

Eby Ministry Moments

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Ministering together as a Family



Greetings from the sunny shores of Senegal! As we celebrate this Easter Season we are reminded of all the things to be thankful for. The first words to Jesus disciples after his resurrection were "Peace be unto you!" We celebrate that peace today in Senegal and praise God that we have come through the elections in this country in peace.

Our family had the chance this month to travel to the village of Badd with our youth from the Dakar Church of the Nazarene. We spent the weekend together ministering to the people in the village and building stronger relationships with our teens. It was spring break for our kids so Michelle, Amber, and Jonathan came with me to do ministry.

Jonathan, Amber, and two friends from DA, Kent and Joel helped with the work projects

we had planned for the weekend. We were able to dig a well on the church property, and do some more work on the training center. The kids participated in the worship and games with the community and Michelle shared a time of teaching with the women. On Sunday morning Michelle led the children in the bible stories about Christ resurrection.

It was a great weekend of being with our friends in ministry and to also be together as a family. I am so glad that God continues to work in the church here in Senegal and we are seeing a spirit of revival sweep among our people. We have seen that the well project started in January to open new doors to new villages has been met with success and new hope.

Communities are asking us to

come help find access to water in their villages. The Church of the Nazarene has been welcomed with open arms as we not only preach and teach the Word but also minister to the physical needs of the people. We pray that God will continue to use this means and others as we try and share the good news about our risen Savior.

I hope the short story below of my trip into the villages in Senegal with Hydromissions will encourage you today and help you celebrate with us the new things that God is doing here in Senegal. New opportunities to reach more souls for Christ! To find out more about our ministry please go to our website www.awfcon.org to read more stories and to see what God is doing all across West Africa.



Senegal Ministry – Sweet Water!



The sun was glistening off the dusty sand. The 100 deg temp was evident by the heat waves rising from the earth and wafting towards the dry branches of the Baobab trees. From the village came a line of young girls and women braving the mid-day sun on their way to a distant well. Their empty pails balanced on their heads and in each hand a plastic jerry can. The daily exercise takes a couple hours as they carry water from the distant well to their homes.

Imagine if every drop of water you drink, wash your hands, your clothes, and your body has to be carried 5 gallons

at a time from a source almost one mile away. How would that affect your every day life? In the small village of Gnonéne in the country of Senegal, this is part of life's daily struggles. Into this village, pastor Jean Benoit with the Church of the Nazarene made contacts with a man of peace that opened the door to ministry.

Months of visiting and sharing the Word of God brought about the first believers trusting that Jesus was the way, the truth, and the life. The church continued to grow and God has been raising up new leaders. However, the pastor

could see that the community desperately needed a better water source. Many wells have been dug in areas around the village but all have found poor water that is tainted by a strong salty taste. The closest place to find drinkable water is the next village almost a mile away. Even that well has slightly salty water and requires pulling the water up by hand with a rope and bucket system.

The day we arrived with the Hydromissions drilling system was a day filled with new hope for this village. Our team of local leaders walked a short distance from the small huts,





Digging Wells - Opening Doors in Senegal



FRAMING THE FUTURE
FOR WEST AFRICA



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protected from the heat by trees and fenced with reeds, to an open field. At a low point in the open plains the local village leaders pointed to the ground and said, "This is the place for our well." The heat was already parching my lips and the dry air and dust made me want to take another long drink from my cold water bottle. Imagine if I had to walk a mile to get a drink?

We agreed and put all efforts into using the bit and auger to dig about a six-inch hole in the ground as deep as we could go. The first 15 feet went quick after piercing the hard crusted surface. We started into layers of clay, pebbles, and then bigger rocks. As the team turned the manual auger system turn by turn, we met challenges and overcame them. Each time lifting only a handful of dirt, but by adding one 3-foot extension after another we finally reached a depth of 33 feet. We hit water at about 20 feet so we knew our well had plenty of water flow and a good refill rate.

The PVC casing was inserted, gravel securing it, and then the pump tube and piston was lowered into the new well. We mounted the iron mechanical handle to our new system and began to pump. To everyone's delight brown murky water bubbled to the surface. It was as if we had hit oil. The young boys and children

pressed in all around me, shoving each other in order to be the first to reach between my legs and run their hands through the new water from the well. The parched earth around the spout drank in every drop. After purging the system several times and working out mechanical linkage problems we were able to draw good fresh water filling a jerry can in less than a minute.

There were shouts of joy, hand shakes to convey a message of congratulations, and a jubilant celebration of what had been a full day of work. "The water is sweet!" one person said after the other. Jerry cans were already lining up, and the line of women and children from the village was already forming as good news traveled fast.

How good is our God to take us exactly to the place where we would find sweet water. The whole village would now benefit from this well. Goat and sheep herders pumping water for their animals, mothers preparing water for their children's baths and for washing clothes, children who normally conserve every drop of water, now freely splashing water over their heads from the endless resource spouting from the ground. The men tasted and approved, thanking God for the new source of water for their families.

New hope! New life! New beginnings! We praise God for groups like Hydromissions who have provided effective

tools, using local materials, and training local leaders to continue the work. With this simple plan, a well can be installed including the pump up to 60 feet deep for around \$200 USD. God will continue to use this tool in Senegal to open doors to communities that have not heard the good news about the Living water of Christ. We pray that God blesses the efforts of our young leaders and "makes a way in the desert where there seems to be no way."

In May 2012 a team from Alabama is bringing a team to deliver Jesus Film Equipment that fits in a backpack. Using batteries recharged by the solar system this unit can be used to show the story of Christ in every village in this region. The team also raised funds for a 3-wheel motorcycle that can maneuver in the sandy trails to these villages. This new motorcycle will not only show the film but also carry the drilling equipment to new sites where wells are needed.

Praise God for all that He has done!

John 4:13-14, Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." NIV

SPECIAL FUNDS FOR "THE WORK OF TIM AND MICHELLE EBY" SHOULD BE WRITTEN OUT TO THE "GENERAL TREASURER" AND MAILED TO:

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