



## “And I was with you in weakness and in much fear and trembling.”

(1 Corinthians 2.3)

An apostle has a particular mission and great authority. God works through apostles to an exceptional extent, usually involving missionary work and the setting up of a community. Although signs and wonders may accompany apostles' service, the determining feature of their work is the conversions they produce: people turn away from their forsakenness and decide to come to Jesus. Ephesians 4.11 speaks of five-fold service: “some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers”. Through them, the body of Christ was to be built up, and the saints equipped for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4.12).



Paul tells us much about himself in his letters. He was nothing like the superstar that people nowadays expect famous preachers to be. All his religious training and his influence faded into the background as soon as he met Jesus (Acts 9.22,26). From that moment on, he considered his background, his Roman citizenship and much else insignificant. The only thing that was important to him was that Christ lived in him; he was driven by love for both Jesus and all mankind.

Some people mocked him, and tried to outdo him. Some preached Christ eloquently, hoping to make a name for themselves and increase their own importance (Philippians 1.15-18). They wanted to be better than Paul, and to gain more follow-

ers than him. Some were no doubt more skilled in rhetoric than Paul, and commented on his inconspicuousness. Paul realised they were jealous of him, but he took no notice of their intentions. For him the only thing that was important was that Jesus should be proclaimed, even if some of the other preachers were doing so for the wrong reasons (Philippians 1.15-18).

Paul knew his mission. Wherever he spoke, it was about salvation through Jesus, the meaning of the Cross and the Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15). The Old Covenant (the Old Testament) was the foundation for everything that was fulfilled through Jesus. He preached that Jesus was the purpose and the completion of the Law; whoever believed in Him was justified (Romans 10.4).

Paul's external appearance was not impressive, and he was plagued by various troubles (2 Corinthians 12.7-10). With God's permission, one of the Devil's angels was allowed to assault him violently. Throughout the Church's history many particularly holy people have had to face a great deal of temptation and harassment. As in Paul's case, they needed to be made aware of their weakness and vulnerability so that they could remain humble and continue to hold fast to God.

Paul knew that he was dependent on God. He didn't boast about his background, his knowledge, the rich fruit of his service, but only about God's grace, on which he was dependent (2 Corinthians 12). There was no room for conceit; indeed he saw himself as unworthy and the least of the apostles, even though he worked harder than all the others (1 Corinthians 15.9-11).

He stayed in Corinth for eighteen months (Acts 18.11). It was a time of intense dedication, marked by much animosity. Paul was not always in good health: he was often weak, fearful and shaky. These shortcomings made no difference to the believers; they loved him because of his love for others and for God, and because of his modesty. “You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you ...” (Galatians 4.13-14).

As a public figure, Paul had enemies as well as friends. His sister and her son worried about him. Because of ‘insider information’ his nephew was able to avert an assassination attempt (Acts 23.16-22).

He treated the people working with him fairly; he was not the type to act the boss. He put no pressure on people, and accepted it when they did not do as he asked. They had to be free to decide whether they wanted to fall in with what he suggested to them (1 Corinthians 16.12). “Not that we lord it over your faith; we work with you for your joy” (2 Corinthians 1.24). He was a humble, modest man.

Paul didn't claim to be a star. He never referred to his own person, but built up Jesus instead. It was very striking that God's power was being channelled through such a remarkably weak person. God doesn't need strong people; He much prefers using weak people who are aware of their failings (1 Corinthians 1.26 et seq.). “For when I am weak, then I am strong”, said Paul (2 Corinthians 12.10).

In his theological precision he was unsurpassable. What he wrote contributed to the growth in belief and consolidation of the communities. Some of his contemporaries found his writings difficult to understand, and as a result some of the things he wrote were interpreted wrongly, to their own detriment and to the confusion of others (2 Peter 3.15 et seq.).

Hans-Joachim Heil

## Key words for a good marriage

Most of us were in a really enthusiastic mood when we stood before the altar at our wedding. We radiated happiness as we blissfully answered “I do” to the question “Do you take this man to be your husband in happiness and sadness? Will you be true to him, and love and honour him?”

