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Dear Friends,

Our warm greetings to you all and our sincere thanks for your faithful support, which you show in so many ways. It was such a special time visiting many friends and some relatives in the SE for a week at the end of March.

On 23/24 April many of our Muslim friends completed the annual 4 tough weeks of fasting, sincerely hoping to be closer to God and more acceptable to him. What a privilege for us, that we have the assurance that we are acceptable to God, because of the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus.

Guinea-Bissau

We loved being back there. A relatively **uncomplicated conference** was followed by 2 days of teaching for the Orientation course of an **Argentinian couple**. Time was spent with friends and we made **2 very special trips inland**, visiting 4 different centres including an influential Fula Pastor. The icing on the cake was staying with our friends and colleagues who are taking God's love to the **Fula and Mandinka peoples** in the interior north and south of the country.



Zaccheaus and Kehinde, joined us in about 1997 from Nigeria to reaching out to the Mandinka people in the north....but there is still no church. Young men have professed faith in Jesus, but it has proved too costly: they

have either turned back to Islam or just left the area or country. In one village where there is a school, the villagers, including the leaders, recognise the power of God and Jesus, and are grateful for water which has been miraculously, sourced, with several wells dug. But when will they recognise Jesus as the Living Water?

Hans Frinsel has been in the country starting the recording of the Jesus film in **Biafada**, with a Biafada believer also taking part. Wonderful news!

The fairly large **Guinea-Bissau church** has some humble, godly Pastors: 2 excellent, challenging devotions were given by **Pr Nchambu**, a friend and Pastor, who was a teenager with us in Empada. **Pr Antoninho**, who used to work on the mission compound, has planted 7 small 'Jesus' nuclei in the Empada area over the past year.

We loved the story of a national Pastor and his wife who are serving in the Fula ministry with our colleagues, **Ritha, Flavia and Juan**. They set off on a motor bike to a remote village where there are some believers. The 'road' is very rough and they fell off the bike. Thankfully a nearby small community offered help as the Pastor had hurt his leg. It seemed wise to return home as the journey was such a struggle. His wife, a gentle, but determined lady, appalled at the suggestion, responded, "for Jesus it is forward only, no turning back"!



But there are also very **troubling conflicts** amongst some of the senior Pastors and leadership. **Pr Carlos Quessangue**, the President of the Church, needs so much prayer and encouragement as he seeks to find God's way through.

This was our last *official* visit, and we were given a very moving farewell.

The Gambia

An interesting journey on public transport from Guinea-Bissau, (stopping every 20 mins to fill up the radiator), with several God-incidences ended with a safe arrival at the WEC Guest House; we were so grateful.

Conference was excellently run and a pleasure to attend, with everyone- newest member to the most experienced- taking some responsibility. The Leadership elections were straightforward, and we are delighted that **Sangtaek and Kwiok** are the new Branch leaders for the next 3 years. 2 of the former leadership team accepted the invitation to be deputies, making a really great team.



There have been several of the Branch members who have had near or real burnout and this is a concern.

There are several **great new workers** from different parts of the world. They will be serving amongst the **Wolof and Fula** peoples. We still pray for people with a heart for the **Mandinkas**. It would be really special to hear of Gambian believers who want to work amongst these unreached groups. There is a Fula church, but not amongst the others.

<<The picture is taken from the Mission guest house; the call to prayer is clearly heard 5 times a day. A fitting reminder of why our folks are serving there.



Another moving farewell to us from the Branch

Future

From **19-23 June** we will be in Switzerland together with Hans and Elfi, and others, for the **official handover** of our **Africa Director roles to Silvian and Tamar Hamstra and YES, another couple**. Thanks so much for praying with us! We will let you know more when it is all confirmed that they are God's choice.

We really want to finish well and still have some challenges to deal with, needing God's wisdom and courage. We may possibly make one more visit to Africa because of language challenges for the new folk, and then a sabbatical till the end of the year, enjoying a few different activities and importantly seeking God for the next stage.

Family

We loved having Harvey and Sophia to stay for a few nights. They are both doing well. But both Ruth and Mark have been suffering from severe pain in a lower back and hip muscle and migraines, respectively, which is very debilitating. We are all looking to God for His intervention. Esther continues with International Nepali Fellowship and as I write, is exploring parts of Scotland. We look forward to being together on May 8.

Galeed and Church

We are grateful for many opportunities we have with the church and Galeed colleagues to reach out with God's love to neighbours and different communities in this city.

We have a guest service and lunch on May 7th.

May God bless you with the assurance of His Presence and goodness despite so much turmoil.

With our love,
David and Margie

We have been asked about giving by some folk: this is our stewardship account:

www.stewardship.org.uk/partners/20026637

Praise for:

- *2 excellent visits to Guinea-Bissau and The Gambia
- *Start of Jesus Film recording in Biafada
- *New leaders in The Gambia
- *2 couples taking over the Africa Area Director roles

Pray for:

- **God's Word and the Truth of Jesus to be revealed to strategic people amongst the Fula, Mandinka, Wolof and Biafada peoples..and for more workers
- **God's encouragement and protection for all our workers
- **Pr Carlos and the Church executive council leading the Evangelical church in Guinea-Bissau.
- ** the GB Annual Church Assembly May 7-12/13
- **Sangtaek and Kwiok as new Gambian Branch leaders
- ** good 5 days of handover in June
- ** God's insight, humility and enabling as we finish this role
- **the Guest service at church on May 7th
- **healing for Ruth and Mark