

“We do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as bondservants for Jesus’ sake” (2 Cor. 4:5)

“You also joining in helping us through your prayers” (2 Cor. 1:11)

West African Mission Update

December 2007

By Jim Scott & Jim Baumgaertel for
Steve & Patricia Phillips

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Most of Steve’s publications, including *Workers Unashamed* (now including *phase 3*), can be read and/or downloaded by visiting the [Gospel for West Africa website](#), Then click on the [Publications tab](#), and select from the titles offered.  
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Dear Brethren,

We do not walk through this life alone. What a comfort to know that Jesus is with us. Our Lord is awesome in the working of His purposes in and through our lives. In the midst of trials, tragedies, and uncertainties our King can be trusted to act according to His will for our good and His glory. We two Jims witnessed this during our ten days in Sierra Leone with our beloved friends the Phillips.



Front: Patti, Steve, Back: Seth, Eben, Christianna, Stephen

In September a new president took office in Sierra Leone. By the grace of God there was minimal violence associated with the political campaigns (Recall Steve's account of the riot and shooting in the streets while he was in the internet café in Freetown). All was peaceful while we were in Sierra Leone. We can continue to pray for the leaders of that country as well as those of each of our respective countries.

Though the civil war in Sierra Leone ended in 2002, the effects on individuals will remain until our Lord Jesus returns. During this visit we met a former boy soldier, a former government soldier, and a double amputee victim of the rebels. We road in poda-podas (van taxis) whose drivers included former rebels.

We stayed in the house where the Phillips live on Brother Quintin's farm about one mile from the Temne village of Rotaprr (pronounced ro-CHEP-er). Quintin and Foday work very hard for the success of the farm. Gladys was our wonderful cook. We are most grateful for their hospitality in accommodating our stay.



The Living Area



Brother Quintin - Farmer

It was our blessing to see Sister Patti minister, almost everyday, to the women and children of the village. Patti would get out the medical kit and administer care to injuries. Mothers would bring their sick children and discuss with Patti what should be done. Patti made good use of the fire fighter and former emergency medical technician, Jim Scott, to join the discussions. Steve and Patti were generous in sharing food and providing rides in the truck to villagers who always seemed very grateful. Steve had spent the night before our arrival trying to find a medical facility open that would receive a village man with appendicitis-like symptoms.

How wonderful it was to watch all the Phillips in action. Daily some of the children of the village would visit the house. Stephen, Seth, Christianna (Channa), and Eben would speak to them in Krio or Temne and play with them throughout the day. Living with the Phillips is Temitope Adewole (Peters) from Nigeria. Peters became a very close friend to us. One evening we watched Peters and Stephan scrimmage with their football (soccer) team that represents Rotaprr in competition with other village teams.

We were invited three times to the Temne village of Rotaprr for dinner and discussion. The Phillips have a very involved relationship with the various leaders and individuals of the village. We met the Head Man of the village and many others. One of the elders, Andrew, speaks English, and he and his wife prepared dinner for us each time. Andrew caught the ingredients and prepared for us squirrel stew, monkey stew, and crab stew. His invitations were a testimony to his friendship with the Phillips and his interest in what it means to believe on the Lord Jesus

Christ. Pray for Andrew as he continues to ask Steve many questions.



Stephen, Jim Scott, Seth, Eben, Temitope Adewole (Peters), Christianna,

Our Lord has blessed Brother Steve with a ministry of devoting himself to faithful men who are capable of teaching others. We were in awe of how our Lord brings highly gifted, mature young men into co-worker relationships with Steve, and Steve encourages and helps them to grow as disciples

of Jesus. We two Jims spent hours with Peters hearing about what the Lord has done and about Peters' calling as a minister of the Gospel. Young brother Williams met us at the airport with Steve and Stephen. It was Williams who rescued us the night the truck broke down on the way out of Freetown after dark. His extended family took us in for the night. Williams is hoping to go to law school. Brother Emmanuel, who has suffered for righteousness' sake after exposing corruption, continues to be used of God in many ways. Emmanuel and his wife, Elisabeth, had us to their home in Freetown for lunch.

We were blessed to hear Steve teach the Bible several times, witness to the unsaved, and disciple believers. We took part in the Sunday meeting of the saints on the porch of the Phillips' home with the brethren and a number of people from the village. We sang many hymns and songs to the Lord Jesus, including the Krio chorus, "Tell God Tenke".

Steve and Patti, due to a number of circumstances, felt it was the timing of the Lord that the children return to America for the foreseeable future. So we escorted Stephan, Seth, Channa, and Eben back to the USA. Stephan is with Bob & Kelli Haines. Seth and Eben are with Carl & Lynette Mease. Channa is with Jim & Kimberly Baumgaertel.

There are many things that Steve and Patti continue to be devoted to in Sierra Leone because of their trusting and obeying Jesus and wanting to properly represent Him and the love He has put in their hearts for people. Pray for wisdom for when they can be reunited with their children.

We cannot express the wonder of it all: The adventure of being in a land so different from our own and, more importantly, the sovereign working of our Holy and Loving God among peoples of many tribes, tongues, and nations. We praise Him. We thank Him. The Phillips are forever grateful for your love, prayers, and participation in this work in West Africa.



Stephen, Eben, Jim Baumgaertel, Temitope Adewole (Peters), Seth, Christianna,

**Love,
Jim Scott & Jim Baumgaertel
on behalf of Steve and Patti**

Please visit <http://gospelforwestafrica.com> to see more of Jim Scott's photos

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