When did these convictions fade out of our everyday married lives? Why have they disappeared in the fulfilment of duty, overload, and disappointment? Because we have forgotten the little things that open doors, that give us breathing space, such as:

### A nice greeting

“Mum - what would you like us to give you for your birthday?” our children asked me. “I’ve got an idea,” I said happily. “Show me a friendly face every morning for the next year, and say ‘good morning!’” “That’s too hard - and for 365 days!” our son groaned. So I was amazed when they nevertheless gave me what I had wished for - albeit not in the way I had thought. They gave me a 50-cm tall smiling doll, with the message: “Mum - any time you need a smile, here it is!” Greeting means “I’ve noticed you. I’m glad you exist. It’s good that you’re there.” We all need to get the message that someone not only needs us but is glad that we exist.

As soon as we get up in the morning we should be saying “good morning” to each other. Or we could say, “How good it is that you exist”.

### Say something nice to each other

Of course we tell each other what is causing us pain, who has hurt us, and what problems we are having at work or with the children. But we should also be sharing the good things: things that have been successful, and things that have made us happy. Things that do the other person good. We should be gold diggers rather than dung beetles, finding something valuable rather than perpetuating something nasty.

### Please

“Wait a minute - say the magic word first!” my mother used to say to our chil-

dren when she came to visit. Because as soon as she came through the door they inspected her pockets to see if there was anything in them for them. If the magic words “Please Grandma” were spoken, there was always something to be found in her luggage. We are living in a time of demands: “Pass the marmalade”, “Put this in the letterbox”, “Don’t forget to buy bread”, “Take the rubbish out”.



How much better all these would sound if we added the word “please”! It would take away the pressure and the expectation that the other person will of course do what we ask. How easy it would be to add the word “please” to what we say! And how much easier that would make it for the wish to be granted! We need to learn to make sure we use the word “please” - it should become a good habit.

### Say thank you

Married couples don’t really need to continually say thank you for all the everyday things, do they? Everyone in a marriage just does what they ought to do, don’t they? Noticing the small everyday things and saying thank you for them - that would be ridiculous! Or would it? Could it be that it would give us a different perspective? It’s exactly that. Both partners do their duty. We only realise how much the other person deals with when he or she is ill and can’t do it. Why don’t we realise at a much earlier stage than that? Thanks can be expressed in many ways:

- “Thank you - I can see what you are doing.”
- “Thank you - I value that I can rely on you.”

The person who says “thank you” creates a better atmosphere to live in!

We should also express our thanks to God for the many good things He gives

us: for people who love us, for enough to eat, for everyday care, for peace in our country, for protection, for listening when we pray to Him ...

Even saying grace at table before a meal can serve to remind us that He is the source of all good gifts.

### “Yes - gladly!”

There is a lot of talk about personal fulfilment: “Before you say yes to anything, you should weigh up whether you really want to take on the task involved. You should certainly never take on too much.” It’s probably good advice, but it often prevents us from happily passing on something that has been given to us as a gift.

Jesus tells us: “Give, and it will be given to you” (Luke 6.38). It’s not an order to constantly give of myself. Rather, it is a gift we can receive from God when we give - the deep satisfaction of helping another person, providing support, giving happiness, even if the other person has done nothing to deserve it!

“Yes - gladly!” isn’t something we hear all that often in a marriage. We are more likely to say it to friends. Is that perhaps because we see everything as being self-evident with our partners? It would be a good idea if we started using “yes - gladly!” in our marriages too.

### “I’m sorry”

“Forgive me” These are words no-one likes to say, mostly because we don’t feel we are to blame, or at least not on our own - the other person started the argument, or the other person turned something I asked into a problem, the other person started shouting, the other person....



Maybe it would be helpful to say: “I’m sorry - I didn’t want to hurt you.” “What has just happened is painful to me.”

"I didn't mean it the way you thought."  
"I'm sorry" (if we really mean it) means that I have to cope with the other person being unwilling - or not yet willing - to forgive me, even if perhaps I don't feel that I am in the wrong.

