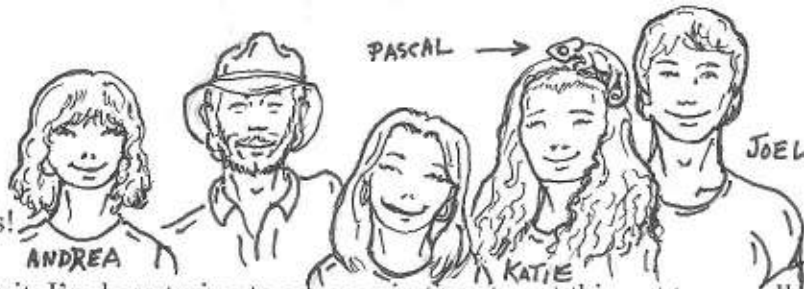


# FAMILY

# VISITS



June 2011

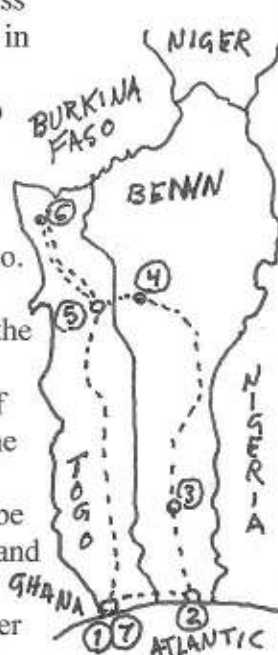


Dear Friends!

I have to admit, I'm here trying to squeeze in time to get this out to you all as we bounce around from place to place and spend time with the kids as they are visiting! On your side, summer is beginning, the weather is warm now (in some places beastly hot, from what I hear!!) and vacations are being planned. While summer is always a fun time in the US I also know that it can also be a time when spiritual things are set aside for the physical comforts and pleasures that we like to enjoy. Bible Studies stop because no one comes. Prayer time can give way to beach or pool time, and church becomes something that we do if we're not doing something "more important." Such has become the way of life in our culture. My prayer is that your summer is an opportunity to use your extra time for the LORD and for His work! There is so much to be done. Let this be your sacrifice of praise!!



It's been a busy month! Early this month Tim was finishing up his whirlwind trip across West Africa visiting our partner churches in the French speaking countries. He landed in Lomé, Togo, and traveled by taxi across to Cotonou in Benin where he met with the president of the church there, Gregoire Legbanon. They were able to travel up north to Benhicon to visit a couple of house churches there. Tim wanted to spend Sunday with this group and with churches farther north in Benin but there was a lack of communication, and they couldn't contact the churches, so on Saturday Tim traveled alone farther north by bus to Djougou, then taxied west over to the city of Kara in Togo. On Sunday he was able to attend a newly planted Lutheran church there in Kara. On Monday he went even farther north to Dapaong where we have our French seminary, the CLET. He spent a week there having meetings with various important groups. He met with the leadership of the seminary, with the church council of the Lutheran Church of Togo, the ELT, with part of the church council of Burkina Faso, who are students at the CLET, and with other CLET students of various countries. During these meetings he found out that Dr. Dongo, the seminary director who comes from the Congo, will not be retiring at the end of this year as we had thought he would be. This is a great blessing and relief for us as we really had no one to replace him at this time. Tim had brought with him copies of his teaching book, "The Word Illustrated". This book, drawn by Tim over the past 25 years, uses pictures to illustrate bible teachings and stories, so can be used with people that can not read. He spent time in the evenings teaching the students to use this book. During this time, he also traveled around and visited the churches in that area of Togo, and was able to worship that Sunday in Nano, where our good friends, Roger and Alice Buck used to minister. On Monday he bussed down to Lomé where he had meetings with the president of the CAC which is the governing body for the seminary, and visited several more churches in that area. The trip went very well and God kept him safe in all his travels.



