



From the Whitehorns

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Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you. We are in the time of Lent and looking forward to Easter. The wonderful hope of Easter is what so much of the world needs.

**Visit to Guinea-Bissau**

Thank you very much for accompanying us in prayer during these last months. It is always a pleasure to visit Guinea-Bissau in December and see old friends again. This time however Margie suffered from severe back pain. She kept going, thanks to the Lord's help, pain killers and massage. Thankfully her back is fine again.

Ruth de Jesus (Brazilian) and Ritha Matta (Indonesian), are the leaders of the team and do a great job. Ritha is also heading the outreach to the Fula people in the area of Boé, in the east of the country. We look forward to seeing them at Intercon. Please pray for Ritha's German visa to be granted in the next couple of weeks.



**Trip to Ghana and ACTS13**

You will have read before about ACTS13, the Dept. of the Africa Area Office that is challenging Christians in Africa to pray and get involved in cross cultural mission. We pray that many will join WEC. As we had some free time at the end of January, we flew out to Ghana to help Roly and Cristina Grenier, the leaders of ACTS13.

We were able to work on some of the agreement documents, job descriptions and talk through some of the training that will need to be given.

The Greniers flew to Ethiopia when we left and met with the leaders of two large denominations to discuss agreements so that missionaries from their churches could serve in W.Africa with WEC.

While we were in Ghana we attended two missionary prayer groups that the Greniers have been involved in setting up. One is on the huge University campus in Accra. It was so exciting to join with these young men and women who have a real heart to see the Gospel spread to all the world.



**Africa Area Office Retreat and Intercon**

We will be travelling in April, but this time not to Africa and not by plane. We will take the car to France where we are having a retreat with members of the Africa Area Office. In a town called Gérardmer in the Vosges we will meet with the Bohls, Greniers, Bearups (Africa Area Training Coordinator), and Jill McKinnon (Media consultant). It is exciting to have this opportunity together as a team, to share, plan and pray about the future.

We are trusting that there will be significant numbers of new missionaries joining our teams in Africa from Africa. We need to be ready with the necessary structures and supports in place. David is the retreat manager and Margie, with Jean Bearup, is responsible for the catering. We will then take a week's holiday in Alsace before the start of Intercon (see overleaf). We plan to spend one day at the French base.

## Intercon in Germany

On the 15 - 26th April we will attend 'Intercon', the international leaders conference WEC has every 4 years. This time it is in the south of Germany not too far from Stuttgart.

At Intercon we will have many opportunities to receive training and interact with other leaders. Thankfully with WEC's new decision making structure, not much time will be taken up with discussions and decisions.



Our responsibilities will be coordinating the minute taking of business sessions, leading a session with other Area Directors and together with the Bohls, leading a session with the leaders of the African teams. Apart from the official timetable, one of the great advantages of these conferences is an opportunity to meet leaders who we have been corresponding with, face to face. The world continues to change ever more rapidly and we as an international mission agency, need to make every effort to adapt and make sure we are relevant and effective.

## Visit to DR Congo

Last year we did not visit DR Congo, as our little team is based in Burundi at present. However we still wish to have team members serving in DR Congo in the future and so want to keep up good relations with the leaders of the big WEC related church in Congo, CECCA/16. We are hoping that we can arrange to make a visit together with two of our workers in Burundi. It is proving to be a challenge to work out dates, but we trust it will be in June or July. Visiting DR Congo, is often a challenge with obtaining visas and arranging flights.

## Family

We continue to enjoy our role as grandparents! A couple of weeks ago we had our first experience of looking after Harvey overnight while Ruth and Mark were away - great fun. Ruth, Mark and Harvey now live back in Birmingham where they are serving at the big Betel centre. While it is not as close as Manchester for us, it does mean that we can visit Esther at the same time as the Cuthberts.

Esther needs to find long term accommodation. She continues to serve at the International Nepal Fellowship UK office and is doing well.



## Please pray for:

1. The outreach among the Fula people in the region of Boé, Guinea-Bissau. Ritha is leading the team there. There is one small group of believers in the whole area, but other seekers.
2. Roly and Cristina Grenier and ACTS13. The African Christians who are sensing the Lord guiding them to join WEC as missionaries. For Churches in Ethiopia and Ghana to be supportive of their missionaries.
3. The Africa Area Office retreat. For good and strategic discussions. For the Lord to guide us in the right way forward. May the Lord help us especially in preparing well for new African workers joining our teams.
4. Intercon - may there be a good spirit amongst us. There will be great opportunities for further training, so that we can then go and train others. May we discern the Lord's guidance of where WEC needs to continue to change in order to be effective. May the Lord help us in all the conversations and discussions we wish to have with other leaders.
5. The right dates to visit DR Congo and for help with arranging visas and flights. May it be a very helpful and constructive visit.
6. BCS - the missionary school in Senegal, desperately needs staff: Maintenance and admin. staff NOW. Teachers and dorm parents for September.