

The *EQUIPPER*

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REPORT FROM SENEGAL – LIVES IMPACTED

Dr. Gary Becker

It is always interesting to lead a mission team and see how God impacts peoples' lives. Those on my team to Senegal had life changing experiences. Some had never been outside the United States.

There is a great impact in seeing a culture that is so different from anything you can imagine. Senegal is a country that shocks you with its cultural and social needs. The shock began for some when we stepped off the plane in Dakar and saw an airport that did not look like any airport people had seen before. Leaving the airport we were riding on dirt roads with minutes. Stopping to buy bread for the day at a "bakery" with dirt floors and wood-fired brick ovens was just the beginning of experiencing a culture that goes back centuries.

Traveling out to the tribal areas and observing people living in straw huts deepened the sense that this country had physical needs like some from the team had never known. The standard of living carries no similarities to the U.S.

The greatest need is not the physical or social needs. This is a nation with less than three percent of the population having any significant understanding of the Gospel. Ninety-five percent of the population is committed Muslims and/or animists. The spiritual needs are far greater than any of the physical needs.

It was my privilege to minister and to get a first hand understanding of the impact of the Gospel in Senegal. Leading the WorldVenture mission team conference was an honor and humbling experience. Meeting the team and seeing the diversity of ministries the purpose was clear, "Transformed lives through Powerful Partnerships." Teaching in the



Darl & Jill Powell (WorldVenture Missionaries), Gary Becker, and Pastor and Mrs. Saar (Pastor at the Theis Baptist Church)

"Institute Theological Evangelical of Senegal" I was able to meet pastors from various parts of the country.

God is at work. Senegal is a rare Muslim country because it still allows freedom of religion. The open door for *WorldVenture* and other evangelical missions is beginning to see a movement that has the potential to impact all of North Africa. There have been a growing number of believers and churches. Senegalese pastors are being trained to impact Senegal and beyond.

The WorldVenture team in Senegal has a strategic plan to see Senegalese pastors and people trained to reach out to other countries in North Africa. This is what Jesus commissioned when He said, "*you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). Senegalese believers have a greater potential and are culturally better prepared to reach other African countries.

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The impact on myself and the team members goes far beyond seeing a unique cultural experience. A true missions experience should leave you with an understanding of the need in the world for a global impact of the Gospel.

Let me challenge you to consider asking the Lord to open up an opportunity for you take a short-term missions ministry. If you would like to consider joining me on my next missions ministry, let me know and watch for information in the next issues of the EQUIPPER.

Thank you for your prayers and support for the ministry in Senegal, a country where fields are "white for harvest!" *"And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life (John 4:35-36).*



The Mosque in Druobell, Senegal where thousands gather without the knowledge of God's love and saving grace.

Ministry Updates . . .

We continue a very busy schedule of consulting and leading churches through transition. The following list of current ministries will give you an idea of how God is using the ministry of BBM.

- One church is going through a very difficult time with major issues and needs for leadership development. This church is taking an exceptional amount of time in helping them first of all overcome past issues and then leading the church in pastoral transition. Pray for God to give me wisdom and for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of the people.
- Another church is going through a time of growth and needs to establish a long-term strategic plan. Praise God for what He is already doing and for the Holy Spirit to enable us to discover God's vision for the future of this church.
- I am also participating in a number of conferences as a Mobilizer for WorldVenture and sharing the ministry of BBM.
- Additionally I am coaching pastors and associate pastors.
- Pray for one of the pastors I have been coaching who has gone through an extremely difficult pastoral experience. He is now taking some time to recover and reconsider the Lord's leading.



Can We Help Your Church?

Some people think the only time the ministries of BBM are helpful is when your church is going through a crisis or difficult transition. Actually, many of our ministries are designed to help the local church develop its ongoing ministries and leadership. Some of our specific ministries designed for supporting the healthy church are:

- **The DIY Workshop** - Helping churches discover God's unique design of the church and develop a strategic plan for local and global impact.
- **The PLACE Workshop** - Helping people discover how God has designed them as individuals to fit into the right place of ministry.
- **3-D Leadership Workshops** - Helping leaders, board members, potential leaders, and church members understand the differing roles for biblically effective and functional ministry. This workshop helps pastors develop a leadership team that supports the pastor's leadership.
- **Movements in Culture Workshops** - Helping the members of the church understand the effect of change on the local church and the impact on their Christian life.

