

Is Jesus Calling You to Fulfill the Great Commission?

As a first time traveler to Senegal, I am very grateful to the early CPC Short Term Missionaries who paved the way for our annual mission trips and established strong relationships with the Christian community of Senegal. Through these relationships, we can help them spread the Good News of the Gospel among the people of Senegal who do not yet know our God.

The most important thing we can share is Jesus' amazing love for all of God's children, regardless of where they are located. Through the efforts of Columbia, we are taking part in sharing God's love and doing our part in fulfilling the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore and reach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Ghost." (KJV: Mathew 28:19).

I came to the United States from Ghana and although I came from Africa, this was my first time in Senegal. So, I was a bit nervous to embark on this journey. The trip leader, our good Senegalese friend, Leopold, and other team members made it easy for me and were in every way helpful and amazing. They ensured the safety and comfort of our team and even nursed me back to health when I fell ill. The team never missed the opportunity to spread Christ's love. They exhibited the words of the Hymn "They will know we are Christians by our love." As a short term missionary for the first time in a cross-cultural setting, this trip allowed me to appreciate other African cultures while demonstrating God's love to those I met.

While in Senegal, I saw firsthand a sad practice where young boys are sent from their homes to live under the care of Muslim marabouts to learn the Koran. They are required to beg for everything they receive - even food and water. Anything of value that they are given must be turned over to the marabout. While they may sleep in the marabout's compound, they spend their days begging on the streets in filthy conditions. One of our partners in St Louis, the Falls, have established a ministry specifically for these boys. Periodically, the boys come to the Fall's ministry center, receive showers, have their clothes washed and are allowed time to play and have a good meal. They are also exposed to Bible Stories. During our visit, the story of David and Goliath was shared with them. A missionary there told us that the boys could relate to the story easily because most of them came from families of shepherds and herders.

Through the work of the Falls and other missionaries in Senegal, combined with our prayers, our loving and compassionate Father can turn this situation around.

This trip emphasized to me again that if God is calling you to share the message of hope and grace by showing his love to others, there is a place for you in his work. It may even be in Senegal.

