



The Harvest Times

A Publication of World Missions

A Trek in the Mountains

It was one of those trips you don't soon forget. At the end of an eventful visit in Haiti, Director Steve Elsey, Mark Surbrook (American Director for Haiti Missions), and Rod Davis (Board member) set out to travel to the Platanal church. Two days before, fellow traveler Mike Pollard had been forced to return home due to illness, so he missed out on the adventure.

Pastor Samson and the visitors rode in the Montero as far as they could, then set off on foot up to the church. The road was steep with many loose rocks. During their grueling, 90-minute trek, the only modes of transportation they saw along the way were the four-legged kind.

At last they reached the church in time for a break before the service began. The building was made of slat boards painted a cheery blue with rusted tin on the roof. It began to rain, and during the service Steve Elsey preached, and Mark Surbrook translated, standing side by side at the front; they had to keep switching places to avoid the rain dripping through holes in the roof.

But the holes in the roof or the gaps in the siding do not define the church; in fact, the church as revealed in the New Testament is not a building at all. The believers in Jesus are the Body of Christ, the Church. And in Platanal, the Church is growing and reaching out. Led by Pastor Marcelus Chavre and his wife, Odette Anger, this remote congregation of some 225 souls has established four additional preaching points with another 225 in attendance. God is blessing, and souls are being saved!

The return trip was even more difficult than the climb up. The travelers had to avoid sliding down the rock-strewn path in the pouring rain. But they carried with them the faces of Pastor and Mrs. Chavre and the knowledge that God is moving among their brothers and sisters at Platanal.



Pastor Marcelus Chavre and his wife, Odette Anger, pastor at Platanal, Haiti



Pastor Samson, Mark Surbrook, and Steve Elsey use makeshift umbrellas on the way back down.

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AROUND THE WORLD

ASIA

Content withheld for security reasons



Frances played the drums.

GHANA

Frances chose to follow Jesus in spite of persecution from his Muslim father and brothers. He was blind, so Jere Gowin saw that he was trained as a weaver, but even then his life was not easy. Jere even obtained a Bible in Braille for him.

At one time, he strayed into the wrong crowd, but humbly returned, confessing his sins. He remained a faithful follower of Jesus and attended church until a few weeks ago, when in a tragic accident he was struck by a motorcycle and killed.

This was a new situation for the village of Qs: a Christian man with a Muslim family. How would the funeral be conducted? Out of respect, the family allowed a Christian funeral and burial. Pastor Isaka preached about Frances' choice to become a child of God. For many villagers this was the first time they had heard the gospel; they were stunned with the message, as were people from surrounding villages. God is moving, even using the death of a young Christian man for His glory.



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