

# The Gambia Partnership

*Supporting the work of the Gospel in the Gambia*

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

[info@thegambiapartnership.co.uk](mailto:info@thegambiapartnership.co.uk)

*Scottish Charity Number: SCO36818*

## Group Two – Trip Report 2015

As the first group prepared to depart Banjul on 19<sup>th</sup> November, our group of 14 arrived in the smiling coast, where we were met by Ian Maciver and Roseann Macleod who had stayed on from the previous week for a second week. As we entered the terminal building, we were greeted by the enthusiastic waves from the first week's group at the outside seating of the departure area. As their week had come to an end, our week was just beginning. Almost all of the group were setting foot in the Gambia for the first time and everyone was excited about what lay ahead. The following is a very brief report of the main elements of the trip.

### Kabekel School Build

The main proportion of our time was spent in Kabekel, working on the school build, following on from where the previous group had left off. We split into various groups and the group worked on a variety of different elements of the build. Once the block work reached a certain height in the main hall and the roof trusses went up, the building really began to take shape, which was great to see.



By the end of the week the build had really taken shape as everyone worked through the heat, whilst at the same time a great rapport was built up between the Scottish group and the villagers of Kabekel.







### **Pastors Conference**

On Saturday, Rev Craig Scott, lectured at the Pastors conference on 3 of the 5 solas of the Reformation and preached morning and evening at two of the local churches on the Lord's Day. The addresses were very well received and in a predominantly charismatic audience, it was encouraging to hear the feedback from the pastors, who are not accustomed to reformed preaching. Many of them spoke to us afterwards about how this is the type of teaching they need in the Gambia. We distributed reformed literature and certificates to the pastors who had completed the course, 'Reformed Experiential Preaching,' as taught by Dr. Joel Beeke and projected via video each Saturday at the pastors' fellowship.



## Kunkujiang Mariam

During one of the days, due to our workload, it was necessary for us to split into two groups. One of the groups went to visit some of the sponsored schools, where we met and interviewed some of the sponsored children. Following on from that we visited Kunkujiang Mariam, which is a strong Roman Catholic village. We met in the school and Philip Senessie, our Mission Worker, gave a presentation on a Biblical view on 'who is this Jesus?' We were warmly welcomed by the village and there was a genuine interest in Biblical teaching from the mostly youthful audience.



## Memmeh

Our last full day was spent visiting Memmeh, which involved a ferry across the river to Barra and a drive of a fair distance via minibus. We had been invited to visit the village by the chairman of our Gambian committee, Samuel Mendy, with the hope that we might support the Gospel work, which he is currently engaged in. Due to the distance travelled, we didn't spend a great deal of time there; however when we arrived we found a lovely quiet country village. We met the Alkalo (village chief) who is a Muslim but welcomed us into his home. At the same time we met an old man who had been converted to Christ in one of the outreaches to another village. In short, he had been asked to renounce his faith and when he refused to do so, he was asked to leave the village. Samuel had organised accommodation for him in Memmeh. Following our return from Memmeh, we travelled to Kabekel and spent the last night with our friends there who had organised a cultural night and some fine African cuisine for the group.

## Evangelism

During the week, we weren't able to spend a concerted effort in evangelism, as much of our time was taken up with the school build in Kabekel. However, some of the group took the opportunity to witness to those we came across during the course of the week. Despite its Muslim majority, the Gambia is very open to the Gospel and it is relatively easy to hand out tracts and strike up a spiritual conversation with those you meet throughout the day. Given the apathy to the Gospel in Scotland, it is refreshing, challenging and encouraging to see such openness to the Gospel in the Gambia, a Muslim land.





## Conclusion

The above was a brief snapshot of the week and it doesn't take into account much of the work going on. Old friendships were renewed and many new friendships were made. We are thankful to the Lord for furthering the work, opening new doors and giving the opportunity for a group to travel all the way from Scotland to serve Him in such a wonderful country.

*'God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah. That the earth thy way may be known upon the earth, thy saving health among the nations' (Psalm 67:2)*



Scott Maciver