



CAMA-Guinea Update

From Dennis and Cindy Westlake

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Praise God with us for...

- The safe arrival of a 40' container of medical equipment and success in getting it out of port and down to Hope.
- Generous giving to the CAMA Advance Fund in November.
- A great year financially for Hope Medical Center. We were able to meet our budget with very little subsidy needed from CAMA.
- The ongoing success of the micro-loan program. In a year and a half 36 loans are paid in full, 21 current loans are on schedule and 10 new loans have just been approved.
- The decision of the new government to postpone this month's election. This has likely avoided more unrest and demonstrations in the streets.

Prayer needs at a glance...

- For the renewal of our official documents by the Minister of Health that allow Hope to function.
- For the safe arrival of a container from Holland with medical supplies

Joyeux Noël!!!

This is the French expression we use often this season to wish one another a joyful celebration of the birth of our Lord. We sincerely trust that your Christmas celebrations will also be filled with joy just like the first one was!

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of **great joy** that will be for all the people."

The shepherds returned, **glorifying and praising God** for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with **exceeding great joy**.

May we be able to see through all the glitz and glitter of Christmas to the real reason we celebrate with such inexplicable joy! A Child was born! A Son was given! And a Savior came into the world! He is no longer the babe in a manger. Today He is the Lord of Lords who reigns in heaven while at the same time living within us! And, Father is pleased to reveal His Son in us and make Him known through us! Amazing! We just can't get over the love He has shown to us and His grace allowing us to show that love to others!

Yesterday we had the privilege of celebrating Christmas with the leadership of Hope Medical Center. What a great time we had eating, playing games, laughing and praying together. We marvel at the quality people the Lord has gathered to serve Him at Hope. Here we are with the group.



and solar equipment. The tax circuit and the logistics are always challenging!

- For wisdom hiring three key individuals for Hope. Mid-January we will have interviews with several candidates for positions Administrative Director, Doctor and Pharmacist.
- For ongoing wisdom in nationalizing Hope.

How you can support our work...

Westlake Support:

Send donations to CAMA Services at the address below marked "Support of Dennis Westlakes". You can also easily give on-line by using the web address below. (in yellow)

Westlake Work:

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

Giving Options:

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

or you can give online at this web address:

www.camaseservices.org/workers.php

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

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

What to do with an abandoned refugee camp?

A few months ago a young man named Pierre (Peter) from one of the nearby churches came to visit and share his dream for doing development projects in the surrounding villages. He had already set up his own non-government organization and had begun working with villages to define projects.

One of the villages had come into possession of a former UNHCR refugee camp that had once housed 5-6,000 Liberian refugees but had been neglected for the past several years. The village community had no idea how to use the land and multiple buildings on the site. Slowly roofing tins, doors and well pumps began to disappear. When Pierre saw this "gem" he immediately began to dream of how it could be developed and began encouraging the village to see the value of what it could be.

Over the past year Pierre led the community in an effort to clear away all the brush grown up around the old school complex of 24 classrooms. The next step was to start a school using the unemployed village teachers to teach all the village kids who were not making it in the public system. They now have over 100 students!

Recognizing his potential we sent Pierre and 5 of his colleagues to a Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training seminar. It is encouraging to see them beginning to apply the developmental and evangelistic principles they learned to the projects they are already working on.

Dennis and Hope colleagues Stephen Albright and Moise Mamy recently made a visit to the village with Pierre to see the site, meet the school teachers and encourage them by our interest in what they have accomplished so far.

- 1) meeting with Pierre/teachers, 2) 1 remaining well pump out of 7
- 3) visiting original camp medical buildings they hope to use again someday
- 4) Believe it or not... it used to be the basketball court!