We shouldn't say "I'm sorry" just for the sake of peace and then continue doing the same thing and hurting our partner all over again.

Ruth Heil

### To think about

If God treated us the way we sometimes treat each other, we would all be dead! He greets us every morning with the first rays of sunlight. He lets flowers grow even though we walk right past them without a glance. He promises to be close to us, yet we don't even notice how much He takes care of us. It's time to thank Him too, and confess that we are sorry.

### Prayer

Lord, how thoughtlessly we often treat each other in marriage! You instituted marriage specially for us, because you saw that it's not good for people to be alone. Lord, please give us watchful eyes so that we notice the good things, a tongue to express acceptance, ears to listen helpfully, and readiness to forgive. Lord Jesus, thank you for listening to us!

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### Burkina Faso

Activities are gradually restarting despite the pandemic. So we went to Loubila for a conference on the theme "I love my husband/my wife". First, we have defined and explained the 3 types of love ("phileo", "eros" and "agapao"), because



my love for my spouse must be imprinted with these three types of love.

But marital love is often endangered by "enemies" such as differences between spouses (physical, psychological, cultural differences, etc.). A big enemy is lack of communication or poor communication. It affects, and sometimes slowly but steadily, destroys the harmony of the relationship. The other enemies we have talked about are pride, the pressures of

everyday life, the selfishness of human nature, the refusal to forgive ...

How then to maintain love? We highlighted some key points such as meeting the basic needs of the other; endure and forgive each other (Colossians 3:13); accept faults, because we are human beings and not angels; show respect; dare physical contact; forming a team etc.

In conclusion we stressed that love is priceless. The proofs of love are found in gestures, behaviors, looks, words. So, let's choose to love my wife/husband and pray for him/her.

Albert and Elisabeth Thiombiano

### Burundi

A conference was held in Rutegama to prepare young people for marriage. Founding a family is a serious business. The family is an institution that is based on love and knowledge. The future couple has to know something about how to grow in their relationship. That is why we spoke among other things about the responsibility of husbands and wives in marriage. We gave them some advice on achieving harmony in their marriage,

and we talked about family planning. We emphasised one characteristic that is not as strong among us humans as it should be: patience. It takes patience to get to know each other properly, to understand the other person's differences, to accept them and see them as a benefit for the relationship, because they make complementarity possible.

As it is written in Colossians 3.12-13: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones,

holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

According to the young married couples, these topics are very popular among young couples wanting to commit themselves to a lifelong relationship.

Jean Mpitarusuma

### Cameroon

We travelled to the northern part of the country to provide support for widows, with material and spiritual help. Altogether 47 widows were present, more than we expected. But it all went well. Pastor Ndoula spoke on the first day, and Esther Maya on the second. The evenings were given over to discussions, prayers and listening to the widows. We also offered a workshop for making soap.

The topic Esther Maya dealt with was 'What are we dependent on - God or our own wealth? What are our connections? What are we attached to?'

The aim was to



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encourage the widows, who have a difficult life, and to think together with them about our lives as women, widows, and above all as Christians, in a world in which material goods occupy a very large space. We all long for a better life, and this often makes people do all they can to achieve prosperity. And where is God in all that? What place do we allow Him in our lives? In Luke 12 we read what happened to the rich man who chose to ignore God.

What interests us? What are the dangers of a too strong attachment to material goods? The Bible reminds us that we are foreigners, travellers on this Earth. We

should not forget this, since – as Paul reminded Timothy – it is love of money (or of anything that takes the place of God) that is the root of all evil (1 Timothy, 6.10). Striving for wealth can lead to theft, fraud, and even prostitution – it is a real danger for Christians and even more so for poor widows. The quest for material goods often leads to estrangement from God. Having wealth is not enough to have a good life, as we think of it. Humans need something else. Jesus said, “Man does not live by bread alone”. It is a fact that it is not possible to buy salvation, peace of mind, true joy, or real friends.

