

AFRICA REGIONAL NEWSLETTER

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Greetings,

Welcome to 2005. As we begin this year we would covet your prayer for a number of significant requests related to the Alliance in Africa.

The Alliance ministers in Africa to reach the lost peoples of that continent for Christ. One of our dreams for this year is that God will move among the people groups to which C&MA missionaries and churches minister. Thus, we ask that you pray for God's enablement of Alliance missionaries and church members as they share His good news. Please pray specifically for:

1. The Bozo of Mali. The Joe Howards have ministered among the Bozo over 15 years and have never had the joy of seeing any Bozo become a disciple of Christ. How we covet a spontaneous church planting movement to break forth among this resistant people so that they might become part of the family of God.
2. The Fula of Guinea and Senegal as our Guinea Fula team ministers in Guinea and prays about expanding its witness to the Fula of Senegal. There are only about 100 followers of Jesus among Guinea's three million Fula and about that same number of believers among Senegal's one and a half million Fula.
3. The university students of Burkina Faso as Peter Brokopp and his team mates reach out to them in creative relational ministries. Libya's president has reportedly stated that his goal is to build 20,000 mosques in Burkina Faso as he seeks to turn that nation into a Muslim stronghold. Yet God has begun planting a seed of new life in a number of university students who have not only expressed their faith in Jesus but are also ministering in His name.

As we begin 2005 there are a number of concerns related to our missionary teams for which we would ask prayer. These concerns range from personal dishevelment due to sudden changes individual missionaries have experienced to concerns of a field wide or regional wide scope. Specifically we would ask you to pray for the following matters:

1. Our Côte d'Ivoire missionaries and God's continuing work in the Côte d'Ivoire. Though the Alliance church is strong, it feels in great need of prayer. Dave Ingram and the field team provided excellent leadership during the crisis and have maintained good relationships with the church leadership.
2. The choosing of field directors for Mali and Burkina Faso, and assistant field directors for

Mali, Burkina Faso, Gabon and Guinea. Missionaries in each of these fields are filling out nomination forms these very days.

3. Strategic Field Reviews that will take place this month in Congo and Gabon in which each of the missionaries of these two fields will contribute insights and perspectives concerning the mission's future in those nations. Last year the missionaries of Côte d'Ivoire did a Strategic Field Review that now exhibits clearly the guidance of God concerning several major emphases.
4. A growing prayer movement across Africa. The Alliance church of Côte d'Ivoire will hold a college of prayer this month and Fred Hartley will come to Mali this month to help in two prayer summits.
5. Our new missionaries in French language study: the Larry Wolters in Ouagadougou, the Dan Nesselroades in Belgium, the Jim Derksens and the Chad Clasons in Albertville and the Thom McMurrays as they need to be granted visas so that they can study in Albertville. Jim and Becky Derksen just welcomed a baby girl named Hannah Marie, born January 5th at 8:10pm and weighing 6lbs. 6oz.
6. Missionaries on home assignment as they begin their spring tours and start reorienting to returning to Africa.
7. Financial giving to the Great Commission Fund continues to be lower than budget.

We would also ask that you pray for the following requests:

1. That God might richly speak His desires in the Africa field directors' conference January 11-16. A key result from this conference could be closer and more intentional missionary advances to unreached people groups in collaboration with the Africa - Alliance World Fellowship. Its regional president, Isaac Keita, will be the conference's daily devotional speaker.
2. The transition of the Africa regional office from Abidjan to Dakar and closing out our homes. The brunt of this work will fall on Stan & Jaynee Walker and Marcia.
3. Marcia and I leave Chicago Saturday, January 8, for a tour to Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, (Chris - Ethiopia), Congo, Gabon, Belgium and France. We'll return to the States February 14.
4. God's direction and leadership in an exploratory trip that Dave Kennedy and I will be making to Ethiopia January 20 through 26.

We praise God for the many special works that He has done. We are especially grateful for His not only protecting and enabling all our Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire missionaries to safely evacuate, but in also providing each of them at least temporary venues and ministries. We serve a glorious God!!!

Special thanks to Pete Brokopp and others on the Burkina team for securing the Air Burkina plane that flew the Abidjan missionaries to Dakar and to David and Laura Belle Isle and the Dakar team for such a wonderful welcome!

In His love,

Chris for the Africa regional office team

Chris & Marcia Braun and Stan & Jaynee Walker