



Orphaned Matteus Finds a Family

Matteus Jose was orphaned at three years old. He never knew his mother who died at his birth, and his father passed a few years later. He was raised by his grandmother in their rural village in central Mozambique. When she also tragically died, Matteus was alone with no one to take care of him. He tried to survive the best he could with the little means that was available.

He saw his friends happily embedded into family units. He felt excluded from normal life and security. One day, the buzz at school was that a new church was opening. Looking for connection, Matteus (now a teenager) decided to visit this place.

As he entered Harvesters' new church plant, he was welcomed with open arms. He was invited to a discipleship group for teenagers and, after a few study sessions with them, made the life-changing decision to follow Jesus!

"Suddenly I have a family," he smiled.

Harvesters Ministries visited Matteus' church during a Bible distribution trip in October 2021. Ten thousand local-language

Bibles, youth Bibles, evangelism tools and Sunday school materials were handed out.

Matteus was delighted to receive his very own Portuguese youth Bible, filled with devotionals to help him on his faith journey. He was also given a Living Ball – an evangelism tool with the Gospel message printed around a soccer ball.

"I found a way to tell the story of Jesus while having fun" he said joyously.

As Matteus stood for a picture, he was surrounded by many children who couldn't wait to hear the Gospel story of Jesus Christ. "He is a natural leader," reported the Harvesters team.

Thanks to local church planters and donors like you, Matteus found a family by joining a newly planted church. ✉

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The Ivory Coast is Being Won for Christ

Imagine joyous singing, drums beating, feet stamping and hands clapping. These are the sounds rising out of churches in the Ivory Coast as Harvesters Ministries' training takes place.

Throughout March, Herbie Venter, Regional Director for West Africa, visited the Ivory Coast to train pastors, conduct evangelism events and present the Harvesters model to brand new groups of leaders. It was a fruitful trip.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

The work of Harvesters Ministries in the Ivory Coast was established in May of 2018. The 'envisioning stage' began when Herbie went to present the Harvesters church planting model to approximately 200 pastors in Abidjan – the economic capital and largest city.

"Most pastors did not know how to take their churches forward," said Herbie. "They didn't know how to evangelize, they didn't know how to plant churches, and they didn't know how to make disciples."

These pastors eagerly adopted Harvesters' program, and Herbie returned in September 2018 to do a refresher presentation and to ensure that everyone was committed. By

February 2019, the group had completed Phase A. Their journey had begun!

IT SOON TOOK OFF

"They've multiplied their churches," reports Pastor Maurice Mulenga, Harvesters' Licenced Trainer for Ivory Coast. "Whatever they have learned they have put it to work. There were pastors who just planted one or two churches. Today, some of them have planted 9 or 11 churches!"

Many of the pastors would travel long distances to the training sessions and they began to ask if Harvesters Ministries could visit other cities, too, in order that other pastors could be trained as well.

In November 2019, Herbie presented the course to over 60 pastors in Bouaké, and to 175 pastors in Daloa, the second and third largest cities. Now, Harvesters is training pastors and planting churches in and around Ivory Coast's three largest and most influential cities!

Bouaké is a predominately Muslim city, and Daloa has a lot of witchcraft. Harvesters training is equipping local leaders to evangelize, disciple and plant churches in hostile environments.



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RETURNING

In March this year, Herbie visited West Africa again after being grounded by Covid-19. The people rejoiced with songs of celebration!

March is the hottest month of the year in Abidjan. As the sun rose, Herbie began the first of three days of Phase D training with 97 leaders. They reported their progress throughout the pandemic. “Thirty-eight hub leaders reported that they managed to plant 201 new churches with new student pastors and many disciples!” said Herbie. “All glory to God!”

From that amazing start to his trip, Herbie then travelled to Bouaké and Daloa to deliver Phase C training. “There was good attendance with 87 leaders in the city of Bouake and 120 leaders in the city of Daloa,” reported Herbie.

Again, the pandemic did not slow them down! Fifty-one leaders in Bouaké reported that they managed to plant 115 new churches, and 107 leaders in Daloa reported 283 new churches. “Thank you, Lord, for dedicated pastors, all honor and glory be to God!” rejoiced Herbie.

NEW FRONTIERS

The work in the Ivory Coast is growing steadily, and the desire to be equipped for ministry is strong. During his visit, Herbie also visited the capital city—Yamoussoukro—to present the Harvesters model for the first time.

After two-days of evangelism training, the 86 leaders were challenged to get out on the street and evangelize. Fifteen groups went out sharing the Gospel for about three hours, spreading the Good News to the people. “There was great excitement,” recalled Herbie, “as they came back and testified it was so easy to speak to the people about Jesus.”

One hundred and twenty-three people made a commitment to the Lord Jesus that day! They will be disciplined in new church plants in and around Yamoussoukro.

“The leaders of Yamoussoukro now have a clear direction, vision and goal: go make disciples and plant churches through evangelism,” said Herbie.

Pray with us that the nation of Ivory Coast will be won for Christ. 📧



123

**PEOPLE
SAVED**



207

**LEADERS
COMPLETED
PHASE C
TRAINING**



97

**LEADERS
COMPLETED
PHASE D
TRAINING**



599

**NEW
CHURCHES
PLANTED
THROUGH
EVANGELISM**



1

**NEW CITY
OPENED**

Opening the Way for the World to Know Jesus

The Gospel is gathering momentum as it sweeps across the world. Be encouraged by these milestones we've already achieved—and inspired by the goals to come!

1998:

Harvesters Ministries founded by Steven Loots.

2004:

500 new churches planted in East Africa.

2012:

100,000 Bibles in local languages distributed.

2019:

65,000 new churches planted.

Goal for 2030:

Reach one million churches planted!

2000:

27 new churches planted in Malawi and Zambia.

2006:

Bibles for Believers project launched.






2018:

54,700 new churches planted.

Goal for 2022:

25,000+ new churches to be planted.

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Get in touch with Harvesters Ministries if you would like us to come and present the free Disciple Makers Course at your church.

Opening the Way