



Dear Fellow Harvesters,

We've been through 14 airports in six countries in the last two months. Our passports are completely full and our hearts are glad to be home in Labé. In the coming months, we plan to advance full speed ahead for the work of God in Guinea. We thank you for your prayers and your partnership in the Gospel.

Happy Holidays,

David & Billie

"This Is Africa"

We often quote this line from a movie when things go wrong, unexpectedly... or just go how they do in Africa. Our recent trip to Ghana for a PIONEERS conference was a mixed experience that left us saying "This is Africa."

We enjoyed speaking English, visiting a mall, eating un-melted chocolate, the luxuries of near constant water and electricity, and sleeping in air conditioning. It was great to meet other PIONEERS missionaries from our region, learn about their lives and work, and connect with three of our global mobilization bases.



While we praise God for His good gifts, we were discouraged to hear that four of our colleagues were robbed at gunpoint outside our hotel late one afternoon. They went to the bank to withdraw money for a leadership training outreach; from there someone followed them back to the hotel, and stole their money and valuables.



We were further discouraged by local beliefs that delayed our Tuesday outing to the beach. We were told that beaches are closed on Tuesdays because some Ghanaians believe the sea god rests that day. So Wednesday morning found us sitting on a clean beach under a wide, yellow umbrella enjoying slightly overcast skies. Since we couldn't leave our bag unattended, we decided that after lunch David would swim first and then me. Surprisingly, David quickly returned to his chair after only a few minutes. He said the water was littered with garbage. I decided to stay in the shade and watch the tide bring in the trash. Sadly, just to our left, the tide also brought ashore the body of a tiny baby who had been thrown into the ocean to drown. We watched as a crowd gathered to see the abandoned infant, saw some walk away shaking their heads in disbelief, and heard some voice disgust at such a heart-rendering act. We left the beach remembering again why we're here and saying to ourselves, "This is Africa."

For Prayer:

- ➔ 2009 calendar project
- ➔ Translation project
- ➔ Pular language learning
- ➔ For Georgia as she prays about returning to Guinea

For Praise:

- ➔ God's provision of a vacation
- ➔ Safety as we traveled this fall
- ➔ Good health
- ➔ Opportunities to share the Gospel



PIONEERS Serves the Mission Community in Guinea

The Association of Evangelical Churches and Missions in Guinea recently asked PIONEERS to be one of three missions on their executive committee. Pray for us as we serve the missions community in Guinea in this capacity.

Publishing Projects

At a recent partnership meeting, colleagues working among the Fulbe told us they preferred to have the evangelistic book we are translating in Arabic script. The conversion from Roman to Arabic script will take extra time. Pray for accurate translations, the approval of the publisher, and acceptance by the Fulbe.

We also ask for prayer as we work with missionary colleagues and a graphic designer in the U.S. to finalize illustrations for the 2009 Scripture calendars.



The City of Lights

In September, God blessed us with a vacation to France. There are many things we want to remember about our time there . . . We want to remember the warm hospitality of our hosts and evenings of coffee and tea around wood fires with them; their dogs, Sam and Buster tearing down French country lanes with their ears flapping in the wind. The afternoon we picked apples and blackberries and turned them into pies. The man riding his bike at the port, ringing a silver bell, wearing shorts and high rubber boots with fishing gear and a French baguette strapped to the rear basket. And the old man in the subway playing a very worn violin for loose change, his hair gelled to one side, and his vest held together with safety pins larger than his big smile.

Mostly, we want to remember how God provided for our vacation in so many amazing ways. He gave us free lodging, upgraded us to first class on the flight to Paris, a free upgrade and GPS device for our rental car, free entrance into a Renaissance museum, sweet fellowship and times of prayer with great friends, and so much more.

“For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods.” Psalms 135:5



Holiday Cheer

Our Guinea field address below is where we can receive Christmas cards and care packages via the U.S. Postal Service International Priority Mail. It can take up to 8 weeks for us to receive mail. All packages should be plainly wrapped, insured, and well taped to deter theft. Please notify us of all sent parcels.

Email:

david@monclovabaptist.org

Website:

www.piguinea.org/blessing.htm

Telephone:

(419) 464-9046

You can reach us in Africa using this U.S. phone number.

Guinea Field Address:

David & Billie Blessing
Mission Pioneers Guinea
B.P. 438
Conakry, Guinea Republic
West Africa

Financial Support:

PIONEERS
10123 William Carey Dr
Orlando, FL 32832

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