



MAY  
2008

# WAHT'S UP

West Africa Hub Team

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- For God's provision for the people in the villages who are currently suffering as a result of a food shortage.
- Praise for the good response to our theological courses in March. The next courses will be held May 19-30. Pray for good attendance and spiritual impact.
- For WATI's board meeting (including both missionaries and nationals) June 11-13. Pray for wisdom and unity in determining the future direction for WATI.
- For Pastor Ngor, his family, and his ministry.
- For Yvette as she continues to search for a space closer to the university.
- For our team – Jan, Tom and Lucy, John and Liz, Anna, Yvette, and Katie (our summer intern).



Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

## Greetings from West Africa

We on the West African Hub Team hope that you have had a good spring so far! We have been busy planting many seeds this season and pray that God would produce the harvest. We are sure He is doing much through His universal church, both in your neighborhood and ours.

This season we've been able to offer a variety of educational support to our national churches through theological courses, women's bible studies, and economic development training.

John, Liz and Jan coordinated a medical clinic in February and the national church has been following up with contacts. So far, two people have come to Christ as a result!

Yvette has signed on to stay with us for

another year of student ministry. Her goal is to find a house closer to the university, where she can offer rooms to girls as well as having space for Bible studies, etc.

Besides her other duties, Jan has been acting as the literacy coordinator for the national church. She is frequently out in the villages checking in on classes and teachers.



*A literacy class*

## Sower Reaps

In 2005 the leaders of the national Presbyterian Church decided to target a small town in the interior of the country named Jahow (not the real name). A new Christian in a nearby village and his family were eager to see a church-planting work begin because there were no other churches in that area. To open doors, the national leaders chose Jahow as the site of a medical clinic staffed by a team from a WAP church. The team created much good will and everyone was encouraged.

The national church followed up by sending a church planter, Ngor, and his family to Jahow. Ngor began to hold a worship service each Sunday for his family and that of the local believer. He was met with some distrust and open hostility... but God was at work... *(continued on page 2)*

In early 2006, the national church began a literacy program in that area. The one local believer was trained as a teacher and began a class in Sarar, a village Pastor Ngor visited and where he had been well received by one family. The literacy teacher planted many seeds as he incorporated short talks based on biblical truths into his literacy classes.

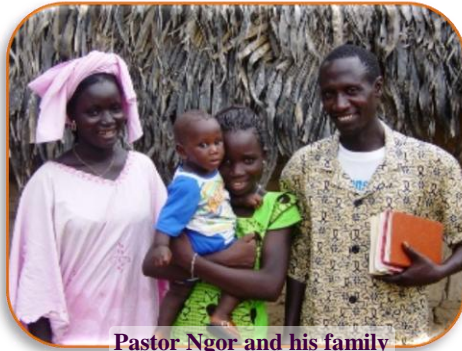
Now, in the third year since the start of the church-planting and literacy work, fruit is being reaped. The assistant leader of the "dahira", the koranic school in Sarar, has become a believer in Jesus. The day this man, Nokor (not his real name) left the dahira to attend the worship service in Jahow for the first time, other men hurled insults at him and slandered him.

But Nokor told Pastor Ngor, "Too bad for them. I was looking for the truth and I have found it. I want to follow the true way."

Several other people in Sarar have confessed faith in Christ,

and a few months ago they asked Pastor Ngor to begin a worship service there. Many "seekers" are among the 20-30 people who attend the service.

Pastor Ngor has now been trained as a literacy teacher and



Pastor Ngor and his family

began teaching a class in Sarar in January. Nokor attends the class and looks forward to being able to read the Bible.

The literacy work has opened doors for Ngor. Sometimes older men from Sarar come to see Pastor Ngor at 9 or 10 at night at his home in Jahow because they do not want to be seen or to be overheard having a serious discussion with him.

*Sower Reaps - continued from page one)*

Many would like to profess Christ and join the church, but they are held back because of social pressure.

People in Sarar have told Pastor Ngor: "The other leaders here [of the dominant religion] come to take from us. They ask for gas money and expect us to prepare lots of food for them. But you Christians, you give to us; you have given us the literacy classes, you gave us food\*, and you give us spiritual food."

Doors are opening elsewhere as well. For example, the chief of a village near Sarar from which Ngor was chased away two years ago recently invited Ngor to teach a literacy class there.

Let's praise God for his faithfulness as we continue to pray for Ngor and his work.

*\* Two years ago after failed crops caused a serious food shortage; the national church organized a food distribution program with funds given by U.S. churches.*

## Challenges in Africa *by Anna*

It's sometimes hard to think about Bible studies and income generating activities when people do not have enough food to eat. This was my experience last month when I went to visit one of our village churches.

As I sat and listened to the stories of their lean harvest and how their grains have been depleted since December, I ached for them in knowing how I could help them in their suffering.

A deacon explained that the masons working on their church building no longer had food to eat

and lacked the energy to finish up their job. I gave the workers money for rice and oil for ten days, but I knew that there were many others who were struggling to meet their basic needs.

James 2:15-17 says, "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."



## THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

The West Africa Theological Institute (WATI) has been very busy. We held 2 weeks of intensive courses in March for 9 students from 3 different countries. Flavien, a visiting professor from the states, taught a course on Ecclesiology (Doctrine of the Church) and Tom taught a course on the Gospels. The courses were well received.

In May we will be having the next 2 week block of courses. John will be teaching on the Progress of Redemption and Tom will teach a course on Discipleship.

## CONTACT US

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