

Please treat all information as confidential and check with us before passing on or displaying any portion of this update in any physical or electronic format. Thank you.

GIESKE MONTHLY UPDATE

May 2025

*News from the Gieske family serving in Senegal, West Africa, with SIL International,
a partner of Wycliffe USA and Wycliffe Bible Translators UK*

*“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our
salvation!”*

(Psalm 95:1, ESV)



Dear friends,

Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

While we didn't manage to make *ngalax* for our neighbours, we did enjoy an energetic celebration at a church that wasn't doing a sunrise service like ours was ;-). But the joy didn't end on Resurrection Sunday...

Thank you for praying for our **SIL Senegal retreat & conference**. In our retreat time, we considered what it means to be united with God and with His people: a vast topic for only two days! What did we take away from it?

Sarah: When I see a lack of fruitfulness in my life, meditating on Jesus' character will have more effect than trying harder!

John: The disciples walking on the road to Emmaus felt their hearts 'burning within them' as Jesus spoke, but it wasn't until they saw Jesus with their eyes that they recognized him (Luke 24). May I learn to recognize God by the burning in my heart rather than wishing my eyes could see Him.

As usual during Conference, we heard reports from around the country, as well as testimonies from our three newest members. One of them shared about how a single Bible verse (Matthew 4:4) convicted him, stuck in his head, and caused him to keep asking questions that eventually led him to give his life to Christ. May we all be so sensitive to God's Word!

The children had a marvellous time at 'kiddy conference', engaging with some less-known stories and looking at how Joshua, various Judges, and Ruth point towards Jesus.

Please treat all information as confidential and check with us before passing on or displaying any portion of this update in any physical or electronic format. Thank you.

Praise God for these times and **pray** that our team will be increasingly united as a visible incarnation of the unity we have in Christ.

Now we are looking ahead to a busy period. John and Sheila (our visiting ethnomusicologist) are working with three different teams in the space of five weeks:

May 5th-9th	Wolof	songwriting: Christmas & Parables	Thiès
May 19th-23rd	Karon	songwriting: Epistles	elsewhere
June 2nd-6th	Sunday School	songwriting	Thiès

Please keep the teams in prayer throughout each of these workshops. The first and third groups are made up of believers, but the second will be a mixed group, with some not having heard those specific scriptures before. Here are some suggestions, but of course you can let the Holy Spirit lead you:

- ask God to direct every detail including personnel, transport, power supply etc;
- pray that each believer will be gracious with those around them and respond in a godly manner to any practical obstacles;
- praise God that He is stronger than the enemy who always seeks to undermine or destroy this work, and pray that the teams will recognise His presence and know His protection;
- ask God to give each participant health and stamina during the workshops, and to give John and Sheila rest in between;
- pray for Him to sustain Sarah and give her joy whilst carrying a heavier load at home (especially during the second workshop, when John will be away for a week and a half)
- pray for us to help our older children understand and engage with the work that our family is here to do.

John plans to send more immediate updates using the 'stories' feature on the secure Signal app. Here are the steps for receiving these updates:

1. If you don't already have Signal, download it from Google Play Store
2. Add John as a contact: +221 78 895 30 01
3. Reply to this email with your phone number so John can add you to the group
4. Look out for story notifications from John in the bottom right-hand corner of your Signal home screen. Each story will disappear 24 hours after it is sent.

With love,

John & Sarah, with Lily, Andrew, Joanna and Esther