

## THE SENEGAL ADVOCATE

Newsletter for the Senegal Mission Initiative  
September 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. Links to Website, e-mail, and Missionary Paul Messer's blog
2. Senegal Vehicle News
3. Senegal Worship Blues
4. Illinois Rainbow Covenant White Band - Senegal Partnership!
5. Advance Notice of Senegal Consultation - Budget For It!
6. Senegal Life Story
7. Partnership Church Update
8. Giving Report
9. Consultant Information

### 1. Links to Website, E-mail, and Missionary Paul Messer's Blog

A new website for the Senegal Mission is available at [www.senegalumc.com](http://www.senegalumc.com). Soon the staff in Dakar Senegal will be adding fresh material themselves. Senegal Consultant Tony Fuller has moved from his home address to [Senegal.tony@yahoo.com](mailto:Senegal.tony@yahoo.com) for mail concerning the Senegal Mission. And Missionary Paul Messer has started his own Blog at <http://revpaulmesser.wordpress.com> Get real up to date information about what is happening in the Senegal church at this site.

### 2. Senegal Vehicle News

Back in April while Superintendent Joseph was in Wisconsin, the mission's vehicle was stolen. For three months the mission operated with one less vehicle - the vehicle most used to visit outlying churches. Missionary Paul let the word be known, and many churches and individuals responded with gifts. About \$24,000 was given in three months. With that outpouring of gifts, another vehicle was obtained - pictured below. And there was enough to also replace the motor and fix the pickup that Joseph uses to make his rounds as Superintendent. So the mission is in much better vehicles - a blessing out of a sad trial.

So thanks to many of you who helped the Mission out with their vehicle problems. Still pray for them, for city driving and rural roads are still hazardous and hard on the vehicles. Pray that what they have lasts a long time.

### 3. Senegal Worship Blues

Around August 21 a complaint was made to the Dakar police. The folks worshipping at Nord Foire were making too much noise. The police came and told them they had to stop, taking their drums and microphones with them. They worshipped the following Sunday anyway. Next Friday the police were back, fielding a complaint about worship being too loud. It seems that a neighbor does not like Christian worship next door. The police think they should not be in a residential area, and should have their own church building in a commercial area. The saga continues. It appears that other residential area churches have been subject to this "new Policy" also. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Nord Foire that this situation may be settled and they can return to worship peaceably.



#### 4. Illinois Rainbow Covenant White Band - Senegal Partnership

Did you hear? The Rainbow Covenant program has added another band to its rainbow of giving for missions. It is our hope that you might consider a partnership with the Senegal Mission as your way of fulfilling the requirements for this White Band. \$900 will do it, and do it, and do it, as you continue in partnership with Senegal for three years. The Senegal Partnership funds are for pastoral support and church rent - a need of around \$62,000 per year in Senegal for 10 pastors and 17 churches. Your help is most needed in Senegal and much appreciated. Please let your mission committee know about this possibility and help it along! Thanks.

#### 5. Advance Notice of Senegal Consultation - Can It Make Your 2010 Budget?

It is not quite set in stone, but it appears that the 2010 National Senegal Consultation will take place in northern Illinois the second weekend in November. We charged \$80 for registration for the two days this past spring at Oak Creek Community UMC and it seemed to cover our expenses and left a little to pass on to Senegal, so I assume registration would be about the same next year. We are planning a great, inspirational event and really hope people can plan ahead to come. Maybe your church could even budget a bit for a couple representatives of your church to attend - especially partnership churches. But, in the back of your mind, save a couple days in November for Senegal - come and renew old friendships and make new friends.

#### 6. Senegal Life Story - Nadine Ilunga

During my visit to Senegal early this year, I interviewed individuals I met along the way. After Sunday church at Thies, I met Nadine. She is in her early 20's and a university student in Thies for nursing. She grew up in the Congo, where she attended primary and secondary school. Due to the trouble in the Congo, she found her way out of that country and united with friends in Senegal. With some scholarship help, she is able to attend the university and appreciates the opportunity that will allow her for both education and a future career in nursing.

When asked about her day as a student she talked about getting up early at 6 AM, having a breakfast of bread, milk, cereal, and beans, then walking to the university. She has morning and afternoon classes. Her favorite lunch is rice and fish, but doesn't get that every day. Upon her return home, she

prepares supper for herself and her father, liking spaghetti and sauce, but often having a grain gruel in hot water. When asked about "What do you do for fun?" her first response was that she is too busy. School all day, homework at night, plus housework for her and her father, and cooking. Then she went on to mention time for meditation and morning devotions and enjoying her walks to and from the university, alone or with friends. Also, attending church is very meaningful for her. She made a commitment to Christ at age 14 in a Congo church. When asked for what she wished, she asked for prayers, for herself and her people in the Congo, where life is often hard. Pray for Nadine, a student in Senegal.

#### 7. Partnership Church Update

Since the last "Advocate" we welcome the United Methodist Church in Lomira, WI as a new partner with the Senegal Mission. Lomira joins the 2008 churches of Port Washington, Lodi, Appleton Emmanuel, Appleton First, Appleton St. James, Appleton Zion, Greenville Faith, Kaukauna Faith, Neenah Faith, Neenah First, Neenah Family, and Sheboygan Falls Faith and the 2009 churches of Poysippi, Stevens Point, Neenah Faith, Manitowoc St Paul, Cedarburg Community, Fond du Lac Covenant, and Trinity in Wilmette IL.

Rev. Patrick Friday is the Director of In Mission Together, with oversight of all eleven new mission initiatives. He commented about being excited about all the new partnerships with Senegal this year, especially in light of the economic crisis. How faithful United Methodists are in supporting the good mission work that is happening in Senegal and other places around the world. The needs are great, for the economic crisis is happening around the world. But thanks for your help. Continue to keep Senegal in your prayers and budget. Consider participation in various ways - plan to visit Senegal, check out the website, read Paul's blog for the latest, attend the Consultation, promote the Senegal Mission in your church. But most of all, thanks for your continuing support for the folks in Senegal.

#### 8. Giving Report

The great news - enough came in for a replacement vehicle for the Mission.

The goods news - cash flow is OK so we made it through the summer

The nervous news - after two years of being short, will we make it through Christmas?

Here is the update on funds given through the Advance to the Senegal Mission since the last newsletter.

Advance #	Title	Amount Given
12594A	Senegal Mission Initiative	7909.90
12594A	Note: Wheels for Senegal	4004.00
14517A	Agriculture Program	2070.00
14518A	Christian Education	0
14522A	Micro-Credit	50
14524A	Prison Ministry	0
14525A	Wellness Program	1660.66
14526A	Women's Skills Center	200
14529A	Youth and Young Adults	56.59

Special thanks for the new vehicle. Continuing thanks for continued support.

#### 9. Consultant Information

I am available to come to your church for a visit and update and program on Senegal.

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