



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 Gambia.

I am very much thankful for all your prayers and support. We are in the work of missions together for the glory of God and though you may not be walking the dusty streets of the Gambia, the sovereign Lord to whom your prayers are directed is and has been always faithful to his word. I have been out to the villages and towns heralding the Gospel of Jesus Christ this year to all who will hear it and I am grateful for your continued support for the work here.

It has been well said that **'God was the first missionary when in Genesis 3:8 he went out in search of two sinners who had rebelled against him in order to bring them back into fellowship with Him'**. Christian missions does not wait on the readiness of God but rather on our obedience to embrace the nations with God.

John piper is right when he states that **'God is pursuing with omnipotent passion a worldwide purpose of gathering joyful worshippers for Himself from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. He has an inexhaustible enthusiasm for the supremacy of His name among the nations. Therefore, let us renounce the quest for worldly comforts and join His global purpose'**.

I go to my unsaved friends because of the authority of Christ whose marching orders I must obey. In Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus prefaces this commission by announcing to His disciples that He has been given all authority on heaven and earth. The impetus for the task to be involved in evangelism resides in the authority of Christ, who commands that the church be engaged in certain kinds of activity. If the Gospel is really Good news, then it follows we are not doing good if we keep it to ourselves while everyday many we call 'friends' are dying and going

to hell. Though God is supremely sovereign over everything, he has chosen to freely do certain things. Just like he chose to be humiliated in becoming flesh to voluntarily lay down his life for his people so that his Love and justice will be fully met, He has also chosen to use us as His instruments to spread his message of Justice and love with our lips as it is enshrined in our lives. There should be a sense of urgency (Good news is good when it gets there in time) about our reaching the lost, and a persuasion when we talk to them, but we cannot force anyone to believe. We have to be patient upon a sovereign God to work in His own time.

I was met with an unfortunate situation in January as my things were stolen while out on a mission trip but that has not hindered the work. If anything, it has encouraged me to go out with a renewed passion as the person with the ball is always the object of pursuit in a football pitch. The days ahead have been full of God's blessing through you and all who pray for and support the work here.

We were in Memmeh village on a Gospel outreach. Memmeh village is a remote community distance away from the Banjul ferry terminal. Samuel Mendy, our committee chairman lives there with his wife and family and he was our host. We were welcomed by the children and some elders we met there. The Gospel message was proclaimed- God's holiness, our sin, His justice and his love through Christ Jesus who paid it all for all who will believe in Him. Our host interpreted for us in the language spoken in his community and many questions were asked by the elders and some youth. We also gave out some Gospel tracks and books and directed their on-going discipleship to Samuel mendy who pastors a church there. During my one-on-one conversion with people there, I spoke with a man who painfully told me all he's been through when he left Islam for Jesus Christ. He has become an outcast in his family and has suffered for his belief to a point that he sometimes questions God. I encouraged this elderly brother to stay in the faith and to consider his momentary afflictions not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18) . Another elderly man who is now needing medical attention told me he has never regretted leaving Islam. It is my prayer that God provides support for the work at Memmeh as we seek to proclaim God's wrath and goodness in the Gospel.



A similar outreach was held in Brikama where a brother (Pastor Sylvester Konteh) now pastors a church. We were met with smiles as we came to the community. I projected my presentation as I had earlier promised them during my first trip and as usual many questions were asked. Since the recent declaration of Gambia as an Islamic state, it is not unusual for many of the questions being asked to have something to do with the Islamic worldview. God by His wisdom has enabled us to speak the truth (not sacrificing it for political correctness at the expense of truth) in love. Pastor Konteh and brother Adolphus were helpful in joining me with a singular voice in making the Gospel clear. A youth Christian Brother (Stephen) who is been disciplined and desiring to study to become a pastor was my brilliant interpreter. The outreach ended at night after a good meal which we all ate and prayed for the community leaving with them reading materials for spiritual growth. Pray for this community. Pray also for men like Pastor Konteh , Adolphus, Mr. koroma that God will embolden them to speak the truth in love while exemplifying it through their interpersonal relationships with the people most of whom are either from Muslim homes or Roman Catholics.



