The Legacy of Lasting Fruit 2

John 15:16 NLT “You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to **go and produce lasting fruit**…”

John 4:35,36 NLT You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest. **36** The harvesters are paid good wages, and **the fruit** they harvest is **people brought to eternal life**. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!

Here are a few pictures and stories of people who have been brought to eternal life because of your investment in the Harvest.

**Wolof Testimonies**

We have invested 100,000 dollars in the last 4 years into an outreach for an unreached people group in Senegal, West Africa. Our partnership is with New Generations and their Disciple Making Ministry. Their strategy is to go into a village and look for a person of peace who will open their house to a Discovery Bible Study.

**add map of Casamance Senegal**

**In this last year in Casamance, Senegal which is a very dark difficult region where Christianity is seen as a threat.**

**Note: this is a report on what they were able to gather – because of the threat of persecution, the team there finds it difficult to get a full report.**

* **122 Muslims and idols worshipers…** Casamance (503 Wolof Saved in DBS Groups since 2019)
* **15 new churches planted in Senegal** (56 churches since 2019)
* **68 new disciple making leaders have been trained just this last year.**
* **4 generations of churches multiplying into other villages and growing disciples and establishing churches.**

**Here is some lasting fruit - people brought to eternal life**.

Pic #1 man circled on the left with his family…. dark photo

**Story 1: Healing through DBS group**

I want to thank the Lord almighty for what He has done for my family through the Wolof DBS/DMM group

I was introduced to this Wolof DBS group by a friend of mine, who has lot of testimonies about this DBS/DMM

My wife has been sick for the past 6 months with severe headache, we went to the **hospital**, and the doctor gave her medicine, but still the headache couldn’t stop, we now decided to go to the native doctor, he gave her lot of lot traditional concoctions to drink, even at that the **headache couldn’t stop**

My friend now told me about their DBS group, sincerely speaking I was interested only for my wife’s condition, so I decided to invite the DBS group to my house

That day, we did the DBS with the team and after, the group prayed for my wife. To God be the glory since then my wife is okay now!

Because of this, **I and my family took a good decision to allow the group to be coming for DBS every week**. I and my family has also given our lives to Christ Jesus, planning to be baptized soon.

Pic #4 young man in yellow pants and denim shirt

**Story 4: From idol worshippers to Jesus**

I want to thank the Lord almighty for what He has done for me, through the Wolof DBS group

I am a Wolof by tribe, coming from an idol worship background, was born, and raised here in Casamance Senegal

I am thanking God almighty for what He has done for me through my Wolof DBS group meetings

Ever since, we knew about the Christian Faith, through the DBS, I and my family are very much active now in the race [Christianity]. It wasn’t easy at first, because of our background [idol worship]. But my sister who created the group at our home, is very much passionate about the faith [Christian], because of the way she healed, through the prayers the DBS team members were praying for her, because of this, the entire family decided to join her

Today, I want to say, my family is very much happy and also active in the Christian faith as we all have involved in the DBS in our house, as **my sister** is now **inviting and coaching people to be a true Disciple follower of Jesus**.

A Wolof Idol worshiper is now coaching people to be true disciples of Jesus.

Pic #7

**Story 7: Delivered from nightmares and asking for prayer to become a Christian**

I want to thank the Lord almighty for what He has done for me through the Wolof DBS group

I am a Wolof by tribe, was born and raised here in Casamance Senegal, coming from a MBB family

I am thanking the Lord for everything He has done for me and my family through the DBS meetings. I am a fisherman living with my wife and children. I am very happy to be part of the DBS. Even though I am a Muslim, but I don’t practice the religion because I don’t have time to pray. I am always in the sea doing fishing, most of the times I come home very late at night. That is why I accepted to be part of the DBS in my house, and also, I have been struggling with some bad dreams [nightmares]. But as I kept doing the DBS in my house along with the prayers the bad dreams have stopped. Me and my wife are now thinking of becoming Christians, but as you can see, it is very difficult because of our community, but we are asking for more prayers so that God can do His Work in us.

**PRAY - Let’s stop together and pray for this couple to have the courage to surrender their lives fully to Jesus inspite of the tribal and village pressure!**

**Pic #10**

**Story 10: From native doctors to Jesus**

I want to thank the Lord for all He is doing for me and my family, am happy to take part in the DBS studies, it has helped my family a lot, before I spent lots of money to native doctors as we’re doing farming, we believe in the marabou men to give us charms or charity, so that we’ll have good farming period or season. But with the DBS studies, they told us that it is not good, and it is not of God, and that we have to stopped. They told us that we need to put our hope and trust in Jesus Christ. This season we didn’t visited any native doctor/marabou men. We only pray with the DMM coaches and the entire group as a whole, and we have faith everything is okay, my only challenge is that I can’t read and write, but **I thank God am happy when the DMM coaches told me that we are going to have an audio DBS.** For me this is the best news, because I am happy to hear the Word of God in my own language, I really thank God for this news.

One of the big projects New Generations is under-taking is creating Audio Versions of Discovery Bible Studies from Genesis to the Cross.

* **DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS! – THIS IS THE WAY JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES.**
* **Funds needed:**
  + **Monthly support for church planters**
  + **Transportation – motocycles and bicycles**
  + **Access ministries – water wells, seed and tools for farmers.**
  + **DBS Materials**

**We are ready to identify another Unreached People Group – Budget is 25,000 per year. What if we were able to take on two unreached people groups next year?** “don’t say four months and then the harvest…. The Harvest is ready right now by the workers are few”

**We are Called to Give**

We are called to excel in our giving

2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you—see that you also **excel in this grace** of giving.

