

Ferke News Update

January, 2018

You are praying, and God is answering!

It was all in place, and suddenly all was blocked. A few key pastors were against the program and said they would discuss it next July. Under the leadership of the national women's association for our church association, my colleague, Gnimeni, and I had plans to begin working with the pastors' wives in all 10 of the church districts, but all came to a stop with a time of waiting and prayer. Then God convinced someone, whom we would never have guessed, to move things forward. The first session with the pastors' wives will be March 5-7 here in Ferké. Please be in prayer for this ministry. Many of these women do not understand the importance of their role.

The widows' ministry, with which we work in Korhogo, meets in a church linked with two other churches. Although it will be two years in April since the beginning of the widows' ministry, and although well supported by the pastor in the church where the group meets, the churches have refused to announce the meetings in the church services or to recognize the ministry. The widows, who two years ago were in tears, are now smiling, singing, and dancing. They reach out to those in need in the church, encourage one another, and are faithful prayer warriors. Once again God used someone whom we never would have expected to support the ministry and help it become "officially" recognized. Not only that, but it will be on the program for the national church meetings in February. God continues to remove the obstacles to women's ministries. Please continue to pray as this ministry expands to other churches.

Women make up at least 2/3 of those in our churches. Gnimeni, my ministry partner, is the only woman who has completed the program at our 4-year Bible Institute. In June, Fatouma will complete her education. Please pray as she is busy writing a mini-thesis that she will present in June.

Recruiting women for Bible education has many obstacles. Gnimeni and I had talked with a pastor's widow about beginning the school year in October. She was willing, and her church was behind her, but it was blocked by another pastor. Once again, God has opened the door for her to begin classes next year using someone whom we never would have expected. The Lord continues to remove the obstacles little by little.

All these openings have happened since Christmas. The fall was a time of waiting and trials. Road construction cut our internet services for 2 months, and I could not get my email to work well elsewhere. My house was struck by lightning twice within 3 minutes. The fluorescent lights and the light switches were crackling and sizzling, and continued with every flash of lightning for about an hour. Then I was without electricity for 10 days. Oh, and I also broke my foot. But once again God has removed all these little obstacles.

Please pray :

- For the five classes that I teach at the Bible Institute and that the students will apply God's Word in their lives.
- For the women's conference season that begins February 16-18th. Please pray for our preparation, safe travel on dangerous roads, and that the lives of the women will be changed by God's Word.

I'm so thankful for your faithful support and prayers for the ministry here. May the Lord fill you in 2018 with his joy and peace!

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