Are Christians not allowed to be rich, then? No! We can own possessions. What is important is that we ask ourselves how we got them, how we use them, and what place God has in all of it! Do we put God in first place, since it is not possible to serve two masters (Matthew 6.24)? Let us remain attentive, as little by little the things of the world turn us away from God, without our noticing, and that closes Heaven’s door to us.

At the end we urged these brave women to not give up.

Esther Maya

### Central African Republic

At the end of May, 15 couples gathered 22 km from Bangui to take part in a seminar organised by FLM. The participants included couples who did not yet know FLM but were interested in its work, so Brigitte Tamboula (the leader) and Williams Moloby started by presenting FLM’s work. Then Jocelyne Ngokoli spoke on the subject of ‘Keeping the flame for each other alive’. She said that it was sometimes difficult, after a few years of marriage, to value certain things and even to put up with them. Even after a couple has been together for some time, each partner gradually discovers more and more about the other – an engagement doesn’t last long enough for that to happen. At the beginning of the relationship, each partner sees the best side of the other, but if the relationship is to stay harmonious, there are a few points that need to be taken into consideration. It’s important to agree on the important things, to talk about the causes of potential conflicts, and to try to resolve problems. It is also important to agree on how money is to be handled, how the household is to be run, etc. Marriage partners must ask themselves

how far they are prepared to go in making concessions, The discussion after this first talk became quite heated!

The following day the session resumed on the topic “Myths about love, and the various stages in the life of a couple”. Love is based on both reality and imaginativeness.

The relationship develops in stages, which we all go through. At the beginning of a relationship, when we first meet, it’s magical. Then, at some point, the couple gets married and gradually routine sets in and weighs the relationship down. As time goes by we discover the other person’s weaknesses and go through the stage of ‘de-idealisation’. The masks fall away. It is not for nothing that the first years of marriage very often end in separation or divorce. To overcome this crisis situation, the marriage



partners must be in a position to accept their own weaknesses as well as those of their partner, and face up to reality.

The life of a couple is like a journey, requiring lots of adaptability to face its many challenges.

After a question time, Pastor Williams continued on the subject of “The counsellor and the helping relationship”. Then on the Sunday morning (it was Mother’s Day), the husbands surprised their wives by preparing and serving breakfast, and giving them a small gift. The wives were quite moved by this token of their husband’s love.

Brigitte Tamboula, Williams Moloby

### Chad

We are back to working almost normally again. In 2020 the pandemic interrupted our entire programme. Since our FLM members live scattered throughout the country, we communicate a lot by phone; it is only people

living in the same area who are able to meet frequently. We had to wait until December 2020 to be able to resume all our activities.

During the pandemic, however, we didn’t completely give up our activities.

FLM does couples a lot of good, and we couldn’t leave them on their own. Since we weren’t able to travel for training sessions, we went to the families and counselled couples individually. We were in contact with 16 couples who have been

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reconciled, and they are now doing well. Since then we have been contacted by a number of couples wanting help to get back to living in harmony together again. We see the effect and the witness

of our work. Since March this year we have been active again. We organised a training session in Besouma (130 km from Sarh) and a youth camp in

Balimba. About thirty couples took part. We developed the topics "Crises in marriage", "External pressures", and "The place of the child in a couple's relationship".

The youth camp was for young people between the ages of 15 and 25. For three days, we talked about "Friendship, engagement and marriage" and discussed the subject. More than 300 young Christians attended the event. A lot of time after the talks was given over to discussion, and a good number of the young people committed themselves to staying true to the Lord.

We had a training session in August and planned another for December, as long as the pandemic situation permits.

Nicolas Sambaye

### Congo Kinshasa

"Keeping me pure until marriage," this conference brought teenagers together for a Christian film called "Difficult Choice." 87 young people followed the film and the discussions with interest.

