

“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

June 2007

Steve & Patricia Phillips

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 Most of Steve’s publications, including  
*Workers Unashamed*;  
 and  
*Black but Lovely: Thoughts on the Song of Songs*,  
 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,

Pa Kamara, mentioned in our [last update \(3/07\)](#), was found and taken to Freetown for treatment of his outgrowth. It was in the process of helping the father that it was discovered that his 30-year-old son was leprous.

What horrid images that dread disease evokes! In the days of biblical history it was a loathsome incurable malady. An internal disorder that manifests itself by outbreaks of the flesh, leprosy renders the sufferer as an unclean contagious outcast, from whose presence men fled. Its end is certain and grievous death.

How it so fitly describes sin and its progressive debilitation of the soul. Sin ravages the inner man undetected, until it reveals itself outwardly through ulcerating flesh. Truly erupting sin contaminates all it comes in contact with and there is no cure other than the manifold mercies of God.

An X-ray of the father revealed that the tumor had already invaded his lung. Since then, a similar growth is rapidly developing on his right foot. There is little – rather, nothing – that can be done to remedy his plight.

The son, however, is receiving treatment that has been proven effective to arrest leprous conditions when applied in its early stages.

Brother Williams administered the only proven solution to the leprosy of their hearts: He preached the gospel of the Lord Jesus to the father and son in their native Temne dialect. Twice since we have gone to visit their village where we preached to the inhabitants into the night. With brother Williams interpreting, they were most receptive with many sincere questions with answers provided from the Word of God that they had heretofore no knowledge of.

Pa Kamara gathered some seven of his relatives to his mud-walled enclosure in order for brother Williams to tell them the way of salvation. Heaven witnessed all professing to believe, and heaven knows surely how much they have truly grasped and received.

We thank the Lord that He has made it possible for brother Williams to record onto cassette tape in the Temne language nine pages of Scripture verses covering a comprehensive spectrum of what the Scriptures declare about God, Christ, the way of salvation, plus principles of godly living. They filled

two 60-minute tapes and we have been able to make 100 copies for distribution in the villages. Reports thus far are that many gather around to hear these messages in their own tongue.

We have also taken copies to a radio station that covers all of the north of Sierra Leone where the Temne speaking people reside. We have paid for air time that they may be played each Sunday afternoon.

In a region where literacy is less than 15 percent, we trust that this audio means of spreading the gospel might be most effective.

Progress continues on Phase 2 of *Workers Unashamed*, which I have been writing to assist gospel workers. Sections completed are The Spiritual Movements of the OT and their Significance for the Church; Christ in the Scriptures; OT Key Passages; and an apologetic on Islam, African Traditional Religion, Roman Catholicism, and Jehovah's Witnesses. Old and New Testament surveys are in progress.

Patti is currently assisting a woman to prepare for examinations to obtain her teaching credential and has many opportunities to speak to her about the things of God. She continues the daily labor of love in dispensing minor medical help to those who come with various complaints.

Even our children are becoming adept at treating wounds. This affords opportunities to speak to adults and children about the Lord Jesus Christ. Peters, as well, has taken advantage of these openings to relate the Word of life to these young hearts.

We are seeking to relocate to Bo, the second largest city in the country, in order to influence this area with the truth of God. Bo is the center of the south region, which is inhabited predominantly by the Mende people.

Brother Ngeba, who resides there, has proven to be a faithful brother whom we wish to disciple further and assist in the work of the gospel there. Also, the country of Liberia is fairly accessible from Bo and we are praying about reaching that land for the Lord Jesus.

Please pray that the Lord might arrange all details in His good time. We are currently without a vehicle as ours broke down when in Freetown and is requiring a major overhaul to repair it. Please remember all of these things in prayer that the Lord might direct us with wisdom to do His will in all things.

**Love,
Steve and Patti**

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