

June, 2008

Dear Friends,

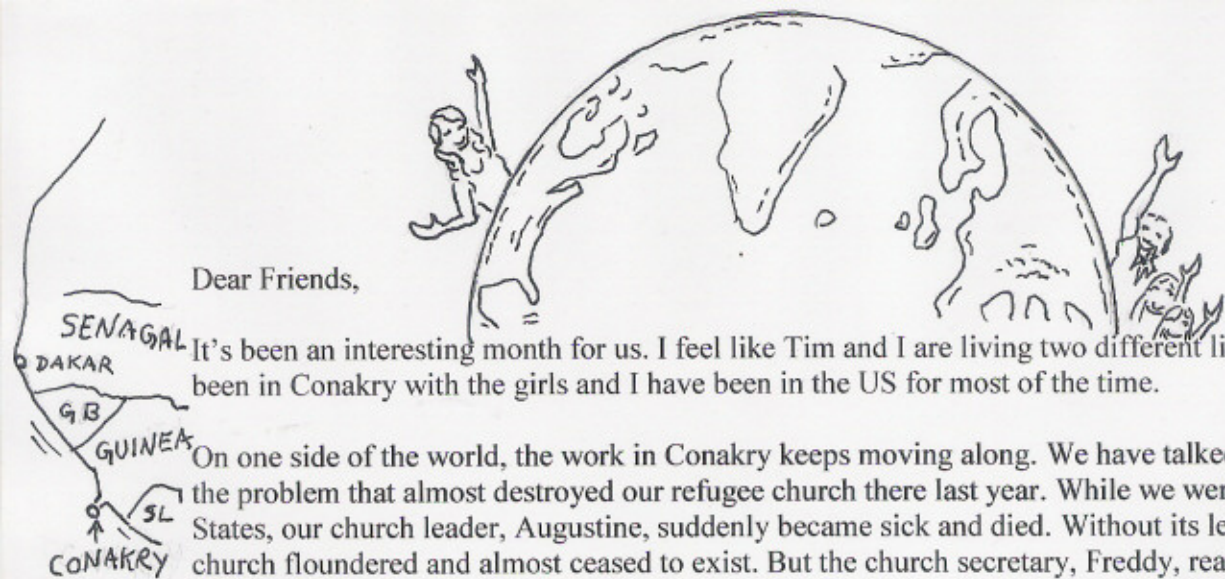
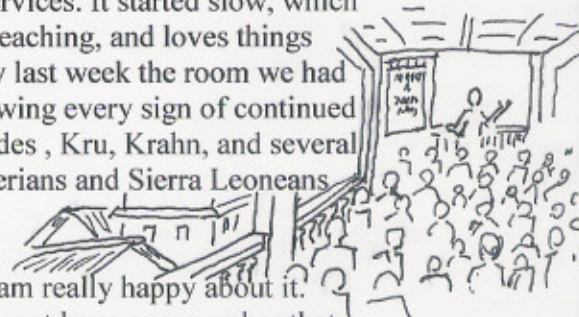
It's been an interesting month for us. I feel like Tim and I are living two different lives. He has been in Conakry with the girls and I have been in the US for most of the time.

On one side of the world, the work in Conakry keeps moving along. We have talked before about the problem that almost destroyed our refugee church there last year. While we were in the States, our church leader, Augustine, suddenly became sick and died. Without its leader the church floundered and almost ceased to exist. But the church secretary, Freddy, really stepped up, and with the help of God, got things going forward again. Freddy is a large Liberian with a deep voice. He found a guy named Fatoma that had some experience as a church leader and was interested in being trained. We started to grow again.

Then Freddy made a serious mistake. The school we had found to worship in was far from where most of our members were. Freddy announced that he had found a school that was closer and he would close the deal in a week or two. So everyone stopped making the trip in anticipation of the opening of the closer school. But week after week there were problems and we did not move. Soon only a handful were still coming. I greatly feared that our people had dispersed to other churches. Finally Freddy found a different school in that same area. It was great because it was a private English-speaking refugee school owned by Kissis from Sierra Leone. It turned out this family knew many of our members, and they started attending the services. It started slow, which scared us, but God began to move. Fatoma is really getting into the teaching, and loves things like Law and Gospel. The Monday teaching class is growing. Finally last week the room we had was full. We had fifty-one people and ran out of chairs, and it is showing every sign of continued growth. It is an interesting group too. We have Kissis, Kpelles, Mendes, Kru, Krahn, and several other groups I am not familiar with. There are English-speaking Liberians and Sierra Leoneans and some French-speaking Guineans.