In his radio program "Youth at the crossroad of life", Jean Bosco Inyamwenyi brings up the topic "the family, a place of life" - the aim being to draw attention to the role that the family plays in society. The family is the only "factory" of men and women and their behavior. He insists on the role of parents. The quality of the relationship between father and mother is a source of family security or insecurity. Thus the Bible invites the spouses to love each other in order to develop a harmonious relationship which not only secures the children, but brings joy and peace. Children are invited during these teachings

to be more thankful to their parents.

Lydie and Jean Bosco Inyamwenyi also hosted a conference on the theme: "Drink the water from your cistern" to draw the attention of the couples to the quality of the water that should be drunk. It is important that everyone cleans up their cistern and continue to pour water into it to avoid any stock shortage. Cleaning up the cistern is a behavior that is good for others. To put water in the cistern is to speak the language of love for the other and to continue to show the other the love that is the pledge of a lasting relationship.

Before the pandemic, we had marriage counselors trainings in Kinshasa. We resumed sessions in July and closed the season in October. Some of the couples formed at the center are active in their



churches and thus facilitate the holding of FLM activities at the local level. We plan to have teachings on marriage preparation, because young couples have a lot of problems and need good preparation before marriage.

Sometimes we also organize seminars in the provinces where there are FLM cells. Idore Nyamuke or Jean Bosco takes advantage of their professional trips to the provinces to give some FLM teachings to couples.

Idore Nyamuke, Jean Bosco Inyamwenyi

### Ghana

#### In memory

Thomas Havor, the leader of FLM Ghana, died suddenly on 8 February 2021. He was a pillar of stability for all those who



were looking for the Lord. He devoted himself entirely to his heavenly Master and brought before Him every problem that needed a solution. Through his belief and his perseverance, Thomas was an example for thousands of his fellow Christians. Together with his wife Florence, they were a team that won the hearts of their audiences.

Whenever the Lord had work for him to do, Thomas always heard the call. The fruit of his obedience is very rich. Now Jesus has called him one last time. This time it was

not for a seminar or counselling - it was a call to come home for ever. The Good Shepherd wanted him to join His flock in heaven - or in other words, "Rest a while" (Mark 6.31). After serving Jesus tirelessly, he has been invited to enter into eternal rest. Dr Billy Graham once said that when he left this life he would not be dead: "I will just have changed my address; I will have gone into the presence of God." That is what Thomas has done. He has followed his Master's call, and he is now in His presence.

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We organized a training in a suburb of Accra for the Methodist Church.

The sessions were organized on Friday evenings and Saturdays, in all we had 9 Fridays and Saturdays, and 29 topics were studied such as: the stages of marriage in Ghana, the purpose of marriage, choosing a mate, courtship, communication in marriage, resolving conflicts, the uniqueness of biblical marriage, external pressures in marriage, parenting, counseling techniques, cyber counseling etc. At the end of the training the participants filled membership forms

to become members. With time, that is after the new members have gone through further trainings in terms of workshops, a new branch will be inaugurated.

Another activity was the second phase of training of the young couples we started before the sudden demise of Th. Havor. In all, four topics were discussed: goals setting in marriage, roles in marriage, Christian marriage, and parenting.

Rev. K. Essibrey-Annan, Rev. B. Lartey

### Ivory Coast

A marriage seminar was held in Dabou with 21 couples. The subject that we dealt with later was "Harmony and complicity in marriage".

In the introduction, we recalled that God is the author of marriage. To have a close relationship with the spouse is the plan of God; but this means taking the risk of being hurt, misunderstood and having conflicts.

Marriage is a gift from God. And God has given guarantees so that the couple can flourish in marital harmony. This divine institution has rules in order to function properly. In Genesis 2:24, God gave the statutes of marriage: leaving, clinging, and becoming one flesh.

By marrying, the spouses are no longer under the authority of their parents. They leave home and can lead a life of their own. Then they have to bond with each other, that is, their love has to grow. One becomes the confident of the other

and they share the joys and sorrows and their life of faith. It is only when these 2 steps are completed that the couple will become one flesh, so to speak. This complementarity takes time.

However, there are certain rules to respect in order to have a harmonious relationship, such as accepting the spouse in his personality, spending quality time together (watching television together does not count), helping each other. Being partners in a relationship requires a great deal of trust in each other.

