

# Africa Regional Newsletter

of The Christian & Missionary Alliance

## Focus on Mali

### Population

11.7 million

### Population annual growth rate

2.4%

### Urban population

32%

### Major ethnic and linguistic groups

Mande, Bambara, Malinke, Sarakole, Peul, Votaic, Songhai, Tuareg and Moor.

### Languages

French (official), Bambara and Senufo.

### Religion

Muslim 90%, Christian 1%, indigenous beliefs 9%

### Life expectancy (at birth)

40.9 years

### Percentage popula- tion with access to safe drinking water

51%

### Adult literacy rate

19%

Source: Care International

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March 2007

## Despite shortfall, exciting things happening in Africa...

Greetings,

Thursday evening Bob Fetherlin told the Senegal Alliance team that the Great Commission Fund could end up \$800,000 short of budget. He stated that for the next three months Alliance missionaries will take a seven percent allowance cut and that headquarters personnel a ten percent cut and cited a number of decisions that have been placed into effect to try to alleviate this shortfall.

I was amazed as the team calmly digested this news and then prayed for the situation and for their colleagues at the national office. I realized that for Africa's Alliance missionaries this news is only part of the story. They see God so much at work that they rejoice at His grace and power despite such setbacks. Though they are not inattentive to financial trends, they know that God will provide because He is gloriously doing so.

Whereas they would love to see the present challenge met, they have glorious blessings to delight upon. Here are some of the things they see God doing:

◆ He has brought a peaceful transition to Guinea in what looked like a bleak and unending scenario. Missionaries are ministering in Guinea and their children flew in from Dakar Academy to enjoy Spring Break with them.

◆ God worked gloriously during the January Africa Together '007 event and partnerships are developing from the work accomplished during those weeks.

◆ Short-term teams are ministering in each of the nations in which the Alliance ministers. Senegal has been blessed these days by a team of 22 young adults from Ellensburg, Washington, who taught English in a secular private university whose student body is Muslim.

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## Missionary highlights...

The Alliance in Africa is blessed by tremendous missionaries. Several will soon transition from their ministries and should be honored.

◆ Rollo and Joan Royle returned to Burkina Faso in 2005 to witness of God's grace in the Fo area. Many people believed Rollo had died when he was evacuated earlier because of a deadly disease. The

Royles' testimony of God's power and love for these people has been a conduit to Christ for several. Royles will be greatly missed by the church as they return to the States this summer for retirement from full-time ministry in Burkina.

◆ Joel and Elin Bubna are completing a two-year ministry of directing the growing Mali field. Because of health

concerns they do not foresee returning to Mali. Their impact on the field has been significant and the Africa region looks forward to their return to the continent following home assignment.

◆ Keith and Krista Ellenberger served as dorm parents for middle school boys at Dakar Academy this past term.

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## PRAYER REQUESTS...

God is a mighty God. As we rejoice over His goodness we also come to Him in prayer and ask that you might pray with us for the following requests:

- ◆ He will enable the meeting of the financial deficit that the Alliance is experiencing.
- ◆ God's protection and enablement for missionaries who are preparing to return to the States for home assignment.
- ◆ God's preparation of new leaders for Congo and Senegal. Kevin McCabe will serve as the field director of the Congo field and Dave Bill as the assistant field director. They will build on the excellent leadership foundation provided by Ron Julian and Jay Bellamy. Doug Conkle will become the first field director of the expanded Senegal field and will be helped by Craig Hanscome. Steve Nehlsen and Larry Burg were

resoundingly affirmed by their colleagues to continue to provide Burkina Faso leadership for the coming year.

- ◆ Alliance 2007 seniors as they end their high school career and plan to attend college in the States.
- ◆ New missionaries learning French in France as they approach major exams and then several will depart for their country of ministry.

One reason that Africa's Alliance missionaries have greatly experienced God's enablement and provision is because of faithful prayer warriors in the States. Thank you for ministering for us and with us.

Sincerely,

*Chris Braun*

## Despite shortfall... from page 1

- ◆ Gabon's church grows in passion to reach the lost. It is committed to planting 250 churches by 2010. It sent its first foreign missionary to serve in Cameroon.
- ◆ The young leadership of Congo's Alliance church grows in spirituality and responsibility as they apply truths learned in seminars, Colleges of Prayer, and mentoring relationships with pastors and missionaries.
- ◆ Several resistant villages in Burkina Faso have become open to the Gospel and Alliance pastors and missionaries are proclaiming Christ in them.
- ◆ The Koutiala Hospital in Mali is ministering with the quality personnel God is providing and

rejoices in anticipation of the contributions of Terry Newman, Jessica Schaeffer, Ed and Andrea Bonvillain, Brett and Sheri McLean as well as of Bob and Becky Braafhart.

- ◆ Dakar Academy had a ministry outing in which more than 100 students and adults shared Christ's love in Muslim villages through drama, soccer, children's lessons, interacting in schools, and helping build a church facility by laying its foundation, constructing 1600 bricks and making 20 benches. Eight Muslims called upon Jesus to be their savior and lord.

**Africa Regional Office  
BP 50.600  
Dakar, Senegal**

## Missionary highlights... from page 1

They now return to the States for home assignment and because of a decreasing number of boarding students the Alliance is phasing out this dorm. The Ellenbergers can be involved in a variety of ministries and we would happily welcome them back to Africa.

- ◆ Todd and Terri Althaus served in a variety of ministries in Gabon. They will transfer to France this summer. Their godly orientation and fruitful ministries will be missed in Gabon and should contribute richly to the church in France.

- ◆ Matt and Cindy Cook evacuated out of Côte d'Ivoire and Matt has been teaching as a commuting professor from Dakar to the West Africa Alliance Theologi-

cal Seminary in Abidjan. Our dream is that when they finish their home assignment as missionaries in residence at the Alliance Theological Seminary in Nyack that they will be able to minister full-time in Abidjan.

- ◆ Though technically not Africa missionaries, Dave and Margot Kennedy are deeply loved across the Alliance in Africa. As Assistant to the Vice-President of International Ministries among Dave's major responsibilities has been caring for Africa. He has done that magnificently. He will transfer from this position this summer to serve as the field director of France.

