


October/November, 2007

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death...

Dear Friends,


As we come to the close of our time here in the US, we have had some difficult news from Guinea. One of our strong workers and friends has died.




Omar Augustine was a mature Sierra Leonean. He had worked as a pastor in several churches including some he had begun himself in his own country before the war there. He suffered a lot during the war. His chest was covered with terrible scars. He tells a strange story of how the rebels lined him up with other captured Christians and killed many of them. When they came to him they asked him if he had Jesus in his heart. He said that, yes, he did. So they said they were going to cut out his heart and see if he was really in there. They then attempted to drive a knife into his chest. But they were not able to do it. The rebels were amazed and said that he really must be a man of God, and they let him go.

Augustine lost all his relatives in the war, and spent many years in the refugee camps. He showed up at the first meeting we had for refugees who were interested in forming a Lutheran church in Conakry. He quickly emerged as the leader of the group. He really appreciated our materials and learned and taught them well. He worked very hard, much harder than you could expect from someone who was not even being paid and needed to make a living somehow. He called on and evangelized small groups of people all over our area of the city. Some were refugees, some were Guinean Tomas, some were members of other people groups that I had not even heard of.

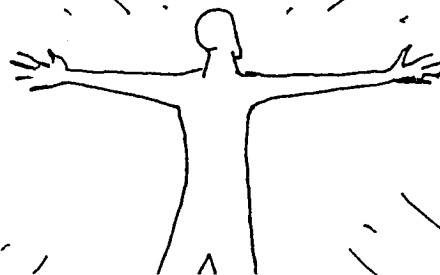
He always worked closely with Donna Meyer. Donna had come to Conakry to help with the home schooling of Katie and Andrea, but she was interested in working with the ministry too. Since I was often gone to the Forest Region, Donna would work with the refugee church that was forming. Augustine took her to many of these little groups that he was evangelizing, and he often had her teaching Muslim women.

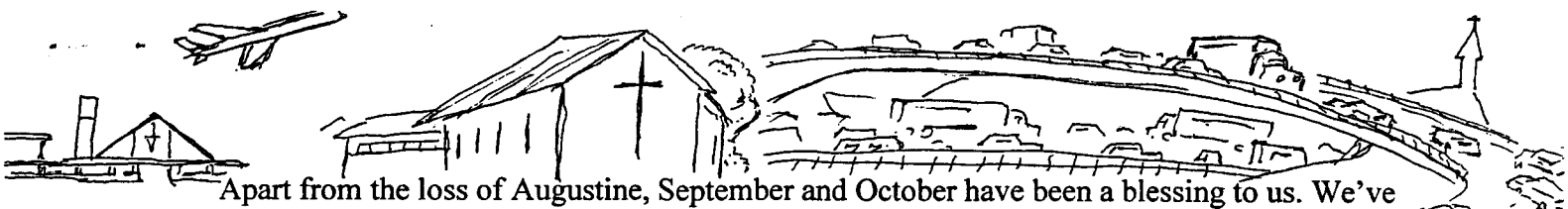


It is hard to tell exactly what happened yet. We have no good form of communication with the people there. We heard this news from a pastor in another church that was able to email Donna, who is now working in Indonesia. Even that email is not terribly clear. It sounds like he was sick with a runny nose or something. It didn't seem that serious. The people he lived with took him somewhere to be treated somehow, but did not contact the church or other pastor friends. A doctor saw him but did not think it was serious. They said a church member was praying with him when he said that it was finished and died.



It is difficult to understand why God would take Augustine at this time. His death is a big loss to us both personally and as it affects the church. I can't imagine how the church will continue to function without him, and I don't even know if I will even be able to find the many little groups that he was evangelizing. We can only trust that God, whose ways are higher above our ways than the heavens are above the earth, knows what He is doing, and is able to work it all out to the good of his people and the church. Still, for us it is hard, but we rejoice with Augustine who is finished with a very difficult life as a refugee, and who has finally found himself in his true and eternal homeland. Your warfare and wandering are over, Augustine. We look forward to seeing you soon.





Apart from the loss of Augustine, September and October have been a blessing to us. We've spent this time at home trying to visit as many of our supporting churches as possible. We were able to get to most of them, thanks to Marvin Kohlmeier, the Mission Developer for the Kansas District. Marvin put together a schedule and worked hard to get everything arranged for us during our time in Kansas. That saved us hours and hours of work here. We have some incredibly awesome memories of our time here. It has been so great to see so many of you. It is always incredible, amazing, and encouraging to hear and see how many people are really praying for us day in and day out. It has been a grueling schedule in some ways. Sometimes we just did not feel like dragging ourselves to one more church, but each time we would get ourselves there, we were blessed beyond measure and had a great time being with God's people. We have felt so loved, supported, and blessed. God's good people gave overwhelmingly from the heart and we were able to gather over \$10,000 toward the Guinea mission. Some exciting highlights:

- Touching base with many pastors we know and meeting many new ones. We have some wonderful and dedicated workers in the LCMS!
- One family that took us shopping for things we need to take back to Guinea with us!
- Seeing all kinds of different churches!
- Another church that collected 3 laptop computers for the church in Guinea!
- Meeting and staying with some incredible and fascinating people!
- Hearing how the mission story has touched many hearts through this time!
- Seeing many friends and hearing about people that traveled beyond their area just to come and see us!
- A youth group that tithed on earnings they made to go to the National Youth Conference, and gave the donation to the Guinea mission!
- Our host family in Olathe that takes us in and takes care of us on all our Kansas trips, this time taking care of our girls for two weeks while we traveled the state!
- Too many examples to recount them all here! You gotta love the Body of Christ.

We are very blessed and happy to be able to announce that we are getting ready for our first ordination in Guinea!! Julien Kotembedounou, who you've heard us talk about often, has finished all his requirements and will be ordained on November 18<sup>th</sup>. More on that next time.

If you didn't get a chance to see our DVD you can access it from our website (see below). Look under the "media" section! A big "Thank You!!" to my sister, Inga and my niece Nanci for all the help in putting that together. It blessed a lot of people and helped greatly in "telling the story".

Well, our next newsletter should be from Guinea again. Tim and I and the girls will leave for Conakry on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. Pray for us as we return to the work there. Pray that the Shepherd will continue to guide us when we walk through the valley, and that He will use us to gather sheep to himself whether we understand what He is doing or not, until the day we all arrive and dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore.

The Heiney Family  
 BP 438  
 Conakry  
 REPUBLIC OF GUINEA  
[www.guineamission.com](http://www.guineamission.com)

Love in Jesus,  
*Tim, Beth, Katie and Andrea*  
 Tim, Beth, Katie, and  
 Andrea Heiney