* All of the ministry that takes place through CL only happens because people are excelling in the grace of giving.
* **Logos** Next week here – **100 pastors/teachers** will be here on campus. We are not charging them a dime for the use of our facilities. We are investing in ministries across the nation!

In case you are thinking, this is just a money grab… and all he does is talk about money. I want you see that this is part of my calling.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** HCSB **Instruct those** who are rich in the present age not to be arrogant or to set their hope on the uncertainty of wealth, but on God, who richly provides us with **all things to enjoy**. **18 Instruct them** to do what is good, **to be rich in good works**, to be **generous**, **willing to share**, **19** storing up for themselves a **good reserve for the age to come**, so that they may take hold of life that is real.

* Those who are rich includes you. On the scale of the world’s economy, you and I are rich. Think about the economic riches we have compared to those who live in remote villages in west Africa.

I know we struggle with our first world problems: new tires on our car(s); washer and dryer is giving us problems; Kroger no longer carries our favorite brand of chips, etc…

* + Enjoy what God provides!
  + But be Ready to Share!
  + Be rich in Good Works

NTS - I want to encourage you to ask yourself, **have I been excelling in the grace of giving?** When its time to give am I cheerful or do I freak or get frustrated because I am fearful.

* By giving from your earthly bank accounts, you are investing your **heavenly account**, that Paul calls a good reserve for the age to come.

!!! **How terrible would it be if I never taught the church about your heavenly account**?!

**Philippians 4:15;17** NKJV Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning **giving and receiving** but you only. **17 Not** that I seek the gift, but I seek the **fruit** that abounds to **your** **account**.

**Like the Apostle Paul I can honestly say,** “I am **not** seeking your gift for my own benefit… I seek the fruit that abounds to your account!

the **fruit** that abounds to your **account**!

the **fruit** that abounds to your **account**!

the **fruit** that abounds to your **account**!

**Giving produces lasting fruit.**

1 Timothy one more time in the Living Paraphrased Bible = **1 Tim 6:19 Living Bible Paraphrased** “By doing this they will be storing up **real treasure** for themselves in heaven-it is the only safe investment for **eternity**! And, they will be living a **fruitful** Christian Life down here as well.”

Lasting Fruit is fruit that is eternal!

We are not living for passing pleasure, we are living for lasting treasure!

A lot of people think once they give an offering, THAT money is gone forever. They see it leave their bank account and they think it is loss forever!

God attaches a reward to everything you give toward to help people come into eternity.

**Giving provides seed for sowing which produces fruit for harvesting.**

2 Corinthians 9:6-8,10 NASB Now this I say, he who **sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and he who **sows** bountifully will also **reap** bountifully. **7** **Each one** **must do** (everyone should participate) just as he has purposed in his heart, **not grudgingly** or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an **abundance** for every good deed.

* God is a God of Abundance and people who purpose in their heart to produce the good deeds of lasting fruit will always a sufficient amount for everything.
* My wife has the gift of giving! And I will be honest, sometimes I feel nervous when she chooses to give extravagantly! But I have seen **God replenish our account so many times after she empties it out!**

I had to come to faith about this! Our God abounds with abundance!

v.10 Now He who supplies **seed to the sower** and bread for food will **supply** and **multiply** your **seed for sowing** and **increase the harvest** of your righteousness…

1. **Giving is Like Sowing a Seed.**
   1. The law of sowing and reaping means what I give is not gone.
   2. When an offering leaves your bank account it doesn’t leave your life! What I give is NOT gone.
2. God will **Supply and Multiply** your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness (v. 10)
   1. All seed comes from fruit that has been sown, grown, and then harvested and then sown, grown, and harvested!
   2. Reproduction and Multiplication is in the nature of fruit! The seed is in the fruit!
3. The Law of Reciprocation is always at work in our lives.

Galations 6:7 ESV Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, **for whatever one sows, that will he also reap**.

* 1. You must sow before you can harvest!
     1. No farmer in their right mind would expect a harvest by merely wishing for it.
     2. Many Christians with their backs against the wall financially have a tendency to declare a harvest when they have not sown any seed.
  + We believe in the power of prayer! We believe in faith, but faith produces when it is activated through acts of obedience.
  1. Jesus taught about this principle.

Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will it be poured into your lap. For with the **measure you use**, it will be **measured to you**.

Closing:

* Enjoy what God provides!
* But be Ready to Share!
* Be rich in Good Works

*People will say, “with everything that is going on today how can you guys be so centered on giving to the church? Because God is centered on the church*.”

***Don’t get yourself so worried about what is going on in politics and the economy that you take your eyes off of what God is doing in His church****.*

**Don’t assume that when bad things happen in the world, that bad things are happening in His Kingdom!**

**Things happen in the house of God that does not happen anywhere else!!**

* **People get saved** in the house of God! They don’t get saved at the Titans Games! In fact, some might lose their salvation at the Titans game.
* **People get baptized** in the House of God, they don’t get baptized at Walmart, Home Depot or on the Golf Course.
* **Children** get taught God’s word in the house of God.
* The **unloved** find love in the House of God
* The **discouraged** find courage in the House of God
* The **Hungry** get fed in the House of God
* The **Lost** get found in the House of God

If you love God’s house. If you care about the families of God. Give today with that kind of vision!

Put up the 5 Lanes - slide

* **Sow a Seed and Share a Need**

John 15:16 NIV You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that **whatever you ask in my name** the Father will give you.