Havner has stated that 'Evangelism is to Christianity what veins are to our bodies. You can cut Christianity anywhere and it will bleed evangelism. Evangelism is vascular, it's our business. Talk about majoring on evangelism, you might as well talk about a doctor majoring on healing. That's our business'.

If lost people matter to God, they must matter to us. As I go on missions, I am never bothered by the question of whether people will believe the Gospel or not. That will be an enormous burden to carry which has indeed led some into schemes and gimmicks all in the name of winning souls. I am more concerned about my faithfulness and clarity in presenting the message. I treat, God heals. I preach and teach, God saves. I pray that God will enable me to be faithful to his message and not minimize the claims of Christ at the altar of tolerance (which has been given a new meaning in our culture) nor take away the offence of the Gospel to gain acceptance. It really takes the grace and wisdom of God to be faithful and loving at the same time. Pray for us brethren (1 Thessalonians 5:25).

I was invited to speak at the Evangelical Church of Christ's youth conference at Brikama on Missions and whether Muhammad is mentioned in the Bible. I spent a day with these youths who really want to have their questions answered as they seek to proclaim Christ in their communities. The youth pastor at the church is now looking at possibilities to go with me to other communities he knows where there is misinformation about the Christian message and its validity. Pray for him

and the work God has entrusted to him. God is really doing a great work among the muslim communities here....Many are coming to faith or at least becoming less argumentative in light of the truth claims of the Gospel which their sacred text also affirm though so much as to lead the honest inquirer in a dilemma which can only be cleared by the Gospel which is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:17).



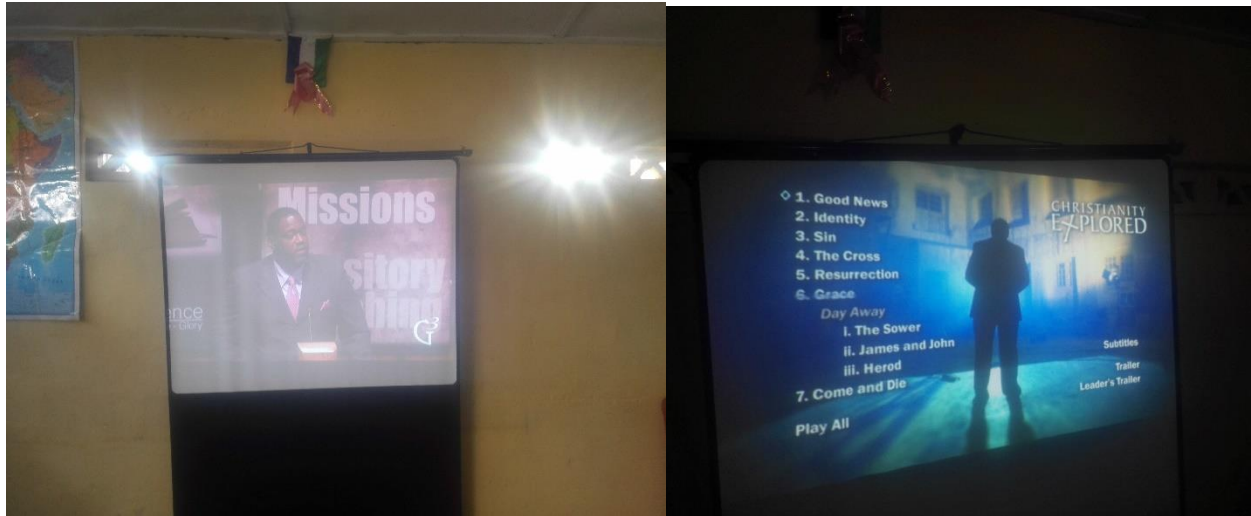
My personal interactions with my Muslim friends has sometimes been met with aggressiveness and empty argumentation but has been fruitful as love always wins. Whatsapp chats, facebook messages, preaching at our church etc have all been means to powerfully engage the mind while on my knee for God to reach their hearts. Only the Holy Spirit takes the word from the head and makes it effectual in the heart. Continue to pray for the Gambia that the decisions made by the leaders will in no way hinder the free proclamation of the Gospel.