In this way, the relationship becomes more intimate, the spouses get to know each other better, understand each other better and support each other unconditionally. It takes time to achieve this. The closer the relationship, the more satisfying it is for both spouses, as it also fulfills emotional needs.

Ipou Gbangbo

### Madagascar

Most of the members of Mission Vie et Famille are doing well, despite the pandemic which has affected our country more than before and which has caused many deaths. Two members died of the Covid and a dozen who had been infected, have recovered.

We have almost no activity now. We will meet to see how and when our activities can start again.

Manoa et Noro

### He rests in peace



Gustave Lalaharivony was from the very beginning a member of Family Life Mission Madagascar; with his wife Nirina, they were among the founders of the mission. From 2016 to 2019 he was the national director. He was a devoted Christian who worked with the Malagasy team to set up the ministry. When he and his family attended a funeral, they contracted the coronavirus. He died of complications from this disease in early May. He spent his last hours in worship and prayer. He is now in the presence of his Master whom he loved so much and whom he served with dedication.

### Liberia



Activities started again, because the needs are great in this time of pandemic. Many are distressed. Following confinement at home, conflicts between spouses or family members worsened.

We were able to organize a few conferences on couple and family themes. One

of the themes we often discuss is "Prioritization - conflict between family and work or / and church".

It's amazing how many couples - even Christian - experience unhappy marriages. They suffer because they can't reconcile family and professional life. Often

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husbands have this problem. They are expected to be very involved in the ministry (if they are pastors), in their profession, and sometimes extended family members have high expectations as well. They believe they can - and should - meet all their expectations. As a result, the spouse's attitude towards ministry or work changes. The spouse no longer feels important; she

even feels guilty if she shows her needs. She feels alone and abandoned. Often the spouse tries to adjust or becomes bitter, resentment towards the overly busy spouse and his or her job or ministry. This is not the right attitude. Spouse and family should be number one, as it is written in Genesis 2:24, because we cannot become one with our church or our

work.

We also do sensitization on the radio, we create new cells in various communities, we do the helping relationship etc.

We value the support we have received, and we thank our loyal FLM members for their collaboration in the interests of the needy.

William Kettor

### Mali

We were able to organize our annual conference with 109 participants. "The management of conflicts in the Christian family", this topic was proposed because many had difficulties in resolving conflicts.



Marriage is the most intimate relationship possible, after our relationship with God, and it brings to light the best and the worst in us. At the heart of the problem is our selfishness: everyone wants to put

their needs before those of others. Conflicts are inevitable. As a saying goes: If you say "come, let's join together", you also say "come, let's quarrel!". Everyone knows conflicts, and in a couple the sources of conflict are multiple. But for Christians how to deal with them must make the difference. In a Christian couple, if we argue, we do not have a street fight, but boxing by respecting certain rules. In a street fight, there are no rules, anything goes. Many couples do not know "how" or where to talk about their conflict. They argue in front of the children, in the car ... so it is better to talk about it or to argue alone.

The Bible discusses the attitudes that

husband and wife should adopt, especially in 1 Peter 3.1-8, Ephesians 5.21-33. Applying Philippians 2.3-13, especially verses 3 and 4, would overcome many obstacles: "...Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."

To have a fulfilling relationship, everyone must apply biblical truths to their lives and prioritize their relationship with the Lord; the problems will no longer be insurmountable.

Pastor Dinguibirèye Poudiougou

### Rwanda

We, members of the FLM, teach families to live in harmony on the basis of the Word of God and emphasize dialogue. When there is no dialogue between the couple, the consequences are catastrophic. Our ministry is to help ... communication is a valuable tool. We use dialogue with people in need, starting with our families. The results are positive, the spouses can forgive each other and have a happy life.

We are facing different issues during our helping relationship sessions such as a conflict between 2 wives and the husband of one of them. One of the 2

women had heard rumors accusing her husband of giving money to a woman who was previously her friend. As you can imagine, this created a big argument. While chatting with each other, we were able to discover that the rumor came from people hating the couple - of course it was inaccurate. They asked for forgiveness.

