



PIONEERS David & Billie Blessing 10123 William Carey Drive Orlando, Florida 32832-6931 david@monclovabaptist.org

Fall 2006

## Autumn in Africa



Autumn sunset in the Guinea highlands

“Do you smell a wood stove?” Our windows were open, and the smell of burning wood drifted into the room. “Yeah, it smells like fall!” Fall brings many images to our minds: colorful leaves, apple pies, Thanksgiving turkeys, and of course, the fall harvest. Autumn in Africa is quite different, however. Here, the leaves don’t change, apples don’t grow, and turkeys are rare and very expensive. Nevertheless, we still pray for a great harvest here, a harvest of souls. Everywhere we look, we see people who do not know Jesus. The task is monumental, but nothing is impossible with God. Please keep praying for us. The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few!

Your Co-laborers in the Harvest,

*David & Billie*

## Ramadan

It’s hard to imagine, isn’t it? Fasting from sunrise to sunset every day for a month. No food and nothing to drink to quench your thirst as you work in the white-hot, African sun. Millions and millions of Muslims observed Ramadan last month, the holiest month of the Islamic year. They fasted in a vain attempt to please God. Discussions with friends gave us the opportunity to explain the true biblical meaning of fasting. Pray for the Muslims of Senegal and Guinea and for us as we live, learn, and minister in this spiritually dark place.



## A Fruitful Harvest



“I finished the book you gave me. When will you bring me the next one?” asked Stephen. It was 10:30 at night. “I can bring it by the bakery tomorrow,” David replied. Stephen is devouring a Bible correspondence course involving intense study of the Bible, doctrine, and the Christian life. Many people have been praying that he would find a different job that would allow him to attend church. Praise God for answered prayer! God did not give Stephen a new job but instead a promotion at his current job that will open the door for him to come to church with us occasionally. In addition, he will be working less hours and earning more pay! Please continue to pray for Stephen’s spiritual growth.

### Please pray for:

- 🏰 Last session of language study at the university
- 🏰 Preparations for relocation to Guinea
- 🏰 Preparations for visitors in December
- 🏰 Guidance for ministry in Guinea

*Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

*John 4:35*



Our time of language study in Senegal is drawing to a close, and before long, we will be moving to Guinea. In order to better prepare for this transition, we spent three weeks in Guinea in October. There, we met several other missionaries, including our teammates, and toured parts of the country to seek direction for future life and ministry. We traveled from the hot and humid capital city of Conakry to the beautiful, mountainous highlands of central Guinea and back. We experienced a taste of Guinean life and culture and gained some real insights into the work God has called us to do there. God confirmed once again his call on our lives to work in Guinea, and he stoked our passion to mobilize his people to respond to the spiritual needs of that land. What part will you play in this task?



*Ready to travel inland*



*Huge mosque under construction in the middle of nowhere*



*Log bridge*



*Stopping to get a flat tire fixed*

## Mariama's Story



*Mariama at home*

While near the village of Kankalabe, we met a woman named Mariama and learned her tragic story. For twenty years, she lived with a disfiguring tumor on her upper jaw. In January, a missionary family took her to one of the Mercy Ships when it docked in a nearby country. There, doctors successfully removed the tumor, and she joyfully returned to her village. Then, tragedy struck again. Only a few months after her homecoming, new tumors began to form on her lower jaw. By the time we met her, the tumors had eaten through her flesh, leaving two gaping holes in the side of her face. Her village had practically abandoned her, fearing the involvement of black magic in her condition. Under the direction of Cal, a veteran missionary, we did our best to bandage her wounds, clean her clothes, get her food, and bring some hope into her life. Cal shared the Gospel with her in her own language, but she has great difficulty understanding that she needs to make a personal decision to trust Christ. Later, in consultation with a doctor, we determined that she has untreatable, terminal cancer. Please pray that she will understand the Gospel and trust Christ before the cancer takes her life.

## Team-Building

A highlight of our trip was the time we were able to spend with our teammates, Eugene and Djenabou. They are as excited as we are about the prospect of sharing the Gospel and planting churches among the unreached people of Guinea. They have been serving in Guinea for five years now and have been praying for teammates for a long time. Please keep Eugene, Djenabou, and their two children, Gideon and Susie, in your prayers.



If you feel God leading you to contribute to this ministry, please make checks payable to:  
**PIONEERS, 10123 William Carey Drive, Orlando, FL 32832.**  
 Include a note designating your gift for the ministry of David & Billie Blessing, Account #010888  
 Visit us on the web: [www.monclovabaptist.org/blessings](http://www.monclovabaptist.org/blessings)