



The Cain Chronicle

NEWS AND NOTES FROM NIGER

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Do Volunteers Make a Difference?

We've been blessed and encouraged to have a number of volunteers join us in Niger this year. They've walked and prayed alongside us, up and down city streets, through villages, and in many homes and courtyards. They've brought smiles to the faces of children, words of comfort to people who are suffering, and a message of hope to those who are lost. They've shared personal testimonies, taught, answered questions, and boldly shared the gospel, sometimes with strangers and sometimes with Zerma friends we've known for years. Through their words and actions, they've demonstrated what it means to be a follower of Christ. What a joy it will be for them to meet Zerma believers in heaven and to hear that they had a part, however small, in bringing them to the Savior.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

We're always mindful of the generous and sacrificial giving on the part of Southern Baptists that enables us to live and work here in Niger. But this time of year is especially meaningful as Southern Baptist churches across the U.S. demonstrate their commitment to missions through this annual offering. As you place that envelope in the offering plate this year, know that your gift will be used to directly support the work of over 5000 IMB missionaries around the world. Thank you for partnering with us in this way to reach the Zerma and other people groups around the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Lottie Moon was a Baptist missionary to China in the latter part of the 19th century. You can read about her legacy on the IMB Web site: www.imb.org).

They are precious in His sight...

If you pass down our street on a Wednesday afternoon or Saturday morning you will see a group of children sitting on a mat in the shade of an acacia tree. Not only sitting but listening attentively as Kimberly tells a Bible story using a flannel graph board. The colorful backgrounds and pictures along with the stories of Jesus hold the attention of both the kids and passers-by. Even the mothers of the children will often stop what they're doing to listen to Kimberly tell these amazing stories. Along with learning songs and playing games these kids have a great time—and really enjoy it when visiting volunteers participate too. The best thing of course, is that they are hearing words of truth and words of life that have the power to change their hearts and lives forever! As Kimberly shares here and in other places, pray that God would touch the heart of each and every child so that they may know Him.



An Encounter at the Market

Ali was sitting in the shade near his shop as I walked through the market one day. I saw that he was reading a copy of the Koran so after exchanging a few friendly greetings and making some small talk, I told him I'd seen some verses about Jesus in the Koran and asked if we could discuss them. He readily agreed and moved his bench into the shop so we could have a little more privacy. I asked him to read a passage from the third chapter and then I raised a few questions about what he thought it meant. These verses speak about Jesus being a "Word" from God, that He is the Messiah, that He was born of a virgin, that He performed miracles, that He is now in heaven, etc. My purpose was not to engage in debate or to lend credibility to the Koran, but to lift up Jesus before him and build a bridge that would lead him to the truth. As we talked about these passages, Ali raised objections common to

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Prayer Points

Pray for the Kids Clubs Kimberly is leading—that kids would continue to come, that they would give their hearts to Jesus, and that they would be able to influence their families to seek Him too.

Pray for the Zerma who have heard the gospel, understand it, and now need to make a decision whether or not they will follow Christ.

Pray for the spiritual growth of Zerma believers. Pray for our spiritual growth and nourishment too!

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many Muslims here--that God could not possibly have a "son," that our scriptures have been changed, that Jesus did not really die, and that Mohammed remains the last and greatest prophet. As proof of this last point he declared that even Jesus said a "helper" or "comforter" would come after Him (John 14:16). In response, I opened my Bible and read the passage to him, explaining briefly that Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit and the implications of that for Christians. As you might imagine, all of this is quite a lot to grasp in one sitting. Ali listened attentively and politely and agreed to further discussion about what the Bible teaches. I gave him a copy of the New Testament in French and Arabic and he asked me to come back in two weeks after he'd had some time to think about it. Ali is a "person of peace" of the type Jesus said to seek out when He sent his disciples into the cities and places he was planning to go. He's invited me back and seems willing to seek understanding of what the Bible teaches. Pray for these men and women of peace that we encounter and engage in the course of our ministry, that God will open their eyes to the truth of the Gospel.

News from Caroline . . .

I'll be turning thirteen yrs. old on Nov. 30th! I'm looking forward to being a teenager. This has been another year of change, one of the biggest is that we are no longer being homeschooled. Caleb and I are now attending school at Sahel Academy, here in Niamey. Most of the students who go there are missionary kids. Seventh grade is also a big change with lots of different classes—my favorite classes are English, History, and Science. There are 11 girls and 5 boys in my grade. Sahel Academy has a nice library so I've been reading lots of good books. They've even got a music program and I'm now taking piano lessons. Except for having to wear a brace for my back and getting braces on my teeth, it's been a really great year!

I turned seven this year and started second grade at Sahel Academy.

I really like my school. My favorite subjects so far are math, science, and library. In my class there are four boys and one girl and we are all good friends. I also have friends in our neighborhood that I like to play with but they go to a different school. Sometimes I help Mom hold the pictures when she teaches the kids clubs down the street. I was very sad when our dog Sarah died last spring but now he have a new dog. Her name is Sophie.

. . . and Caleb

Zerma Proverb

Hari go hari ra kañ manti kaaray wala baña.

There are things in the water that are neither crocodiles nor hippos.

See our Web site at www.zermateam.org.