Another couple wanted advice on how they could help conflicting neighbors. Sometimes couples come to us because they don't know how to properly educate their children. Some have come because they need help like an old man because his children weren't looking after him.



We often discuss among FLM members how we will share messages through the WhatsApp group regarding conflict resolution while waiting for the pandemic to end.

Fabien Semivumbi

### Sierra Leone

We were able to provide help to people in need as a result of the pandemic. We decided to look into the difficulties facing these families to find out which were in most urgent need of help.

FLM gave some families in quarantine food items such as rice, cooking oil, onions, fish, etc, as well as protective masks.

They were pleased with this support and

thanked FLM, particularly one family that had been in quarantine for nearly three months as there had been six positive cases in the same family.

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One couple told us that life had been difficult for them ever since the start of the pandemic, as it had resulted in schools being closed. The wife had a small shop, but the income from that was not enough to maintain her family. Another family said that their business had dropped off as a result of the borders being closed. People weren't buying anything because of rising prices. Since they had taken part in the seminar and had built up mutual under-

standing, they were able to get through these trying times together.

FLM-Sierra Leone kept its promise to take FLM to the second capital city which is Bo, and organized a 3-day

training for future marriage counselors. The first day was full of questions as the Freetown team shared information about FLM and also testimonies from couples and some members of FLM as well.

After the introduction and background of FLM-Sierra Leone, we taught the following topics:

The Biblical foundation of marriage  
Marriage planning  
Choosing the right partner

Husband and wife responsibilities  
Financial management in the couple  
Identify common marital problems.

A series of positive feedback was received from the participants about FLM's intention to have an FLM branch in Bo City. Four couples have signed up to be members of the Bo branch. Right now, we are getting calls from couples asking when we will return to Bo because they think they only have the introductory part of the teaching and should get more.

During our radio interview in Bo, we received a call from Makeni from pastor Ibrahim who requested to attend the seminar. He now wants FLM to organize a similar seminar in Makeni. We were able to organize this first marriage seminar in Makeni in November.

Hamid Kamara

### Togo

By the grace of God, we are all doing well! We thank the Lord who has made everything right.

We are very busy. Marguerite and I are on our way to the graduation ceremony for the students at the Baptist Bible School where I used to be in charge.

Marguerite also led two conferences for women on the topics of:

- 1 - Sexuality in marriage,
- 2 - What you need to know before you get married.

This month I am leading marriage preparation talks with a young couple whose marriage I will be celebrating.

I have also been invited by the young people in a community to talk on the subject of 'Dowries in the Christian context'. I will be running the conference together with my wife Marguerite.

Charles Amedjikpo

### Uganda



The pandemic had worsened earlier this year and hospitals were full; people were dying in their homes. It was difficult for us to help because we had little freedom of movement. But we had the idea of transferring money via a mobile phone (mobile money). I had met with the chairman of the local council to get permission to help families on the brink of famine, and we went to their house and were able to drop some food for them outside the door.

Pastor Joshua fell ill with Covid in early July and had to be taken to hospital be-

cause he was having difficulty breathing and needed oxygen. At the end of July came the welcome news that Joshua Mukisa would be able to leave hospital.

FLM activities are slowed down. The planned training had to be canceled. We hope to be able to resume our activities soon, as the situation has improved. Four new couples joined FLM, and we had beginning October a welcome breakfast for this couples. In the executive meeting and discussions, we observed that by February 2022, hopefully many people will have recovered from Covid-19. This made us ahead to plan a training seminar with Rev. Essibrey Annan and his wife (Ghana) as facilitators.

Joshua Mukisa

### Accounts

You may transfer your gifts toward our missionary activities to one of the following accounts:

Germany: Sparkasse Hanauerland Kehl, 00-016 635 (BLZ 664 518 62) IBAN: DE 96 6645 1862 0000 0166 35 SWIFT-BIC: SOLADES1KEL

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