

December 2022

Newsletter



Julie's Heart Cry

Bringing Hope to Women Globally



Pray for us as we go home for Christmas

Dear Friends and Partners,

The thought of being able to go home to the Central African Republic for Christmas is truly exciting, yet it causes me to pause and ponder a bit. Julie and I have been living in the U.S. since 1994, where we have established roots by God's grace.

For the past 28 years, one thing or another has prevented my family from joining our relatives in Africa to celebrate Christmas.

Julie and I are both natives of the Central African Republic (C.A.R.) – which is about the size of Texas – with a population of a little over 5 million people.

Plagued by violence

It is a landlocked nation in the middle of the African continent and is considered one of the poorest countries in the world. A civil war has been going on there since 2012, resulting in hundreds of people killed – including one of my brothers-in-law – when radical Muslim groups began raiding villages and seizing towns. However, violence has plagued the nation for decades, and the economy has suffered dramatically.



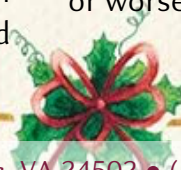
Almost 3 million people in the C.A.R. need humanitarian assistance and 45% are food insecure.

As a result, it is estimated that more than 70 percent of the population live in poverty.

While all that information is heartbreaking, my strongest desire is for the spiritual revival of this amazing nation. I long to see my brothers and sisters across this country lean deeply into Jesus Christ in all their earthly interactions.

Although rebuilding after all these tragedies could be done without God, it would simply be a temporary fix. These precious folks have experienced unimaginable trauma, which has left such deep-seated scars in their hearts. Tragedy has a way of changing us for the better or worse.

(over)





The hope and healing we all need, including the people of the Central African Republic, are found only in Jesus Christ, who came into this world with good tidings of joy. As believers, we know the earthly gift exchange will never fill the void for the perfect gift: Jesus!

Our Lord and Savior entered our world to make things right between God and humanity. This restlessness in our society, the trials we face, and the tears we shed find their answers in Christ. And so, we rejoice as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the hope of all the world.

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

We covet your prayers

So, in returning home to visit our people, we are keenly aware that these dear brothers and sisters are not the same after all they have experienced.

I pray that Julie and I will be able to lament what has happened yet encourage our brothers and sisters to trust our Lord Jesus Christ more deeply.

Please pray for us as we aim to accomplish the following during our two-week stay in C.A.R:



Julie and I are grateful for your partnership as JHC strives to meet physical and spiritual needs of hurting people.

- Move the high school students into the Youth at Risk Home
- Begin our first women's sewing class at the Resource Center
- Have one-on-one time with each student in Irene's Home of Hope program
- Three Sunday opportunities to preach
- Deal with witchcraft and ungodliness among folks in the JHC program
- Encourage unity among everyone in Julie's Heart Cry and Irene's Hope of Hope

Merry Christmas!

Cyrus Mad-Bondo

