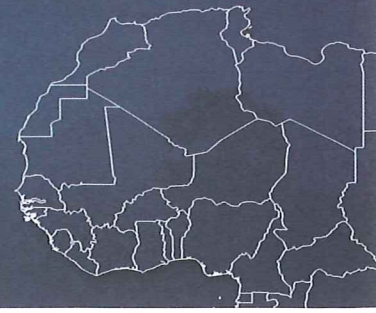




The Benbrooks

Serving in West Africa



February 2018

ReachWestAfrica.com

This month's prayer letter is written by Mattie

Dear Praying Friends,

Yesterday was our monthly ladies' meeting at church, and since we had an unexpected rain, it delayed and prevented some from coming. But I was able to spend time talking with Esther who had arrived early. We first met Esther a little over three years ago when her family asked us to visit her in the hospital. She suffers from a serious chronic illness. When Jeremy and I left the hospital, we both believed that she would never leave the hospital alive. But God had other plans. Esther did leave the hospital, and she began sitting in on a Bible study that Jeremy was doing with her father. As a result, she became a believer.

Yesterday, she was telling me about her sister-in-law who recently had a baby and almost died in delivery, but people prayed and prayed and both mom and baby are doing well. We spent some time talking about the difficulties so many experience here because of health problems. Difficulties like pharmacies not having enough medicine, people not being able to find blood when they need transfusions, and parents who can't afford to buy malaria medicine when their children are sick. I was feeling discouraged about how difficult life is here for people and agreed that life here is hard.

Then Esther started to recount a difficult time in her life—the time right before we met her. She talked about how ill she was and that she was in a hospital in a neighboring country. At one point, everybody died in the ward she was in except for her. She said that she began to pray and ask God to help her even though she wasn't yet a Christian. She recounted how through amazing circumstances, God preserved her life, provided food, and even allowed her to be able to return home where her family could care for her. She ended by saying, "Yes, life is hard, but God used all those difficulties to allow me to hear and trust in the Gospel." Without the difficulties in her life and the way God used her circumstances, she would still be without a Savior. "The challenges in my life were worth it because they were how I became a Christian," she said.



Ladies' Bible Study: Esther is second from left

I felt that I should just turn the Bible study over to her at the point. We've been studying the theme of "joy" as we go through the book of Philippians, and what a testimony she is of choosing joy despite difficult circumstances and adversity. I was challenged to see how God uses our trials for His glory and our good.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support.

By His Grace,
Jeremy, Mattie and Nate Benbrooks

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