



Dear Family, Friends, and Faithful Supporters,

August 2017

What a thrill to serve the Lord of the harvest! In June, I traveled to the Ivory Coast and then went on to Liberia for a couple of weeks. God did some amazing things, for which I want to praise and thank Him.

I worked with International Partnership Ministries' (IPM) missionaries in both countries. In Abidjan, Ivory Coast, I began with a two day seminar for pastors, leaders, and other believers from three churches. I taught some basics about discipleship and about Deaf ministry. There were 24 attendees in spite of some torrential rain and a lack of electricity.

The interpreting ministry for the deaf at the Fundamental Bible Baptist Church of Port-Bouet was doing alright, but I tried to open their eyes to the great possibilities that lie before them in reaching out to more Deaf in different ways. I was thrilled to see how Pastor Andre Nao and the leaders responded! Léonce Ekeni, a hungry member and great interpreter for the Deaf, was challenged immensely and I rejoiced to see how much he learned in the time I spent with him, his wife, Horokía, and others!

We held an evangelistic outreach one Saturday evening and around 70 deaf came. I preached on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and an invitation was given. Over 20 deaf people came forward in the invitation, but we really do not know for sure how many were actually saved. We will find out in Heaven.

I spoke in three churches and a Christian deaf school north of Abidjan. Five hearing people made professions of faith in Christ and other various decisions were made as well. However, I truly believe that the greatest work accomplished during my time in the Ivory Coast was the training and preparation of others who will go on and do great things for the Lord in the years ahead.

Flying then to Liberia, I was to take a bus to Ganta City in the north. However, because we ran out of gas on the way, I missed my bus to Ganta. I ended up taking a seven-passenger taxi which carried 13 people for almost 4 hours. What a blessing that was because (1) I was able to witness to Mohammed, a Muslim, for much of the trip, (2) I was able to give out some tracts, and (3) the very bus that I would have taken that day had an accident that killed approximately 50 people, with only 8 survivors. Had it not been for God's sovereignty and His grace, I would have been one more of the 50 victims or one more of the 8 survivors. God must have a purpose for me still here on earth!

In Ganta, I served with national missionaries Edwin Gbor and Matthew Troy, and Evangelist Japheth Zuo. Pr. Japheth leads the deaf ministry there. Since my first trip to Liberia, they now have a Christian school class for the deaf and a group of deaf who meet together on Sundays. Twenty to twenty-five deaf people are now being ministered to through the Great Commission Fundamental Baptist Church and school in Ganta! However, as I was to find out in just a few days, none of these deaf people had yet been saved. Some serious work had to be done.

The class for the deaf was being taught by 5 deaf men. These deaf men did some Bible-story teaching, but did not know the Gospel of Grace in Jesus Christ, only baptismal regeneration. What a shame! I taught doctrine to these men using "Firm Foundations: Creation to Christ" based teaching. My emphasis was on the blood sacrifices of the Old Testament which pointed to the one blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ in the New Testament. After a week of ministry and teaching, six deaf men trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior! Four days later, on Sunday, I preached to a group of deaf people in the capital city of Monrovia, and three more deaf men were saved! On Tuesday, once again I had the privilege to preach to a group of deaf, and one more deaf man was saved, bringing the total to 10 deaf men saved in Liberia! To make the story even better, three of the first 6 deaf to be saved were instrumental in leading the other four deaf men to Christ!

That, too, was a huge blessing as I trained them to share the Gospel and to win other souls to Christ. Some hearing people were also saved, bringing the total to 21 professions of faith on this missions trip. To God be the glory!

God did several other amazing works during this African trip that I do not have space to tell you about. I did post a daily update to Facebook and added photos which you can go back to and read all about the exciting things that God did there.

Thank you so much for standing in the gap with us year after year in this pioneer ministry of reaching deaf people worldwide with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By the way, I continue to make videos for minimal language deaf people internationally. You may see them at signthebible.silentwordministries.org/. You are a vital part of this ministry, and we thank you for standing with us to reach the deaf worldwide.

May God bless you richly and abundantly.

For Lost Deaf Souls Worldwide,

David & Vicki Bennett

Making a Spiritual Difference - in the World of the Deaf - for the Glory of God

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