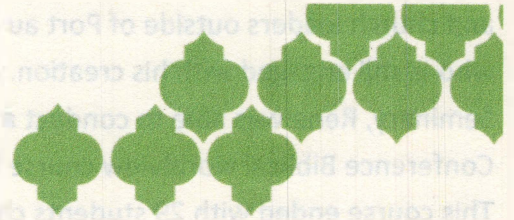


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Spring 2019

Dear Praying Friends,



2002—Phil and Rene
in Timbuktu, Mali

It was 2001 or 2002 when Phil first met Rene Mbongo. Rene, along with his wife Faustine, is a West African ministry champion. When they met, Rene told Phil about the ministry of oral Bible “storytelling” as a way to plant and grow churches. This led to Phil’s long-time partnership with Scriptures in Use. Phil, on the other hand, suggested that Rene travel to Togo to be part of a Vision Conference there. That was the beginning of Rene’s connection with Disciple Nations Alliance, bringing wholistic development to communities throughout West Africa as the church adopts a Biblical worldview.

Fast forward to my first trip to Haiti in 2016. From the moment I arrived, I felt like I was “at home” in Africa! And as I’ve returned several times to Haiti, I have also seen the same despair and hopelessness that is often felt throughout Africa. Working with our ReachGlobal Haiti staff, we wondered what it would look like for Haitians to hear a message of hope from an African. Someone who speaks French, understands the deep roots of an animistic worldview, and who has seen churches use the resources in their hands to bless their communities. And so, we invited Rene Mbongo to come from Senegal to Haiti.

For eight days in March, Rene had the opportunity to present the truths of Biblical worldview to Haitians in several settings. He shared with rural pastors who came by motorbike from the mountains in the south on a Sunday afternoon. He encouraged pastors



STEP Seminary Students asking God to bring Gospel-based transformation to their communities

and church leaders outside of Port au Prince, pointing them to the God who is still engaged with his creation. And in Port au Prince, at STEP Seminary, Rene was able to conduct a four-day intensive Vision Conference Biblical worldview course for third-year seminary students. This course ended with 29 students charged to create and carry out a “seed project” – including both the church and the neighborhood, using only the resources that God has placed in their hands, showing the love of Christ in a way that addresses spiritual, social, physical and/or intellectual poverty.

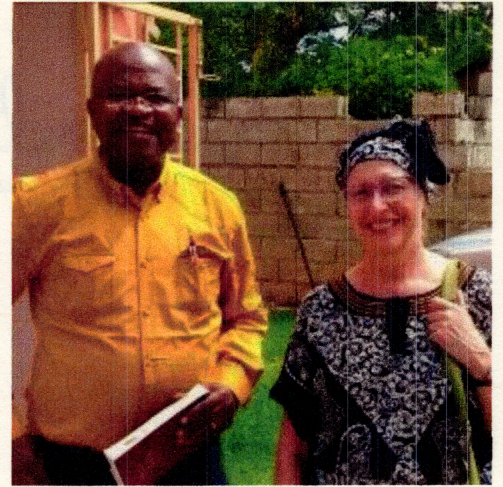
Everywhere we went, Rene and the message of Biblical worldview was enthusiastically welcomed. I was most encouraged by the practical steps that our ReachGlobal Haiti team missionaries are already putting in place to further Rene’s introduction to wholistic ministry. They are working to translate materials into Haitian Creole, considering options for job training, and working with pastors to begin to imagine and work toward a Haiti that better reflects God’s intentions for this country that He dearly loves.

As you pray, ask God to:

- ◆ *Give vision and wisdom to the third-year STEP seminary students as they carry out their seed projects*
- ◆ *Move in the hearts of rural pastors as they study God’s Word and His desire to bring transformation to their communities*

With joy,

Peggy



2019 in Haiti. I’m wearing a dress that Rene’s wife, Faustine, sent as a gift