

“Glory to
GOD
 in the highest,
 and on earth
PEACE,
 good will
 toward men.”

Luke 2:14



This year, as we gather to celebrate our families' Christmas traditions, may we also remember these words the angels spoke on the very first Christmas. It's a message we all need to hear right now. Spend a few minutes watching the news or scrolling through the Internet, and it's clear that many people are wishing anything but good will toward each other.

Were the angels wrong? I don't think so. I don't think the angels meant that the earth itself would be peaceful, but instead that the Christ child himself is our peace. In contrast to this world's pain and

suffering, Jesus instills good will in and through those who love and follow Him. He didn't just arbitrarily change the world, He came personally and intentionally to build relationships with us and to change us.

So as we reminisce this holiday season, let us also remember that the responsibility to change things in this world rests on us. This, of course, is not by our own strength — that's why Jesus came and why He has given us His Spirit. I am grateful to be part of a fellowship of churches that is committed to bring glory to God by living out His commands and fulfilling His mission on earth. Only then are we truly living out the proclamation the angels brought over 2000 years ago. God isn't finished with world (or us) yet!

Sue and I thank you for the privilege of serving with you in this amazing assignment. Blessings to you, your families, and your church family this Christmas season.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year,

Rocky and Sue Rocholl



Three essentials of church planting

Location, location, location

by Jay Nickless, church planting field coordinator

If you've been following this series on church planting, you'll no doubt recognize the three essentials of an effective church plant — the right planter, place, and plan. Last month, we focused on the right planter. This month, it's time to turn our attention to the right place. Sometimes, it's possible to have a competent leader (planter) and a terrific strategy (plan), but if you're not in the right place, your odds of success are minimal at best. That's why we've developed a strategy called T.A.P. (Target Analysis Process).¹ Through T.A.P., the leader recruits and equips a team of 8-12 people to analyze, research, and engage prospective communities over a period of 8-10 weeks. Their premise for determining a target community is this: God is at work! Right now God is working in people's hearts, drawing them to Himself. Connecting with those people plays a vital role in a new church plant's success.

*For more information on the T.A.P. Team Process, email me at j.nickless@fecministries.org

How Salem4Youth is bringing boys to Christ

Safe, loved, and always welcome. That's how staff members want boys to feel at Salem4Youth, a ranch offering faith-based residential programming for young men and families in crisis. Whether the boys are picking pumpkins at a local farm, harvesting honey from the ranch's beehives, or studying the Bible at chapel services, these young men are immersed in a culture of love and acceptance. That environment has made a big difference for several youth, especially one who recently gave his life to Christ around a campfire. "That night, he finally came to grips with his need for a savior," says Steve McNair, development director. Other boys have begun to study the Bible completely on their own. One recent graduate is even planning to spend part of the upcoming Christmas holidays at the ranch. "It's great that they think of this place as a second home," says Steve.

To learn more, visit www.salem4youth.com.



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

From teachers to trainers

West Africa team takes a giant leap forward in reaching Yalunka people



FEC's West Africa team has achieved a significant milestone in its outreach to the Yalunka people, an unreached people group living in Mali. During a recent training session, the team moved from learning how to tell Bible stories in the oral tradition to training others in the Simply The Story (STS) method. It's a significant moment, signifying a huge shift in methodology. The change is essential as the team is reaching its goal of establishing reproducing communities of Christ-followers among the Yalunka people. "Only when we have trained the Yalunka believers in the STS method will this ministry really take off," says Steve Nelson, team leader, "spreading God's word to far more people than our small team could ever hope to reach." Special thanks to Crossroads Evangelical Church, which sent a mission team to support the weeklong training. **Let's be praying for our West Africa team as they head back to the villages next month!**