

French REDEMPTION PROJECT

'Sharing hope in the French Speaking World'

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. Acts 26: 18

Bonjour!

July 31, 2013

In early June, I was in Paris arranging to get a visa for Cameroon when I was troubled in my spirit about certain details surrounding the acquisition of the property in Akonolinga. We needed full clarity and the time was coming upon us to move forward. I spent the better part of two days in an attitude of reflection and prayer for God to be in control of every aspect of the work. Then came a sense of peace that these prayers had been answered.

By the end of the week, I received an email from the owner of the property that it was no longer available to us. I didn't waste any time trying to change the owner's mind since God gave me a sense of peace immediately. Before any new plans could be formulated, I would need to be in communication with those 'on the ground' in Cameroon. No decisions could be made until we could all meet together later in July to evaluate the situation, pray, and talk it through. By this time, I was filling in at a young church in southern France where the missionary needed to go back to the US for a month, so my hands were full anyway.

It is the end of July now, and the matter is settled. We went to Akonolinga and met with all our contacts; spent time in the hospital visiting people we knew as well as just about everyone else; and we returned to the prison to minister to the inmates and have a frank conversation with the warden about several things. It was no surprise to learn that the young men we had disciplined were no longer in Akonolinga since they were not from that village, and we were encouraged to find that they had begun to look for churches elsewhere. One had already visited our church plant in the Capital. All the doors remain open for a future ministry in Akonolinga but, for now, we will only visit from time to time to encourage the believers and to preach the gospel while we wait for God to send a man with a burden and call for that place.

We have determined to use some land that had already been provided by local authorities in Minvoul, Gabon and to purchase another parcel in Sangmelima, Cameroon as soon as we have the funds to do it. These are the two places that God has called missionaries Damien Owondo and Emmanuel Bile to base their ministries and both will serve well for Project Redemption's training programs. A foundation and the start of a building are already in place in Minvoul. Altogether, the cost of the initial land purchase in Sangmelima, plus a simple meeting structure (the first building to go up) and the finishing of the building in Minvoul will be roughly the same as what we had planned to pay for the property in Akonolinga. These changes will provide a better situation for our current team and allow us to focus on evangelism and church planting without having to maintain buildings that we don't need just yet. We are very thankful to God for His direction and for the progress that has already been realized in seeing souls saved, churches started, and leaders developed. Thank you for your support and prayer for the cause of our Lord Jesus Christ in the French speaking world!

Mark Gostlin



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