The Kissi church in Conakry has not done so well in numbers, but I am really happy about it. With the thousands of Lutherans we have in the Forest region, we do not have one member that has a college degree. The Kissi church here, for some reason, started as all young men, so when we get girls or women coming they feel uncomfortable and don't come back, and those people are your real growth segment. It has been frustrating, but the handful of young men that are there are of a high level of education. Several are in their final year of studies at the university. The lack of women and young people has allowed the services to kind of be at a deeper level, so maybe God DOES know what He is doing!

Last month we had a development that really got us excited. A young man named Gilbert (pronounced djil-bear) showed up. He had been a young member of our church in Gueckedou (upcountry) and even had experience leading liturgy and stuff. He had won a scholarship to the University of Conakry and had come here and found the church. What is exciting about this is that this is one of the very reasons that we have wanted a church in Conakry for a long time. We have had young members go to University in Conakry before, but since we did not have a church here we usually lost contact with them. They just stopped going or joined other churches. But now Gilbert was still with us. He immediately joined the leadership class and is following the training. It is nice to have something work out the way it is supposed to once in a while.





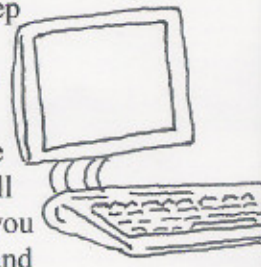
A lot is happening on the family front as well. In mid-May I left to go to the US to deal with some health issues that Jonathan is having. Thank you for all your prayers in that area. Please continue to pray that God keeps him healthy and strong. I also flew to Michigan and saw the doctor there concerning my head and heart issues. All tests were fine so we're not sure what's going on but it seems to be lessening a bit. That left Tim in Conakry with the two girls right at the end of the school year. Not the best scenario, but they all did very well and finished just in time. Katie made a trip to Dakar Academy at the end of May. She had some friends that were graduating and went to see them one last time. Also, she and Andrea will be starting school there next year so she was able to find out about some of the classes she will take... Katie will be a senior and Andrea will be a freshman. That leaves us with NO children at home starting in August! Tim and I also celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 18<sup>th</sup> which means that Tim also celebrates 25 years in ministry. In early June I attended a meeting in Minnesota for the Volunteer Coordinators from all over the world. Following that meeting I stayed a few extra days to meet the new missionaries going over to Africa, particularly Megan Birney who will be serving in Togo as a teacher for the Fluegge children. I returned to Guinea on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June.



Thanks for your prayers for Guinea. It has been rough there. The Army Mutinied and took some of their Generals hostage. For two days they faced off muzzle to muzzle with the elite presidential guard called the red berets in the downtown area. But Negotiations succeeded without major fighting. The following week police went on strike and took their commanders hostage, but they were no match for the red berets, and when fighting broke out at several police stations many died, and hundreds were jailed. Soldiers are now manning the city. During all this our neighborhood stayed almost completely normal. Thanks. And pray for the people. There are still major problems with the government, and food and fuel are unaffordable.



You'll notice that a letter is going out this month. After our last letter donations came in to keep the letter going and we will be able to continue for some months thanks to those donations! Thank you all for being interested enough to help out with this. A big thanks too to those who have switched over to receiving the letter on line. It has worked out well so far. If you are receiving this letter and have the capability of receiving email and reading Adobe files, please consider receiving the letter through the internet and helping us save on postage. The letter will look exactly as it does when you get it in the mail including pictures and you can run it off if you want a hard copy. If interested, please email me ([beth.heiney@lcms.org](mailto:beth.heiney@lcms.org)). Include your name and the mailing address where you receive your paper letter and I will make the change.



Thank you for your continued and faithful prayer. Remember to pray especially for our Pastor, Julien, and for our four vicars working toward ordination. May God use those men to expand His church to every corner of Guinea until the day the Lord returns!!

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Love in Jesus!  
*Beth*  
*Katie and Andrea*  
Tim, Beth, Katie, and  
Andrea Heiney

