

**THE SENEGAL ADVOCATE**  
Newsletter for the Senegal Mission Initiative  
July 2009

Dear friends of the Senegal Mission Initiative, a program of the General Board of Global Ministries: We send you greetings on behalf of the Senegal UMC. Thank you for your interest and care for our brothers and sisters in the land of Senegal.

This newsletter contains news and information of the following:

1. Announce Website, E-Mail, and Paul Messer's Blog
2. Senegal's Bad News Turning Glad
3. Annual Conference Visit Reflections
4. Inspirational Follow-up of Annual Conference
5. Senegal Life Story
6. Partnership Church Update
7. Giving Report
8. Consultant Information

1. Announce Website, E-Mail and Paul Messer's Blog

With the help of Laura, and borrowing heavily from Tom Board's website, I have been working on a new website for the Senegal Mission. Check it out at [www.senegalumc.com](http://www.senegalumc.com) for much more information about the Senegal Mission. I have also added a new e-mail address for this effort which may make more sense at [Senegal.tony@yahoo.com](mailto:Senegal.tony@yahoo.com)

Missionary Paul Messer has started his own Blog at <http://revpaulmessenger.wordpress.com> Read up to date musings about various happenings in Senegal.

2. Senegal's Bad News Turning Glad

April's bad news was that the mission truck was stolen. Missionary Paul Messer put out a call for help to replace the truck. As of June 23 the reports of Advance Special givings tell us that \$19,900 has come in for a replacement truck. Paul is hoping he can order a new one sometime this month of July. He needs up to \$30,000 to do so, so the plea is still there - SEND MONEY! Send your check to Advance #12594A with a note saying "Wheels for Senegal" Paul and Joseph say "Thanks!"

3. Annual Conference Visits

Consultant Tony Fuller had an information table at Northern Illinois and Wisconsin Annual Conferences. Table placements were far from the flow of the crowds at both events. But enough people stopped by that \$400 of jewelry from the Nord Foire UMW was sold. And a couple leads for new partnerships were developed.

The best news was that for the Illinois folk, a new band was added to their Rainbow Covenant - a white band. A partnership with the Senegal Mission Initiative would fulfill the requirements for that band. The hope is that some northern Illinois churches will select Senegal partnerships to add that white band to their Rainbows and

continue to be Rainbow Covenant churches. For more information contact Emmylou [john@yahoo.com](mailto:john@yahoo.com)

#### 4. Inspirational Follow-up of Annual Conference

A lay representative from a small town church stopped by my table. She bought a half dozen \$3 necklaces to take home and give away. She called me the week of July 6. She wanted to give a “mission gift” to a granddaughter. We talked about feeding children through the nutrition centers under the wellness program. The result is a hundred dollar gift, which is about what it takes to feed one child for a year at a nutrition center in Senegal. And she said she would talk to her church board about the partnership program.

Business seemed slow at the Senegal table at Annual Conference. One never knows what or when inspiration will come by.

#### 5. Senegal Life Story

While in Senegal in February, I talked to various people as we crossed paths. At the Nord Foire church I talked to Valerie Mane. Valerie told me she grew up in Togo. She went to primary school and 4 years of secondary school. She was married and has four children. Now she finds herself Christian and divorced in a new land. She attends the Nord Foire United Methodist Church.

Valerie’s daily life goes something like this: she gets up between 4-5 AM. She reads devotions and prays and usually has milk, bread, and fruit for breakfast. She leaves at 7 AM to get to work by 9. She leaves work at 5 PM hoping to be home by 7 PM to fix supper and go to bed. Her free time is Saturday and she usually comes to church for three hours for choir practice. She may translate the French service into Wolof if someone needs it.

She concluded our talk praising God for how God helps her. Nobody can do what God does. She loves the Lord and gives the Lord all her life.

#### 6. Partnership Church Update

In 2008 we welcomed into partnership with Senegal:

Grand Avenue UMC in Port Washington WI

Lodi UMC in Lodi WI

The Churches of the Fox Valley Circuit:

Appleton Emmanuel UMC

Appleton First UMC

Appleton St. James UMC

Appleton Zion UMC

Greenville Faith UMC

Kaukauna Peace UMC

Neenah Faith UMC

Neenah First UMC

Neenah Family UMC

Sheboygan Falls Faith UMC

In 2009 we welcomed into partnership with Senegal:

PoySippi UMC  
Stevens Point St Pauls UMC  
Neenah Faith UMC - a separate partnership of their own  
Manitowoc St Pauls UMC  
Cedarburg Community UMC  
Fond du Lac Covenant UMC  
And the first in IL - Trinity in Wilmette

To meet the partnership goals, I have a grid of 56 slots for our 8 pastors serving churches in Senegal. 20 of the slots are covered by the churches above. So there is much needed yet. If you know a church who could help, let me know!

#### 7. Giving Report

This is a report of funds given through the Advance to the Senegal Mission Initiative and its projects since the last newsletter.

Advance #	Title	Amount Given
12594A	Senegal Mission Initiative	9103.96
12594A	Wheels for Senegal	19,900
14517A	Agriculture Program	172
14518A	Christian Education	100
14522A	Micro-Credit	25
14524A	Prison Ministry	1582
14525A	Wellness Program	8058
14526A	Women's Skills Center	925
14529A	Youth & Young Adults	391.76

Special thanks to those helping with a new vehicle.  
Real thanks to those whose giving keeps the Initiative and projects going.

#### 8. Consultant Information

Highlight is new e-mail address and website!

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