



Wilkinsons' News

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Translators

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Dear friends,

Last time we wrote, we were just about to head into a particularly busy period with Janet dealing with financial year end and David preparing to welcome leaders from across Africa. **Thank you for your prayers, we really felt that they sustained us through that time.**

Despite the extra challenge of this being the first financial year end with the new software and also some additional reporting, Janet was able to meet the deadline in November and was commended for doing a very thorough job.

That same month, SIL Senegal hosted meetings with over 30 leaders in attendance and **we praise God that it was a very encouraging time.** Many leaders came from contexts very different to Senegal, so it was great to be able to give them the opportunity to experience aspects of life here, including eating shared meals around the bowl. This was a good way to get to know each other, particularly as there were lots of new faces. David was also very pleased to be able to take them on an outing to visit the [Beersheba project](#). Many were inspired by the agricultural possibilities even in very arid areas and the stories of how that provides openings to gospel opportunities, and they returned to their countries eager to put some of the principles into practice.



Leaders of African entities

Then in December, David was invited to attend a concert in Dakar to promote the arrival of the Bible in regional Wolof (a different version from the Wolof translation SIL is currently involved in). The evening commemorated the dedicated translator who had spent much of his life translating God's word before passing away days after completing the draft of the final book. The concert was a lively occasion, full of expectancy as people await the arrival of the printed Bibles. These are currently on their way from Korea with celebration events due to take place in May. **Pray for those who will receive the Bibles, that the reality of God speaking to them through his Word in Wolof would surpass all expectations.**



The concert

Over Christmas we had a refreshing break, with a mixture of family time playing games and doing activities together, and hanging out with other expat families here – from a barbecue together in a

wild, open space to swinging (safely-attached) from baobab trees and catching up with friends. A couple of weeks ago, we also enjoyed a seaside weekend retreat with all of our colleagues. We were led to reflect on Isaiah 40 and God's extravagant generosity and were reminded that we need to be continually filled by God's presence first, if there is to be any chance for that to overflow into the lives of those to whom we minister. It was the first time we have attempted such a weekend away, so David was pleased that all the logistics went to plan, and the boys enjoyed the childcare program that kept them entertained. But above all, in the busyness of everyday life, **we are thankful for the opportunity to re-focus on God.**



Our tranquil retreat location

This month we have been delighted to welcome some **new colleagues**: a British short-termer here for a few months interested in linguistics, finance and helping out with admin; and a French/German young family with the husband taking on the role of centre manager – **a huge answer to our prayers and yours!**



New 1st floor with 6 bedrooms

In our last letter we mentioned the building work for the 6 new bedrooms. It's taken quite a few months, but **praise God, the work is now complete.** This will increase our capacity and ability to host events such as training workshops and we **pray that it will also help us to serve the local church and build stronger connections with them.**

Looking ahead, David will shortly be making a flying visit to Kenya for 4 days of training, returning in time (hopefully) to meet Janet's mum at Dakar airport. We're looking forward to welcoming her here for a visit and showing her life in Thies. During her visit, it will also be International Mother Tongue Day. To celebrate, we're holding a special event on 21st February to help Christians in the nearby churches become more aware of what local language scriptures are available and to encourage them to use them to reach family and friends. **Please pray that many people would come, and that through the interactive games, quizzes and talks, believers would have a new hunger for God's word.**

As you have read, we have a lot to thank God for. We hope you are encouraged by the answered prayers and will **join us in praise of the One who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!**

Love,

David, Janet, Joel, Isaac & Theo

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