

APRIL 2020: THEN AND NOW...FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT!

Greetings from Guinea, my friends in Christ! As **Holy Week** arrives, we are all in the midst of a worldwide pandemic as we fight to save lives! In an effort to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus, our daily lives, like yours, have been greatly changed.

Last month we told hundreds of school kids that our first method of infection control is handwashing with soap and water. We gifted their two schools with knowledge about hygiene and provided their schools with handwashing kits and trash cans bearing our CHP WAVE logo. *(photos below)*



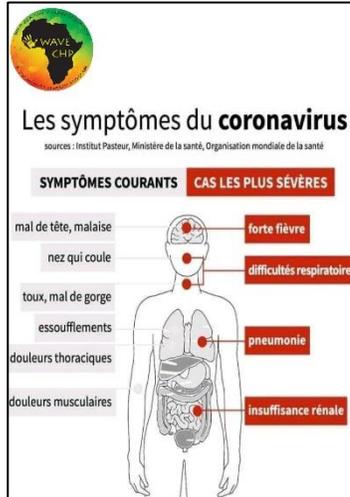
Recently, following elections and some unrest, 13 smaller hand washing kits with our CHP WAVE logo were purchased for 3 CHP staff homes (Jacques, Ruth, myself) and for our 10 Village Healthcare Workers (VHWs). *(Dr. Kristen's home - photo right)*



Today we went to one village/VHW and taught: 1. Basic preventative techniques *(photo below left)* 2. Infection control by 6-foot social distancing *(photo below right)* 3. Stoppage of handshaking and touching our faces (behavior which we modeled) 4. Prevention techniques posters *(poster photos next page)*

Now this village's VHW and three elders will go door-to-door sharing this coronavirus prevention information. Each person taught will be asked to safely share with their contacts mindful usage of these techniques.





Soon next week we will go to our other 9 villages and their VHWs and repeat the process.

Then we will go to our traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in their villages and again pass on prevention teaching and kits... and then let them go out to keep up the fight to stop this virus from spreading!

Today Guinea has 73 cases. The capital city of Conakry is in lockdown to prevent spreading to the interior of the country. Please pray that God will guide, help and heal us at this time. We're praying for you in USA as you fight, too! May God help us all in this fight!

Today during our visit, a young village girl approached me eagerly offering her hand in traditional Guinean greeting. Modeling safe behavior, I cheerfully greeted her with folded hands and a bow and proceeded to share our first method of infection control: handwashing with soap and water. Our eager students loved the handwashing station, but it will be a challenge for them to stay 6 feet away from others! *(photo below)*



Now we are tasked with keeping our distance from one another, but let us always be reminded to draw nearer to God...to keep our eyes on Jesus! As Palm Sunday begins a week of devotion to the Passion of Our Savior, Jesus Christ, we can take comfort in knowing that we serve a God that has conquered death! *"Oh, sweet the joy this sentence gives: 'I know that my Redeemer lives!'"*
Because Jesus lives, we also will live!

Love, gratitude and prayers from Guinea, West Africa
 Kristen Schmaltz, MD Director of the Community Health Program of CEH

April 3, 2020