

March 2025 Senegal Trip Report

We concluded a successful month-long Senegal trip that started with a 10-day team trip in partnership with Mission Inter Senegal (MIS) visiting our adopted villages of Baback and Ngalagne. Our team of seven represented four different churches. This was a great opportunity to introduce other local churches to the ministry of MIS and how God is at work in Senegal. Here are just a few of the highlights.

Two days in Baback

- Celebration with sponsored children. We currently sponsor 113 children.
- The Light of the World Christian School continues to do well with 250 students enrolled from pre-school through 6th grade.
- Funds were provided through the child sponsorship program to construct the new 7th grade classroom that will be needed for the 2025-26 school year.
- Medical clinic treated more than 100 patients.
- Opportunities to encourage the church.



Five days in Ngalagne

- Celebration with sponsored children. We currently sponsor 82 children.
- Medical clinic treated more than 125 patients and vet clinic treated 50 livestock.
- Hut-to-hut family visits throughout the village provided many opportunities to encourage, pray with people and share the gospel.
- Outreach to Wakhaldiam with visit to the chief. He was open to the gospel. Soap distribution with the women and a kids club. There is now a cell group of 8 believers in this village.
- Outreach to Nguilou with visit to the chief who is Catholic. The women presented the feminine hygiene kits made by Senegal Heart Strings. We had an extended time to share the Gospel with a group of very interested men and women from the village. This is the early stage of church planting.
- We have funds available to construct a house for Pastor Francois Sene and begin an income project (chicken). We are waiting for final approval to get started.
- Testimonies from our team members are included at the end of this trip report.



Sponsored Kids



Hut-to-Hut Visits



Hygiene Kits (Nguilou)



Awesome 2025 Team!



Wakhaldiam Chief



Celebrating with the women



New Namesakes: Amos Samba Dione, Rokhi Sene, and Khady Coumba Faye



GTN Conferences

Five members of our team departed on March 9 and that started the 3-week GTN portion of this trip. We conducted 4 pastor/leader conferences between March 10-26. Two of these were new training partnership in Diourbel (Association of Evangelical Baptist Churches of Senegal) and the collective of pastors/churches in Thies. We also held a week-long conference in the village of Ngardiam for 40 pastors and a 3-day conference in Mbour attended by 30 pastors/leaders. The feedback was very positive. We are working with a number of training partners to begin developing teams of teachers to ensure that all of the training that we have delivered over the past 5 years is being taught in every church and beyond. We will return on May 1-25 to lead 5 more GTN conferences before the rainy season begins. With a January trip and a February conference on Zoom, this has been a productive first three months of 2025.

Diourbel Conference



Thies Conference



Ngardiam Conference



Mbour Conference



One of the most encouraging aspects of the GTN equipping ministry in Senegal is that deep relationships are forming with many of these pastors. As we get to know them, there are opportunities to encourage them in various ways. Since we started serving with GTN in December 2020, many new churches have been constructed, motorbikes have been provided to pastors and church planters and income-generating projects. This started with Christ First Church from 2021-2023 and continues, by God's grace, through the generosity of our GTN partners. There is a list of pastors who faithfully participate in our training (just from this trip) who have been strengthened in their ministry.

Pastor	Village	Church	Motorbike	Project/Other
Isaac Diouf	Ngalagne/Leral		2023	
Francois Sene	Ngalagne	Constructed (2020)	2022	Chicken project and pastor house (pending 2025)
Mbaye Diouf	Yarquoray		2023	Sheep project (2023)
Samba Ndong	Koulouck	Repair floor (2024)		Pig project (2024)
David Bies	Sports Friends			Pig project (2024-25)
Aloyse Ndour	Thies			Garden project (2024)
Cheikh Sene	Mboyene	Constructed (2021)	2023	Cattle project (2024)
Fassar Dione	Njigdashene	Constructed (2023)	2025	Garden project (2025)
Blaise Diouf	Koung Koung	Constructed (2022)		
Pierre Kama	Poultok	Constructed (2022)		
Ngor Mack Sarr	Mbetitte	Constructed (2022)	2023	Wedding Gift – Bed; Guitar and keyboard for church (2025)
Ibou Diouf	Sob Niakhar	Constructed (2022)	2025	
Wagane Mbodj	Habada		2024	Wedding gift – Bed (2025)
Demba Marone	Free Methodist Mbour	Constructed (2024)		Fence around church (2025)
Pierre Faye	Redemption	Small Chapel (2024)		Tri-cycle Taxi project (2025)
Pierre Faye	Redemption	Foundation for larger church (2024)		Wall around church property (2024-25)
Dominique Diouf	Diarrere		2025	
Adama Sene	Ngardiam	Roof repair (2024)		
Antoine Dione	Bambey	Floor/Wall repairs (2024)		
Paul Sene	Godel			Medical care (2025)
Docor Thiaw	IBC Dakar		2022	Chicken Project (2025)
Jericho Project	Kaolack			Funding (2025)
MIS	Evangelism Ministry			Help fund 2025 budget

