



Wilkinsons' News

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Dear friends,

It was great to see many of you over the summer. Thank you for the interest that you showed as we shared with you. That seems a while ago now though, so it's definitely time for an update.

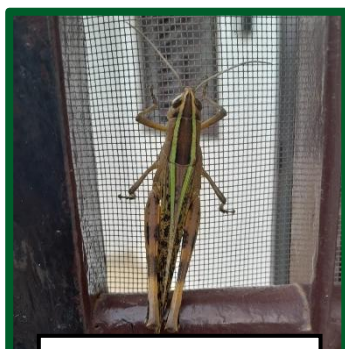
As expected, we hit the ground running as soon as we got back. A colleague who helped us remotely with some finance work was moving on, so Janet immediately picked up some new tasks and delegated some to others. Her finance work follows the American financial year, which ends in September, so this is her busiest time of year as she works to make sure all the accounts are in order and everything is submitted correctly in late November.

The boys have settled back into the rhythm of school life. Theo has moved on to 'big' school where they don't get to paint so much or sing quite so many songs, but he's happy learning. At the other end of the scale, Joel is enjoying his first traditional experience of learning a foreign language as he grapples with Spanish. But the autumn school holidays are already upon us with a 2-week break now.

Last month, David, along with a number of colleagues, participated in a workshop called "Sharpening your Interpersonal Skills". Earlier in the year, a few colleagues had participated in a different workshop and noticing the camaraderie and good relations that blossomed from this, David was keen to find a way for another workshop to be held for staff. Unfortunately Janet wasn't able to participate in this one, but maybe a future one. Using Colossians 3.12-14 as the theme verses, topics covered ranged from living in community to drawing people out and dealing with conflict. He particularly appreciated the valuable cultural perspectives shared by his Senegalese colleagues.



Interpersonal skills workshop



A common sight here

A few weeks' ago David travelled to Dakar for the day to meet up with leaders from other missions. This is always a great time for mutual encouragement, hearing the highs and lows of ministry and how the Lord is faithful throughout. A particular highlight was a session from a pastor whose wife is one of our colleagues. It was great to hear both how important he considers ministry in the Wolof language and also his testimony of how his love for reading led to him reading the Bible and being challenged by its truths.

One of the main tasks on David's plate at the moment is logistical preparations for over 30 directors and leaders of our organisation who represent countries from across all of Africa, coming to have meetings here in Thiès. He's looking forward to welcoming them and showing them quite a different context than many are used to.

The other main task is the construction work that we're undertaking to expand our centre so that it can be a training hub. The first phase of adding a number of bedrooms is nearly complete, and plans are underway for the second phase of building a more spacious conference room to accommodate larger groups. As a novice in such matters, David is grateful for skilled professionals who communicate clearly to him. But a new family are arriving in Senegal in January, and part of the husband's role will be to help with maintenance of the centre. This is a real answer to our prayers as he actually has some skills in that domain!

Construction in progress of
6 bedrooms



If you're wondering what the centre is like, the existing centre was built with the help of EMI, a Christian engineering ministry, and a few months ago they interviewed David and some other colleagues about our work. You can read that and watch the accompanying video at <https://inside.emiworld.org/2025/july/carriers-gospel> to get more of an idea and also to get an outsiders perspective on what we do.

Love,

David, Janet, Joel, Isaac & Theo

Praise God :

- For a good time in the UK over the summer.
- That the boys have settled back well into school and that the interpersonal skills workshop went well.
- For new colleagues due to arrive next year.

Pray:

- For Janet in this busy period that she would be able to concentrate well and not miss anything.
- That the directors' meetings would be encouraging for all with shared vision.
- For wisdom with the construction work.



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