

Senegal Reflections
October 2012

This visit to Senegal brought joy, renewed relationships, gratitude, and a touch of sadness. And of course, the unexpected. We saw the hand of God in it all.



We (Roy Garms, Pastor Bob Erbig and Paul Wilford) arrived in Dakar on October 14. As always, we were met by our hosts, guides, and intrepid drivers Bill and Dianne Grudda. The streets of the city and countryside were full of sheep and goats being prepared for sacrifice on the annual Muslim feast of Tabaski. This was a vivid reminder that so many in Senegal do not yet know the true Lamb of God.

On the second day, we headed out to “our” village of Langomac along with members of the missions team from the Baptist Church in Thies (EEBT). It was great to see old friends, and we were greeted with joy. Things looked amazingly green. Most of the year, everything is brown and sandy. We were able to help a little bit with the harvesting of millet and peanuts, and managed to survive with all our fingers intact.



We had intended to hold a medical clinic in the village, and the EEBT team had even hired the doctors and nurses. At the last minute, however, a local official denied permission for the clinic, possibly because it was a Christian outreach. This was the sad part, because there were many sick people who had come from all over for the clinic. We ended up spending a couple of days with families in the village, explaining (through an interpreter) what had happened, praying with them, and just building relationships. God blessed this time richly and brought good out of the bad. We held two “tea debates” during which Pastor Saliou from EEBT led powerful discussions on the parables of the Prodigal Son and Wedding Feast. We also helped with a very popular kids’ camp, complete with drums, games and Bible stories. And the good news is that the EEBT team may be able to hold the medical clinic soon.



A highlight of the trip was the presentation of the mosquito nets that MBC kids raised money for during Summer Adventure. All the people of the Langomac turned out for this big event. The village chief, the pastor of the Langomac church and the MBC team all gave speeches, and the nets were delivered to the families, one net for each bed. So many people expressed gratitude. Malaria is a very real presence in the village, and many have suffered and even died. So this was a wonderful way to express the love of Jesus.



Our trip ended with some planning and debriefing, followed by a visit to Goree Island, a place where thousands of Africans were held captive before being carried to the West in slave ships. Please pray for the continued liberation from spiritual slavery of multitudes of Senegalese people.

Paul Wilford