandmother replied. As tears flowed down the baby's face, we felt such sympathy for him. We immediately sprang into action to help.

A baby's tears evoke deep feelings of compassion. This reminds us of God's compassion for those he has created. The Fulbe people need to know of God's love. Thank you for loving enough to pray for the people of Guinea.

In Christ's Love,

David & Billie

COMPASSION

"BUT IF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, HAVE COMPASSION ON US AND HELP US." MARK 9:22

Poor little Cerno (pronounced Chair - no), the baby who burned his hand, had quite an ordeal ahead of him! If a burn is not properly cared for, it can leave terrible scarring. Billie called a colleague for instruction on how to best treat the burn. Then, every day for two weeks, Cerno's mother brought him to our house for treatment. The treatment, which involved peeling off dead skin, was very painful. Before long, little Cerno would burst into tears upon sight of Billie before she even touched him. Billie persisted and before long, the hand was nearly healed. The family was extremely grateful, and Billie was able to show them God's love in a tangible way, opening doors for sharing the Gospel in the future. Since then, David has been visiting with the family and has been able to share a few Bible stories and a Scripture calendar.



Billie treats baby Cerno's burned hand



CONNECTING

Shops, stalls, table stands, and roaming vendors pack Guinea's open air markets. Garbage gets piled in walkways, fish juice drips from tables, and distinctly African smells fill the air. During the dry season, a layer of red dust covers everything.

Still, we look forward to going to the market for one reason: connecting with people. The Fulbe people are very friendly. Our flour vendor always asks how our family is doing. Amadou, who sells baskets, spoons, and shoes, always gives us good prices and throws gifts into our bag after we've purchased several items. Abdul Rahman willingly leaves his shop to help David find exactly what he needs at a fair price. The rice lady practices Pular with Billie, slowly repeating phrases until she understands. Mama Dian, our landlord greets us each time we pass his shoe stall and offers us his only chair to rest and chat.

It is not simply friendships we seek, but a hearing for the Gospel. These market contacts have opened doors for us to share the Gospel with individuals and families. Pray for God to lead us to the people he has prepared to hear his Word.



Market Scenes

BUT AS FOR YOU, GO AND PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD. LUKE 9:60

CARING

THEY WERE HARASSED AND HELPLESS, LIKE SHEEP WITHOUT A SHEPHERD MATTHEW 9:36



Mr. Bah shows David a lamb

Many afternoons Mr. Bah, our guard can be found on the porch sitting in an old, tattered chair flipping through a worn children's picture Bible. Because he can't read, he recalls each story from memory. We can turn to any page and ask him to tell us the stories pictured. He can recount the narratives for hours.

Throughout 2008, we took many opportunities to read and discuss Bible stories with Mr. Bah, focusing on how they applied to his life. We showed him videos of *The Jesus Film* and *More Than Dreams*, an account of a Fulbe coming to Christ. He was so impressed with these films that he later brought everyone from his compound to our home for a viewing.

While we encourage Mr. Bah spiritually, we also try to care for some of his physical needs. During this time of financial hardship, life is difficult in Guinea. Small acts of love such as paying for medications, providing mosquito nets, sharing blankets to keep the chill off on cold nights, and giving him candles when there is no power reflect a heart of love for him and his family. He knows we care for him and is therefore more open to our message.

COMMUNICATION

HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER? ROMANS 10:14



Recently, we have been sharing Scripture and Gospel literature in local markets. Just the other day, we set out for the market with a load of Scripture calendars to pass out. Upon our arrival, we split up. Billie took calendars to ladies who sell rice and vegetables; David took some to a few male vendors he knows.



Billie provoked quite a stir. Ladies who could read were reading the Scriptures to those who couldn't and commenting on the verses. Everyone wanted a calendar. One lady even tried to snatch a calendar from Billie, because she wanted one so much!



Some people with whom we have been able to share the Gospel - pray for them!

David received a slightly different response. He began by taking a calendar to the shop of a friend. Seeing that the friend was not there, he gave one to the young man tending the shop. As David explained the calendar, another person passing by took an interest and then another. Before long, David was surrounded by a crowd of people, listening to him talk about the trustworthiness of the Scriptures.

We have invested countless hours in learning local languages. We have purchased many Bibles and pieces of Gospel literature to share with people. Why? Because we know that people must hear the Gospel message before they can accept it. We are trying to do all we can to help people hear the Gospel and put their faith in Christ!



«Wota a moy'iman hoore ma sanamu maa ko nanditi e goddan ko woni ka kammuli dow maa ko woni ka hoore leydi maa ko woni ka nder ndyan wondan ka nder leydi. Wota a sujan di maa rawaa di, ko fii min Alla Joornirando maa en ko mi Allaajo nawiido.» Eggadu 20:4-5

وَتُوتُ هُوَئِن هُوَرَم سَمَرُ هَا دَ تَلُوجِبَ عَ قَلْبَن دَ وَنَ دَ قُفُولِ كَوَ هَا دَ وَنَ دَ
هُوَرِ لُجِبَ هَا دَ وَنَ كَلِيزَ دِينِ وَتَلَنَ كَلِيزَ لُجِبَ وَتَ سَمَنَ دَ هَا وَرَاوَا، قَلْبُ مِ
اللهُ جُورَافَا عَا نَ عَمَ الِجَ تَوَلَّيَا. عَمَدَا ٢٠:٤-٥ هَا هَا

Feburuyee	2009	فبراير
Days	Days	Days
1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30

Every year we produce these Scripture calendars in multiple languages for missionaries to distribute throughout Guinea. Each calendar contains verses that a missionary can use to share the Gospel with someone. This year we printed over 5,300!

In March, we're going on home assignment. Please pray:

- ♥ Safe travel back to the U.S. for us and all our luggage
- ♥ Provision of a reliable vehicle in the U.S.
- ♥ Provision of housing in the Toledo area

- ♥ Speaking opportunities to report on our ministry at our supporting churches and opportunities to share at new churches
- ♥ New team members to join us in Guinea sharing the Gospel long-term

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Make checks payable to PIONEERS.
Include a note designating your gift to the ministry of David & Billie Blessing,
Account #110888