



Wilkinsons' News

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Dear friends,

Thank you for your prayers for us over the summer. We weren't sure how it would be with a lot fewer people around, both on the work and social front, but God was very gracious to us. There were lots of different activities to keep the boys amused, be it activities organised by church or swimming lessons, some basic Senegalese cooking lessons, a couple of day trips to Dakar, a solo trip to England for Joel or a week-long Christian music camp. We also had a few days away as a family which was a very refreshing time.



Sightseeing in Dakar



Colleague Yandé and her husband Balla in the middle

Speaking of Dakar, David can often go many months without needing to make a trip to the capital, and then suddenly, as was the case a few months ago, he was there nearly every week, for a range of events. These included a ministries conference run by the Evangelical Alliance, a linguistics consultation at the university, meetings with partners and a celebration of a pastor's 50 years of ministry together with a handover service to the incoming pastor, whose wife happens to work for our organisation and is Janet's colleague in finance.

Last week David made a short but encouraging trip to the Gambia with a couple of colleagues. The Gambian border is only 140 miles or a 4.5 hour drive from Thies. The journey included a combination of a taxi, a 7-seater public transport vehicle, a ferry across the Gambia river and even a short motorbike ride. Sometimes there can be challenges crossing the border, but this time David greeted the officials in a local language and one of them turned out to be from Thionck-Essyl(!) and he helped us through the necessary processes.

The purpose of the trip was to meet representatives from a relatively new organisation there who are passionate about Scripture Engagement and sharing Scriptures in local languages. They want to partner with our organisation and learn from our experience. David also met with the leader of the Gambian Bible Society to discuss rights to distribute audio scriptures and possibilities for collaboration in literacy work. In between those he managed to squeeze in a trip to a supermarket with British goods and bring back some Cadburys!



Meeting in the Gambia

On 4th November David will travel to Ivory Coast for the annual directors' meetings with colleagues from across Africa. These are the meetings that we hosted here in Senegal last year. Pray that they will be useful and that David will be able to put into practice what he learns.

Meanwhile Janet is already into her busiest season of the year as she prepares all the documentation needed to close the financial year. Over the next 6 weeks, she needs to meticulously check for and correct any errors, run year end processes, describe financial compliance procedures and report on variances etc, all while still keeping on top of her daily work. Please pray for diligence and perseverance. Pray also for extra energy for parenting during David's absence in this busy period.

At the beginning of September one of our friends in the missionary community here passed away very unexpectedly. His wife and kids have since returned to the US, including Isaac's best friend in his class. Throughout the various services and conversations, we were struck by the emphasis on how much this man, who loved God's word (a Hebrew expert), is now enjoying being in God's presence and understanding its truths so much more deeply. Many people in this country believe they must earn a place in heaven, but they can never be sure if they've done enough. Some local people offered to pray for the soul of our late friend as is the custom here, but his wife was very clear that he does not need their prayers. We praise God for the assurance we have if we've put our trust in Jesus Christ. May God give us the boldness to not wait to share this good news with others.

Please continue to pray for the Gusilay – specifically for Fatou, the former translator who continues to travel around the Casamance region encouraging people to listen to Gusilay scriptures; for a lady in Thies who after a year of listening to the Scriptures has been profoundly touched by the message; and for David's efforts to meet and share with Gusilay in the surrounding area where time allows.

Love,

David, Janet, Joel, Isaac & Theo

Praise God:

- For a good summer for us and the boys.
- For an encouraging trip to the Gambia and for people passionate about sharing God's word in local languages.

Pray:

- For useful meetings for David in Ivory Coast and extra energy for Janet at home with the boys and processing year end at work.
- For God's comfort as the community here grieves the loss of a friend and the sudden departure of a family.
- For God's Word to speak to the Gusilay as the Scriptures continue to be shared with them.



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