



## Foreign Evangelism...

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### *Ivory Coast Journey*

by: Harriett Miller

My husband, Toby, became involved in mission trips to Africa beginning in 1991. He made trips to many areas through the years and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of teaching in totally different settings such as he found in Africa. I was excited for him but was content to stay home and await his return.



Harriett and Nina (guide's wife) walking through the village of Buoaflé, Ivory Coast handing out invitations to the special services

Their enthusiasm from a trip to the Ivory Coast in 1996 was so contagious that I knew I was missing something and I wanted to know what that "something" was! My attitude toward shots did a 180. I was ready to do whatever it took. Our daughter, who was then 13 years old, joined in "the fun" of preparing for a month long trip (February 10 to March 12, 1997). Homework was given to her to complete for school while in Africa. I made lists of things to take. Being organized is very important because some things just aren't easy to find in certain areas.

I became hooked on mission work after experiencing that first trip. Going to small villages and seeing the living conditions of day to day life, and

I had no intentions of taking all the required shots and chance coming down with some disease because of poorly cooked food or foul water. However, every time my husband returned from a trip, he and Stephen Healea, a preacher from Orrville, Ohio, would begin planning their next journey before their suitcases were even unpacked!



A special all day training seminar on "How to conduct Bible Studies" at the 2Platuex congregation in Abidjan.

yet hearing the giggles and laughter of the children and seeing the broad smiles of the people as they greeted us made me realize that this was that "something" I had been missing. The longing in their eyes as they heard the gospel being preached and then desiring to be baptized in a nearby river made all the preparations and expense of the trip worthwhile. We take so much for granted in this great country of ours.

Since that first trip in 1997, I've been able to return to the Ivory Coast a total of four times. My husband and I returned to the States on March 2, 2007 after spending the month of February there. Whether we go again to the Ivory Coast or perhaps another area of the world is yet to be known. There is an endless amount of opportunities, not only abroad, but here in the United States. All of us at one time or another have allowed opportunities to pass us by and have offered many excuses for doing so, but we must remember where true strength comes from (Ephesians 6:10-11).



Lukeson responded to the invitation after Sunday morning services wanting to be baptized into Christ. He is being baptized in the Bandama River by Isaac Gnohou, a native preacher and our chief guide and translator.



My husband, Toby, with some children after services at Port Bouet in Abidjan.