

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;" (John 11:25). This month saw the passing of our first Maninka believer. Death is never a happy occasion, and in fact the Scriptures call death the enemy (1 Cor. 15:26), but even so we can rejoice because death has lost its sting for the believer in Jesus.

Aboubacar Sougoulé, known as Boyi, was a dear friend of ours. He was in fact one of the first people we met here in Siguiri, because he guarded our house. This man suffered from a debilitating illness which left him housebound for over a year. Many of his friends and relatives urged him to seek treatment through traditional spiritual means which would have denied his faith, but he refused, telling them he would trust in the Lord for his future. Thanks be to God who has now granted him the victory over death by faith.

Fortunately for him it was his faith and trust in Jesus that saved him and not his burial. Normally a Muslim family will not bury one of their members who doesn't go to the mosque, much less one who has become a Christian. However, since Boyi's uncles were wealthy and gave significant sums for the funeral, he received a Muslim burial. Our small fellowship of believers was expecting to care for his remains, but when we received word about his death and when we arrived at the house to greet the family and discuss the arrangements, the family had already sent his body off for burial. So we let it go. We are confident of God's many promises concerning the fate of those who hold on to faith to the end.

We are also thankful that after Thanksgiving we had a wonderful visit from agricultural missionaries Delano and Linda Meyer and Rev. James May. Rev. May is called to work among the Gurma people of Togo, but he and his family are here in Guinea for an orientation to Africa. Delano & Linda make yearly visits to help encourage not only soil improvement methods, but stewardship of the resources God has given us. We held two workshops while they were here, one in a village, and one here in town. Both of the workshops were very useful for the participants. The workshops were forums for important reflections on how to improve soil and administer the good gifts God has provided.

Our evangelism continues on. I went out to village "L" early this month to see the progress of the work our national evangelist is doing there. They are nearly finished with the chronological Bible storying and there were six people who said at that point that they would like to take the baptism course. It was an amazing thing to see; people who have been taught their entire lives that God can't have a son were calling Jesus the Son of God. Of course the biblical meaning of this term and the Qur'anic distortion of the term are not the same. Even so the very words are quite repulsive to anyone raised in the Muslim religion so to see them reciting the stories with alacrity was a joy to behold and a testimony to the power of God's Word.

Please join us in thanking God for these things this month:

- The life of our friend, Boyi, and the resurrection he will have in Jesus -Continued progress of the Chronological Bible Storying in "L"
- Thanksgiving for the six men who said they want to take the baptism course, that the Holy Spirit will continue to work faith in their hearts -The visit of Agricultural Missionaries Delano & Linda Meyer and their teaching, that the students may apply it.
- Rev. James May and his family (wife Tiina and four small children) and their willingness to serve the Lord in adverse conditions.

In Christ,

Tim, Heidi, Philip & Leslie Norton
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