

Gambia Trip Report – November 2017

The Gambia Partnership

Supporting the work of the Gospel in the Gambia

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

Our recent return to the Gambia saw a team of 5 from Scotland head out for between 1-3 weeks in the smiling coast. Our principle aims were to oversee the management and administration of the school as well as consider the development of spiritual input to the school and the wider community.

Returning Home



It's like returning home when you arrive in Kabakel village, the feeling enhanced by the fact that there is no special welcome; we just slip quietly into village life.

Educational Development

The most satisfying element of the trip was to witness the educational developments in the school. The inaugural prizegiving for the previous academic year was held on 4th November and we were stunned by the aptitude of the children. The school caters for pre-nursery age up to grade 3 (P3) although some of the children attending are up to 11 years old due to limited prior educational opportunities. Prizes were awarded for the top 3 students at each level, best attendance and best presented children. Each year group made presentations to a crowd of around 300 and showed confidence, ability and understanding. We are greatly encouraged and very impressed with the hard work and dedication of the teachers and support staff.

The school provides employment for 8 people in the village and saves the children walking miles to the nearest other suitable school. The boy who won best attendance for nursery is seen here, he is nicknamed 'little' for obvious reasons and walks 2 kilometres a day to nursery, he was delighted with his prize! Beside this we have the grade 3 class and nursery 2 with their teachers.



Classes

We had the opportunity to sit with the children during class time and were greatly impressed with their desire to learn along with their capacity. The school provides each child with three textbooks for classes, more than most schools and provides a stronger opportunity for growth by investing in resources. The school also provides regular Christian and moral classes, we took the opportunity ourselves in engaging with the students, where they are taught the basics of the Gospel along with more advanced topics including the beginnings of teaching from the Shorter Catechism and on the attributes of God. Christian and Muslim alike, all the children participate and enjoy developing their understanding.

School Management

We were able to progress the management of the school and set up reporting systems in order that we can keep sponsors informed of the progress of their child at regular intervals. The donation of a tablet to the school enables us to supplement regular reports with video and photos detailing progress. On top of this, some planning towards the school's sustainability began in partnership with the School management and PTA and the Village Development Council. In doing all that we are, we want to ensure that we do no harm and avoid creating dependency. It is hoped in the next few years that the school will be self-sustaining and will be funded through works led by the village as a whole.



Meeting with the School Management & Community Stakeholders

Evangelism

We spent time visiting compounds, along with our local committee members, meeting new families and renewing old acquaintances. We distributed solar powered audio versions of the New Testament in Jola and Wolof, the primary local dialects. The hunger for the gospel is immense, Muslim and Christian alike requesting their own to keep. These cost £10 each and were supplied by MegaVoice, an Irish company who do a great work. We will seek to raise funds for another 100 for our next trip; the 60 we brought with us simply weren't enough.



See the following short videos, where you can hear the audio playing in the background...

[Solar Bible Video 1](#)

[Solar Bible Video 2](#)

We were also able to distribute evangelistic literature, some of which was written from the perspective of a converted Muslim. The literature was always well received.

Kabekel Evangelistic Services



Evangelistic Service

Our Gambian committee member, Pastor Sylvester Konteh, preached on two successive Sabbath afternoons in the open air. He preached evangelistic services, on both occasions from John 3:16, presenting both the bad news of the sin of man, along with the good news of salvation available only through Christ.

Bible Studies

We held Bible studies by torchlight each night outside in the school focussed on the sufficiency of Christ.

These were blessed and around 30-40 people attended each night with young and old sharing freely. On the back of the meetings, the villagers hope to continue the studies themselves.

Teacher's Fellowship

A teacher's fellowship has recently begun, in order to give the teachers and other interested individuals access to clear Biblical teaching. The fellowship has been attended to by a number of Muslims and has so far been very encouraging.

The fellowship takes the form of watching lectures and short Q&A videos, with a summary and an opportunity for discussion afterwards. See [this video](#) for Pastor Konteh's summary of the sermon at the first teacher's fellowship.



Agriculture



A local Fruit & vegetable garden

It's always an amazing thing to spend time in the Gambia; we were especially blessed to see the family gardens which we facilitated funding towards being developed and bearing fruit. Ground Nut, Cassava, Banana trees, Orange trees, Mandarin trees, tomatoes etc all growing and providing a future for families locally. We hope to continue to assess how best we can empower people to improve their future. locally.

College Students

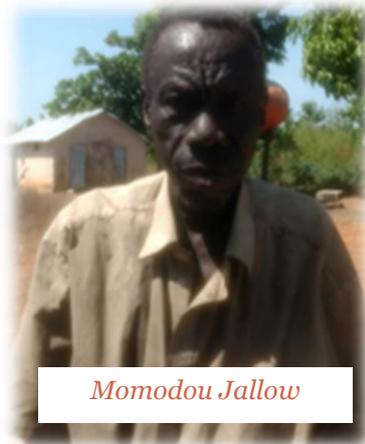
We also met with students in the local colleges who we are supporting in their education in order that they can use the skills they learn to give back to the community.

Memmeh

Whilst the majority of our work in Gambia is based in Kabekel, we took the opportunity to cross the river and visit Memmeh, which is the village where Samuel Mendy, our Gambia committee chairman lives with his family. Samuel does a great evangelistic work in his own village and is committed to the Gospel and the work of the Gambia Partnership.

We previously visited Memmeh two years ago where we met Momodou Jallow, an elderly man who had been converted to Christ from Islam and told to leave his village. He was taken in by Samuel and his wife who cared and fed him. Mr Jallow had a large tumour on his neck, which thanks to financial and prayerful support, he was operated upon and amazingly has since fully recovered. Since then, he has had a small two room building constructed for him to live in, and he works Samuel's land to contribute towards his keep.

On this trip to Memmeh, we also met a young man called Seedy Hydera, who was converted through Samuel's evangelistic labours. He too, had a large tumour and was operated on when we were in Gambia. He came through the operation, but sadly died afterwards. It was very difficult to experience such sorrow, particularly as Seedy had a wife and young children. We will give Samuel the opportunity to give his own thoughts on the above in due course and will make it available through the Gambia Partnership website.



Momodou Jallow

How can I help?

If you would like to help fundraising for the work of the Gambia Partnership, assist in the Gambia shop in Stornoway, sponsor a child or help in any other way, please contact one of the committee or email info@thegambiapartnership.co.uk.

Finally, please remember to pray for the work, as it is God alone who can give the increase and prosper this work, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:6)

TRANSFORM A TENNER
 Sgoll Crebbinamb (Faith School), built and run by the Gambia Partnership

1 2 3
 4 5 6
 7 8 9

Sponsor a child for £10 per month

Nursery to Adolescent Development
 Childhood Fundamentals & Life Skills

Gospel Centred Basic Education
 Reading Potential and Learning Styles

Receive feedback on your sponsored child's progress, including reports and photos.

The Gambia Partnership
 Supporting the work of the Gospel Centre Ministries

Contact : sponsorship@thegambiapartnership.co.uk

Your loose change can change lives

Just 68p per day will pay for a college education for a young person in The Gambia, giving them and their families hope for their future.

If you would like to sponsor a student please email karenisabellefrance@gmail.com. For more information about the students visit The Gambia Partnership Facebook page.

The Gambia Partnership