God is working powerfully in Senegal in the rural communities. These pastors are grateful for the support and encouragement and they continually remind us to share their thanks with our church and GTN partners. They have very limited resources but an unlimited passion and commitment to reach their communities for Christ. There are growing needs for new churches, motorbikes and income-generating projects if the church feels led to respond in the future.

Update on Friends of MIS 501(c)(3)

We have filed all of the necessary forms with the state and federal government to apply for tax-exempt status for the newly formed Friends of MIS organization. A seven-member board has been formed that is made up of MIS partners from five US churches. One of the board members self-funded the \$4,000+ expense to set up the organization. Praise God!

There is a six-month backlog for the US government to begin processing our application that was submitted in December 2024. They are currently processing applications submitted in June 2024. We worked out an arrangement with Mission Enablers International (MEI) to receive and wire child sponsorship support payments in April for the next six-month period (April through September). MIS is an approved organization to receive wires from MEI. More than \$40,000 in child sponsorship support will be wired to MIS through MEI in early April, by God's grace.

This has been a wonderful organization to partner with for GTN as well. We have successfully wired more than \$100,000 for churches, motorbikes and pastor projects in the past two years through MEI to Mission Inter Senegal. Once the Friends of MIS organization is established, funding for these projects could be directed through Friends of MIS in addition to other funds in support of the ministry of MIS.

Testimonies from Team Members (February 27 – March 9, 2025)

Sue Kurtz (Jill's sister-in-law; Church of the Savior, Wayne)

We visited villages in Senegal where people are valued and possessions are few—we were welcomed with generosity and warm hospitality. At least to an outside observer, they work together despite religious and other differences and contribute what they can. Coming together for worship, a meal, conversation or dancing is a highlight and an event to be savored. The churches appear to be distinct centers to draw in each community, and neighbors seem open to visits and discussion on which the local leaders can follow up. It is humbling to try to serve where I have little to offer; it is very different to mostly sit and listen.

Mothers and grandmothers are concerned about their children having limited educational opportunities, also evident in the reading skills of adults. Many resources are creatively utilized, though I was saddened to see sewing machines, fabric, etc., that were donated several years ago now gathering dust. This is not the only failed project. The Baback community garden is thriving and the school is growing. Does simple subsistence living prevent follow through? Or are there cultural barriers? I resonate with Paul in I Corinthians 13—without local language I could not communicate directly, but hope the love of Christ came through in our actions. Our first world possessions and accomplishments become quickly irrelevant in the rural Senegal setting. But I also see that everyone needs to know that God loves them and Christ died for them, whether in Senegal or the US.

Jason Greenly (Mission Community Church, Downingtown)

This was my first trip to Senegal. I was very impressed from the start to finish by Mike and Jill and the organization that they put forth to make this trip happen. We were able to accomplish much toward growing God's kingdom. This was done by medical clinics/veterinary clinic/sponsored children/village to village visits spreading the gospel. It was a great balance of seeing what Mike and Jill have been developing with MIS for years. I felt like the gospel was at the forefront of everything we did while ministering to the local people and villages. It was a blessing and privilege to be a member of this team and I felt challenged mentally and spiritually. God is good all the time.

Neal Heires (Christ First Church)

This was my fourth consecutive year for participating in the Senegal Mission trip with Mike and Jill. Building on the reflections of previous trips, I continue to experience a peace that is present in the villages, where there is an absence of the complexities of our lives in our country compared to the relatively simply life in Senegal.

The people in Ngalagne, one of our church's adopted villages, have a strong church bond and work well together. This was especially noticed on the day of the medical clinic where Pastor Francois had his team working in perfect harmony so they could swiftly accommodate the medical needs of the congregation. The Sunday service was also well attended, and included people from outlying villages. And after the service many stepped forward for prayer for themselves and their loved ones.

The sponsor child program was well attended both at Ngalagne and at Baback, but it was a bit disheartening to learn that the gifts to the children were less this spring due to the delay in forming the 501c3 and the difficulty with the collection of funds from sponsors. It was nice personally to see both of our sponsored children in Baback, and to give them some extra special gifts.