Our Bible class in kabekel has been going on successfully. We've been looking at the TRINITY as taught in the Old and New Testaments. There has been much growth in the understanding of the scriptures as we have been carefully looking at the Bible together and answering questions. After our look at the 'Christianity Explored' DVD series, We will start studying the Gospel of John together. Some of the youths there have become so passionate about the Bible and wanting to become teachers themselves. It is my plan to spend time discipling them giving them opportunities to teach so that they will fill the gap when I'm not there.



In town, our Tuesday Bible classes have been going on. We've been looking at the 'Holiness of God' lately. Most of the people who attend the class are believers who are seeking to grow in their understanding of the Christian faith. Pray for them. A brother who has started attending the classes said although he has been going to church for several years, he was not clear on what the Bible teaches but due to his continued interaction with me and with the aid of the many materials given to him, he is now confident that he did not follow cleverly devised tales in following Christ (2 Peter 2:16). He also admits that he is now very bold to tell others about his faith (1 Peter 3:15). Pray for this brother and others like him.



Words cannot express the testimonies coming from the pastors' fellowship. The lectures on preaching have been of immense benefits to all. They unashamedly admit that they have on many occasions preached themselves rather than Christ, preached for money rather than salvation etc. Some of the pastors would not even miss a day of class. Pray for these ministers of the Gospel as they shepherd the flock of God here, that they will be faithful to Christ and his message and be loving and patient in dealing with the sheep (1 Peter 5:1-3).



A team from Scotland led by Brother Jonathan just left the shores of the Gambia. It was a blessing as always having them here. They helped with the school build in the village, held meeting with parents and community leaders, played games with the kids, visited homes and shared the love of Christ. An Australian pastor (David Trounce) with the team though coming here for the first time quickly made friends with his sense of humor and calm personality. We both worked on an MP3 player project. He had a few Mp3s to which I uploaded the Gospel of John in the local language which was distributed to families he had visited. Pray that as these people hear the Gospel in their language daily, that God will cause them to believe.

Jonathan also brought along Dr. James white's book on Islam for the pastors to enable them understand what Islam teaches and how we can share the Gospel in love. Pray that these resources will be utilized and will lead to not just head knowledge but a passion for souls. As we seek to support pastors and charitable activity in the Gambia, financial support is highly need.



Let's pray for funds for the work here as more doors are opening that need attention.

To know the will of God, William Carey has said, we need an open Bible and an open map. If your map shows you the Gambia and the Bible tells you of your debt to every man to give him the Gospel in the measure in which you received it, then it my own Prayer to see the work here supported. We may not all be on the street sharing the Gospel but we can share the Gospel within our own spheres and help support others outside.

I give God the glory for the provision of a vehicle for the work here. The work here had been previously marred with many difficulties trying to reach distant communities on public transport. The charity has been able to buy a vehicle here to aid mission work and is looking for other ways to help with fuel etc. Pray for all the men and women whom God is using to do all this. That as they give to let people hear the gospel and meet their physical needs where possible, God will continue to bless them.

Pray for the work at kabekel village- the villagers, the school build, the running of the School on a Christian curriculum, the teachers, the Alkalo etc. God who has brought us together will continue to bless the relationship from strength to strength. From this relationship, we pray that men and women will come to acknowledge Christ as Lord saviour.

Pray also for friends of the work here who are yet unbelieving, that God will quicken their hearts and open the eyes of their understanding to see Jesus Christ for who He really is and to put their faith in him.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all (cf 2 Corinthians 13:14).

“If God will the evangelization of the world, and you refuse to support missions, then you are opposed to the will of God”. - Oswald J. Smith

“World missions was on God’s mind from the beginning”. — Dave Davidson

Yours in His service,

Philip A. Senessie.