

## Ferké News Update

December, 2018

With a mixture of joy and tears, I left Côte d'Ivoire on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and arrived home on the 3<sup>rd</sup>: joy for God's faithfulness over the past 32 years, and for all that He has done, and tears as I was saying good-bye to African family, students, and friends to return to the USA for retirement at the end of June. Yes, I will still be needing financial support until June 30<sup>th</sup>, and in the meantime, I will be visiting supporting churches and individuals to share what God has done through your financial gifts and prayers. (Actually I will be traveling and visiting you over the next year as it will not be possible to complete it in 6 months.)

Here are a few of the highlights of the past year:

- Fatouma and her husband Lamine completed their pastoral education at the Bible Institute and have begun their ministry in Boundiali. The believers there are beginning to visit them and seek their counsel. While Lamine has begun his pastoral ministry, Fatouma has begun teaching the women.
- The widows' ministry continues to expand, as they seek to not only minister to each other, but to those suffering in the church. They are involved in community outreach at the prison, the regional hospital, and the treatment center for the mentally ill. Widows' ministries have begun in 3 other towns and all of one church district, with two other churches having plans to begin. Their joy is contagious.
- The national leadership of the church's women has begun to capture the vision of women teaching and counseling women.
- One of my former Bible school students had the privilege of baptizing 70 new believers at Easter time. He has baptized 200 over the last 10 years. This is amazing as he began in a broken and divided church and has endured much persecution from those who claim to be Christians.
- Three other former Bible school students have already begun new churches near their own church. Other former students are seriously teaching the believers in their church in discipleship programs.
- My ministry partner, Gnimeni, has taught 7 conferences for pastors' wives in 7 church districts. (I helped with 3 as my teaching schedule permitted.) We also did 6 women's conferences across the country, and one all church conference. The women are hungry for God's Word.
- Doudou, Gnimeni's husband, has helped us with counseling couples. Several have seen their marriages changed by the Lord and another couple has made some initial steps to help their marriage after having begun with very hardened hearts.
- A Bible school student that had behavior and attitude problems repented and believed in Christ. Then during his 2-month practicum over the summer, he led 5 people to the Lord.
- And the list could go on and on. . .

What a faithful, powerful, and loving God we serve!

I am currently living with my sister and brother-in-law. Address: 22106 320<sup>th</sup> Street, Minden, IA 51553. Phone: 712-566-2698. Email: csgeise@gmail.com. I'll write more about my future plans and ministry later.

Have a MERRY CHRISTMAS, and may the Lord richly bless you in 2019!

*Cher Geise*