My relationship with Abou Ngom, my Serer namesake, continues to build. I presented him with a relatively inexpensive cell phone, which he was very pleased to receive. Most Senegal families now have access to cell coverage now as more and more towers have been erected. Also, the church has actual electric and solar power, allowing for lighting and fans, as well as the ability for visitors to charge our electronic devices such as my hearing aids.

An extra event that was well received was acting out the parable of the Prodigal Son, which was translated to the children and adults that watched it. Since most in the villages cannot read the Serer bible, sharing the gospel verbally is very important. And it is obvious that what we do attracts attention, so acting out the gospel seemed to really make an impact.

In closing, the more I travel to Senegal, the more I realize how spiritual the people are. Unlike our country where many have abandoned spiritual things for material things, here the spiritual is very important. The key is to help them learn about the correct Spirit, and the message of Jesus Christ. And that is what we do on these mission trips and why it is so important. Thank you, Father, for the blessing of being able to serve in this Way.

Emily Hicks-Ball (Mission Community Church, Downingtown)

Whenever I am preparing to go, or coming home from Senegal, I will share with people about how it is nearly impossible to go on one of these trips and not see God moving in big and small ways. Not only in Senegal, but in people on the team, and in stories back home. I say it often, but being a small part of what God is doing in Senegal is one of the greatest joys and privileges of my life. It had been two years since I had traveled to Senegal, the longest I've gone without being there since 2013. It was so encouraging to, once again, witness all of the amazing things God has been doing and continues to do in the villages in Senegal, and at MIS.

From worshipping with the believers in Ngalagne on Sunday, to being in Baback during a school day, it was incredible to see how much the church in Ngalagne is thriving and how the school in Baback is growing. There are hundreds of kids each day in Baback not only getting an excellent education, but hearing about their creator and Jesus. So many seeds are being planted! We talked often about how each interaction we had, we never knew where we fit in each person's journey. We could be the first person planting a seed, or we could be the tenth person encouraging them and watering the seed. It was a great reminder to never miss an opportunity to love, encourage, and share Jesus with those around us. In addition to spending time with our friends in Ngalagne and Baback, we also had time to visit two other villages, which is always encouraging to see how the village churches in Senegal are reaching out to those around them. We spent one day in a village called Wakhaldiam. The first time I was there 2 years ago, we met under a tent with a very small group from the village. This year, we had the opportunity to sit with about 20 women inside a compound and share stories and laughter, and then later, even more people from the village came. There was a kids club, and soap distribution in the main meeting area. This showed such growth and openness in the village after 2 years of prayer.

In Nguilou, a newer outreach village, after some investment from the people in Senegal, they welcomed us into the Man of Peace's compound and were open to letting us share hygiene kits and a small kids club with them. These are two examples of how building relationships is so important in not only loving people but opening doors to share the Gospel. God can do BIG things without us, but he invites us in to partner with Him and see Him move.

On a more personal level, one of the most meaningful parts of this year's trip was the short time I was able to spend time with my namesake. This special time together really reminded me of how important relationships are in their culture, and that we are really able to build solid and meaningful friendships with people of different cultures, languages, and backgrounds, by the Grace of God. When Thiabe Thiaw and I met, she was a young teenager still in school. Today she is married, with children, and it has been so amazing to see how the Lord has blessed her life, even in circumstances very different from mine. I was so touched to be able to see that she had pictures of the two of us hanging around her living area, just like I do at home in the United States. These trips, and being able to receive a namesake, is so important in their culture, and for that I feel very honored to be called Thiabe Thiaw.

This trip reminded me of the importance of relationships and fellowship. It challenged me to be bold in my faith with people around me. It encouraged me to stay in tune with the Holy Spirit in a way that sometimes I become distracted from the busyness of life at home. Most importantly, it gave me another opportunity to witness the greatness of God, the graciousness of God, the powerfulness of God, and just how deeply our God loves us. I would encourage anyone feeling a call or a tug from the Holy Spirit to go on one of these trips to take the leap of faith. You may be amazed at how God opens your eyes, encourages you, and refines you in ways you never would have expected. It changes your life.

Rosemary Moon (The Dwelling Church, Paoli)

I saw God bringing people together that wouldn't have been together otherwise. Muslims and Christians, male and female, reserved and outgoing, old and young, American and African.

If it wasn't for our Lord's provision and Great Commission to make disciples of all nations, even I wouldn't have been there. There wouldn't have been a reason for me to be there or a means. With social media isolating us away from each other, here was God bringing us closer together.

