

Hillside Baptist

3-23-12



Lenell Smith

Missionary to Orphans in Ivory Coast, West Africa

January/February 2012

Photo Gallery



Aimé- Fall of 2008. Orphaned at a young age, he lived with the National Pastor before coming to Hope

"As much as I wanted to take control and "DO" something, God wanted me to see again that He is in control and always working for our good."



Aimé -February 2011



"Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart." Psalm 37:4

The message had been sent and the call came through at 3 a.m. Monday morning – Aimé would be going into surgery for an emergency appendectomy. Here I was thousands of miles away with no possible way to physically do anything to help him. He had been sick and in the hospital for 2 days waiting for a doctor to do the surgery. I felt like spitting nails and screaming, "Won't somebody do something!" I waited by the phone for word that things had gone smoothly, but no answer came. I attempted calls, but they failed. Then I was quietly reminded of Psalm 37:23-24 "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand." Aimé is a saved young man and God will not forsake him. The next verse says that very thing, "...yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken..." As much as I wanted to take control and "DO" something, God wanted me to see again that He is in control and always working for our good. The call came a few short hours later. Aimé was doing fine, and I was even blessed with the opportunity to hear his groggy voice on the phone. God has graciously allowed me to understand what my parents and thousands of other parents go through when they watch their child leave for the unknown, be it missions, work, or military. You truly have no control over what will happen to your child physically; you can no longer be that available shoulder to cry on or the one they run to when times are tough. How do you go on in these situations? Well, without the grace of God, I have no idea, but those who belong to Him can put all confidence in the fact that God is in control.

This year has been marked by many blessings. I had the wonderful opportunity to lead one of my students to the Lord and my cousin accepted Christ as his Savior! What a great reminder that our mission field is everywhere around us! God is answering some extremely important personal requests in ways I could never have imagined. Yes, the heartaches and disappointments of life are daily before each of us: Friends struggling through sickness, job loss, or other burdens; family with health needs; a world around us that seems to mock in total rejection of our Lord; however, I'm clinging to Psalm 37:4! (See above)

The word from Hope Harbor Orphanage remains positive. As mentioned, Aimé is recovering, but please pray that he will stay infection free. The children are still in school though they do stay in on uncertain days. The political system is trying to even itself out, but the undercurrents of discontent are still very strong. Please keep praying for the Ivoirians, and especially Hope Harbor Orphanage.

I wish I could give you answers on timelines and my future that everyone is curious about (even me!). Yet, this is what I know: the work continues at Hope Harbor thanks to your faithful prayers and support, and I am serving while waiting on the Lord. I hope to give you Pastors a more specific update in the next month. This is all I know, but I'm so glad the One I'm trusting in knows it all! Thank you for your faithful prayers on my behalf. I'm blessed!

Praises

- *opportunity to teach
- *Salvations
- *Safety in traveling
- *Good health for our orphans
- *Financial needs met
- *God's protection over Aimé

It is true that 2011 had its share of struggles, but I just want to take a moment to thank you all for your prayers and concerns for the people of Ivory Coast. Please continue to lift up the ministry of Hope Harbor Orphanage to the Lord!

Prayers

- *reaching the lost around me
- *Aimé's Recovery
- *Stability in the Ivory Coast
- *Safety for our orphans and staff
- *God's direction for the future

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Thank you so much!