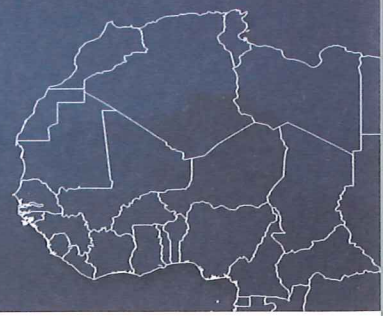




The Benbrooks

Serving in West Africa



December 2017

ReachWestAfrica.com

Dear Praying Friends,

For months Mr. K has promised that he would attend church, but each service would come and go without his presence. A few weeks ago, he told me that his plan was to wait until the end of December when his retirement pay began so that he would be able to buy nicer clothes to wear and be able to give in the offering. These cultural expectations (which are not the case in our church) are a reminder that so many people are trying to “fix themselves” before they are “good enough” to come to Christ. This is a blatant misunderstanding of God’s grace and His Gospel. This Friday night, Mr. K finally attended church. He is an enthusiastic student of the Word, and I believe that he is beginning to grasp the Gospel. Please continue to pray for his salvation!

When the University Baptist Church began over three years ago, the vision was to have a culture of discipleship. We wanted everyone to complete an initial 10 lesson series with another believer, but more importantly, to establish a bond that would promote spiritual accountability and growth. In other words, discipleship was a lot more than lessons, it was about building a framework for lifelong spiritual growth. This culture of discipleship was slow to develop. However, in the past six months, we have seen significant progress. After church a few Sundays ago, I noted a significant number of people meeting in discipleship groups! The Gospel changes both who we are and how we live, and we are grateful for how God is working in our church.

We are prayerfully anticipating the church becoming an independent ministry next summer prior to our furlough. Much of what we will be doing in the coming months will be focused on fine-tuning ministries and preparing leadership for this transition to autonomy. Please pray that God will give all of us wisdom as we proceed.

In our last prayer letter, we asked for your prayers concerning the political turmoil in the country. Opposition parties continue to protest on an almost weekly basis in many cities throughout the country, yet violence has more or less decreased. Both the ruling and opposition parties have agreed to meet to discuss possible solutions to this unrest. Your continued prayers for the political stability in the country are greatly appreciated.

We wish each of you a very Merry Christmas! Thank you for your prayers and financial support during this past year.

By His Grace,
Jeremy, Mattie, and Nate Benbrooks

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