

Ferke News Update

August, 2018

"You mean that we have been wrong all these years?" commented Doudou's elderly dad. Abdoulaye, the husband of my ministry partner who works with us in counseling couples, is known as Doudou, as there are many Abdoulayes. He comes from a strong Muslim family. In April at an all-night funeral, Doudou had another opportunity to explain the Gospel to his father. God was working in his father's heart, and we all continued to pray.

One month later his father became critically ill. Before surgery he proclaimed that he was trusting Christ and boldly proclaimed his new faith to all his family. Even after surgery and before going into a coma, he remained firm that Jesus is the way. At his death, Doudou said that he had never seen his father's face so at peace. It was as if it was glowing.

Different ministry updates :

Womens' ministries : The new womens' national leadership team of our churches has captured the vision of teaching women God's Word so that they can teach and counsel other women. Gnimeni and I work under their direction, and we have already begun team planning sessions for developing the ministry. Please pray for God's wisdom and direction as we will be meeting several times this fall.

We have been averaging at least 2 womens' conferences per month. Gnimeni has taught by herself much of the time as many were scheduled during the days that I was teaching at the Bible Institute. God is continuing to open doors and overcome obstacles. We already have several conferences scheduled in the fall with pastors' wives.

Thank you for all your prayers for Fatouma. She completed her 4 years at the Bible Institute on June 30th, and is beginning the ministry with her husband in the town of Boundiali. Lamine, her husband who also just graduated, is the second pastor at a church that has already planted two daughter churches in town. Please continue to pray for Fatouma and her husband. Fatouma is adjusting to being a full-time pastor's wife and will begin working with Gnimeni and myself in the national womens' ministry.

Widows' ministries : The widows, who were in tears 2 years ago, have a contagious joy in the Lord. Groups have been started in two other areas, and there are 3 other towns that have asked for help in beginning a similar group. Now our challenge is how to encourage, counsel, and teach these other groups of widows.

In their own church the widows spend much time counseling and praying with other women. The single women have asked for help to begin a similar group for them. Not only do the widows care for one another and new widows, but they also care for the sick in their church and those in need. They are now reaching out to the local prison population and to those at a mental health center. Please pray for these women as they demonstrate the joy and fellowship in the body of Christ.

I will be returning to the USA in December for home assignment, and looking forward to seeing all of you in 2019.

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To God be the glory,
Cheri Geise