



AFRICA NEWSLETTER - MAY 2006

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Greetings,

Sunday afternoon our daughter Alicia graduates from college. A number of Africa Alliance MKs will be graduating from colleges or high schools these days and we express our congratulations to them as a group. We also thank the Alliance for its substantial contributions to the education of our MKs.

The Alliance helps its missionaries and their ministries in innumerable ways. Due to the difficult living conditions and challenging ministry situations missionaries experience on this continent these acts are very appreciated by the Alliance missionary team in Africa.

Africa is a place for strong people and people who have a strong God. In the United Nation's 2005 Human Development Index of most livable and least livable nations, the twenty least livable nations of the world were all African nations, several in which our teams minister. In a study soon to be published by doctors Karen Carr and Frauke Schaefer, a survey was completed by 206 missionaries in West Africa and 50 in Europe. Of the missionaries in West Africa, 92% of the male and 85% of the female missionaries reported traumas in their lives.

These past months several people have visited Africa who represent different ways that the Alliance upholds its missionaries. We will now highlight some of them and what they represent to Africa's Alliance team.

Dr. and Mrs. Gary Benedict, the first couple of the U.S. Alliance, came and participated in the dedication of the new baby clinic in Koutiala, Mali, ministered to the Burkina missionary team and celebrated in Côte d'Ivoire the 75th anniversary of that sister Alliance church. As president of the U.S. Alliance Gary provides leadership to a community dedicated to the fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world.

Accompanying the Benedicts were **Dr. and Mrs. Robert Fetherlin**. As vice president of international ministries of the U.S. Alliance Bob conceptualizes what the Alliance can better do to share Jesus among peoples who are yet unreached and casts vision and encourages strategic initiatives that enable this to become reality.

The **Doug Swinburnes** and **Tim Stephenson**s also accompanied the Benedicts. Doug leads the Central Pacific district of the Alliance. District superintendents are key gate keepers to their districts involvement in missions. Tim has played a huge role in raising funds for the Koutiala Baby Hospital as he communicates with donors about ways that they can contribute to initiatives that will advance God's Kingdom.

Ralph Trainer and **Tom Orme** traveled to Senegal, Guinea, Mali and Burkina Faso. These men focus on enabling partnerships between churches and districts in the U.S. with mission fields. Ralph is also working out details for Africa Together 2007, a must attend event that will take place next January in Senegal for people interested in Alliance missions in Africa.

Charlotte Stemple and a team of nurses came from the Central District to help in different countries. The **David Haywards** made their 15th African trip and the **Kent Boothmans** now actually live in Guinea half time helping lead CAMA Services for that country. Alliance women and short term teams contribute in innumerable ways in actual on-site ministries as well as in financial projects.

God is using **Fred Hartley** to minister His grace prophetically both to Alliance missionaries as well as to the Alliance churches of Africa. He and one team were conduits of revival in the two Congos in January and then another team joined Fred in ministering in Mali and Burkina Faso this April.

The Alliance video team consisting of **Deb Dennis**, **Beryl Glass** and **Joshua Whiteman** traveled to Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and Guinea capturing stories that are now being featured in different Alliance media venues.

Diane Fox works with the Alliance's department of International Accounting. She came to Senegal and participated in a workshop for the bookkeepers of the different Alliance fields in Africa. Her insights helped bookkeepers as the Alliance changes its bookkeeping system around the world.

Last, but not least, is **David Kennedy**. David is an assistant vice president of International Ministries and contributed to the Guinea Strategic Field Review. His experience and knowledge serve as a rich resource for decision making in the world of Alliance missions.

God has provided a host of people who work in many ways to facilitate the advance of the Gospel around the world. We thank the people mentioned above and the many others that they represent for their ministries that are making it possible for God's grace to be better experienced in Africa. We also thank the tens of thousands of Alliance folk who selflessly give so that these ministries can function. To be part of a denomination that has missions as a core ingredient of its DNA is a heritage that significantly enriches the Alliance missionary movement.

Gratefully,

Chris Braun