

July, 2017

Bits & Bytes for Bagley Backers



"WHO IS OUR ENEMY?"

"Joel" (not his real name) oversees a missionary training program in northern Cameroon, preparing missionaries to serve in Muslim areas of central Africa. Recently he was asked to go help lead villagers to a place of safety after their village in northern Nigeria was destroyed by Boko Haram extremists.

At the end of the first day's journey "Joel" gathered the villagers together for a service to thank God for His protection along the way. He felt impressed to read from Matthew 5. "But I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . . "

Before he finished reading a young man stood up and interrupted him asking, "Are you telling me I should pray for the people who stole our possessions, raped our wives and daughters, and burned our village?"

All "Joel" could reply was, "It's not me. I'm just reading what the book says."

They walked on all the next day getting increasingly hungry, thirsty, and tired, receiving no help from the villages they passed on the way. Towards the end of the day they approached a Muslim village and to their surprise were welcomed into the village and given a chance to rest. The men of the village were away watching their cattle, but their wives and children got right to work feeding the refugees the food they had prepared for their families. One woman even sent her daughter to the market to bring back the milk she had sent to sell in order to give it to her visitors.

Refreshed, the travelers went on their way for a couple more hours before stopping for the night. Again they gathered for prayer, and again "Joel" read from Matthew 5 and ended with the question, "Today we've met both Christians and Muslims on our journey. Who would you say is our enemy?"

("Joel" was one of the trainers at the Leadership Matters Course held in Ghana in May, 2017.)

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA AREA MISSIONARY RETREAT - The second week of April all the Global Partners missionaries in Africa met in Cape Town for our annual retreat. The week combined times of training, worship, fellowship, and fun, and was a point of encouragement for all missionaries as they returned to their places of service. Here we are at the Cape of Good Hope - how many of us can you recognize?



LEADERSHIP MATTERS COURSE - Early in May Bob was one of the trainers at the LMC held in Ghana. Over half of the participants were Wesleyan leaders from that part of Africa, including Windel, a Wesleyan from Haiti preparing to go to Burkina Faso as a missionary. Bob was joined on the training team by Dr. Alfred Kalemba, National Superintendent of Zambia, and Rev. Thabsile Thwala, National Superintendent of Swaziland as well as leaders from several other mission-oriented organizations.

SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL CONFERENCE - At the end of May the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone held their quadrennial national conference. In a spirit of enthusiasm and anticipation the church elected Rev. John Baminhoma to serve as their National Superintendent for the coming four years. Subsequently Rev. Baminhoma and the National Board appointed a highly qualified team of leaders to serve alongside Rev. Baminhoma. Exciting days are in store!



MISSIONARY TRAINING INSTITUTE - This past month we made a quick trip to the US where Bob assisted in GP's training course for new missionaries and Brenda had the opportunity to catch up with family. Time flew by quickly and now we find ourselves back in South Africa (for a few days) before hitting the road/air for a new season of ministry.

COMING UP

PWBC JUBILEE - At the end of this month we will be traveling to Zambia to be part of the graduation celebrations at Pilgrim Wesleyan Bible as well as join them in celebrating 50 years of training ministers for the Zambian church. It will also give us an opportunity to visit Zimba Mission Hospital and our missionaries serving there.

GHANA CONSULTATIONS - In early September three significant consultations will take place in Ghana. 1) First there will be a meeting of GP Area Directors who serve mature fields who will be focusing on "everywhere to everywhere" - discussing how best to serve an international church that is increasingly getting involved in sending their own missionaries. 2) Then Wesleyan ministers from across Africa who are involved in ministry to Muslims will gather to discuss best practices in African Muslim ministry as well as to explore ways to reach north Africa, 3) Then national leaders from Wesleyan churches from across the continent will gather to work together on matters of common concern in their ministry and to lay plans for cooperative endeavors across Africa.

PRAYER & PRAISE REQUESTS

1. Praise God for His help in the Sierra Leone national conference and for the team of committed leaders who are taking up new roles and responsibilities. Pray that they will quickly be able to chart a path forward and begin implementing those plans.

2. Please continue to pray that our application to have our residence permits restored into our new passports will soon be approved. The applications were submitted about five months ago.

3. Pray that the missionaries who took part in the Missionary Training Institute will adjust well to their fields of service as they head to the places of appointment.

4. Pray for a special sense of the Lord's presence at the graduation and Jubilee celebration at Pilgrim Wesleyan Bible College, Zambia.

5. Praise God for the development of the young church in Malawi and pray for Revs. Alex Mbewe and Mohammed Said as they give oversight to this outreach from Zambia and Mozambique respectively.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We can serve because of your faithfulness to give. We are deeply grateful for your faithfulness and generosity.

Donations and new faith promises can be sent to: Global Partners, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

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