



CAMA-Guinea Update

From Dennis and Cindy Westlake

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August 2010

Praise God with us for...

- The amazing opportunity to learn from our CAMA colleagues from around the world in March 2010 at our CAMA World Retreat.
- A wonderful 3 month home assignment in the US this summer reconnecting with our families, friends and various bodies of believers.
- A peaceful first round of presidential election here in Guinea.
- A smooth transition from living in the capital of Conakry to living on the campus of Hope Medical Center.

Prayer needs at a glance...

- For safe travels on poor roads to and from Conakry with the arrival and departure of several teams and visitors from August through February.
- For safe travel in September by road across Guinea, through Mali and into Burkina Faso to attend a conference on development.

What we've been up to...

Since our last update we've traveled from Guinea to Thailand and back for the CAMA World Retreat, we've packed and moved from the capital city of Conakry to the other end of Guinea, Dennis traveled to and from the US to attend his mother's funeral, we've gone on a 3 month home assignment to the US and now have returned to Guinea to live in our new home on the campus of Hope Medical Center. These have been very busy months of travel and transition but they have also been rich experiences of seeing Jesus on the faces of and through the hands of so many who have come alongside us.

Pray for several months of up-coming travel involving 15 hour treks across Guinea to Conakry and then back again to meet teams and visitors coming into the country to serve.

Run-off election for the presidency

Guinea had its first free presidential election take place on June 27. This was a 'first' for the Guinean people and they were ecstatic to finally be free to vote for a civilian (after being ruled by two long-term dictators since their independence in 1958 and a military take-over a year and a half ago). Between the top 2 candidates, neither received the needed 51% of the vote, therefore, a run-off election is scheduled for September 19. The top 2 candidates are Cellou Diallo, an ex-prime minister and the clear frontrunner, and opposition politician Alpha Conde.

Pray that this run-off will result in Guinea having a president that will 'hear the people' and respond to their many needs. Pray that he will seek to lead with justice and mercy.

Family News

On April 29th we touched down in Detroit, Michigan and drove to Toledo, Ohio to begin our 3 month home assignment. We spent this time living with our son Jason, daughter-in-law, Rachel and our dear grand-daughters, Vaelyn (3) and Amia (1). Just a few miles away were our daughter, Kharissa, son-in-law, Scott and our dear grandson, Emerson (1). What an amazing summer it was as a family. There is nothing quite like being grandparents! ☺

It was a summer with lots of travel as we attended a family wedding in Pennsylvania, took time away with our kids and grandbabies and with our extended families, re-connected with friends and supporters and spoke on several occasions about our work in Guinea. We have returned to Guinea rested and encouraged.



- For wisdom in working with Guinean nationals on development projects in this region of the country.
- For the impact of the dental clinic we are doing at the Conakry International Airport for the benefit of airport personnel November 1-9, 2010.

How you can support our work...

Westlake Support:

Send donations to the CAMA Advance fund at the address below marked "support of Dennis Westlakes".

Westlake Work:

These donations help us do projects and meet needs related to our work in Guinea. These are to be marked "work of Dennis Westlakes".

You can give via your local C&MA church using the above designations,

or you can give online at this web address:

www.cmalliance.org/worker/westlake-dennis-cindy

or you can send your gift directly to the C&MA National Office at the following address:

**Compassion and Missionary Associates
P.O. Box 35000
Colorado Springs, CO
80935-3500**

Stories of Hope

Jairus, a Hope medical worker sent by the Gabon church, told us this story Tuesday night at prayer meeting. It had just happened that day. Two women came in with a young boy to be treated. One woman was his mother and the other his aunt. It was their first time to visit the clinic. In the process of the boy's diagnosis and treatment the women remarked to Jairus how impressed they were with the manner in which they were being treated by everyone at the clinic. In fact, they asked what was behind this kind of treatment. (Most other medical facilities are known for the disrespect they show patients.) This gave Jairus the perfect opportunity to share Jesus with them as the reason why people are treated with love and respect. Both women prayed with Jairus to receive Christ.

Pray for these women as they continue to grow to know the JESUS that they have now embraced.

Another story that Moses, the coordinator of spiritual ministries, told us just a few days after our return to N'Zao was also good. He saw an old man at Hope Medical Center who had come to accompany a patient. He went over to him and asked him if he could pray with them. The man explained that he lives in N'Zérékore (about 5 miles from Hope) but that he was originally from Siguiri (a Muslim village 300 miles away). He told Moses this story:

"I started coming to your Center back when it was first created. My first visit was when I had a tooth ache and needed to have it pulled. My second visit I came as a paralytic. The left side of my body was paralyzed and I spent two years at the Regional Hospital of N'Zérékore without finding a solution. It was also very expensive for me. But, when I arrived here at the Medical Center I was in a wheel chair. I had my first visit and I was told to come back in two weeks. After my third visit I left the wheel chair and began walking on my own. And I had only spent 150,000 Guinea francs (approximately \$30). Since that day, my village was amazed at the treatment I received at the Center and I became "the door of Siguiri". Since that day I have sent 158 people and, among all of them, there is only one person who died. Even that was not the fault of the Center because the sick person was really in agony. The respect that others show me here is beyond me. Whether you are Malinké or Guerzé, the Center treats you no different."

What a story! A man who found healing now sees himself as "the door" by which many others can find healing. Anyone that he knows who is sick in his home village, he arranges for them to travel 300 miles to N'Zérékore so he can accompany them to Hope. So, he was there that morning to bring another patient for treatment. He is so used to how things are handled at Hope that he expects the staff to pray with the sick people he brings. He bows his head and closes his eyes to pray along. He is a Muslim man who has come to believe in the power of prayer in Jesus' name.

We have been really encouraged by these two stories in the last few days.

Praise GOD that this man has experienced JESUS here at Hope Medical Center and not only his life, but others lives as well, are encountering JESUS through the hands and testimony of Hope Medical Center workers. To GOD be the glory!