



GEMS

GLOBAL EVANGELISM MINISTRY SERVICES

The Door

*I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.
Revelation 3:8*

Shortly before leaving for Congo God led me to this verse and I assumed He was referring to what was about to take place in Congo. In part, I had that belief because it had been so evident that His hand was involved with the events leading up to the trip. It did not take long for God to confirm through a Congolese believer that that was exactly what He was saying. The young man asked to talk to me privately and the first words out of his mouth were, "Bro. Mike, the Bible says when God opens a door no man can shut it." It brought back thoughts of the apostle Paul's message to the Corinthians, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."

Let me give you a few highlights from this "open door" trip:

The day we flew out, someone handed me \$1100.00 and asked me to invest it where investment was needed. God allowed us to give \$500.00 towards the building of two village churches (total cost is about \$1000.00/church). The last one hundred dollars was given to a man named Paul, who teaches at the Bible college. Paul told us of His desire to go many kilometers away to an area where there are unreached people groups and start a work there. However, there is more to this story, so let me back up.

About four years ago, Grant and I went to Beyond Borders missionary training because we had heard that there were Pygmies in the Congo that were totally uncontacted. We had decided to start training in case God would ever let us be a part of reaching them. So, when this trip came about, we talked about it. In fact, right before leaving, we were discussing it and my wife said something like, "You may not have the opportunity to go into the Jungle or find any Pygmies on this trip, but it might be that God will lead you across someone who will make that possible in the future." We decided not to pursue it, but let God bring it about should that be His desire. So, as we talked to Paul towards the end of our trip, it was exciting to hear what God was calling him to do, but we did not

even think about the Pygmies, and he said nothing of them. However, when our translator Bro. Junior Mpiana joined our conversation, he explained to us that some of the unreached people, of whom Paul was talking, were Pygmies.

It was just as my wife had said, and as we had purposed. We did not seek it out, but God brought it to us! After our conversation was over, I returned to my room and rejoiced in God my Guide. "Great things He hath done, Greater things He will do, unto the Lord be the glory, Great things He hath done."

We were greeted at the airport and helped through customs by a born-again believer that had traveled three hours to come help us through customs. It was the easiest time I have ever had in an airport in Africa.

Throughout the trip we met many pastors and visited many of their works, some of which have been established for decades. We were privileged to be able to spend time with many of these pastors and encourage them in the Lord. The Pandemic has been a discouraging time for them.

We were also privileged to teach/preach many times to the Bible College students being trained by these national pastors and share with them what God had given us for them. We look forward to continuing to work with them as they are trained and sent out.

One of the highlights of the trip was preaching for several days to many young people at a Youth Conference. Their hearts were tender, and many responded to the Gospel, God's call to repentance from uncleanness, God's call to serve Him, etc. Please pray with us for God to raise an army of young people for the work of Christ there.

We ask that you be much in prayer for our family as we prayerfully consider how God would have us to respond to this open door!

For His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Michael Williams