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Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Sharing the Riches of Christ in Guinea

This scripture was shared with me by two of my mentors at one time or another recently, and I therefore thought it relevant to share with you also. One of the “things” we bring to the table in West Africa is hope. This hope we have as an anchor for the soul, one both sure and steadfast and which has entered beyond the veil where Christ has gone before us as a forerunner for us according to the order of Melchizedek. There is no place we have been where Christ has not already been, where He is present, where He is taking ground for His Kingdom reign. This was readily apparent as we ministered in one of the poorest countries I have been to for sure, Guinea. It seems we measure everything these days by communications. We had 3 G in the capital of Conakry, and I could not communicate with anyone outside of the United States, the entire trip. Why would I want to? Because communicating with our key men in Africa is what I do. It is tantamount to the ministry of LBNF. So this made me feel a bit isolated and impotent. Nonetheless, I could call my bank and was able to meet payroll while there.

Getting back to hope. This is something the lost do not have. Nor do they have peace or feelings of security, or life. Only Jesus can bring these things. He does so in a manner that is not always obvious. Jesus said, He knew who belonged to Him. And that no one can come to Him unless the Father draws (literally, drags), him. Over the years I have come to appreciate that we do not bring anyone into the Kingdom. We do not “win” them. We do not bring them, we do not save them. As the Lord says in Hosea, “I am like a luxuriant cypress, from Me comes your fruit.” And as the Lord said, “it is the will of your Father that you bear much fruit.” Our fruit comes from Him and by the grace of God we have had much fruit over the years, directly and indirectly. Now, as for obedi-

ence, that is crucial to receiving fruit. As we submit to the Lordship of Christ and open our mouths, and our hearts to the lost, then the God of hope fills not only us, but also them with all joy and peace in believing. When that happens we will abound in hope. How? Through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The parable of the seed and the sower is one of the key parables told by Jesus in the New Testament. It is key to understanding the Kingdom of God. You will recall that there are all kinds of

soil which receive, or reject, the seed of the Word of God. We experienced this once again in Faranah and Kankan area of Guinea. Despite doing a recon trip and supposedly completing all the requirements for conducting medical outreach and evangelism in the villages near Faranah, we spent an entire day dancing to the tune of corrupt government officials, trying to extort money, or committing jihad or both.

I did not want to have to cancel the first village that day but saw no way out initially. After prayer and seeking the Lord He told me to look at our schedule. I had scheduled two rest days after a travel day

from Faranah to Kankan. The Spirit told me we did not need two rest days and we could reschedule the first village of Damaniya after we completed villages 2 and 3. I am so glad it worked out. This village was among the hungriest of all the places we went. When I shared with the chief and elders about 12 came to decisions for Christ. Badr led about 100 kids to Christ and we had a total of about 400 for the entire day. The chief and his interpreter also requested and received Proclaimers in the Yalunka or Mandinka language, I do not remember which I gave them. In one village of Yatia we met the man who helped translate the New Testament into the Yalunka language and who narrates the Jesus film in that language. (Turn over to continue)



Team Kankan (L to R). Pas. Jaad, Evan. Haadi, LL, Jedidiah, driver Aasif, TM, Jaad’s disciple, Cahil, Adam, Jean Pierre, driver Madiar. Equipment left for Haadi of Seed Sower ministries..



Our medical outreach in one of the villages near Kankan region.

I led the father of a disabled young woman to Christ, and T and L with Haadi's assistance led the mother and father of a girl with a lazy eye to Jesus. They are helping the father get her proper medical care. They also helped a woman in the church of Pastor Jaad get enough money to start a business. She was rejected by her muslim husband after coming to Jesus and she made a decision to take their triplet girls and young son and leave. LBNF is helping our interpreter from The Gambia, Aaqib receive an operation to repair a bad hernia (sorry, my wife would not let me share the photo). We distributed corrective lenses in all five villages we visited, giving them to the chief and elders of the village.



Huge crowd still gathering at the final Wassoulou village of Kodiaran in Kankan region.

between pastor Jaad, Cahil, and Badr. As for the Proclaimers we had quite a few this time, somewhere around nine or ten. Because they were the medium size they were easy to transport and to give away. The languages given were Yalunka, Mandinka, Wolof (for Senegal), Samago (for Mali), Creole (for Guinea-Bissau to be used by Cahil when we send him there), and another language I have forgotten since.

After the chief and elders heard the message of grace in the village of Tiegnenin, they went off by themselves to decide our fate. Coming back they said we had not told them what we would do there (a lie). So I am praying silently to the Lord hoping for a miracle, which we received. Pastor Jaad who speaks Mandinka, asked for the pharmacy invoice. Pointing this out to the elders he talked about how much money we spent on medicine, that their children were going to receive for free. Although I didn't understand him, he spoke for some time. After speaking one of the elders said, "okay, where do you want to set up for the medical outreach?" Praise the Lord. I am not willing to compromise the message of the gospel to suit our hosts, but I am also very interested in being able to maintain relationship at least long enough to complete the work the Holy Spirit has for us there.

While showing the Jesus film the couple pictured here came back to their mud hut near the end of the film. I was hoping they would receive enough information to make a decision for Jesus. I was sitting about 75 yards from the screen. Then pastor Badr began to speak in Bambara, a language they can understand as they are close to the Mali border. During the invitation I looked over my shoulder to find that they both had raised their hands to receive Jesus. During the call for prayer we all went up. I gave him a French NT and also a Proclaimer which he could understand. Pastor Jaad took his contact information and the Holy Spirit said they will be the first couple to start the church in Tiegnenin. Pastor Jaad is going to do the follow-up in these last two villages. One of the elders got us canceled from the last village, but pastor Jaad called Public Health and they told him about a previously persecuted Christian who rose to the rank of chief in Kodiaran. A phone call later and we were on our way to his village. After concluding the medical outreach, having treated a total of 500 kids for the mission, we set up for the Jesus film and witnessed the largest gathering of people in years. At least 600 were there and 300 estimated people came to Christ. All total 1,137 came to Jesus. Very gratifying indeed. Thanks so much to all of you who participated in this mission in one way or another. We are His body. We are co-laborers with Him. Congratulations to you. Much love. Jedidiah.



New believer Ibrahim and his wife from the village of Tiegnenin. He is holding a Proclaimer.

Your missionary to West Africa, Jedidiah. www.lbnf.org, PO Box 50292, Amarillo, Tx. 79159. Do not post on internet!