

Dear Friends in Christ in the Kansas District,

Imagine what life would be like if you were a senior citizen at 45 years old. Imagine if many members of your family, most of your acquaintances and all of your neighbors had lost someone to illness in the last year. Imagine if most of those people who died had received some kind of treatment, but the treatment didn't prove effective. These stark realities are what the people of Guinea deal with on a day-to-day basis. According to the World Health Organization, the average life span of a Guinean is 51 years, mostly due to a very high infant mortality rate (155 deaths for every 1,000 births).¹ Many of the causes of death are easily treatable, especially if caught in the early stages.

Jack and Cathy Carlos, who are slated to come to Guinea, would not solve all of these very dire health problems, but they would help some people. They have been called to do Community Health Evangelism with women and men. They have seen how even a little help has gone a long way toward not only meeting people's physical needs but also pointing them to the Healer of souls - the Great Physician, Christ. Added to the critically desperate state of health care, most Guineans see a spiritual dimension to their physical health. The person who traditionally healed them also taught them on spiritual matters. I hope you can see not only what a blessing the Carlos family will be to the people of Guinea, but also what a great door their ministry will open.

We are thrilled to have Jack and Cathy join the team working in Guinea. We have known them since 1998 when we first went to missionary orientation together and have seen how God has used them in many different situations for His glory. The challenge for them now that neither of us had in 1998, is that missionaries need to raise their own funds before they leave. We know how generous our partners in ministry in the Kansas District have been in the past, and we know how faithful in support you will be to the Carlos family. We are very pleased to encourage you to give cheerfully in response to God's grace for their support. Every missionary has been asked to give some advice to an ailing friend in Guinea. It will be momentous when the Carlos family comes and we have missionaries on the field whose express purpose is to help people with their health care needs, and by doing so open a door to their deepest spiritual needs.

In Christ,

Tim, Heidi, Philip & Leslie Norton
LCMS World Mission
Guinea, West Africa

¹ See <http://www.who.int/countries/gin/en/> for more information.