

Ministry Report: Mali, W. Africa
Oct 28, 2009-Nov. 11, 2009
Submitted by: Ingrid Davis

I would like to thank the Missions Committee of Stanwich Congregational Church for sponsoring my trip to Mali, W. Africa this past Oct/Nov. I was invited by the missionary women of Mali to come and do a seminar for missionaries and ex-patriots living in the country. The seminar was held in the capital city of Bamako with 75 women in attendance. I spoke 5 times during the weekend including three messages on “Joy in the Journey” and 2 seminars: “Why you do what you do?” and “How to care for your soul.” In between these speaking engagements, I was able to minister to and pray with over 20 women on a one to one basis. Here are just a few of their comments about the seminar:

“Thank you for your passion and love of God. Thank you for your obedience to His Spirit and direction. God used you to speak life, joy, encouragement, love and healing to me and many women. Thank you to your family and church for their sacrifice in order for us to be blessed. May the Lord continue to guide and use you to minister to many” - Elaine

“You have blessed me again as you’ve re-entered my life for this short time. Thank you for allowing God to minister to all of us through you.” – Cheryl

“Wow God knew just what I needed this weekend- and I know for sure that I was not the only one! Thanks for being His messenger to all of us” – Shari

“As others have said, it seems as if you have been reading my bio as you’ve been sharing your life! Thanks so much for opening your life up to help me! And thanks for showing the way to Joy in this Journey!” - Marcie

After the conference, I traveled to Koutiala, our former home. I was able to stay with missionary colleagues there and had the opportunity to visit, connect with, and minister to many Malians and missionaries. I spent time at the Koutiala Women and Children’s Hospital, Baramba Girl’s School, Bethel Bible School, Women’s Committee leader’s home, Women’s micro-enterprise center, Sewing center, and at the YWAM ministry base. I also had the opportunity to present the “Why you do what you do” seminar to the Koutiala Missionary team and spent one on one time with several of the missionaries.

I returned to Bamako on Saturday, Nov. 7th and spent 2 whirlwind days with Muslim neighbors and friends which is such an important part of Malian life. I also was able to pray with and minister to the Mali Medical Director and YWAM Director with their families. Finally, I spent time with missionaries and Malian pastors in Bamako at their home and places of ministry and visited the Rahab

Center – a safe place for “women of the street” to find healing and skills to support themselves.

It was with great humility that I was able to minister to our missionaries as I offered a listening ear, prayed with them, offered them hope and encouragement, mentored and counseled them, and addressed soul care and emotional healing issues. Because I have been where they are, I can be “real” with them, which is what they need.

My desire was that women from SCC could be with me and minister during this trip. Unfortunately, the timing didn't work for many of our women. I would very much like to bring “ministry teams” from SCC with me on future cross-cultural trips to foster the “missionary vision and outreach” of our church.