David & Billie Blessing

Serving God in West Africa

WORLDVENTURE

December 2011

Planting A Church

When we first moved to Africa over five years ago, we had a distinct goal in mind. We wanted to see the church of Jesus Christ planted among people not yet reached with the Gospel. God led us to central Guinea to live and minister among the Fulbe people, a group that is to this day over 99 percent Muslim. We set to work doing what God had called us to do.

A few months ago, a Fulbe believer approached us with the desire to seek out the few Fulbe Christians in our town and gather for worship. We took his prompting as a sign from God and made it a goal to encourage these believers to meet together. The result is that we have begun meeting with a small group of Fulbe Christians every Sunday afternoon for fellowship, worship, prayer, Bible reading, and preaching. We pray that this group will grow into a full-fledged Fulbe church in the near future.

Please keep these believers in prayer as they seek to grow in Christ and reach their community in spite of opposition.

Eyeglass Clinic

Mark 10 records one of many stories in which Jesus restores the sight of a blind person. Bartimaeus was so grateful, he began following Jesus. In November, we had the privilege to assist some other missionaries with an eyeglass clinic in a nearby town. Over 70 people were tested and received eyeglasses.

With their vision corrected, each was presented with the opportunity to learn about Christ. We spent a few minutes sharing the Scripture with each person. We prayed with them before they went on their way with free Scripture books and cassettes. We are praying that God will use the power of his Word and his Spirit to open their spiritual eyes to his truth.

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English Camp

In July, we took part in a weeklong English camp in a nearby town. Billie taught vocabulary, and David taught comprehension. The students also had a Bible story time every day and memorized the 23rd Psalm.

One of the most exciting things during the week was seeing how these students, nearly all from a Muslim background, eagerly listened to Bible stories and memorized God's Word. There was no barrier in their minds to studying the Bible. It was a sign that the younger generation is more open-minded than their predecessors. These are open hearts in which God's Word can take root and grow. The primary barrier to their acceptance of the Gospel will be the pressure placed upon them by the older generation.

Those students who memorized the entire 23rd Psalm by the end of the week received a New Testament. One touching scene was captured in the picture below, a young man reading his newly earned New Testament.

Praise God!

The Fulbe believers are meeting for worship!
We have had many chances to share the Gospel!
The Pular Arabic Script New Testaments are here!
We haven't been sick too often!

English School

"Where are you from?" the young man asked David as they stood talking next to his shop in the market.

"The United States," he replied.

"Can you teach me English?" the young man asked with excitement.

This conversation is repeated over and over again when David meets people in town. Through these encounters, God has placed a desire in David's heart to open an English language school. This school will provide a venue for David to meet new people and build ongoing relationships with them all the while meeting a real felt need of theirs. The Bible will be openly taught as part of the English language curriculum, and we will seize every opportunity to share the Gospel with our students.

Help Wanted

With a population of over a hundred thousand Muslims, the city where we live has a great need for the Gospel. Please spread the word that we are looking for more laborers for the harvest. As we seek to establish an English language school, we are looking for teachers who can share their faith as they teach the English language. Other skill sets are needed as well. Whatever your training or gifting, chances are it can be used in Guinea to open doors for the Gospel!

Please Pray!

We need wisdom as we launch new ministries.
We need more workers to join us here.
We are still working to master the Pular language.
We want to develop redemptive relationships.