



# "MIKE"

(NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED)

May 2021

Dear Friends,

It's time to tell you the whole story of our friend Mike. You've heard a few things about him, but just here and there. Let's put it all together so you have a better picture!

The story actually starts years before we ever met him, in fact even before he was born! When his mother was pregnant with him, his aunt came to see her. Mike's family all belonged to the Catholic Church; however this aunt was a Protestant. She told his mother that if this baby was a girl, she would be named for her, however if it was a boy, she would take the boy and raise it herself. (This is not uncommon in West African culture – relatives will often raise another family member.) Mike was born and taken to be raised by his aunt...in the Protestant Church. Were it not for that we probably would never have met Mike, for it was in Guéckédou, in 1995 or so when our boys first became friends with this young boy that lived in our neighborhood. They played together quite a bit during the 3 years we were there.



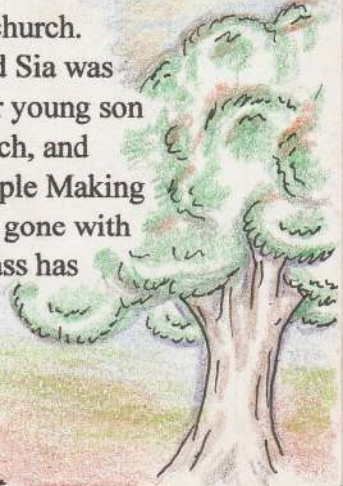
Mike eventually studied to become a teacher, and was eventually assigned to teach in Conakry. It was there that he became involved in the Hallelujah Church. They have continued to invest in him and his ministry. Later he ended up teaching here in Sigui. There aren't quite so many churches in this area, of course, so he aligned himself with a church out of Cote d'Ivoire. This was made up of all Forest people, where Mike was from. Things went pretty well for him ministry wise...maybe too well. From what we can tell, the pastor became jealous of Mike. He's a very personable guy and truly loves Jesus. His work was with the youth, and they really seemed to connect with him. They became a strong group, and soon the pastor began to work against him, even shutting down some of the programs he had started. Mike began to become discouraged.



At some point Mike heard that there was a "white man that had worked in Guéckédou" in town and decided to check it out. He showed up at our gate one day and it was a grand reunion. We talked about what we'd each been doing since the war in Guéckédou that sent us all scattering. Mike was now married to a beautiful young lady named Sia. He'd also started a small Kissi church (his mother language) in an outlying village, supported strongly by the Hallelujah Church he'd worked with in Conakry. But the struggle between himself and his pastor here had pretty much reached the point to where Mike didn't think he could work with this man anymore. He talked with Tim about the possibility of joining our church. Tim explained what it all would mean, and gave him a French copy of "Miraculous Movements", the book on which we have based our outreach in this area.



Mike and his wife went through training with Tim and soon were confirmed into the church. Through all this you might remember they faced some major trials when the first child Sia was carrying was lost during childbirth after the clinic continually sent her home, and their young son Zachary died of malaria at 6 months. Mike has continued working with the Kissi church, and finally he recently came to Tim and told him he was ready to learn to do DMM (Disciple Making Movement). They've gathered some people from the small Kissi church, and Tim has gone with Mike several times now to start them in Discovery Bible Studies (DBS). Once that class has





finished, we'll have another group of second generation leaders that will go out and start their own groups. This is especially exciting because they are people that work with Maninkas and speak Maninka fluently. They will do great with DMM! Recently Mike had a man here in town come up to him with a Bible in his hand. He said that he knows that this book is "guaranteed." ("Guaranteed" is a word used here for any product in the market that they know is better than all the others.) The man wanted Mike to tell him about this guaranteed book!



Marty continues to have people come to him for advice and information, which is an absolute miracle from God. He talks often about how in the past people used to just argue with him about "religion". These arguments always end up in the same place for all of us: "Well, you say that Jesus is the Son of God." That seems to be the end-all for everyone. Recently, however, instead of arguing with these people, Marty asks if they'd like to take a look at the Torah with him. He's had several really exciting experiences:



1. A couple of people now have come up and asked him for a Bible. One man even shared that he would have to keep this hidden because if his family found it, he would be in serious trouble.
2. One man came up to him and told him that he'd really like to hear about the creation of the world. He told Marty that when he saw him, he saw a light all around him, like he was glowing, so the man knows that he can help him. Tim had just given Marty the first 4 lessons in Maninka, including Creation, so he was all set to share!
3. Marty was approached by the headmaster of a very large 3-story school in his neighborhood. He felt pretty intimidated, but the man told him that he has a Bible and he needs help to understand it. Now he was even more frightened. "But you're a big leader in the mosque!" The man replied, "It's not illegal for us to look at a Bible!" OK then!
4. He's beginning to realize there are a lot of people here that either went to a Christian school or came in contact with Christians in another country they may have visited. Many of them are now coming to him to learn about the Bible.



At the beginning of this month, with the start of Ramadan, we asked you all to pray that God would reveal Himself to the people here as they pray. All these incidents have taken place in this last month...and the stories just keep coming! God is hearing and answering! It has been incredible to see these things happening, being always reminded that while we love the people here, God's love for them far surpasses anything that we can feel or express. It is His heart's desire that all those people we see day after day come to know the gift that Jesus has already paid for them. We remind ourselves of that over and over when we feel like we're messing up, or that we're not doing what we should. God shows us then, over and over, that it's so not about us or our abilities and plans. It's about a loving Father gently nudging His sheep into the safety of His pen. Continue to pray that many more will hear His voice, know Him, and follow Him only!



Global Lutheran Outreach  
6709 Ficus Dr.  
Miramar, FL 33023  
For the work of Tim and Beth Heiney

In Jesus,

*Tim + Beth*

Tim and beth >>

