

AUGUST 2016



VILLAGE TRIPS IN WEST AFRICA YIELD AMAZING RESULTS

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"
— Isaiah 43:9a

Our recent trips to Yalunka villages in West Africa were full of new beginnings this year! We encountered several new Christ followers, witnessed the building of a brand-new Yalunka church (the first!), and reached someone from a new people group. All this, plus our first efforts to implement the Simply the Story (STS) oral scripture translation method were highly successful. In fact, our meetings sometimes lasted until late in the night, and everyone who participated laughed, clapped, and shared with great joy.

In one village, after a STS teaching session, one young man who was visiting from another village rose up and declared that he wanted to follow Jesus right now! In another village, 12 believers have been meeting regularly to

pray and encourage each other. On this particular trip, one of these believers showed us a new hut he is in the process of building—for the sole purpose of giving the group a place to meet and pray. In reality, this is the first church among our Yalunka of Mali, and they built it completely on their own, with no urging or instruction from us!

Finally, we are thrilled to report that one of the new believers we encountered comes from a Jahanke village. The Jahanke are another unreached people group in Mali! If this weren't enough, our team continues to grow, thanks to support from the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso (EMCBF) that FEC helped plant nearly 40 years ago. God is doing new things in West Africa—indeed!



MARRIAGE RETREAT WEEKENDS OCTOBER 21-23 & NOVEMBER 4-6 | MIRACLE CAMP



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Not your average marriage retreat

If you haven't reserved your spot at one of two upcoming marriage retreat weekends at Miracle Camp and Retreat Center this fall, it's not too late! Slated for October 21–23 and November 4–6, 2016, this marriage retreat is unlike any other. Featured speakers Matt and Lanita Boyer bring more than just Godly, biblical teaching for couples; they come armed with decades of experience helping couples just like you discover renewed intimacy in their relationships. With honest, practical teaching sessions, optional individualized counseling, and great food and accommodations, this is one retreat you won't want to miss. And don't forget about all the activities at Miracle Camp. With everything from high adventure ropes courses and trap shooting to quiet strolls through the beautiful grounds, we offer plenty of space for you to make the weekend your own! Visit www.miraclecamp.com/marriage/ to reserve your spot today!



Welcome, Evermore Community Church!

May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say EVERMORE, "God is great!" — Psalm 70:4



FEC is pleased to welcome Evermore Community Church, Hartville, Ohio, to our fellowship! After choosing to leave another denomination in

2014, Evermore was actively looking to join a new group of like-minded believers. They found it in FEC. "We are very impressed with everything about FEC," says Ross Miller, senior pastor, "from their call to missions and desire to plant churches, to the administrative staff, and especially their stand on scripture." The feeling is mutual. In Evermore, FEC has found an active congregation with dynamic children's, youth, and college ministries, not to mention many thriving community outreaches. Whether they're feeding more than 400 teachers and staff in the local schools, staffing a young adult center on Saturday and Sunday evenings, or taking trips with over 60 senior citizens, Evermore is constantly finding ways to fulfill its mission to "love and lead all people to a life change through Christ Jesus."

You can learn more at www.evermorecc.org.

News from the Front

Meeting community needs in Missouri

FEC ministry in Missouri churches is as varied as the state itself. Whether our congregations are reaching out to long-established, rural communities or growing urban centers, FEC pastors share their heart to meet the needs around them. For rural churches in stable communities, such as Bethel Mennonite Church in Fortuna, Dave Zapf, pastor, ministry means developing deep and lasting personal relationships with their friends and neighbors. Others, like Harrisonville Community Church, are in the process of creating ministry environments that are safe, strategic, and significant for the next generation. According to Mark Goeglein, pastor, that means new systems, strategies, and facilities that not only make people feel welcome but also inspire disciples to love Jesus and love others. Bottom line: FEC churches are equipping their members to reach their community, whether those neighbors drive a horse and buggy or a four-wheel drive. For a complete listing of FEC Missouri churches, including links to their websites, visit fecministries.org/churches.

