



Paul & Julie Kraus

Missionaries to Ivory Coast

Mission Des Assemblées De Dieu, B.P. 1639 Daloa
Via Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) West Africa

August 1990

“GIVE UP YOUR SMALL AMBITIONS”

We have been in the Ivory Coast 6 months now. The rainy season has begun. We have never felt as fulfilled doing the Lord's work. Opportunities abound everywhere!

This is the time one begins to see past the newness and cultural color to the realities of life beyond the scenery. The picture one sees is not always pleasant. A few weeks ago Julie and I watched two babies die and two mothers clutch their hearts in pain. Despite last ditch efforts, for many Africans, treatment is unavailable or arrives too late. Local pastors scurried grieving mothers out of the hospital and into the night with their lifeless bundles. They head to the villages to avoid costly burial expenses. Common practice here ... and yet ... this was an area of pastoral duty I knew nothing about!

I've been going out on evangelistic crusades in the region of Man. In one village 100 people accepted Christ. In another village we preached to mocking crowds. 16 people courageously raised their hands at the invitation as those around them pushed and jeered at them. In yet another village when the mocking began the fiery African evangelist dug in his heels and had the sick come forward for prayer. We're seeing many victories. By the use of a generator we show a film called "The Combat". It delivers a powerful message and really draws a crowd.

Last week I got my first glimpse of the refugee situation on the Liberian border. While there I had the opportunity to preach in English. The refugees speak English and understand no French at all. They welcomed my arrival. We are now assisting them in food and housing needs.

Things still appear new to me in the region where I am working. The other day, hesitantly and cautiously I spooned two never before seen foods onto my plate as the people laughed. "Look!" they said, "he's mixing them!"

While I was away last week Julie came down with the chills and fever of malaria and was very sick. Then it was my turn. After that I had my second bout of intestinal dysentery causing such pain I was given an intravenous shot. Emily is also at this moment fighting amoebic dysentery.

Julie and I had the privilege August 2 to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary. We're more in love than ever and can't wait for the next ten years. Julie has made us a lovely home. What would we do without her sewing talents, her home schooling Jonathan and Emily, and her recipe for mint chocolate chip ice cream???

Please continue to pray for this nation. Universities and schools are still closed. We've lost this school year. Pray that the war in Liberia will come to an end as refugees keep coming. Pray that Christians everywhere would give up their small ambitions and do something **BIG** for God!

All our love,

Paul, Julie, Jonathan and Emily