



800-433-3954

LCMS World Mission
www.lcmsworldmission.org mission.info@lcms.org



Andrea Herman

Serving the Lord and the LCMS in Guinea, West Africa
Andrea.Herman@LCMS.org

February 2008

Call to Prayer

“For the Lord your God is a merciful God; he will not abandon or destroy you or forget the covenant with your forefathers, which he confirmed to them by oath.” Deuteronomy 4:31

God has indeed been merciful this month. After the numerous challenges of the previous month, God knew I needed to be reminded of His mercifulness, and His promise to never abandon us.

One great encouragement that God blessed me with this month was witnessing the faith that a Maninka woman shared with her family while we were all at her house for a visit. This Maninka woman, who I’ll call “A.J.”, is married to one of our non-Maninka church leaders. She comes from a Muslim background and has never openly expressed faith in the Lord, so it’s difficult to know where she is at spiritually. We know she is at least open to worshipping with us. She seems to be “sympathetic” to the faith, rather than someone actively engaged in it. But even that is remarkable.

However, during my visit with her, her mother and sisters, God revealed that she may be more committed than we realized. We somehow got onto the topic of spiritual things, and Christianity in particular (which is, in itself, a small miracle because these are Muslim women). At one point in the conversation, her younger sister was asking about Jesus’ resurrection. To my great amazement (and relief) A.J. jumped in and answered the question! I was relieved because though I understood the question, my very limited “theological vocabulary” could not have appropriately responded. And if A.J. wouldn’t have responded, they would not have had an answer to an important question!

The most encouraging thing to me was *how* she responded. She didn’t respond like someone offering information to satisfy someone else’s “need to know”. She responded with a kind of zeal that would only be expressed by someone who truly believed the information she was sharing, and knew it was important for others to believe too. I was so surprised by A.J.’s passionate response that it almost didn’t occur to me what an amazing thing it was that the question was even asked! Then she turned to me and asked why people wanted to kill Jesus. (Keep in mind this entire conversation is in Maninka...) Though I was initially tempted to try to explain the cultural, political and religious climate at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion, I quickly realized I was in no way capable of even beginning to explain such a thing. God rescued me and gave me a manageable response to share, which answered the question without unduly complicating things. She appeared to understand and accept the answer, which was a great encouragement to me. Praise God for a great visit and openness among the women in A.J.’s family to learn about their Lord!

Another great blessing I have received this month is the return of one of my friends, “M.K.” who moved away Jan 1. Though her return is under unfortunate circumstances, I am so happy to have her back. Not only is she a good friend, but she exercises TREMENDOUS patience with me. During 2 consecutive days last week, she spent 9 hours with me, just hanging out, trying to help me with the language—and she’s not even my “official” language helper! Needless to say, I will be forever indebted to this dear woman for her kindness and patience.

The third major encouragement of the month was the opportunity to go down to Kankan (the next city south of us, about an hour and half away), to meet with a linguist there. At Thanksgiving I shared with him a few of my numerous frustrations in the language learning process. He offered some good suggestions, and said if I ran into any problems, to let him know. Well, I recently emailed him with another list of frustrations, so he said, just come down here and we'll get a few things figured out. I was just there for the day, but was relieved to have a "professional" tell me what was what, be able to ask a lot of questions, and receive some prayer and encouragement in the process. Again, God demonstrated His mercy...

Please join me in thanking God for:

- WATER! We have not been receiving water regularly (it is supposed to come once/week), but mine just came on for two hours today-PTL!
- Internet access in my office! It's extremely slow, but way cheaper than a satellite modem, and now I can do more than just check email
- The return of my friend, M.K. & her help with language learning
- A.J.'s witness to her family
- Encouragement in language learning
- the opportunity to visit prospective partner churches in Kansas this spring (Look for the schedule in next month's newsletter!)

Please join me in praying for:

- M.K.'s pregnancy (about 4 months along)-she has lost many children
- A.J.'s struggles with the other family in their yard & their mistreatment of her and her family because of their faith
- Ongoing opportunities to share the love of Jesus with friends here
- The Sano family (who are currently living in my yard). My landlord is forcing them to leave and they have not yet found other housing
- God's grace & mercy for us in the hot season, which has begun
- God's mercy on the people of Guinea; that problems can be resolved before the national strike begins, which is planned for March 31.

To be added to or removed from this mailing list, or to receive it in a different format, send an e-mail message to Andrea.Herman@LCMS.org with the word ADD ADDRESS, REMOVE ADDRESS, or PLAIN TEXT in the subject heading.

There are many opportunities to serve as short- or long-term volunteer missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at www.lcmsworldmission.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support my work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to: LCMS World Mission, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Make checks payable to LCMS World Mission. Mark checks "Support of Andrea Herman". Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS World Mission Web site, www.lcmsworldmission.org.

You can find my prayer card online at the following link:

May God's abundant mercy and ever-presence bring you joy and comfort.

With you in God's mission,
Andrea

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.'" Jeremiah 29:11-13



Praying to the Lord of the Harvest, LCMS World Mission with its North America and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

My Current Address:

LCMS Guinee-Herman
MELCI-MA BP 3641-3642
Rue 228 Porte 1019
Hippodrome Bamako
Republic of MALI