One of the most profound days for me was when we visited Nguilou. I was informed that our group's visit the previous year lasted about an hour long and was held under the big tree in the front. This time, when we arrived, our whole (large) group was led through the front gate into the compound. This felt ceremonial to me. Essentially, it took a year for that relationship to move a few meters from the tree to the gate. I was honored to be a part of that moment. It was also that windy afternoon, back under the tree after the delightful lunch they served us, I had one of the most picturesque and spiritual moments of the trip. I made myself memorize the moment because what was happening right in front of me was exactly what I pictured The Great Commission to look like. What I was seeing and hearing was actually so ideal, I was taken a back that I was getting to live in such a moment. In front of me were people sitting and reclining all under the shade of a large tree while Pastor Antoine preached Pure, 100%, Jesus, Bible, Good News. It was exactly what I came to be a part of but didn't want to get my hopes up that I perhaps had visualized some type of "Hollywood"

version of what to expect. There was a lot of preaching and sharing of the gospel during this trip. This moment was special to me because Mike Edelman had also just reminded me that the other places we visited that had churches, began like Nguilou, without a church, with preaching under a tree just like what we were doing. Watching Antoine, a local, preach in the tongue of “his own” people, the simple way of salvation, not complicating it, under that tree, the wind and the afternoon dying down...it does sound “Hollywood”, but it’s what was really happening in front of me.

I saw God move in other ways too. Sometimes, it’s clearest for me to see God working when He blesses the efforts of the people who are trying to do His will. When things go above and beyond, only God can get the credit for it, leaving us in awe to experience His might and His goodness. It’s profoundly impressive how Mike Edelman’s servant leadership and MIS’s purposeful organization are effectively spreading the gospel while building relationships. The barriers that were overcome to get there, the energy and others who have tirelessly continued to pave the way so that the momentum continues...THAT demonstrates how much I saw God working in Senegal. It’s incredible to see how much has been accomplished and what is in the works. For example, people who speak different languages can still share the gospel without translators...but not only did we have translators, we had multiple! And absolute professionals with Christ-loving hearts too. How is that even possible to find? And that’s just one miracle I saw. To have trustworthy transportation...and with air conditioning!.. that has to be God working. My childhood days of push-starting cars and family vacations ruined by overheating cars in the California desert will always be scared in my mind. I felt so safe under Moussa’s care. I will still never figure out how we were fed as a crowd multiple times a day, everyday...all without refrigeration. I have a tough time doing that with a full modern kitchen, a running sink and a bunch of appliances.

I left Senegal in awe of how much God is moving in the hearts of the people there. I am inspired by the people putting in the work and keeping themselves available to continue to do God’s work. I’m inspired by the Muslim leaders who welcomed us and listened to us in the name of peace. I am inspired by the people here in the States who have kept that “togetherness” alive by continuing to show up, pray and love the people of Senegal. Spiritually, my walk with our Lord has become closer as my prayer life has become richer. This has also spilled into my sanctification journey and given that a boosted tune-up.

Jill Edelman (Christ First Church)

By God’s grace, we had the opportunity to lead a team of 7 people representing 4 different churches. This team included 3 people from Christ First Church, 2 people from Mission Community Church, 1 person from Church of the Savior, and one from The Dwelling Church. Four members were returning, and it was the first trip for 3 of the team members. Each team member was actively involved in interacting with the residents of the villages of Baback and Ngalagne as well as the children enrolled in the MIS Child Sponsorship Program.

This trip was very Christ centered, every conversation was seasoned with the love of Christ and it was very encouraging to engage in and be an observer of these interactions with the people in the villages. Most of the people are very responsive to these conversations. It was evident that the women we spoke with felt that they were not able or did not understand that the decision to follow Jesus Christ is a personal decision. Many expressed that they did not have the freedom to make this decision on their own, that they could only do it with their husbands’ approval.

Life in Senegal for women is very difficult. In the villages, most of the manual labor is done by the women, which begins the moment they wake up until they go to bed. Parenting of children is their responsibility as well. Clearly, the women have to work together to accomplish daily tasks. Cooking is done over an open fire, in the heat and while breathing in a lot of smoke. I guess where I am going with this is, I feel a tremendous burden for the women there.

- 1) Many are dealing with spiritual oppression.
- 2) Some are possessed.
- 3) Some realize that there is something wrong, and they are seeking help from the church because they have tried everything else.
- 4) They desperately need hope, they need Jesus.
- 5) They feel trapped by their culture and the restrictions the culture places on them. Many are in polygamous marriages.
- 6) They lack education, and they want their children to have the education that was not afforded to them.
- 7) They lack basic health care and knowledge of feminine hygiene and health.
- 8) They are not valued, or respected.

