



# Children's Newsletter

## February 2009



Dear Boys and Girls,

February is a month for "love" with Valentine's Day celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Where did that come from? One legend has it that Valentine was a priest who served during third century Rome. The Emperor at that time, Emperor Claudius II, decided that single men made better soldiers than those that were married. With this thought in mind he outlawed marriage for young men in hopes of building a stronger military base. Supposedly, Valentine, decided this decree just wasn't fair and chose to marry young couples secretly. When Emperor Claudius II found out about Valentine's actions he had him put to death. Another legend says that Valentine was a prisoner who fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before his death he wrote her a love letter signed "Your Valentine". People thought this was such a romantic thing to do that they continued the tradition.

In our churches here in Guinea we are trying to teach the importance of having a wedding in the church and having God bless the marriage. Many have come to think of a wedding as a huge party where all your friends come and you have food for everyone. Many in the US have those types of weddings as well. But that is very hard to do when you are very, very poor, so many will not have the church wedding until they can "afford" it. We are trying to teach that the "wedding" part is free; it's the party that is expensive! This month we had one leader who wanted to get married. He agreed to have a "small wedding" in the church with just his church family there. Someday, if they have money, they will be able to have a large party and invite all their friends and family, and they can celebrate that God has brought them together. But they also will have been able to get married sooner because they didn't wait for the time when they had the money! We're hoping that more and more of our people will follow this same way. Even though they don't celebrate Valentine's Day in Guinea, I think it's kind of neat that our first wedding was during the "Month of Love"! Pray that more people will agree to make their wedding vows in the church and ask God to bless these marriages!!



Have a great month!!

Pastor Tim and beth >>