

LIGHTBEARERS

M I N I S T R I E S

Fayetteville, Arkansas



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THERE REALLY IS A TIMBUKTU (MALI)

Kevin McCollum

A primary goal at Lightbearers is to develop key partnerships in each of the countries of the 10/40 Window and to consistently present examined, approved (and amazing!) opportunities for your involvement through funding, prayer, mission trips, etc. As we move towards “each of the countries,” we must start with key relationships in each region. Last year, our diligent Missions Advisory Group received no requests from the region of West Africa and see no further requests coming without a proactive approach to building relationships there. Thus the need for grass-roots partnerships in West Africa is at hand.

On May 18th three “Lightbearers” will travel on your

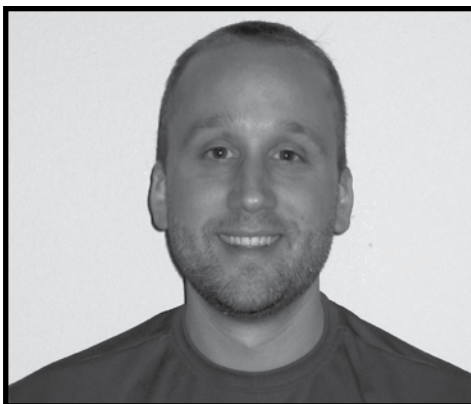
behalf to explore future opportunities in the sub-Saharan. Dr. Jesse Gray, an orthodontist, and Kirk Meyer, an independent loan specialist, both from Fayetteville, will travel with me, making stops in Morocco, Niger and Mali. Here’s our agenda in a nutshell:

Morocco: While in Morocco we will visit an organization committed to recruiting and training western “20-somethings” who are interested in full-time work in the 10/40 Window. One of the issues facing sending agencies today is the seemingly impatient young missionaries who are unwilling to press through 12-18 months of training before being allowed to serve on the field. As a re-



sult, several smaller sending groups have cropped up with fewer requirements, less training, and, unfortunately for most of them, ill-equipped missionaries. This organization offers on-the-field intensive training that shortens the over-all training period and facilitates a hand-off to some of the largest and most credible senders. A great solution!

One exciting option for Lightbearers could be to utilize this training ministry for the mission-minded students living in our college discipleship houses. Please pray for wisdom as this partnership could be multi-facet.



Jesse Gray



Kirk Meyer

Niger: According to the United Nations' Human Development Index, Niger is the poorest country in the world, ranking dead last in quality of life. (The Joshua Project also reports their evangelical population to be around 0.1%.) Needless to say, Lightbearers will be exposed to poverty unlike anything we have brought to your attention before. Our potential partner there has proven that church-planting is the key to reaching Muslim Nigeriens for Christ and have been the most successful group working in Niger for the past hundred years. Lightbearers has never partnered with this organization although they have a global presence. Thus, if the Lord establishes our relationship, it will open up many doors around the 10/40 Window. Please pray for discernment in this.

Mali: Mali is just ahead of Niger in terms of quality of life, ranking 4th from the last on the UN Human Development Index. It is the largest country in West Africa, dominantly Muslim, and only 0.8% evangelical. We will visit the church-planting and evangelism ministry of a Nigerian man called out of his country to reach Mali. All over the world, there are many like this dear

brother who are called to give of himself sacrificially for the glory of Christ, but have little support from the greater church. Our partnership with him may provide the only avenue for financial and prayer support the ministry will see outside of their extremely poor congregations.

Our relationships in Mali began while I was meeting with our prospective (now current) ministry partner at the University of Tulsa. The director of the international ministry on campus mentioned that his son was serving on the mission field. "Where?" (We had just begun to pray for new opportunities in West Africa.) "West Africa." Wow! For those of you who followed the story of how we came to buy the Tulsa house, this is just another way in which the Lord confirmed His will in regards to that property. And, it's exciting to see how these properties continue to affect the mission field BEYOND just the money. Awesome!

It is a great privilege for us to serve you in this way. Please pray for the logistics, team relationships, and discernment as we spend our time looking for strategic ways we can all engage in God's work in West Africa. We are all Lightbearers in this mission!



KEVIN MCCOLLUM, Kevin McCollum joined the Lightbearers' staff as Director of U.S. Operations and Development in 2006 after serving on the Board of Directors for 3 years, both as Board Vice President and Chairman of the Real Estate Advisory Group. Kevin has a vast array of ministry and professional experience ranging from business consulting to pastoral ministry. He and his wife Michelle live in Northwest Arkansas and are the proud parents of six children.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO SUPPORTERS OF STEVE MATHIS

Effective May 1st, 2007 Lightbearers will no longer receive support designated for Steve Mathis. Contributions received for Steve after that date will be used to fund projects in the 10/40 window. Please contact Steve directly for information on how you may continue to

contribute to his personal support.

Steve is embarking on a new mission in Turkey independent of Lightbearers.

We wish Steve well and thank him most heartily for his good work in Albania!