

Dear Family and Friends,

*“Oh, Lord, you are my God! I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago!”*

Happy Thanksgiving! With Isaiah my heart overflows with wonder and praise for all that God is, all that He is doing and all that He will do! He has called me to be His child; He has brought me to this wonderful land of Guinea; He has given me the opportunity to share His kingdom plans with women here! I thought that I would have to learn a foreign language to do this, but week before last week I was enabled on the spur of the moment to share with one group of women. Last Wednesday I learned the taxi route to the other group so that when Pastor Tim Heiney is in the forest I will be able to go on my own. I have been tutored by Tim and have practiced telling the salvation Story, so that with the power of the Holy Spirit, Africans from an animist background will be attracted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God willing, I hope soon to present this Good News to the first group of women, most of whom are illiterate, so that they in turn will be able to share it with fellow Guineans! On Friday Tim met with James May and I and taught us the same Story but presented in such a way that Muslims who are hearing about Yisa's (Jesus') Mission for the first time will have nothing to refute. I hope to teach this to Samuel, my day guard, who already witnesses to the Muslims in this community. He will then be better equipped for that vital task. God is awesome! I feel so privileged to be learning from a seasoned missionary. Through the process of trial and error, Tim developed this technique of presenting the Gospel while riding in taxis where he has had a captive Muslim audience.

I would like give you a picture of what going to these house churches is like. Thursday evening I walked the three blocks or so to the Heiney's, passing small stores, a coffee shop, bakery and several small fruit and vegetable stands. The people are very friendly and it hurts to not know French because I cannot communicate more than greetings with them! Tim's land Cruiser met me on the road and I climbed into the back since James was in he front with Tim. I sat with my back to the side windows on the driver's side since the back benches are along each side. The first road is paved and not bad, considering the large pot holes that have developed. We turned onto another paved, but narrow road and then onto a dirt road. I try to sit loose in the saddle and move with the vehicle as we lurch from side to side. Next we turn onto a less traveled dirt road and the lurching increases, if that is possible! At one point I was air borne because we had just come over a big bump in the road when Tim screeched to a halt to avoid a child chasing a ball. My head slammed into the back of Tim's headrest and out of the corner of my eye I saw my right foot almost hit the ceiling of the Cruiser! What a sight that must have been from the back!! We continued for a ways, turned onto a side road and parked. From there we walked down a rocky hill to Julia's house. After seating us, Julia left with her sons to get plastic chairs from somewhere, and Pastor Augustine left to try to round up people to come. I was planning to teach the women again, but on this day only men came! Praise the Lord for these church leaders in the making! This “church” is just getting started. They have been meeting outside Julia's home since her Muslim landlord, like many others, will not stand for Christians gathering for worship in their rental properties. Through answered prayer, Pastor A has found a public school that is willing to let the church meet on Sundays free of charge. The only draw-back is that it is quite

distant from where these people live, and most of them cannot afford the taxi fare. There was much discussion about this and then the praying began! God was certainly in that place! On November 19<sup>th</sup> we met for the second time in the school building for Sunday morning worship. Praise God that attendance doubled to: four English speaking people and one infant, two French speaking men, one Muslim Maninka woman and her two sons, Pastor Augustine and us three missionaries. How many tribes were represented I don't know, but there were three languages and at least four nations represented! Revelation 5:9-10 was being fulfilled in my hearing! I cannot help but shed tears when I think of how many of these people are suffering, yet trusting God!

The James May I mentioned above is Pastor James May. He and his wife Tina and their four children, four months through five years of age have accepted a call to be missionaries to Togo. They have arrived and are staying in the guesthouse on the lower level of the Heiney's house. Pray for them and their acclimation to the climate here - temperatures in the low 90's now with humidity of 60% plus. They will be traveling to Burkina Faso right before Christmas to study French. From there, God willing, they will settle in Togo in a remote village (stores, medical facilities and white people will be two and one half hours distant) to church plant. On Friday, Delano and Linda Meyer, agriculturalist missionaries from Sierra Leone, arrived. They are just beginning a teaching tour and have taken James with them to Siguiri today. There Del will conduct teaching sessions in villages to help the Africans to become more efficient farmers with improved life skills. From there they will travel south to the forest to meet with Tim who is leaving the day after Thanksgiving to teach church leaders there. Pray for safe travel for these four missionaries.

On the personal side of life, I have made many friends here in Conakry and have enjoyed spending time with them socially. A week ago Friday I entertained at my house for the first time when we played Mexican Train Dominoes. Other things we do for entertainment are: swimming at the Oceane pool, watching DVD movies, playing other games, or sharing meals in our homes or a restaurant. One Saturday afternoon Lulu and I had an adventure looking for a lake that she had seen where she thought we might be able to fish. In the process we also found a restaurant on the lakeside that was good! I especially enjoy Sunday evenings. The International church service is held in an air conditioned conference room of the Riviera Hotel. Besides allowing us to meet there free of charge, the manager of the hotel has arranged to give all church members a 10% discount on meals in the hotel restaurant. So, many of us go down for fellowship and to eat together after the service. Last night we all went there to swim and eat to celebrate Beth's birthday. After teaching on week days from 7:30 to 12:30, when I am home alone, besides learning the Stories, I read books - the Heineys have a big library, do email, cook, visit with Samuel, pray for the Muslims in the Mosque across the street and whatever else is at hand. This past Sunday evening we celebrated Holy Communion in an LCMS worship service at the Heiney's. We were all excited about having *nine* communicant members present in Conakry!

As you can tell, I have much to be thankful for! Besides all the above, I have plane tickets to go home for Christmas! Praise the Lord for His awesome provision!

### **Prayer and Praise Requests:**

- ◆ Praise God that my sons, as far as I know, have arrived at their respective Army bases—Nate is back in Iraq, and Zach is now stationed in Virginia. Their father is miraculously recovering at home from his double stroke;
- ◆ Praise God for my wonderfully supportive mother who recently celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday;
- ◆ Please pray for Boyi's family in Siguiri. Boyi passed on to be with the Lord this month, but none of his family has come to faith at this time;
- ◆ Please pray for a home for Aesha (i-shuh) who has been forced to live in a different area of the city from her young daughter who she fears will be drawn from Christian faith;
- ◆ Please pray that a French and English speaking man will be led to the new Lutheran church. It is very difficult for Tim to teach and translate himself;
- ◆ Please pray for unity within three new churches here that all refugee members will become effective bold witnesses to their Guinean neighbors;
- ◆ Please pray that the door will be opened for me to teach the women. Every week, including this one, something comes up to prevent the mutually agreed upon meetings to take place. Of course Satan is happy, but *he* is not the One we want happy;
- ◆ Pray for peace within Guinea's borders so that the Word may continue to have free course and be preached to the edification of Christ's holy Church and draw all Guineans unto Himself!

I praise the Lord this Thanksgiving for all of the above and for you, my faithful supporters!  
Your prayers and gifts are a true blessing from our giving God! May you be truly blessed by His love and peace this Thanksgiving!

In service to my King,  
Donna Meyer

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Addresses:**

Snail Mail:  
Donna Meyer  
Lutheran Mission  
BP 438  
Conakry  
Guinea, West Africa

Email: [dhztt@yahoo.com](mailto:dhztt@yahoo.com)