1. ARRIVE LOME TOGO
2. TAXI TO COTONOU, BENIN
3. BENHICON
4. BUS TO DJOUGOU
5. TAXI TO KARA, TOGO
6. MUNI BUS TO DAPAONG
7. BUS TO LOME

Soon after that our three children arrived from Dakar. Joel and Katie had arrived in Dakar earlier to spend some time with Andrea before the ending of the school year, so they all traveled to Guinea together. After spending a bit of time in Bamako getting Andrea a visa to get into Guinea, we headed home to Siguiiri. It's been good for the kids to get to know

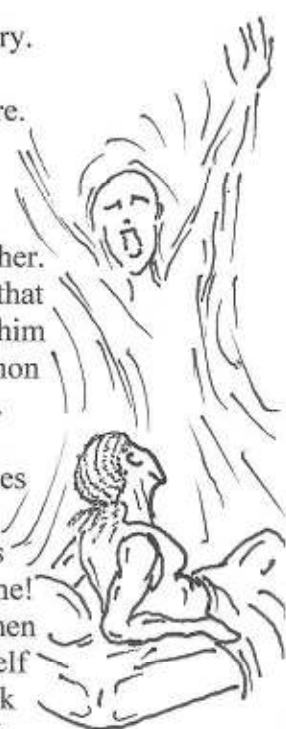




our new place, as Katie and Joel have not been here in Siguiri with us before. Jonathan remained in the US this summer to take some classes and earn some money.



This past week we made a trip to Conakry to visit and to touch base with the church there. On Sunday we were able to worship with the English speaking church in Conakry. Leader Koffe was teaching the lesson on "What is the spirit?" from "The Word Illustrated" that I mentioned above! The spiritual world is very, very real to people here. In our culture we don't think much about it in terms of being real apart from talking about Satan in church. For people here it is more real, and so Tim spends a lot of time explaining just what is going on in the spiritual world when people see visions of their fathers or other relatives. One man in church shared that recently his aunt lost her brother. Sometime soon after the funeral she heard his voice calling to her. The odd thing was that he called her by a name that only he would have known, so she knew that it had to be him calling to her. Visions of spirits of the dead or voices of loved ones are not an uncommon thing in this area. And to blow it off as someone's imagination would be irresponsible. And so we talked about why Satan would introduce himself in this way at that time. Certainly this woman would be vulnerable at a time of loss such as this when she misses her brother. Now, what would happen if at some point in her life she becomes a Christian? Satan can now come to her as her brother and she would remember that this was certainly her brother. After all, he came to her earlier and knew her childhood name! Scripture calls Satan the "father of lies". He is a master of deception, and he knows when and where we are weak. Here in Africa he uses fears and vulnerabilities, making himself very visible in "flexing his muscles" so to speak. In the US he has worked hard to mask himself, and so uses influences such as Hollywood and the media to spread his lies. We must, in all cultures, be wise as serpents!!! Our truth is found only in Jesus and in His Word.



SPIRIT



GOD



SATAN

SYMBOLS FROM THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Our church in Conakry continues to meet and worship on the roof of a school. This has worked well, however it is uncertain how long we will be able to remain there. Recently the church was able to find a piece of property that they would like to purchase that would give them a place of their own in which to worship as well as office space and a residence for the pastor. This would be the first and only land our church would own in Conakry. All other places are borrowed or rented. We are working with the Kansas District to be able to help them in purchasing this property, but as time goes by the price is rising as the value of the dollar shrinks and the prices go up in Conakry. The cost right now is a bit uncertain but is running around \$60,000 for a good sized piece of property. If you would like to contribute to this urgent need you can send a check to LCMS World Mission, PO Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179-0089. List on the memo line that this is for "Land in Conakry, #61307". We very much appreciate any help you can give!!



POSSIBLE NEW PROPERTY

We pray that your summer is blessed in many ways, that He keeps you safe, and that God uses you in some way to advance His Kingdom here on earth!!

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Love in Jesus!  
*Tim & Beth*  
Tim and beth <>



PRESENT WORSHIP IN SCHOOL

