

RESPONSE TO CONVERSION

In Southeastern Nigeria, conversions in most cases bring joy to families. People with a church background are happy for loved ones who become saved. In the Gambia, it is the other way round. Conversion brings sorrow to family members, who feel it is a disgrace or even a betrayal for someone to convert. Converts are driven away or even disowned for such “shameful acts.”

While working in Nigeria, I (Bernard) once had one convert from a Muslim background, whom I harbored after he was driven out of his family home. To God’s Glory this young man attended a Bible School and today he is a Missionary Pastor .

But in the Gambia, such persecution is a common occurrence. The Great Commission Movement of The Gambia is seeking to address this CRITICAL problem through a discipleship center where many of such people will be housed and cared for until they can stand on their own.

The differences in ministry sites, if anything, give us greater reason to trust God. In taking over any land for the gospel , whether Nigeria, The Gambia or anywhere, there has always been this common factor—FAITH. There are many examples in the scriptures where God displays this truth: that though He can do all things according to His will, yet many times He chooses to act in response to faith.

Take for instance the journey to and possession of the promised land. At a time, under God’s command 12 men who were tribal leaders (Numbers 13), were sent out to explore the land of Canaan. 10 out of the 12 saw through the goggles of flesh. All they saw and believed were reasons why Canaan was an impossible task. But the other 2 men—Joshua and Caleb, chose to see differently, with the goggles of faith. They believed in the God of Impossibilities. God who did it in the past is able to do it again! The two inherited the land! Much later, during the allocation of lands, Caleb by faith, (despite age) requested for a yet- to- be conquered part. It was a tough portion of the land - the mountain of giants. (Joshua 14: 6-15) He got it!

Dear Partner, we are glad we are taking this journey of faith together with you! Together we believe that our God is taller and tougher than all giants put together. Together we are able to take the Gambia. Together, by faith we have the victory in the Name of Jesus.

Serving With You,

Bernard for the Ugwuokes



Responding to altar call in Eastern Nigeria

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- ◆ Praise God we are 81% of our support goal. We believe we will return to Africa in July.
- ◆ Praise God for our health—our Joshua is now 21 pounds (9.5 kg) at 5 mos and Pleasant-Hope is talking/ “reading” up a storm at 2 1/2 years.
- ◆ A Discipleship conference was held in the Gambia during the 3rd week of June... pray that participants will put what they learned into practice.
- ◆ Continue praying for our love for the land and people of The Gambia to deepen.