

Dec. 7 to 31, 2009
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* Coordinating translation of the Bible for 4 million Wolof people
God's word at work in S E N E G A L
Holiday Season 2009

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God wins

I arrived in Seattle October 8 for a six month home assignment. Everywhere I go I find God's people concerned about the war, the economy and current events. Revelation 19-22 is a reassuring reminder to me that no matter what mankind may do, God is accomplishing his ultimate purposes.

Travelling troubadours

Mary Anne and I are trekking together as she gives her final report to the churches. October and November we hiked some mountain trails as we travelled in WA, OR, ID. I had prayed for this since her 2007 ten-hour back surgery!



The stories we are sharing in churches revolve around these themes of God's faithfulness:

1. God redeems "bad" situations to bring about good (examples—my car accident with Assan in 2003 and my car theft in 2007 opened doors for witness.
2. Christ transforms lives.
3. God gives victory as we live in the context of a spiritual battle.

You have had an indispensable part in the growth of the church in Senegal. We thank God for you.

73% of the O.T. first-drafted

The consultant check of 1Kings in Sept. (see picture) brought the publishable portions of the Wolof O.T. to 30%. 73% of the O.T is first-drafted.

Mamadou is translating Jeremiah while I am on home assignment.

From February 24 to March 22, before returning to Senegal, I plan to supervise the typesetting of the third edition of the Wolof New Testament at SIL in Dallas, where the first two editions were typeset. Each N.T. will cost \$2.50 to print and ship, and the funding for 10,000 of them is promised. We need another 10,000 copies—\$25,000. We have only a few hundred left of the 2004 edition, and we need a supply that lasts until the N.T. can be revised, once the entire O.T. is first drafted. If God puts it on your heart to "purchase" a supply, you may give through Special Project 6403-913 "Publication Wolof scriptures," online at www.worldventure.com (GIVE > Projects & Ministries > Projects > Publication of Wolof Scripture) or by check made out to WorldVenture (address below).

Please pray God will reveal Jesus Christ the Savior through his word. Strongholds remain that can only be addressed through prayer.

I'm not going it alone

The Harkins arrived in Thies in July before Mary Anne left, and are reviewing Wolof and French, preparing to help double check the translations against the Hebrew text, a big help!

Alice Statler will now share my house. She's been a friend and colleague since 1975. She directs leadership courses for women and teaches at the Bible institute.

A VIP for Village in Partnership

The church in Soma planted six churches; the Thies church seven, and is initiating a program whereby stateside churches may partner with these new churches to help them transform their farm villages into communities who know the Messiah. Some years ago I met Carine Murat, a Haitian turned American who speaks French, English and



Pular. She worked in Senegal for several organizations, and then returned to Chicago to care for her father. With training in Bible and a master's degree in public administration, she is poised to return to Senegal with WorldVenture for three years to disciple

women in the Thies church and handle logistics for the Village in Partnership program, once her support team is in place.

More answers to prayer

We had another good rainy season this year.

Mamadou's hard disk crashed three times; mine has threatening issues. Friends provided funds to purchase new translation laptops.

Mary Anne is proof reading in Serer 1,000 pages of a chronological presentation of the gospel, and 1,100 pages of Train and Multiply, a course for mentoring church leaders to train others to plant new churches. Eventually she will need to interrupt her retirement to return to Senegal to make final revisions and get these published.

My winter schedule:

December 7-31 Hawaii churches and family.
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Jan. 3 AM Bethesda Baptist Church, Tacoma, WA

Jan. 3 PM Christ Memorial Church, Poulsbo WA

Some of the following engagements must yet be confirmed:

Jan. 10 Valley Bible Church, Clovis CA

Jan. 17 Yuma AZ, with Mary Anne's brother

Jan. 24 Riverpark Bible Church, Fresno CA

Jan. 31 Calvary Church, Los Gatos CA

Feb. 3 Sanctuary Bible Church of Carmel Valley, CA

Feb. 5 Africa Prayer Group, Walnut Creek Pres., CA

Feb. 7-8 Church on the Hill, San Jose CA

Feb. 10 Grace Community Church, Ft. Bragg CA

Feb. 13 Foothills Community Church, Santa Rosa CA

Feb. 21 North Albany Community Church,
Albany OR

Feb. 24-March 22 c/o International Linguistics Center /
SIL

7500 West Camp Wisdom Road

Dallas TX 75236-5626

March 23 Arrive back in Senegal.

Because Mary Anne retires Feb.1, priority was given to churches we had in common. Since it is not possible to see everyone this time, I plan to return stateside the summer of 2011 to finish deputation and attend the mission's Renewal Conference end of July in Colorado.

For the foreseeable future, I'll be working on the Wolof Bible. The O.T. is three times the size of the N.T. Consultant checks on Ruth, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs are anticipated for 2010. Dr. Goerling, who was supposed to check the latter two, became ill and is unable to continue his work. We thank God that another SIL consultant is willing to help with checking.

May your Christmas be joyful in the Lord!

Marilyn

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