

Missions Update for Vineyard Church Financial Board

August 17, 2020

The church's missional efforts during this difficult season have been filled with ups and downs like every other organization. That being said, I am proud of the way our indigenous leaders in West Africa and Haiti have responded, and I am so thankful that we were led to use the DMM (disciple-making movements) model early on, as it has continued to see churches and disciples multiplied even during a pandemic.

My job has increasingly turned into a coaching role, and it has been a great blessing (despite the Zoom fatigue!) to coach both national and international leaders in multiplicative disciple-making strategies. My role with Vineyard Missions as the regional coordinator for West Africa has been enlightening and challenging, and I am very excited about the possibilities that we have to influence, train, and launch work in countries such as Niger, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mali, and others in the next couple of years. Many of the leaders that we have trained and coached in Cote d'Ivoire will be helping to launch these initiatives.

Below are a few of the challenges that we are facing, followed by things that are worth much celebration. This is not an exhaustive list, but I hope that it helps to highlight some of the unique ways that God is using our church in places that He has called us to.

Challenges:

- As expected, travel has been restricted, and thus some of the major conferences and trainings that were supposed to have taken place last spring were postponed until 2021.
- Fundraising has been challenging, both in terms of above and beyond giving to missions from our local church, as well as outside support from partner churches and fundraisers.
- We had to cancel a team trip that we were very excited about, as it included several outgoing high school seniors and some of our young adults.
- Several trips with partners and donors have been postponed.
- Many of our indigenous leaders in the countries where we work have struggled either financially or in their churches, as heavy restrictions took place in both Haiti and Cote d'Ivoire.

Things to celebrate:

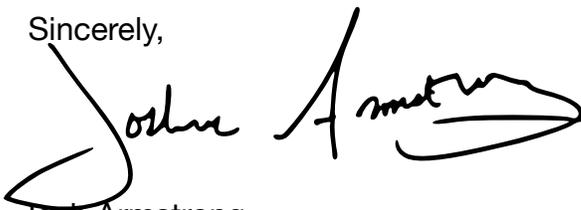
- We received a \$25,000 donation from a partner church to launch a church/training facility/Vineyard headquarters in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. This is exciting for several reasons, chief among them being the hope that this facility will help to launch an effective DMM effort in urban areas in Cote d'Ivoire and beyond
- The Abercrombie family and their clinic in Haiti have not been heavily affected by the pandemic, and seem to be continuing to minister to the community in Foret des Pins, Haiti as normal
- The school that we started in LaBorde, Haiti finished their school year without a hitch, which is amazing as most schools in Haiti shut down during the pandemic. LaBorde is so remote that they

were able to remain open, providing an education for the second year in a row to over 130 children that would never receive one otherwise.

- The Freedom House is holding steady, and tutors were brought in to help the kids maintain their educational progress.
- The DMM that we support in Haiti (Simple Church Ministries) is about to celebrate its one thousandth house church plant. In addition, 582 people have indicated that they have begun to follow Jesus for the first time in 2020 alone! This same ministry has also started a family Discovery Bible Study initiative to help families continue to grow spiritually in spite of the pandemic restrictions. Since the pandemic began, they have seen 432 families begin to practice DBS together.
- Moussa's Muslim father gave his life to Christ while in the hospital, and shortly thereafter received a miraculous recovery after the doctors thought he would not pull through.
- We are expecting to launch a DMM effort with a 4th unreached people group in Cote d'Ivoire this fall. I will be traveling with several key partners in October, and we are hoping to lock down the specifics of this new initiative.
- Concerning the 3 people groups that we currently work with in Cote d'Ivoire, I had reported to the church in February (just before the pandemic went viral in the U.S.) that from June 2019 to Feb. 2020 (9 mos.), there were 319 new discovery groups started and 1,858 new followers of Jesus, most with a previously Muslim background. Since the pandemic hit, the past 5 months (from March through July) we have seen 213 new discovery groups and 728 new followers of Jesus. While the progress slowed down a little due to the epidemic, the stats reaffirm my belief that DMM is a powerful Jesus-centered approach to sharing the good news of the Kingdom of God with the unreached.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support, and do not hesitate to reach out with advice, questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



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vineyard church