

DEFEATING SATAN'S AGENDA

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LIBERIA

by Helen Fletcher

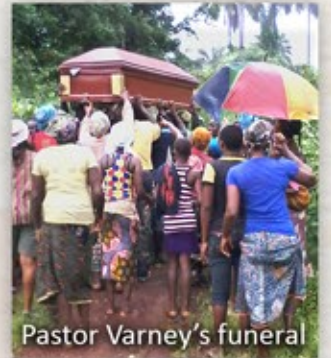
Ministry work of Vision Impact Liberia began in the village of Kenema in 2007 and has experienced many forms of unremitting and escalating opposition from the Muslim people in Kenema. When we were building a mud brick church on property they sold to us we were accessing the village by the one road from the highway and after Pastor Eric offered two soccer balls to boys if they would clear the brush that was closing in on the road we were told we could no longer use that road and the Muslims built a house across it.

We were forced to clear a separate entrance road and with the completion of the church, Pastor Varney, who was willing to minister there, moved his family into a small house we had built for them. Soon after a highly venomous snake was discovered in Pastor Varney's bedroom but was captured and killed. These snakes normally avoid human activity.

Not too long after this incident, the assistant pastor and his wife could not find their 18 month old son and everyone in the village was searching for him. After four days the boy's body was found at the bottom of a sealed, dry well in the village. Following an outreach with a well and the Jesus Film in another Muslim village, we were allowed to build a church and begin worship services where Pastor Varney volunteered to preach Sunday afternoons. Two weeks later he was poisoned with a warfarin-like substance from the forest, and he died.

Suddenly four young men in Kenema were also found dead, and the Muslim leaders said, "your church will never prosper, this land we sold to you was where we worshiped demons and the devil." At this point Pastor Eric called for a seven day fast and Christian pastors gathered at the Kenema church to fast, pray and sleep in that church for seven days calling upon God to reveal the killers and protect the people of Kenema.

During that time, the Shamans and witchdoctors came crying to the pastors for help as they were "burning up with heat and in pain." They said they saw an angel standing on top of the church with a flaming sword and were very afraid. They were confessing they killed the villagers with curses and now wanted Pastor Eric to pray for them, heal them and forgive them.



Pastor Varney's funeral



After one week the Shaman and the witchdoctor died and ten Muslims involved in the witchcraft and killing accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. The activity in Kenema temporarily fell quiet. A year later, after years of heavy rain, the water soaked walls of our church crumbled and fell outward; but on a sunny day, an usher was sweeping the church floor when a snake suddenly leapt up and bit her in the ear. She died minutes later.

The remains of the church were used to rebuild a smaller building and the believers continued to give praise and worship to the heavenly Father-God.



Opposition from the enemy is one of the signs that God is truly at work in the ministry of Vision Impact and Satan has noticed, taking major steps to "shut us down". Liberia is a spiritual battleground but we know God is in control and is more powerful than this fallen angel called Satan.

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PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS

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In October 2010, 125 Muslim women graduated from our free vocational school in Tailoring and Cooking and after viewing the Jesus Film 27 accepted Jesus Christ. One of those women was the wife of the Imam of a nearby village of 1,000, who at first was angry that their women were being taught the Christian doctrine.



But his wife began to make nice clothes for him, cook great meals and show him much love and respect -- he was greatly impressed with the change in her towards him. The Imam called Pastor Eric and told him,

"I don't know what is in that Jesus Film but my wife is more loving, respectful and obedient and is sewing me clothes! You Christians are good people, will you come and show that Jesus film to everyone in our village?"

Pastor Eric called Helen who sent out a request for funds needed for this sudden God-given outreach opportunity, and it came in quickly. Pastor Eric rented the film equipment and took two other pastors with him who were former Muslims and able to give their testimony in Arabic. The Imam had invited the team to show the Jesus Film right in front of the mosque doors which made the village elders angry and several tried to stop Pastor Eric but the Imam intervened. At prayers where they also eat, the elders poisoned the Imam and because he was vomiting blood he was taken to the hospital.



The first night showing of the Jesus Film, 86 people accepted Christ, the second night 127 more. The pastors brought their own food and drove 1 1/2 hours to their own hotel where they prayed all day. On their way back from the village, in the dark and pouring rain their car slipped in the mud and crashed into a tree, but thankfully, the damage was minor. On Sunday they visited the Imam in hospital who was recovering and he accepted Jesus Christ. He said,

"As Muslims we have never known this peace and joy that Christ brings."



The third and final night, people from other villages came to see the Jesus Film and 294 more accepted Jesus Christ, a total of 507 mostly from this one village, heavily controlled by shamans, the occult and Satan worshipers. This bondage has been broken in a village that had never allowed the Christian witness in. As Pastor Eric asked the elders what they thought now of the Christian majority in their village they said they would just have to accept it and if Pastor Eric wanted to start a church he could.

At this the Imam, who had been fired, said "We can hold the church service under this big tree and can borrow the chairs from the mosque." Pastor Eric was asked by a neighbouring pastor, "how did you get into this village, I have been trying for the last 10 years." Pastor Eric replied by asking if he would be willing to come on Sundays to teach the Word of God, and he agreed. Pastor Eric went back for the New Years Eve service to encourage everyone.

We are very conscious of God coordinating the timing for us and for this village to hear the Gospel and so aware of the value of the Jesus Film in ministering to non-literate Liberians. **We are raising funds to buy our own projector rather than rent one each time. You have been given this newsletter in the hope that you will consider even a one-time financial gift of \$50.00 to Vision Impact so we can buy the projector in Liberia. We would be most grateful.**

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