



The Gambia Partnership

Supporting the work of the Gospel in the Gambia

<http://www.thegambiapartnership.co.uk>

info@thegambiapartnership.co.uk

Dear friends, supporters and encouragers,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ from The Smiling coast of West Africa (The Gambia).

It has been said that the spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become.

“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37). Either question coming from our Lord Jesus Christ needs a resounding ‘NOTHING’ in response. If a man was to have every good thing in the world and yet not know the one who is eternal life and truly trust Him for salvation, then we can only call it a wasted life; one that is not worth living (cf John 17:3).

Knowing the consequences of a life lived apart from Christ, I am obligated to reach out to all who will hear the bad news of sin and man’s radical corruption apart from saving grace and the Good news of salvation in Jesus Christ alone. I earnestly join Charles Spurgeon in saying **‘If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for’.**

Friends, lost people matter to God, and so they must matter to us. We GO because our Lord though sovereign has chosen to use us as the means to bring about the salvation of His people. We therefore, endure all things for the sake of God’s people whom he will bring as the Gospel is being faithfully preached (cf 2 Timothy 2:10).

Hell is not a fiction. It is real, and the thought of knowing that people will be there apart from belief in the Gospel which is the power of God for the salvation of all who believe (cf Romans 1:16) ought to be a concern to us. True love is to share the Gospel.

Hudson rightly commented: 'Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest; heaven so real that we must have men there, Christ so real that our supreme motive and aim shall be to make the Man of Sorrows the Man of Joy by the conversion to him of many'.

I thank God for all out there who are praying for the work in the Gambia. The success of our mission is yours too and we are co-workers. Puritan preachers, John Bunyan and Thomas Watson have both commented that 'those who pray receive great things for themselves and for those they pray. Prayer brings more honour to God and brings more blessings from God'. Be encouraged that your prayers have been followed by great testimonies out here.

Our Bible Class in Kabekel has been on-going and it is so encouraging to see young people grow in the Knowledge of Christ through the renewing of their minds and for some, total transformation. Every week, I go to the village anticipating questions from my students who have inculcated the attitude of the Bereans (cf Act 17:11). These youths have often told me that if there is one question they are absolutely convinced about, it will be that having to do with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ- the God-man. Continue to remember the people of Kabekel in your prayers. They are friends but what good can we do for friends apart from a clear proclamation of the Gospel and trusting God for their salvation.

Our brothers and sisters from Scotland were also with us in November and not only did they work on the school build, they were out giving out Gospel tracts everywhere they went. Pray that all those who received the tracts and those who heard from them the Gospel will come to believe the truth proclaimed. It was really a blessing having both team around.



Our Bible class in town have also been going on to the glory of God. We've been looking at 'The wonder of Christian adoption' by Rev. Kenneth Stewart. It's been such a blessing to us as we come to be reminded of the fact that we are not just adopted to be part of God's family but to bear his likeness through godly fruits which unlike secular adoptions follows adoption into God's family. Those who have been coming for the classes have been faced with the grim reality that for one to claim adoption into God's family and walk differently is untrue. Those who are God's will produce God-honouring fruits (cf Matthew 7:15-23).



The Pastors' Fellowship has been graced with personal testimonies. We had Rev. Craig Scott teach a seminar on three of the 'Solas' namely Scripture alone (Sola Scriptura), faith alone (Sola Fide), and Grace alone (Sola Gratia) which were the rallying cries of the reformers as they sought to bring back the church, by God's grace, from error to the old paths, where the good way is.

Certificates were given to pastors who had audited the Reformed experiential Preaching lectures. Books were also given to the pastors. We thank God for Pastor Scott and our friends out there who in diverse ways resourced the seminar. Lives were blessed and I trust that the truths learnt will be used of God to bring about reform in the Gambia. The Pastors fellowship still continues for as long as God will let us run the classes.



We also had two church services (Morning and evening) in different churches where psalms were sung and the Gospel passionately preached. Rev. Craig Scott ministered in both church meetings. Pray for the leadership of the local churches who opened their doors to us...Pray that what they heard and saw will be replicated.



Jonathan and some from his team met with the pastors to discuss issues having to do with a wider Gospel outreach in the Gambia. Recommendations from the pastors are stated at the end of this report.

