

Senegal 2017 Introduction

By Christopher Jones

An amazing event took place in Senegal, West Africa in July of this year. The main characters involved were Amboise and Delayla Digne and Benedicte Suzuki but for me (Christopher Jones) the story began in the 1980s when True Father allocated nations across the world for each of us to connect with and take care of -and of course my nation was Senegal.

Many years later when True Father spoke in the UK for the last time his final words (in English) to us all there were 'I will take care of you' and 'take care of Africa'.

Therefore when I heard of a trip being organized to follow up on the success of a previous STF mission my chance had arrived to finally keep my promise and respond to TF's plea.

What follows is a brief record of my life –changing experience.

Therefore two first gen and four second generation members set off for the capital city Dakar for two weeks with five main purposes.



Ambroise & Delayla Digne



Benedicte Suzuki



Chris Jones

Education

Having already built both a primary and middle school in Keur Massar, one of the poorer areas surrounding Dakar, Amboise and Delayla were determined to provide a safe play area outside the primary school for the children to enjoy being outdoors. We therefore all pitched in to fund and help build the surrounding wall which was mostly finished by the end of our visit.

Colourful end of year class



Deep
foundations
required in
everything
educational





Brick by brick

Maximum BC teamwork does the job!



Bag Gardens

Using resources readily available even in the poorest areas self-contained vegetable gardens were constructed using local soil, chicken manure and stones then planted with donated seedlings to provide vital healthy food for families nearby the school. Crucially this is something that can now easily spread helping more families to experience a step towards healthy self –sufficiency.

Bag Gardens

Sprouting bag, happy new friends



Bag Gardens

Building up the layers



Bag Gardens

Benedicte also required to protect from ever-present goats!



Bag Gardens

Fresh crop of tomatoes & onions on its way.



Individual Sponsorship

One of the underlying core projects this is the financial support of individual children by regular donors in France and Belgium enabling them to continue to attend school. Ongoing personal contact between sponsor and child is always encouraged and the annual visits provide a wonderful opportunity for each child to receive a gift pack assembled from items given and collected throughout the year. It is such a joyful part of the experience to witness the faces of the children as they receive what, for some of them, may be the only brand new things they are given this year.

Special moment for Mishio and her sponsored child



Team assembling the accumulated gifts-from left to right
Mishio, Norwenn, Yanna ,Benedicte , George and Chris.



Corporate Sponsorship

This year also marked a breakthrough in local corporate sponsorship when a South Korean tuna processing business, with a base in Dakar, donated 100 boxes of their product to local families who attended the end of term school celebration. Many local dignitaries also attended this event as a testimony to the recognition our efforts are now gaining.

The management were happy to attend in person and enjoyed the lively entertainment.



Healthy tuna packaged to
travel home with each family



BC Workshop

Around 22 Blessed children were able to attend the 2 week workshop where, as well as participating in the above projects, deep and positive experiences were created as they had fun learning the TM – inspired exercise dance ‘Bounce’ and the song ‘Kids United’ as well as daily roof-top HDH, sports, art classes, making ‘Purity’ bracelets together and of course pancake and movie nights! During the second week there were also stimulating trips to pioneering agricultural, textile and natural health businesses to stimulate and encourage them not to limit their own horizons.

Special times, special friends



Early morning HDH on the roof



Outing to see some innovative agriculture and farming practices



Reflective Moment



Cultural and Spiritual Connections

Given the closeness, daily sharing and positive environment we all became one family during these precious two weeks. Visiting the lively Sunday Service and beautiful new National HQ served to reinforce our bond and remind ourselves of how long TPs have invested their heart in Senegal right back to the arrival of the Japanese sister missionaries in the 1990s and before. The impressive Renaissance statue triggered thoughts of how much HP and TPs long for the true freedom of all Africa and true restoration and unity between our continents.

Leading ladies from
across three continents



Hometown man lights the way



Renaissance Statue



Smiles to lift the world!

