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**Jedidiah, President
BS, MD, Med Dir**



Act 10:28 and yet God has shown me that I should not call any man unholy or unclean.

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.”

What God Has Cleansed

I was reading today In Acts chapter 10. Cornelius, a gentile centurion in the Roman army was praying. He was visited by an angel who declared to him your prayers and alms have come before the Lord. Now listen, send for Prince staying in Joppa, at such and such place. Similarly Prince had a vision in which he saw various animals being laid before him on a sheet. God said, get up Prince, kill and eat. To which Prince replied, Lord I can't, I have never eaten anything unclean. The Lord's response may have changed the history of our planet, in a similar way His death and resurrection did. "What God has cleansed, no longer consider unclean." Wow. Prince still didn't get it until the Holy Spirit revealed the truth to him at the house of Cornelius, but we get it. We have been redeemed by the same blood that was shed for the Jews, the blood of Jesus.

Why am I telling this story? There is symmetry between this story of how the gospel was introduced to the gentiles, and what we do in West Africa. The Jews had nothing to do with the gentiles and felt they were a cursed people. But in the great plan of God, the blood of Jesus not only cleanses the Jews, but it also cleanses non-Jews (gentiles). What would have happened if Prince and Paul did not receive this revelation? The gospel would have stopped in Israel and not moved to the ends of the earth.

I think you see where this is going. I have no delusions of grandeur. The Lord has had, and taken advantage of many opportunities to humble me to the point of death. But I do see some parallels between the introduction of the gospel to the gentiles and what we do for the muslims of West Africa. Just like the Jews in Peter's day, in West Africa there is a prevailing thought in the church that there should be some equal separation between muslims and Christians. If you travel to Lagos, Nigeria and spend any kind of time in the churches there, there is not a great interest in reaching muslims. Some denominations think that if you do not build a church and have a full time pastor located in a village you are actually an enemy of the gospel. Can you imagine that? NOT preaching the gospel unless you have a priori assurance that there would be follow-up. So much for walking by faith, and for Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 24:14, and Acts 1:8.

When Jesus spoke of the man who was delivered by a demon. He said when it leaves it looks for a home, but then takes other demons with them and returns to their original home and the last state of the man is worse than the first. What most people

miss here is that the house was empty when the demon left the first time. There was no defense. But when a muslim receives the Holy Spirit of God through faith in Christ (I Cor 2:12), then that house is not empty but occupied by the Presence of God.

Why is it that we have such a hard time trusting the seed (the Word of God and the Living Word of God, Jesus)? Yes we hear of stories of how supposed new believers have fallen back into islam. Sheep have a tendency to wander. But those who get it, those who receive revelation of the power and reality of God in their lives are forever changed or exchanged to the point of a lifelong commitment to Christ (shepherds). Think about the late Madou bin Aazim in Nigeria. He was a walking fireball for Christ and it cost him his earthly dwelling. It is for those people that we exist as a ministry. We do reach thousands for Christ every year, but my heart is also for reproducing myself in the few who are called of God to preach the good news.

Do you see these two pictured below? These are potential shepherds who received the Word of God while we were in The Gambia. Pastor Kasim Baber has met with them in follow-up twice and also others in two other villages, and reports they are hungry for the truth and growing in their walk with God. Each



Electrician and disciple of Christ from Baniko Ismaila, Indio, and Amal a nurse from the Banul region of The Gambia. (L to R)

follow-up trip cost \$850 to the three villages. I have committed to a total of four. Pray for these and others to learn how to feed themselves and others. (continued on back)



This is a photo of some of the disciples in Brefete, during the second follow-up visit. The woman on the left I believe is the wife of the elder Masood, the man in the middle is the Alikali (chief) of the village. Pastor Kasim is in green, and Evangelist Kamil and his wife Fateen are on the right side.

Pastor Kasim has been faithfully conducting follow-up visits in three of the five villages we traveled to. In the photo above the chief sitting in the middle, told Kasim that he and an elder, Masood, have set times for listening to the Proclaimer (New Testament in Pulaar in this case). They are being confronted by people in the village, “we want to know what you are listening to on that radio!” I love it. The gospel is confrontational. But once confronted by the truth I believe many others will follow their chief and elders into the Kingdom of God.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, before I left The Gambia, pastor Lut requested to be sent to an unreached village in Guinea. We planned and sent him to the eastern Limba just across the border into northern Sierra Leone. The recon trip was successful resulting in a hunger for the truth among many as well as seven disciples coming out of the trip. The “mission” was conducted shortly after the recon trip and the film projected in five villages with 163 coming to Christ as a result. What stood out to me about this trip were two things, one the suspicion and hostility of some of the villagers toward the team. Lut’s man of peace described it like this, “there are two groups of people in these villages. The first believes you people are spies trying to discern where the rebels are among us, the second group believes who you say you are, evangelists.”

Lut went on to say that almost every person in the village was hungry for the truth and looked forward to seeing the Jesus film. In the last village he went to for discipling new believers there were actually people who came from two other villages to hear the Word of God. He said there were questions like, “what are the rules of following Christ? What sins exactly are forgiven? How do you pray?”

One very disappointing aspect of the mission was that unlike the recon trip, the people reacted harshly to photos. The “man of peace” even confiscated their phones in one village before they could conduct their mission. This was in my opinion a serious deviation from our “rules”. Lut left a 14 minute expla-

nation on my voicemail. He was apologetic but did not back down on what was required of them because “the Lord gave us the chance to preach the gospel and that was more important to us.” Lut is great with people and has a pastoral heart. The people asked him to return and he has agreed. I am glad for the fruit that came out of their mission.

Yanni, after a long absence from our ministry, led a mission to the IDP (internally displaced people) camp in Ouahigouya, Burkina Faso. They saw over 20 come to Christ doing tent to tent ministry. However, they got to show the love of Christ by purchasing 180 plus coats and covers for the orphans who were greatly suffering from exposure to cold in the camps. A local pastor fought with them over the fact his group of kids (in the city), were not allowed to receive these items. No good deed goes unpunished. The two pictures to the right and below are related to the mission there. Although our main mission at LBNF is front line evangelism to the muslim villagers in West Africa, we also respond to promptings of the Holy Spirit outside of our “normal” activities.



Related to that point, Aasim, Isaac and Aazim, three men that were saved in the Taraba state of Nigeria have settled in to the training center (Prince’s Place) in Jos. Aasim, who led the other two to Christ, will accompany Prince on his next mission to Borno state and give testimony during public meetings. That trip has yet to be funded (\$500). Fahad, had technical problems on his last mission but overcame them in order to lead over 400 Fulani villagers to Christ near the Garoua area. I have the village names if you are interested. We want to send Asad and Mahmoud to the Kyanga in NW Nigeria when the money comes in (\$2,500). Afterwards Asad will leave the equipment with Mahmoud in Togo. Pray for his life he is under a great deal of persecution.

Tharwan Qasid led 75 to Christ in five Fula Jalon villages in Mali. He needs money for follow-up. Cahil and a new associate Alex led three to Christ going door to door in Pulaar villages near Louga. They were in a town called Daar (slogan “Daar, 100% muslim”). Daar is also near Touba which apparently is an internationally recognized islamic center. They are Pulaar and Wolof. Thank you for your help, prayers, and finances needed always. Your co-laborer among the Lost But Not Forgotten a 501-c3 organization. Tax deductible donations may be sent to LBNF, PO Box 50292, Amarillo, Tx. 79159. www.lbnf.org. Please be sensitive about security when sharing with others (no social media). I love you all and thank you for your genuine interest in the second coming of Christ (Matt 24:14) .