



FACE TO FACE

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Dear Friends,

It has been a while since my last newsletter, so this will be a catch-up letter about some of the people and events of the past several months. We thank God for the many opportunities He has given us to see His kingdom building in this part of West Africa.

We have had some changes at the CRWRC-Senegal office. Juliette Diatta returned to her full-time job as a pastor's wife, and president of the Evangelical Women's Association of Senegal.



Senegalese staff working with me in country office:

- Ndeye Fall, the administrative assistant and partner liaison
- Jatu Weber, the secretary and financial assistant

Ndeye is married to Yacouba Fall, pastor of a small Baptist house church, Jangu Batiste.

Jatu is an active member of the United Methodist Church of Senegal. Both of these women are leaders in their communities.

Recent events

In July, Ndeye and her husband Yacouba went to Guinea to facilitate 6 days of workshops on Christian marriage and AIDS prevention, and counseling with unmarried and married couples. This was at the invitation of Christian Reformed World Missions. Seeing staff and partners use their new learning and skills is a great reward!

Your commitment to prayer for CRWRC is vital, your financial support is also important. The budget this year includes housing, salary support, work expenses and medical benefits. As you pray for CRWRC's ministry, please consider making a donation to support your missionary staff member, earmarking the gift towards the work of Davis Omanyo.

In May, we put together a study tour for 7



(above) Team members meet with Senegalese researchers and professors



Above, Dr. Soh, Dr. Seck and Steve Ven Huisen

members of the CRWRC anti-racism team - 9 days of study and interaction with Senegalese. Besides living with Senegalese families and visiting in Senegalese villages, they studied the history of colonialism and the slave trade with Senegalese university professors; visited sites associated with slave trading; and spent time in prayer and Bible study with Senegalese Christians.



Members of the anti-racism team study current realities of colonialism with Dr. Penda Mbow, a Senegalese historian and human rights activist (center, by Mary Crickmore)

CRWRC Ministry Programmes

In Senegal, CRWRC works with national church and community-based partner organisations. As you often hear about these ministries through these newsletters, it may be helpful to have a brief description of our current partnerships. My role with these organisations is in the areas of leadership training, staff development, technical training and consultation, organisational capacity building, and networking with other African and international church-related organisations. Our goal is to strengthen the ability of churches to carry out Christ-like ministries in their communities.

1. The CECS (Evangelical Health Coordinating Committee) is a consortium of churches working together to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and to care for those who are ill.



Using creative arts to help children living with AIDS to talk about their hopes and fears.

2. The EELS (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal)

With the EELS, we are working with communities to improve the health of their children and youth. God’s intentional healthy creation includes such features as adequate housing and nutrition (Isaiah 65:21). CRWRC has recently introduced urban roof-top gardening in the health programme, encouraging families to grow healthy food even where space is limited.



Learning gardening (above)

Urban rooftop (right)



3. The Fedannde Joloff food security programme



Going from this....



...to this!

Traditional herders and farmers, both women and men are learning new ways to increase milk production, and to introduce cash crops. Klaas Talsma and Alan Vander Horst of Partners World Wide advise on this programme. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Senegal is our partner, working with Fulani villagers.

4. The Training for Transformation Network

We are reminded by Scripture that we are “receiving a Kingdom that cannot be shaken” Heb.12:28. How can we participate in the establishment of this Kingdom? We know that it is a Kingdom of justice and peace, and our world is far from being a world of justice and peace.



The **Training for Transformation** network of organisations and individuals works for the transformation of each individual, their relationships with others within the community, relationships among communities, and relationships with God. Member organisations work in areas such as:

The Training for Transformation network shared its approach with the anti-racism team; those team members are now using the concept in their work with their churches in the U.S.

- Peace-building between herders and farmers in conflict over land resources
- Reconstruction of communities damaged by conflict between the government and separatist guerrillas in southern Senegal
- Inter-religious dialogue and communication for community stability
- Mobilising communities to stop the illicit sale and circulation of small arms in the West Africa region
- Economic equity and justice

Sierra Leone

~Grace and Marion Morgan, of CHASL, interview mothers (right)
~Dave interviews members of the village development committee (below)



August 2006 found me in Sierra Leone along with Grace and Dave Kreulen, and Will Story. Dave and Grace are professors at

Michigan State (departments of nursing, and physiology). Will is the CRWRC health consultant in the CRWRC home office. I work in Sierra Leone with two partner organisations, the Christian Extension Services (CES) and the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone (CHASL).

The Kreulens and Will came to assist with an evaluation of the health work of CHASL. For a week, they braved mosquitoes, rain, pot-holed roads, cramped vehicles and long working days, with great good humour. The result was an affirmation of what CHASL is doing in village health work. The evaluators made many useful and actionable proposals to improve this work. We are blessed to have had Grace, Dave and Will with us, and by their wisdom and competence.



These healthy twins are a CHASL success story!

Other News

October was a busy month. First, a big family reunion in France. Then later in October, I had the privilege of being the team leader for a CRWRC country evaluation in Guatemala. CRWRC works in Mayan communities in several parts of this beautiful country, and I spent a lot of time in the mountains - rainy, misty - what a pleasure! CRWRC works in partnership with presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church of Guatemala.



Towards the end of January 2007, I will begin 2 months of home service in the U.S. and will be available to meet with churches and groups. If you would like me to visit your church or group, please let me know. You can also contact Wendy Hammond at hammondw@crcna.org for information about the schedule.

The faithfulness of your prayers and remembrances for these partners and the transformational work they are doing in their communities binds us together in ministry. May God be glorified in all.

Every blessing,

Wyva