

Nash News November 2017



People often ask me if I have had a good trip. Sometimes I hesitate to answer because with every ministry trip there are always both encouragements and discouragements which is like the rest of life really. What I can unhesitatingly and wholeheartedly say is that God's enabling and presence are a daily reality in a myriad of ways. Some of them seem so small; how can the God of the whole earth be involved so intimately with me? Yet he is not only the God of the whole world but my heavenly father. So I praise God for his companionship and enabling and thank you for your prayers.

Some things went better than expected and others not so well, mainly because of my unrealistic expectations. I was hoping to launch the ministry in many places on this trip but I have to return again and this time meet not the pastors but those they have chosen from their churches to run the courses. On the other hand I went to a totally new area which had in no way being planned. On my first Sunday I was still in the capital and after church spoke to Keith Smith another English missionary who works in the North in a town called Kaya. I mentioned I had made contact with someone from Gorom Gorom and wanted to get the ministry reaching schools in that area but it was obviously too dangerous to go that far north. He told me that three pastors from Gorom come down once a month for a couple of days and were due down on Friday 6th October. I asked if I could take some time out of his program with them and tell them about this ministry, which he agreed to. I wanted whilst I was in Kaya to meet the pastors there and tell them about this ministry. Keith put me in touch with someone so I was able to meet a group of 30 Kaya pastors as well. Pastor Etienne who I worked with in Banfora, when he heard I was going to Kaya, wanted me to go to Kongoussi and tell the pastors there as well. I told him I didn't have the time and also that it was too dangerous. He encouraged two Kongoussi pastors to come to the Kaya meeting, which they did, travelling over 25 miles. At the end they were very interested and said that this training should be given in their area as well. I said they were the ones who could do it! So they will come back when I give the fuller training and will then take the courses and give the training and get the ministry started in their area. I am pleased that a few individuals are starting to get a vision for the work and are taking initiative.



Key to my travels:

First trip:

Return to Bobo and Ouaga then Kaya

Second trip:

With excursions to Boudikuy and Solanzo.

Return to Dedougou then

I will briefly outline what happened on this trip. I spent four days in the capital among other things I sorted out my office (there was an unexpected delivery of material from the 'Revival movement' association in N. Ireland over 70 boxes to the value of well over £8000, for which I had to pay nothing).

On the Monday I travelled down to Boromo, this coincided with a regional pastor's conference. I was able to speak to the regional committee for half an hour on the Monday afternoon and what I shared was very well received. I was only given 15 minutes to speak to all the pastors the following day, about 100 were present, but it was enough I trust to get them interested. There are five sub regions and so all the pastors in these sub regions should receive at least the first two lessons and I will organise training sessions where required with the sub region presidents when I go back (Nov 18th – Dec 13th). The sub regions comprise of about 30-40 churches.

In Banfora in God's providence my arrival corresponded with a Compassion seminar bringing together leaders just when I was there. I also went to Sindou which is only 25 miles away. On the way chatting with the pastor I told him I was from Legmoin. To my surprise he said he knew the village and had spent a couple of weeks there a number of years ago. I asked him why. He said he had been painting the house of the missionary at Legmoin. 'I am the missionary' I said. It turns out he painted our house when it was first built and we must have talked together all those years ago. Although the group was small at Sindou the ministry will begin in the three primary schools in the town. I wanted the surrounding village schools to be reached as well but that will have to wait for another year.

Bobo was a bit disappointing as less than 15 people were present. One good thing is that one of the committee had been moved to Koudougou and wanted me to visit and introduce the courses there. From Bobo I had a long ride to Kaya via Ouaga. I had a two hour stop in Ouaga to sort myself out clothes wise and with the needed materials. I was exhausted and had to sit for 10 minutes and pray for strength. It turns out it I had malaria which I hadn't recognised at first. (I started a treatment on Sunday and quickly recovered). The Kaya seminar which I mentioned at the start of this letter was well attended. I returned to Ouaga Friday evening to have a restful weekend.

On the Monday I went to Koudougou, Burkina's third city. There were a small group of senior pastors present. They were enthusiastic and have already started using the courses in 5 Christian schools. In Boundikuy there were about 10 teachers present and at the end we counted out courses for 6 schools. In Nouna they are able to train others without me but we wanted to expand the ministry to Solanzo 50 miles away. This was a disappointing day as no teachers turned up, despite Saturday being their day off. On the Sunday I travelled to Tougan to a meeting which Marc organised and led. We had three pairs of teachers coming from outlying centres from 15 to 25 miles away. The idea was to delegate to them the responsibility of expanding the work in each of their respective areas. This is the kind of model I would like repeated as it is the only way we will reach the whole of Burkina. On Monday I went to Ouahigouya where I have tried to work with the Assemblies of God but with little success so this time I had invited all the senior pastors of the other denominations. There was great interest so I will return on my next trip.

Blessings *Jeremy*

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