



IVORY COAST

DEAR FRIENDS & FAMILY,

They walked, hundreds and hundreds of people, six and even eight miles in the scorching heat, some with fevers upwards of 103 degrees. Mothers with babies secured on their backs and a handful or more children trailing behind them, trudging down the dirt paths from neighboring villages. They came for free medical care. They came knowing if they didn't, that they and their children could die of malaria, typhoid, amebic dysentery, or any number of other rampant diseases.

Rare conditions that have been eradicated in many parts of the world are still seen here, and hundreds were treated for malaria, the biggest killer in Ivory Coast, West Africa. These people were truly desperate for medical care. Their souls, however, weren't any better off, and many of their faces told the story. Their countenance was sad, and there was no joy glinting in their eyes. But when they heard about Christ Jesus who died for them, who loves them, and who wants to set them free, He opened their hearts to the hope and life found only in Him. Of the 1,876 patients that were seen during the course of the medical clinics, 581 of them accepted Christ!

Imagine being a new believer in Christ, yet still hearing the prayer call five times a day, an oppressive reminder of Satan's hold, as the region you live in is dominated by Muslim and Animistic beliefs. Please, pray for these new believers, that the new church that has been planted and Bible studies that are starting would be fruitful in their discipleship. Few are allowed into the villages, even fewer those that talk about Jesus, and there have been many failed attempts over the years. If it weren't for the medical clinics opening the door, this unreached people would not have easily heard about God's redemption. Through this collaboration, we were able to not only save lives, but save souls for eternity.

- JACOB & LAURA BACON