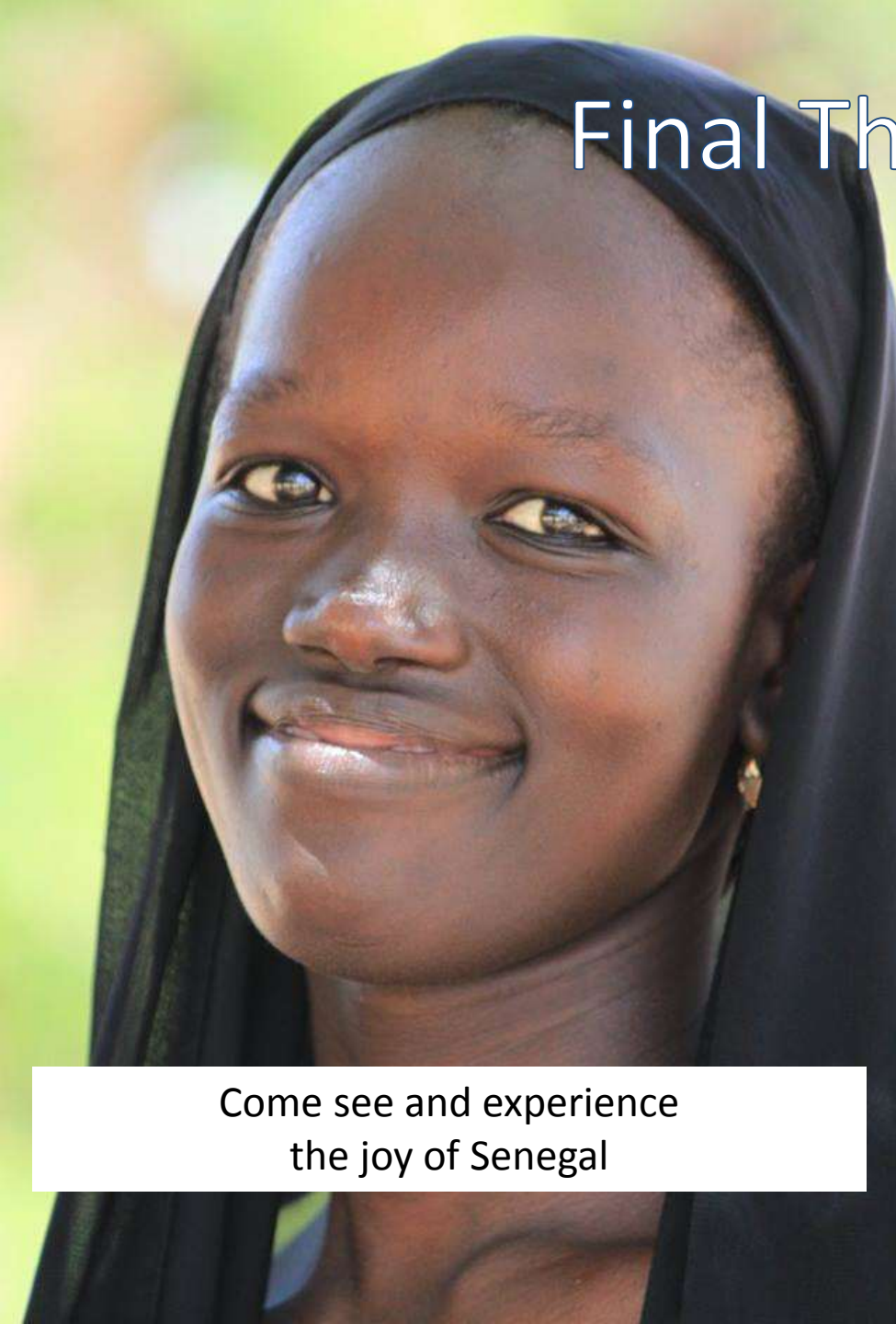


Final Thoughts


I will remain eternally grateful to Amboise and Delayla for their immense devotion and sacrifice over so many years and Benedicte for her amazing heart and zeal for this project. And I am totally inspired to have met and worked with George, Norwenn, Yanna and Mishio who provided such vitality and showed such genuine love for their fellow BCs.

If you have not been to Africa yet but feel called to deeply widen your life experience please get in touch. Even if you cannot go yourself right now there are many ways to get involved and help is urgently needed.

Final Thoughts



Come see and experience
the joy of Senegal



... and maybe try the dreadlocks
while you are here!