



# The Cain Chronicle

News and Notes from Niger

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Acts 16 speaks of Lydia, a woman who came to know Christ through Paul's ministry, as a "seller of purple." Mariama, the woman holding the cloth in the photo below, is Niamey's version of a seller of purple. With some seed money provided by FBC, Sandersville, GA, we helped her set up a cloth-dyeing business. There are several women in the church that Mariama attends who are widows. Mariama had the idea of starting this business as a way to help provide some financial support. They buy white, good-quality cloth at the market and then dye it in various colors. They add a wax finish to provide durability and then resell it to vendors in the local markets. A portion of the profits are given as a tithe to the church, after they have purchased new cloth and supplies they save a small amount for future needs and then divide the rest. This is a great encouragement to me as I see these women working together and providing for their own needs. It's a great testimony for the church as well. Pray for God's blessing on their business.

Easter had special significance for us this year as we celebrated the baptism of four believers who've been attending one of our church starts in Niamey. Pastor Amadou preached on the empty tomb and afterwards we drove a short distance and then walked, making our way past gardens and mango trees to the edge of the Niger river. Pastor Amadou waded in while the rest of us looked on with great joy as one-by-one these believers affirmed their faith in Christ by immersion in the slow-moving waters. We concluded the service with a shared meal and fellowship at the home of one of the believers who was baptized.

In a Muslim country such as Niger, baptism is not taken lightly. While there might be some tolerance for attending a Bible study or going to a church, baptism is often seen as not only forsaking Islam, but alienating oneself from friends and family. The Muslim family of a Christian convert sees his or her baptism as a final commitment to Christianity and a rejection of their culture and values and traditions.

Pray for these believers as they continue their walk of faith. Pray for their spiritual growth and for the strength and courage to share their faith with others.



We've decided it would be a good idea to begin offering this newsletter by e-mail. If you would prefer to receive this letter by e-mail, could you drop us a line to let us know? Our e-mail address is pnkcain@yahoo.com. We will also continue to post future newsletters on our team Web site at www.zermateam.org.

# News from Caroline and Caleb . . .

I've been enjoying 10th grade this year. I've stayed really busy with my school work, being on the outreach team, and serving on the student council. Drama is still one of my favorite subjects. English is also good because we get to read lots of books and plays. I'm looking forward to an outreach trip I'll be taking with several other students this month. We'll spend two nights in a village in the bush. We'll be doing kid's ministry, showing the Jesus film.



I'm enjoying 5th grade. Math and P.E. have been two of my favorite subjects. My favorite thing to do at recess is play wall-ball with my friends. When homework is done I like to spend my time playing with our dog Sophie, jumping on the trampoline, riding my bicycle, playing games on the Wii or playing games with my family like Dutch Blitz and Bananagrams. Dad and I got to go on an overnight fishing trip with some friends in a game preserve on Spring break. I didn't catch any fish but we saw monkeys, elephants, wild boars, and other animals. It was a lot of fun!



## **Thank you!**

Thank you for being part of our ministry through your prayers and giving. We know these are difficult economic times so we appreciate all the more your tithes and offerings to your local church and your gifts to the Lottie Moon program.

Continue to pray for us as we share the gospel and build disciples. Pray for our ability to communicate across language and cultural barriers.

Pray for the believers here in Niger. The spiritual oppression can be fierce at times. Pray for their spiritual growth and for God to raise up pastoral leaders among the Zerma.

Pray for the physical needs of the Zerma people. Some parts of the country had a poor harvest last year so many families lack food and the means to buy more.

I listened with tears in my eyes, as one after another, five boys we brought to church from one of the kids' clubs shared stories from God's Word with the other children. Hassi, the pastor's wife, spends time with the children after the service telling them Bible stories. This Sunday, she began by asking the children if anyone could tell a Bible story they remembered. The five boys, visiting church for the first time that Sunday, eagerly shared story after story from the kids' club that meets on Saturday mornings in another neighborhood. My heart was filled with joy as they shared stories from just weeks previously all the way back to several months ago. When we meet for kids' clubs, we review the story from the previous week before sharing the next story. The children practice sharing the story so that I can tell if they remember the story correctly. As you share week after week, you know the children are listening and learning but some of these boys had never shared with a group before. These boys ranged in age from 10-12, including one whose father works at a large mosque in town. Praise God for His word and the way it can penetrate the hearts and minds of people. Pray for the children as they continue to learn His word and share it with their friends and families.