

February Newsletter from Donna Meyer, volunteer teacher

With the hot season right at the portal, I am going to need a lot of prayer to give me the patience and ingenuity to survive with a joyful attitude toward living and my work of teaching Rachael, Joel and Anna. Already the daytime temperatures are reaching over 100 degrees, but so far the nights are getting down into the 70's. I'm told that is soon to change. Sharon says the extremely dry air will continue until April when the winds will change to the south again, bringing the humidity from the rain forest, and then the rainy season will come. In May the temperatures will drop some as the rainy season continues through October. Every year, of course, is a little different, just as the seasons in the States vary from year to year.

We got city water last night about 3AM for the first time in three weeks! You can see that our wells are very important! I can tell when the city water comes because the pressure makes loud, explosive noises in the water heater in the bathroom. I don't use the water heater because it takes too much electricity, but it is there. I had a substitute guard last night so I got up to show him how to turn the water off when my outside tank was full. I'm sure it was quite comical – me in my pink pajamas and denim jacket as a cover up, about half my hair in a knot on top of my head, the other half sticking who knows where, gesturing and speaking English mixed with the little Maninka I have acquired, attempting to make the message clear. I must have done alright since the tank is full this morning! Moving the wrong handle would have drained the tank right back into the city line!

I continue to be amazed at how the trees and shrubs survive the drought, covered as they are with dust, and a few, without leaves, blooming! Some plants that have pretty much lost their leaves are sprouting new ones. The mango trees, which still have their leaves, are blooming and fruit is growing, hanging from 8 - 10 inch stems. I cannot imagine how deeply these plants are rooted! The Oetting's had their well deepened last dry season to 45 feet and already this dry season it is not keeping up.

I am reminded of Psalm 1 which is on a wall-hanging that my sister sent me for Christmas. "Blessed is the man ... whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

I cannot see the streams that are watering the plants and trees here in the savannah of West Africa, but they are prospering. Nor can I see you right now. You, who are streams of water for me, through your payers and support, are rooted in the water of the Word and delight in the law of the Lord. So the stream flows through you to me, and together, we prosper in the work of the Lord!

Requests for Prayer and Praises:

- * Pray that our church here in Siguiri, Growing In Christ Lutheran Church, would indeed grow through the faith and bold witness of its members, including the Oettings and me.
- * Praise the Lord that Sharon continues to grow stronger.
- * Praise the Lord that my brother Stan is mending after his long bout of illness this winter.
- * Please continue to pray for the safety of the minds, bodies and souls of Zach and all other military personnel as they serve their country in Iraq and around the world.
- * Praise the Lord that He has led me to choose to return to Guinea next fall for another year of teaching.
- * Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would open the minds and hearts of the Muslim population here in Guinea to accept the Truth of the Gospel.
- * Continue to pray for M, S and C as they spread the Good News through Story-telling in the villages to fellow Guineans, especially during these next months that Tim is not here to help and encourage them.

God bless you as you continue, to drink in the living water of the Word and serve Him in thoughts, words and actions wherever He has planted you! I am so grateful for those thoughts, words and actions, in the form of prayers and support for the Guinea Mission, which includes me!

Gratefully, in Christ, Donna Meyer