

## *Shrinking in the King's hand*

*"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)*

I, the newcomer, have been staying in a village where it has been hard to sleep without a hut and difficult to eat new foods. Getting a pair of earplugs was a big help, and now I've found out that the villagers want to build for me my own hut.

The most significant thing to come from this stay in the village was that two men, who are believers, approached me. They are both new Christians and know very little, but they seem sincere and eager to grow. I started reading the Bible with them, since both are barely literate. Others have listened in on our discussions. I have been greatly encouraged by having these new friends.

The work here is difficult, and things never seem to work the way I think or expect, but it is an unspeakable comfort to see the Spirit at work, completely outside of my efforts. I knew before I came that I couldn't live in this village without God's help. Now I have experienced that profound inadequacy. I really can't do it by myself. It is such a strange joy to feel myself getting smaller, weaker and more insignificant, and then suddenly realize that it is the weak that the Father almost always uses to conquer the darkness and spread His glory.

Who would have known that God would have provided two new brothers in Christ so that I would not be alone!

May I be so blessed as to shrink in the hand of our King!

—DUSTIN, WEST AFRICA

*Falbez*, MAY MISSIONARIES HAVE THE WISDOM AND SENSITIVITY TO WORK ACCORDING TO YOUR PLAN RATHER THAN TRYING TO DO IT THEMSELVES. MAY THEY BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT TO STAND AGAINST THE FORCES OF DARKNESS. MAY I ALSO DEPEND ON YOU ALWAYS IN EVERYTHING THAT I DO. *Amen.*