
May 2011

Hi Everyone,

I just spent 5 action-packed days in Liberia, and how the Lord used it! We went to participate in a pastor's conference, which our two Liberian contacts, Isaac and Malcolm, had worked hard to arrange for over 30 Liberian pastors and ministry leaders, and the work was certainly rewarded. Dean Chol-lar, founder and CEO of CrossWay International, headed up the conference, and I was his co-teacher. Dean taught the material from his "Make It Clear" seminar on evangelism, and I taught the course I developed last year on Biblical principles of counseling. The pastors repeatedly told us how valuable the material was for their ministries. Dean taught the pastors to present the Gospel in simple, clear ways so the hearer would not misunderstand. One pastor told us he had spent 26 years sharing the Gospel the same way, but now recognized that his way of saying it could have been confusing to many people, so he asked us for prayer to help him change his old habits!

From the Book to the Street!

One day, I had some down time in the hotel, and as I sat bored in my room, I thought, "Maybe I'll go out onto the street and look for someone to witness to." As soon as the thought came, I wondered if that would have occurred to me at home, and I knew the answer was, "No!" So, why would I have thought that in Monrovia, Liberia, but not in York, PA? I'll tell you why - it's because in that foreign country where I do not live, I have no other concerns, no "attachments" to occupy my attention.

We are called "sojourners and pilgrims" in 1 Peter 2:11, and we're encouraged to think of ourselves that way – not attached to things here on Earth, but as if we were staying temporarily in a foreign country. In Hebrews 11:13, the same is said of the Old Testament heroes who didn't allow themselves to become too attached to earthly things, but instead saw themselves as citizens of Heaven. Because of that attitude, they accomplished great things for the Lord! Perhaps, with this new perspective, I will be less inclined to let my own earthly attachments crowd out my desire to carry the truth of the gospel to those around my own home.



Bruce and Dean teach the pastors.



Bruce and Dean with the Liberian pastors.



Bruce shares the gospel with a man outside his hotel.

Planting Seeds & Reaping Souls!

By the way, I did go down onto the street with Malcolm, and each of us was able to share the gospel with some people we encountered. Then later that evening I was also able to share the gospel with two ladies who worked at the hotel, and both Betsy and Gloria said they were placing their trust in Christ to save them that day! Dean and I also had the opportunity to speak in Isaac's church. I spoke one evening in the revival series he was conducting, and 5 or 6 people raised their hands for salvation at the end.



Dean preaches at Isaac's church.

Dean preached on Sunday morning, and once again 5 or 6 people raised their hands for salvation! So you can see that we enjoyed many opportunities to share the gospel of grace with the Liberians!



Bruce with Betsy and Gloria.

“I feel free and happy again!”

Our departure from Monrovia was delayed by electrical problems, so we sat on the runway for almost four hours before finally taking off. A woman who sat next to Dean and me, Edwina, was a little nervous about the delays and the thunderstorms outside the plane. She was from Amsterdam and spoke Dutch as well as English, so Dean was able to speak her native language; this distracted her from the storm and plane repairs, and it opened the door for the gospel. She and I then spent considerable time talking while the plane sat motionless on the runway, and I explained the free gift of salvation available only through Jesus Christ. After she admitted it made sense, I asked her if it made enough sense for her to stop trusting in whatever she had been trusting to get her to Heaven—but she still had more questions. A little later, as I was responding from Scripture, she interrupted me and said with a grin, “Ask me the question again!” I asked, “If we both died right now, do you know without question that you would go to Heaven?” and she confidently said, “Yes!” When I asked how she knew for sure, she explained she now knew that Jesus paid for every one of her sins, and because she had put her trust in Him alone as her Savior, her home was now in Heaven.

When I got home, I received an email from Edwina. The last sentence said, “By the way, do you know that Jesus already paid for our sins? And that is why I feel free and happy again!” You can see why I enjoyed this trip so much.

Increasing Responsibilities!

Dean has asked me to teach with him at another pastor's conference in Kenya this November, and he has added me to the Board of Directors for the CrossWay ministry there. Please pray with us that we will have the same success we had in Liberia. Also, Debbie and I have been asked to spend some time with the CrossWay staff in Texas, possibly in July (just as I did last October). They will all get to meet her and discover just how lucky I am to be married to such a wonderful wife! (I know you're reading this, honey – am I scoring any points?!)

Dean said he would like to see me become fully supported in the next 12-18 months. I feel humbled to be asked to become more involved with the work of CrossWay, a ministry that has clearly been raised up by the Lord and that is being used to touch so many people. It is certainly exciting to know that I'm a part of it all. Debbie and I are grateful for your prayerful support so far, and ask that you continue to pray for the Lord to open doors for the finances to continue making it happen. As is true of everything in our lives, this is all in God's hands. God bless you all!

In His Service, Together –

Bruce & Debbie