



Spring 2007

Spreading the Word

Dear Prayer Partner,

On jaraama! That means "I greet you" in Pular, the language of the Fulbe people of Guinea. We are learning to speak their language so we can share the Gospel with them in words they can most easily understand. Exciting things are taking place in outreach to the Fulbe. This month we will be helping to bind a few hundred copies of the Gospel of Luke in the Fulbe language. Within the next several months, the complete New Testament will finally be published in Pular thanks to the hard work of several faithful missionaries. As God's Word is distributed among the Fulbe, we hope to attain enough language proficiency to teach chronologically through the Bible among various groups of Fulbe. God's Word is powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. We wait with anticipation to see its power unleashed among the Fulbe.

For the Gospel,

David & Billie

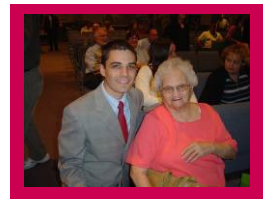
Forging Ahead

Standing in the airport in Dakar with six pieces of luggage and even more carry-ons, we prayed that they would let us on the plane without charging extra. Fortunately, God had provided a group for us to travel with, and since some members of the group had less than the limit, our luggage was accepted without a problem. A few hours later, we stood on the ground in Conakry, Guinea, our new home. Since that day, we have been getting adjusted to life in Guinea and ministering in various ways. David spent a day helping to build a Sunday school classroom at the only Pular speaking church in Conakry. He also had the opportunity to lead worship and preach at Conakry International Fellowship, an expatriate worship service. We have also been meeting with our teammates, praying and planning for our ministry among the Fulbe.



Home-Going

At the beginning of April, we made an unplanned trip back to the U.S. for the funeral of David's grandmother, Arleda Blessing. It was a bittersweet time. We rejoice that David's grandmother was a believer and is now home in heaven, but we still deeply miss her. We made the most of our time at home. We were thankful for the chance to see family and friends again, and we enjoyed a few Big Macs and Whoppers as well. We also eagerly took advantage of our time to update our sending church about our ministry in Guinea. We spoke in several church services, Sunday school classes, and their Christian school. It is our prayer that many of those who heard us were left with a greater burden for missions.



For Prayer:

- ✂ Provision of a vehicle
- ✂ More workers for the harvest
- ✂ Pular language study
- ✂ Opportunities to share the Gospel
- ✂ Protection, both spiritual and physical
- ✂ Guidance in ministry

For Praise:

- ✂ Provision of temporary housing in Conakry
- ✂ Meeting new people and making new friends
- ✂ Four year wedding anniversary
- ✂ Safe travels to and from the U.S. last month
- ✂ Smooth transition to life and ministry in Guinea
- ✂ Provision of a house in Labe, our target city



Life in Guinea

How to prepare a meal, Guinea-style:

1. Wake up at 6 a.m. and get ready to go to market (remember to wear sunscreen)
2. Travel by taxi (along with five other passengers) to the open-air market
3. Walk around in the hot sun choosing your vegetables and bargaining for them
4. Take another taxi to a small shop to buy some more ingredients including meat
5. Take a taxi home, arrive home by 10 a.m., you hope
6. Soak all fruits and vegetables in bleach water to kill bacteria
7. Pick bugs and rocks out of rice
8. Begin cooking ingredients from scratch
9. Lunch is served, 2 p.m.
10. Get ready to do it all over again for dinner!



Looking Ahead

Itinerary:

Summer: Intensive Pular language study and team-building in Conakry
Fall: Relocate to city of Labe (*Lah-bay*), continue language study
Future: Begin evangelistic outreach to Fulbe in Labe and surrounding area

Quick Facts: Labe

Labe is a city of about 100 thousand people located in the heartland of the Fulbe people. Currently there is only one missionary family in Labe. The need for workers is great. Pray for God to raise up more workers for his harvest in Labe.



Meet the Fulbe

The Fulbe are the largest people group in Guinea numbering over three and a half million. They are 99.9% Muslim and consider themselves the guardians of Islam because they brought Islam to the region about three hundred years ago.

More information about the Fulbe can be found on our website.

It Takes a Team

Though thousands of miles may stand between us, we know that you are a vital part of our team, for the power of prayer transcends time and space. We thank you for your prayers. Just recently, we asked for prayer that God would provide housing for us in the city of Labe where we are moving this fall. By God's grace, he answered your prayers. In the picture with the orange border above, you can see the house that God provided in response to your prayers. At another time, we asked you to pray that God would provide more water at our home in Conakry. Within days, we had more water than we'd had at any time before in Guinea. So you can see why we covet your prayers. We know that just as God has answered your prayers for these little things, so he will answer your prayers for more important things, such as the salvation of the lost and the establishment of his church in this land. Please keep praying. We're counting on you!

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Make checks payable to **PIONEERS**.
Include a note designating your gift to
the ministry of David & Billie Blessing,
Account #110888