



# GTFB M

## Gather The Fragments Bible Mission

*Stephen & Laura Holt*  
*Sierra Leone, West Africa*

### FIELD REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2018

*Dear Praying Family and Friends*

Thank you to all of you for your faithful prayers over the last 10 months. Laura's health has continued to stabilize and she is able to manage her symptoms well enough for me to feel confident with returning to Sierra Leone. She has family and many friends in DeLand to assist her as needed and we're very grateful for this network of support and care. My departure date is November 8 and we are now busy with packing several shipping crates with much needed supplies for two fronts of advancement.

**ADVANCEMENT ONE - EVANGELISM:** This dry season GTF Bible Mission will be breaking into new territory. I am in contact with Sahr Lebbie in Lunsar who has arranged for GTF to bring New Testaments and other Christian literature into area schools. The population of these schools will be predominantly Muslim and we are very excited about this opportunity. We also plan to have a very full evangelism circuit and much of the materials in the crates are for the school and evangelism circuit outreach efforts.

**ADVANCEMENT TWO - BUILDING:** Our building project is steadily moving forward. I've been in regular contact with our men on the ground to start making arrangements for necessary building materials such as sand and stone. In January 2019 Brother Stephen Mustard of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Carthage TN, will arrive in Sierra Leone to work on site prep and setting the footers for the metal building. We also have several men from two churches, Cornerstone and Spring City, who will be coming the following year to erect the building. Some of the items in the crates are tools and other items needed in preparation for this project and to help accommodate the large team staying with me. Please pray for Bro. Mustard as he prepares to leave in January.

**ON TO GLORY:** On September 18, I received a text message informing me that GTF Bible Institute graduate Dennis Bambanga had passed on to the Glory Land. He had been very ill for several years so his passing didn't entirely surprise me but it's difficult to think of not seeing him again when I return. He is one of only six men to graduate from our institute. Our leading church men have been attending the "waking" and other memorial observances which are culturally required, traveling to Bo at their own expense. They also pooled their meager funds to assist Dennis's widow, Esther, and their twin sons who are still at home and in school. During a time of sadness it's a joy to my heart to see this growth in our church members. It's not typical for Sierra Leoneans to be so mindful of the needs of others. They're growing; it's real to them.



Dennis graduating in 2014

That same week our church also lost another faithful member, Mr. Gbanga. His death was unexpected and he leaves behind a wife and five children, the oldest of which is 18, who all live in Baomahun. He was the only Christian in his family with his wife being Muslim and the children attending at Mosque. Our members have been by to comfort Mr. Gbanga's wife and the evangelism crew is making plans to regularly visit her in the hopes that during a time of crisis her heart might be softened to the gospel. Again it's a thrill to see this growth in service for Jesus Christ which continues in my absence. Please pray for them as they take the gospel into this Muslim home.



Dennis on the evangelism circuit

**TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS:** We're excited to announce that we have taken a step forward into the brave new world of Internet technology. We now have online giving available on our web site! This is powered by [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly), a well known and trusted platform for online donations. Churches and individuals may prefer to use this means to give to GTF Bible Mission as donations can be set up on a recurring basis simplifying paperwork and eliminating the need to mail paper checks. You will find this on our website, [gatherthefragments.com](http://gatherthefragments.com) labeled as "Donate Online" or you may [use this link directly to the page](#). There is a drop-down selection where you may choose how your donations are designated. We hope that you will find this resource helpful.

In addition to packing crates, I've also begun to pack my checked baggage. My departure is only five weeks away and there's still much to get accomplished. I'm enjoying the able assistance from our grandson, Caleb! He's eight years old and this is my first time to be with him; we've quickly established a tight bond as he tags along when ever he can and we'll have some great memories of our time together.

As always, we appreciate all of you for your faithfulness in allowing us to represent you in Sierra Leone. You remain in our prayers as you serve our Lord Jesus in the homeland.

*Stephen & Laura Holt*

One crate down three to go!

Caleb is my little buddy and assistant.

