

Earthly tents and heavenly bodies

“For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling.”

2 Corinthians 5:1–2 (NRSV)

In the village of Nintenga (nen-TANG-uh), another missionary and I met a man named Idrissa (ee-DREE-sah), who asked if we could purchase a tent for him. A tent was bought, and we brought it to him a few weeks later. We began to show him how to set up the tent. When we finished, he said, “When are you going to teach me and my household the Jesus path?”

I remembered the passage in 2 Corinthians about our bodies being like an earthly tent. We shared that our earthy bodies are temporary, just like the tent. If we follow Christ, when we die we will receive a new body that cannot break or get hurt. Christians long to have that new body—to be with Christ—because we know this is “very much better” (Phil. 1:23, NASB).

After sharing about our earthly bodies, my fellow missionary told the story of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3. She explained that the only way to obtain eternal life is by being born again. Nicodemus wondered how he could enter his mother’s womb again, but Christ was talking about being born of the Spirit. We told Idrissa that to have eternal life, he must be born again through believing in Jesus.

Then Idrissa said, “The tent you brought was sweet, but the words you have just shared are better than sweet.” Wow! May Idrissa understand the truth he heard and see that he can experience the sweetness of God for all eternity by trusting in Christ.

—TARA, WEST AFRICA

Falbez, MAY THE “JESUS PATH” BE SOUGHT BY WEST AFRICANS SUCH AS IDRISSA. PROTECT AND GUIDE YOUNG TWO-YEAR MISSIONARIES WHO ARE WILLING TO GIVE UP COMFORTABLE LIVES TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO THE LOST. *Amen.*