



September 2014

ALESSANDRO & CHANTAL PARRILLO

among the Konyagi of West Africa

So much can happen in two months! Our trip to Guinea in July went well. We did have a few scary adventures – lost control of the vehicle on the way there and found a snake under Samuel’s bed! We thank God for His protection!

some land. We were excited at the possibility that we might be able to start building our house in Guinea in January and we started making plans for that.



It was a joy to be with our coworkers and they made our stay very enjoyable. We were encouraged to see them settled in their new houses in the village, to see the good relationships they have established and the progress they have made in learning the language and culture. It made us all the more eager to move to the Konyagi homeland in Guinea as soon as possible. We started making plans to do so with lots of prayer and we met with all the officials of the region, at all levels, to express this desire, to ask permission and to get some land. We were very well received and were encouraged at how things were progressing despite some obstacles. When we left, it was with the intention of returning two months later to get



Yet, a few weeks later, our plans were already changing. Proverbs 16:9 says: "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps." We are thankful that we can trust that our God’s plans are much better than ours. Due to the Ebola virus which is spreading in West Africa, the border between Senegal and Guinea has been closed and our coworkers have left Guinea to return to their home countries for 6 to 12 months until the situation is under control. These last weeks have not been easy for them as it was a hasty departure. Despite that, they took the time to move all our personal belongings and



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furniture from the rented house in Koundara, Guinea and to store them at their place. We were planning on doing that on our next trip down, but obviously that was no longer possible. We are so thankful for such great coworkers who tackled this huge job and removed a heavy burden from our shoulders. We thank God that despite numerous difficulties, our coworkers arrived safely in their home countries a few days ago. So, it seems that we won't be able to build our house in Guinea in January, but we trust that God will accomplish His will in His time.

Some of you have expressed a concern for our safety due to the Ebola outbreak. We are thankful for your prayers for us and for the people here. In reality, it would be difficult for us to be infected by the virus. What would affect us more directly would be if the situation causes borders to close, airlines to cancel flights, and medical facilities to be swamped. The mission is monitoring the situation closely and, if they decide the risk is too high, they will tell us to relocate. For the moment, in Senegal, there is only one known case, but we are taking precautions and we pray that there will soon be an end to this deadly epidemic.

Much of the time these last two months, one of us was sick with one thing or another. Three weeks ago, we made the hasty decision to go to Dakar, the capital city. Samuel had been suffering with diarrhea and fever and, when he started vomiting and screaming due to the pain, we decided we needed to make the 9-hour trip to get medical help. It was pretty intense. In Dakar, Samuel and Chantal, who was also sick, were able to see some doctors and have lab tests done. It's still not completely clear what the problem was. Each doctor seems to have his own hypothesis – it was either a bacteria, a virus, a parasite, a digestive issues or allergies! Anyways, we are all healthy at the moment. While we were there, we did some more allergy tests to gain a better understanding of Samuel's allergies and we are awaiting the results. We also did lots of research and preparations to allow us to follow a diet that

avoids the foods to which Samuel is allergic. With everything he's allergic to, that's not an easy thing, especially here where not as much is available, but God provides!

We came back to the village a few days ago. Our house was in pretty good shape, but lots of things were musty and moldy. It's unbelievable how much mold can appear in three weeks! The rains have finally arrived and the fields are growing well but right now people are short on food as they await the harvest. Baby Monica is back from the hospital and she is doing much better. Now it's time to get back into a routine (does that really exist??). Once again, we're having language sessions and checking Bible lessons.

Thank you for your partnership! Thank you for your prayers! Please continue to pray for us. Even though we may not send out news as regularly as before, we really need your prayers!

PRAYER & PRAISE

• *Ministry among the Konyagi*

Praise that we could resume checking the Bible lessons. We are just about to begin lesson 38. Pray that this project would progress well, without too many delays and that the lessons will be well done and be a great help in sharing the Good News with the Konyagi.

Praise for Bonéré and the Bible-teaching at church on Sundays. Pray that Bonéré might teach well, that many people will continue to come and, of course, that the people will understand and be transformed by God's Word.

Pray for Bonéré, his family and their spiritual growth. Pray that God will provide for their needs. Praise that baby Monica is doing better. Pray for a good harvest despite the rains starting so late.

- ***Culture and language learning***

Praise that Alessandro has made good progress. Pray as Chantal would also like to attend the language sessions. Pray for wisdom in balancing everything. Pray that we might both eventually learn the Konyagi language and culture well.

- ***Konyagi missionary team in Guinea***

Pray for the Hofer and Nachtigall families, our co-workers in Guinea. Praise for the time we spent with them and for all their help. Praise for the progress they made while in the village. Pray for them as they adjust to a new situation in their home countries. Pray that each of us will be walking with God and that we will work well together as a team.

- ***Konyagi Bible translation***

Pray for Sue Jenkins from SIL and the others working on the translation. Praise for the progress they are making. Praise for the potential candidates that could work with SIL on the translation. Pray for wisdom in that. Pray that this translation will be clear and exact.

- ***Konyagi people***

Praise for the work that God is doing among this people group – let's keep praying! Pray that God will go before us to prepare the way and will continue to prepare the hearts of the Konyagi to hear the message of salvation and that it will transform their lives.

- ***Wisdom***

Pray for wisdom to deal with the various situations that come up and the decisions to be made.

- ***Spiritual well-being***

Pray that our top priority each day would be to know God better and that we would become the persons God wants us to be. Pray that we would have the right attitude in facing difficulties. Praise that God teaches us to trust Him more and more.

- ***Physical well-being***

Praise that we are healthy after a time of sickness. Pray for our health and energy and the wisdom to find a balance in everyday life.

- ***Mental well-being***

Pray that we may stay encouraged no matter the situation.

- ***Safety***

Praise for God's protection. Pray for His continued protection.

- ***Marriage***

Praise that we can be on this life journey together! Pray for us as a couple, that our marriage may be one that glorifies God.

- ***Samuel***

Praise that Samuel is doing better and regaining his strength. He is ten months old and loves to 'walk' by holding onto our hands or furniture. He loves being outdoors, being with people and going on the swing. Continue to pray for his health and wisdom to deal with his allergies. Pray that he will know his Saviour at a young age. Pray for wisdom for us in our role as parents so that we can take good care of Samuel and raise him in a way that honours God.

- ***Immigration***

Praise that we have received Alessandro's Canadian permanent resident card!

- ***Ebola***

Pray that this epidemic will soon end. Pray for those affected. Pray for wisdom for the mission leaders as they monitor the situation.