Prayer Points

- Pray as our brothers and sisters speak of God’s gift of salvation in a way that will be clear to their own people. May these unreached groups have their eyes opened to the truth of His Word.
- Church planters report an increase in the desire and the participation of new believers in Bible studies and discipleship efforts. As they grow in the knowledge of God’s Word it impacts their way of life in other areas. Pray for these new believers that they will become quickly grounded in the Word of God.
- Pray for the house churches that are forming in villages where idols are worshipped. Pray that God will release the stronghold of the enemy in these villages.

No Respect for Inconvenience

In our world of modern conveniences and access to the gospel, it’s easy to forget about our brothers and sisters taking the gospel into some of the most challenging and hostile areas in the world.

In a recent report, one of our field leaders in Nigeria recounts his journey as he traveled from village to village in an effort to engage the Dendi people.

James reports, “The first people group I visited was the Dendi. I did not make it in one day and so I had to sleep over to continue the second day. I eventually got to the coordinating missionary on Saturday and on Sunday, embarked upon another journey. In an attempt to shorten the journey of eight hours to four, we had to travel by motorcycle, which was carried at a point by canoe to cross the river (River Niger). In the course of moving in the forest after crossing, we had a flat tire and resulted in pushing the motorcycle for about forty-five minutes to a nearby village.

continued
FOCUS ON
Nigeria

The current population of Nigeria is approximately 187 million inhabitants. The Joshua Project, a website dedicated to tracking the status of evangelization around the world, lists 538 distinct people groups within Nigeria’s borders. Of these 538 people groups, 120 are considered unreached (less than 2% believers) by the Global Research Department of the International Mission Board (IMB). Finishing the Task, a ministry that receives reports from multiple mission organizations around the world, currently identifies 33 of these unreached peoples as unengaged, meaning no intentional, active church planting among them. Reach the Rest intends to see all of these people groups engaged (active church planting) within the next three to five years.

Inconvenience continued

The challenges and stress encountered on the road were no longer remembered when I eventually got to our destination (village). I saw one of the king’s sons of that community as one of those who surrendered to Christ as Lord with four other people. Indeed to me it was a great thing because it has given the Gospel access to the palace and the entire community.

With two chartered motorcycles, James and local pastors visit house churches in surrounding villages. Indigenous believers lead each congregation. Though there is no Scriptures available in the Dendi language, believers use the Bible translated in the Sabarumo language. It is very encouraging to see these new churches growing and embracing the Gospel.

Embracing new belief brings many challenges in everyday life and relationships. One of the new believers requested that the men visiting would pray with him because he was very ill. They prayed over him and encouraged him to never allow his sickness to cause him to go to the local witchdoctors or healers.

James asks, “Please we will also need prayers on for these people groups that God will grant us access into these communities with every wisdom required. They are known to be very opposing to the gospel and their violent nature against the gospel has contributed to them being unreached. But by the grace of God, Reach the Rest and partnering churches will raise disciples among the Dendi to the glory of God.”

Prayer Points continued

• Pray for the work with Islamic religious leaders. To reach the Muslim community, national believers are impressed by God to take the truth to the imams and influence the community from the top down. They disciple new converts and then send them out armed with the truth of Jesus Christ. Even under persistent persecution, they have learned to love the Muslim, whom they understand is sincerely wrong and unknowingly deceived.

• Pray for the Boko Haram, the terrorist group seeking to create an Islamic state in the northern part of Nigeria. It is believed this group is responsible for more than 17,000 deaths since 2009 – including thousands of Christians. This group is greatly deceived by Satan and in desperate need of God’s truth. Praise God He is sovereign and desires that even the Boko Haram hear the Gospel.