A few years ago, when we visited the village of Wakhaldiam, while praying with a group of mostly women, a few of the women were set free from demon possession. It was a very intense experience. We visited these women on this trip and we were blessed to witness the strength of their genuine faith and their courage to follow Jesus Christ. Many testified to how Jesus had healed their physical infirmities and their commitment to follow Jesus the rest of their lives. Last year we had a distribution of Hygiene Kits to the women in this village, this year the women on the team got to hang out with about 20 women as they prepared lunch and visited with us. We had the opportunity to share the gospel with them and later did a soap distribution with a larger group of women while a Kid's Club was going on just a stone's throw away. Pastor Francois from Ngalagne visits, teaches and encourages this group of women frequently to help them grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Another village that Pastor Francois and the church in Ngalagne has been reaching out to is the village of Nguilou. Last year we had a short visit there, this year we had an extended visit, started by a visit to the compound of "the Man of Peace". After a brief time of introduction, the men went outside the compound to share more about the hope we have in Jesus Christ with those that were interested. The women remained in the compound (over 50 women), crowded under a tent. We had the opportunity to share the love of Christ and give the ladies Hygiene Kits made by the women at CF's Senegal Heartstrings Sewing Ministry and provided information on feminine and basic health. Later, a Kid's Club was run by Isaac Diouf with the children of the village. Isaac also runs the Kid's Club for the MIS Child Sponsorship program in the village of Ngalagne. There is clearly an openness here, and I am excited to see what God will do in this village.

We visited the village of Baback two times on this trip. The first visit was on Saturday, March 1st; we had the opportunity to act out and explain the Parable of the Prodigal Son for the Sponsored Children. The children were very engaged, and we were blessed to share a story of our Father's love, grace and forgiveness with the children. We also visited again on Friday March 7th and had the privilege to fund a medical clinic for people in need of medical care in the village. This also provided time to interact and love on people while they were waiting to be seen at the clinic, reconnect with people we have met over the years from the village, people in the church, as well as

teachers and students at the school (it was a school day). At least 80 of the children in the Child Sponsorship Program attend the Light of the World Christian school in Baback. It gave me great joy to see the children running and playing during their recess. At the end of the school day, we distributed the letters the sponsors sent to their children, and each child received a small gift of new sandals and/or clothes donated by a CF member. Two children in Baback have recently received emergency medical care through the Child Sponsorship program. MIS has provided oversight and transportation for the children to and from Baback to the hospital in Thies. This care would not have been possible if it weren't for the Child Sponsorship program.

The bulk of our time was spent in Ngalagne during trip. We started our time together with the church on Sunday, March 2nd, worshipping our God together. It was a beautiful picture of God's universal church, and a glimpse of what it will be like in heaven someday where people from every nation and every tribe are worshipping and praising our Father and Lord Jesus! It was a blessing to see so many there for church, not only from Ngalagne, but others from surrounding villages. Later in the afternoon we gathered with the sponsored children and again shared the greatest short story ever told, the parable of The Prodigal Son, with the children. Pastor Francois, Isaac Diouf, and Stephan Beyo (MIS Child Sponsorship Coordinator) did a great job engaging with the children. They so clearly enjoy the ministry to the children, and the children were very responsive to their leading of worship. We were able to distribute the letters to the children from their sponsors and gifts, and all the children seemed very happy.

We also were able to fund a medical and vet clinic in Ngalagne were held on Tuesday, March 4th. What impacted me the most was how receptive the people were interacting with the team members while they were waiting to be seen by the medical staff. We had another opportunity to share the Parable of the Prodigal Son through a skit by team members and explain each of the characters, God's grace and forgiveness and the hope we share as Christians in Jesus Christ. We also had multiple opportunities to interact with individuals during this time. I know our team encouraged and loved on everyone (adults and children) they engaged with. It was a beautiful thing to watch. I was very encouraged by the collective effort of the people who reside close to the church in helping the medical clinic run smoothly. I believe that the care the church provides for the people in the village is having an impact and that God is providing opportunities for the church to plant seeds in the fertile hearts of this community. I believe and trust the Harvest fields are being made ready and thank God that we get to see and testify to all that He is doing here. Last but not least, we had several wonderful visits to individual compounds near the church on Thursday. People peacefully coexist in spite of the differences in religions, and we were warmly welcomed into each compound we entered. We clearly see hearts softening to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please keep these precious souls in prayer, that they would receive Jesus Christ and the precious gift of eternal life through Him. In all that was done, I believe God was glorified and I was blessed and thankful to be a part of this team effort.

I am looking forward to visiting, as the Lord provides opportunities, all of these villages throughout the year whenever we are close to these villages in our travels as we serve with GTN. To God be the glory, He is doing GREAT things!