

Mark's Diary – Visit to The Gambia February 2016
2/19: Banjulinding

Today we left for Banjulinding and Tim was able to reunite with his family. It's amazing how after 30 years you can remember a man who changed your life and the people around you. Tim was a teacher at his village's school when he was a Peace Corps Volunteer in The Gambia. One of his students is now the principal of that school. After that, we kept going until Farafenni where we stayed one night. There is no real border so you could just walk into another part of Gambia without being caught. The Gambia seems to be a little less strict when it comes to things like that. Not caring whether someone bad comes into their home.

2/20:

Just traveling. On the small ferry there were so many people on it. Everywhere you go, there will always be more people than there should be. Everything is spread out or well packed but it's all very lively.



Ferry loading.



More ferry loading.

2/21:

Today was the opening of the skills center for the women. Everyone in the village came and there were a lot of speeches. Of course when something this big happens you gotta show your respect and all - but we made sure to have some entertainment. People danced and sang and made sure that they were celebrating in the “right” way. This skills center is something that can help the entire village and my mom is very happy she did what she did. Her speech was about how this project WILL be sustainable because if they don’t take care of the building or machines, then it’ll die. We were given clothes and shirts that the women made. You must be appreciative of what you are given since in places like Gambia chances to make something better rarely come around.



Students at the Banjulinding Skills Center



Young women at the Banjulinding Skills Center Inauguration, February 2016.



The day before the inauguration. The students, trainers, me and my mom, Tammy and Tim Straub posing for the camera.