

Dear Family and Friends:

While summer and its sweltering heat is drawing to a close for you, I am living in what is the next to the coolest season of the year, the rainy season. Yesterday I actually had to get my sweatshirt and some socks out in the late afternoon! Already in August we have had almost ten inches of rain! I do love to hear the rain! Maybe because we so seldom heard it all my life in Nebraska! There is something comforting and soothing in the rain! This morning Psalm 23 was the Psalm for the 9th Sunday in Pentecost and "He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul," is exactly how the rain makes me feel! (Add to that mountain streams, waterfalls, and the ocean). God is so good and I am so blessed to have a stream right outside my gate that gurgles and tumbles with all the rain we have been having, and the ocean two blocks to the west!

My house is still infested with black mice and ants, but I am settled and school is going well - I can hardly believe that it is only one week before I leave for Paris, Germany, and the States! God has graciously provided a way for me to get from here to Bamako since that is where my flight was booked out of last year. It is no small trip to get from here to there! Daye, the administrative assistant in Siguiri, should be arriving in Conakry tomorrow to do business and will drive back next Monday with me as a passenger. I will get to stay with Tim and Heidi Norton in Siguiri before going on to Mali and the airport in Bamako. I thought I would have to take a taxi, but the Lord spared me that experience. I am so looking forward to seeing Zach in Germany and being a tourist as well, before going on to visit family and friends in Nebraska.

What a privilege to be here and to meet so many wonderful, godly single people who are serving their Lord in many different capacities: Cathy, the bookkeeper for Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA); Betty, another MK teacher whose students have moved to Senegal so she will be following next week; Carol Lee, a Brazilian who has started numerous pre-schools in and around Conakry, teaching French to the little ones so they will be more able to succeed in school, teaching moms about good nutrition and hygiene, and of course, the love of Jesus, and training Guineans to be the teachers. After visiting some of her schools in Sierra Leone, Carol will be on her way to the States where she will meet friends and study psychology this fall; Big John, who is a missionary assistant, helping missionaries with whatever needs to be done or fixed; and Collette, a Canadian radio operator who just received a frequency on which to broadcast throughout the city and beyond. I have also met numerous other couples who are raising or have raised their children here, working as administrators, pastors, teachers, trainers, Bible translators, maintenance personnel, as well as young people who have come here as short-term missionaries to get a taste of missionary life and work. I feel that I am rubbing shoulders with some of the most important people on earth! It is very humbling!

My house has lots of doors, three in the kitchen! One is to the outside, one leads to the dining room and the other to a hall and the pantry, bathrooms and bedrooms. I immediately had the two indoor kitchen doors taken off because they took up space and needed to be open for ventilation anyway. Later I discovered that the light switches in all the other rooms were hidden behind the doors! Now this would not be too big of a deal except for all the creepy crawlies that I encountered early in my stay in this house! I hate going into a dark room and reaching behind a door into who knows what! Whether the landlord Mr. Bombgurra likes it or not, I have removed all the doors except the ones to the bathrooms outside my bedroom and the door to the spare bedroom that I rarely enter. I feel much more secure knowing that light is an arm's length from the doorway! This weird aspect of African construction (it was that way in the Oetting's house in Siguiri also) is much like how Islam is lurking in the dark with the Light so near. They know and respect Jesus as a great prophet, but they hide it back in the darkness and deny His deity and power. Oh, that the doors could be removed that are preventing them from reaching out and worshipping their Light and Salvation!

Praise God...

- For the rain and cooler weather here;
- That Tim H. is today returning from a ten day teaching session in the forest – in safety I pray;
- That Stan is well and free from the IV that fed antibiotics into his blood stream for six weeks, eliminating the infection that had made him so sick;
- That Daye will be driving me to Siguiri, I will get to visit with Tim, Heidi, Philip, and Leslie Norton, God willing, and then go on to Bamako to fly to Germany to visit Zach and then on to the States for R, R & R (reunions, rest and relaxation);

Please pray...

- For safe travel for me to Europe, in Europe and a wonderful visit with Zach, then travel to and in the States;
- For the missionaries here who are ill...Satan seems to be attacking them with sickness...and for courage and wisdom in their witnessing and Bible translating;
- The Guineans who are suffering from the terrible inflation that continues each week – the dollar is now equal to 6,100 francs as compared to 5,000 when I left Siguri – rice prices keep going up as the people struggle to keep families fed;
- For Godly, compassionate leadership in the government, and continued peace in the streets of the city and throughout the country of Guinea.

I am very blessed to have the opportunity to be and work in Africa! It would not be possible without your prayers and gifts! I share Paul's feelings as he expresses them to the Philippians in chapter 4 verses 18 through 20: "...I am amply supplied...The gifts you sent...are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will supply all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." May the peace of the Lord dwell in you richly! I am so looking forward to seeing many of you!

In His service,
Donna Meyer

Addresses:

Snail mail – each * starts a new line:

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To support me or the Guinea Mission financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to: LCMS World Mission, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Make checks payable to: LCMS World Mission, marked "Heiney's Missionary Teacher."

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