I was in Kunkujang Mariama village with some of our Scottish brethren for a 'Who is this JESUS?' outreach. I sought to give a biblical defense of the person of Jesus Christ. References were also drawn from church history, Jewish and Roman writers etc. It was well attended by students from the St. Francis Secondary school. Kunkujang Mariama is a predominantly Roman Catholic settlement. As one looks around the village, pictures of Mary and a shrine built for Mary where thousands come for pilgrimage yearly grips your heart with a quest to make the Gospel known to people who have been giving idolatrous worship to Mary and hold to views that cannot be sourced from Scriptures. Pray for this village brethren " For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God". (cf Romans 10:1-4)



A similar outreach was held in Sinchu Alagie village and many there were very much grateful as they longed for clarity on who Jesus is as opposed to what world religions say about him. I have not been ashamed of the offence presented by our seemingly foolish Gospel which God is pleased to use as the means to save those who believe (cf 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21).



The family at Darsilami village that opened their doors for me to share the good news every Lord's day were met with some sour and joyful providences. One of the young men who had been part of the fellowship there died. He was

struggling with a severe ailment for a while and the Lord was pleased to promote him to glory. I was there with condolence gifts for the bereaved family.

While there, I was told that the late brother's sister had given birth to a bouncing baby boy. I and a brother who accompanied me to the village prayed for the child and as custom demands, we gave a gift to the happy mother.



Pray for all these communities and other communities I will be going to. I have also been busy with driving classes paid for by your generous gifts. I have finished the time scheduled and looks forward to receiving a license before the end of February. Pray that God provides the resources for us to get a mission vehicle to be able to reach many places faster. It will serve a greater purpose.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PASTORS DURING THE MEETING ON ISSUES RELATING TO GOSPEL OUTREACH.

- Pastor Colley- He suggested based on experience that we invest in medical mission as a means of reaching out to those whom we will otherwise not have access to.
- Pastor Joshua Dibba- He suggested that audio Bibles in the local languages of the Gambian people be resourced. He also suggested the provision of mobility for easy access to distant communities. He also highlighted the need to support new believers especially those who face persecution from

their families and communities. He used the opportunity to share his own story. He comes from the Mandinka tribe and was a Muslim. When he was brought to faith in Christ, he was rejected and disowned by his family. Not been able to secure a job due to his notable 'apostasy', he is currently struggling to take care of himself. This brother needs help and our prayers.

- Pastor Mike Taiwo- He lamented over the fact the churches are preaching a different Gospel. He suggested the provision of reading materials on Christian theology, Islam etc
- Pastor Felix Johnson- He spoke about the sad reality that many have become preachers as a way of making a livelihood and have no sincere concerns for the souls of people being only hirelings looking for filthy lucre. He called for unity among Christians in the proclamation of the Gospel.
- Pastor Tejan Alabie- He suggested the provision of water and sanitation facilities, micro-credit, agricultural seeds etc to poor communities where the Gospel s being preached.
- Pastor Daniel Anderson- He reiterated the need to provide mobility for evangelists. Since many evangelists are self-supported, the lack of funds can prevent some from reaching places they would want to reach. He also looks forward to the provision of an orphanage where children can be raised with a bible focus.
- Pastor Sylvester Konteh- He spoke about the need to build bridges (relational evangelism) with our Muslim friends and neighbours. He also suggested that the families of children supported by the charity be effectively evangelized. He asked that the charity provide contact details. He also asked for the provision of materials to help needy people as we go out with the Gospel. 'A hungry man' he says 'is an angry man'.
- Pastor Roland, Henry Akapo etc also expressed similar sentiments.

The above were recommendations from the Pastors fellowship. Some of the suggestions are long-term but we are praying about the issues raised and we want to thank you too for praying with us.

“Brethren, pray for us” (2 Thessalonians 5:25)

WISHING YOU ALL A HAPPY NEW YEAR. MAY GOD PERFECT ALL THAT CONCERNS YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES!

“Love is the root of missions; sacrifice is the fruit of missions” — Roderick Davis

“Shall I tell you what supported me through all those years of exile among a people whose language I could not understand and whose attitude towards me were always uncertain and often hostile? It was this: “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” — David Livingstone

Yours in His Service,

Philip A. Senessie.