

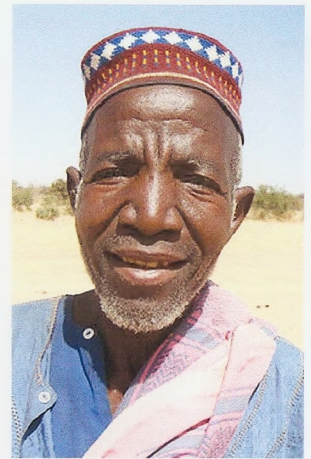


# Whirlwind Missions

## Outreach Update

### March 2007

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Hello, my friends!

The last two weeks have been incredibly difficult. The president of our board, Dr. Carl Barrington, his wife Pat and her partner Dianne Sheintal and I went to Niger, W. Africa—officially the “world’s poorest country.” As my Daddy would say, “that was 5 miles past the Great Commission!” I grew up in Kenya, one of the most beautiful places on Earth. Diatiandou was nothing like that!

With no running water, no electricity and temperatures soaring near 110 degrees I found myself shaking my head and saying, “What am I doing here?” On the way to the village where we stayed we talked about the isolation of our surroundings. “If you get bit by a snake, that’s a problem. There is no anti-venom in Niger and planes leave the country only twice a week.” My eyebrows raised with that. Kenya has LOTS of snakes. In fact I used to work in the Snake Park in Nairobi and have a lot of experience with Puff Adders, Spitting Cobras and Black Mambas. The idea of no escape gave me the fear.

We arrived in the village with the sun beating down and dust swirling in the air. Everything looked some shade of tan. The dirt, the buildings, the sky, everything. This was nothing like the Africa I remembered. And yet there were similarities: the people! The Fulani are one of the 3,000 unreached people groups, being almost 100% Muslim. Their easy way of smiling, their generosity and ability to endure extremely harsh environments made me admire them.

The Lord led me to focus on one man in particular. His name is Isah. That means “Jesus” in Fulfulide—the Fulani language. Isah was able to speak some French, so I was able to talk to him without having someone translate. Over the next few days, I shared with him the stories of Jesus in particular the Prodigal Son. I mentioned how the Father was waiting for the son and was looking for him a long way off. I reminded him of the son’s very difficult living conditions and how fragile life was in this village. In fact, the first two days in Diatiandou we saw two babies die and one ten year old. There is about an 80% mortality rate in that area. Death is a constant reminder. I told him, “Isah, we have no guarantee what might happen tomorrow. You need to be serious about your relationship with Jesus.” He nodded thoughtfully.

The next day, after we’d gone to another village to share Bible stories, Isah called me aside. He told me in French, “I want to pray to Jesus.” I asked him what about. “I want to ask Jesus to come into my life.” I was astonished! I work with Muslims regularly in Atlanta. It’s rare that an adult wants to convert! What an answer to prayer! We knelt together in the camp and in my bad French led him in the sinner’s prayer. He opened his eyes a changed man! The rest of the trip he was constantly by my side, holding my hand and smiling. YOUR prayers made the difference in his life! Thanks for supporting our team in NIGER!



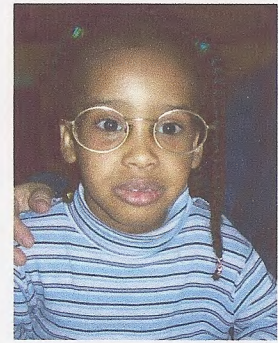


Take the Church, To AFRICA!



# Whirlwind Missions

March 2007



Hello Everyone! I had a lot of fun this past week! I spoke to a youth group at First United Methodist Church of Roswell. It was my first mission fair where I was the lead missionary for our team.. My Dad was in West Africa during the conference and I told him I'd be glad to fill in. What an experience it was! I'd always thought that it would be really hard for me to talk to people my own age. I felt like they'd judge me or think I was a "goody two shoes." I had planned my whole speech thinking I would be talking to adults. I was going to ask questions about their kids and incorporate that into my lesson, but now what was I going to do?! These were my peers--not grown ups! As we sang the praise songs, I started getting nervous. I was about to go up in front with sixty pairs of eyes looking..judging. Sitting in the chair in the carpeted gym I prayed for God to help me relax and let His words come out from me and touch the lives of these young people..

They announced my name. I took a deep breath, stood up and calmness swept over me. I was full of energy and excited! I told them about my ministry and how I do what I do. I told them how satisfied I am now and how if they get involved they'll feel such a huge change wash over them. It's a feeling like nothing else. By the end of the presentation I felt so empowered. I truly felt God that day. This is so amazing to really feel that God's behind you. Please pray that God will continue to guide me and help me lead people to Jesus!



Yesterday as I was driving to work fire engines and cop cars raced past me. As I turned the corner, I saw a black cloud rising above the tree line. It made me think of the evil that is surrounding my little village: Spring Chase. I know we have made such a difference. My partner Mr. Marc told me that a Muslim lady who is home schooling her children came into the mission today. When Marc extended his hand to greet her she recoiled in disgust. "No!" she replied. "In my culture women do not touch the hands of the opposite sex!" she then turned to leave with her child. Mr. Marc then told me he hadn't meant to offend her it's just that the other Muslims mothers we work with will shake his hand! The mothers are really opening up to us and shedding some of their "rules". Keep up the great praying! More great things are going to happen!

Whirlwind Missions has made it even easier to support our work! Make checks payable to the North American Mission Board.designated to account 5993/ Ashley \$ \_\_\_\_\_.The total amount will be sent to Whirlwind Missions, but our treasurer will make a note of the portion designated for my ministry at Springchase.

Thank you so much! We can't do this without your help!

*Ashley*

