

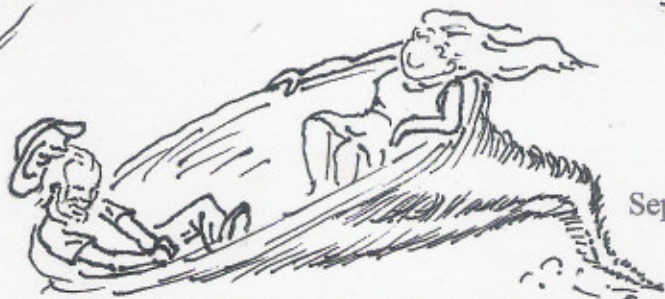
September, 2008

Dear Friends,

Tim and I have about 4 days together so he told me if a letter is to go out this month it has to be NOW!! We wrote in the last letter about these upcoming days and weeks and months. The whirlwind has begun, so we want to squeeze in this update so you know where we are at with things.

We traveled to Senegal with our girls as planned, to get them started at Dakar Academy (DA) located in the capital city. We ended up arriving at the airport around midnight so it was quite late before we all got ourselves settled and to bed. The girls went straight to their dorm and crashed. By the time I woke up the next day they were up and unpacked and ready to go. Ah, youth! We asked you to pray for their adjustment and it seems that God is answering that even beyond what we could imagine. Andrea was our biggest concern as she's not ever been away from home for very long. We imagined that she would be hanging on to us every minute she could...not so!! She jumped right in and we started seeing a side of her that we've not seen before. She's enjoying herself immensely and even found time to squeeze in a visit to her folks now and then! We're thankful we had the extra time with them. I do think it was good for all of us. When Tim and I got home today we couldn't believe how hard it hit us to come home to an empty house. So far I hate it. I'd even take some squabbling about now! During one of our orientation meetings at the school we were reminded of the sacrifice we make for our kids to have the opportunity to learn in a better environment than maybe we can provide where we are stationed. One friend of mine hit it on the head. Her son started at DA last year and got himself a part in the school play. When talking on the phone with him he said to her, "Well, you're coming, aren't you, mom?" My friend started adding the cost. Were we in the US it would probably mean a 5 minute drive to the school and whatever the gas for that cost. For her it was a thousand dollar, week long venture. But she felt it was important for their family and she went without regret. (We hadn't left Dakar before Katie announced she has a part in the play this year!!! Guess we'd better get ready!) We were also reminded that we have a God who is no stranger to sending away a child even when knowing the results. He never gives us more than we can handle, does He?

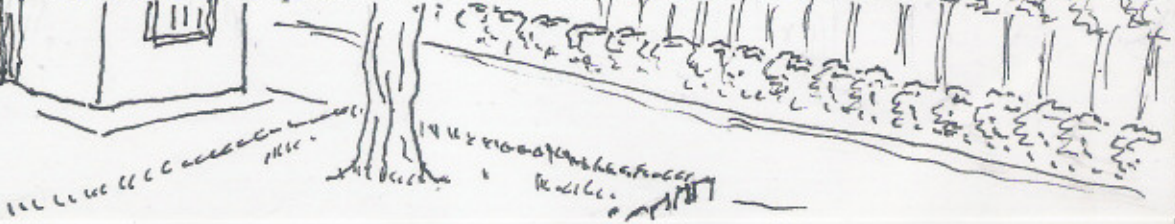
The next stop was Bamako. The hunt for a house started off with a blast. We loved the first house we saw but it wasn't conducive to filling the three needs we are trying to fill: housing for our family, a guesthouse for our coworkers and teams, and an office for Tim and I. (Actually I liked it so much I fiddled with the idea of dumping the guesthouse and just living there...how selfish is that!!) The second house we saw was perfect! It has a kitchen on the first and second floor which is not easy to find. It has a huge yard with lots of space for parking. It even has a small pool. We've heard that that is a great thing in the hot season. We were certain that this was it. But when we started trying to negotiate we found the landlord really hard to work with. We saw a few other houses but none like that one. We ended up leaving Bamako with things a bit up in the air yet as we take time to decide what to do. It doesn't even come down to cost so much. As I said, we're filling three purposes, so the cost is not that bad. But we'd really like to have someone we can work with and who will be fair and helpful. We're confident that if this is the house God



KATIE  
(SENIOR)



ANDREA  
(FRESHMAN)



has chosen then it will be there for us and things will work out. If not, then there must be something more perfect.

There are times when the gravity of the command we've been given to share the Gospel with the world just hits me in the face. Yes, we live day to day with the realities of knowing people going to hell; we all do. But it hit me again fully while we were worshipping at Dakar Academy with the girls that first Sunday. One of the mom's there (Katie's dorm mom from her first stay at DA) was sharing about how they were praying for Serigne N'diay, (don't even try to pronounce that) or "the veggie guy". He comes around to sell vegetables and has heard the Gospel. He and his friend have even seen the difference in the lives of the Christians they know. But for them it is not just, "Yeah, I want to learn more!" They are under fierce pressure to remain true to Islam. Many even fear for their lives. Somehow when I was sitting there and listening to this testimony and call to prayer for "the veggie guy" I thought of how easy it is in our country to go about life taking our faith for granted. We assume that if we want to change our church, or religion, we can just do it. Our family may be upset but they probably won't kill us. If we want to gather for worship, we are free to do that. In fact a lot of our faith we probably take for granted too far! If we don't feel like going to church, or have something better to do, we do what we want, while there are people in the world that risk their lives to gather in fellowship. If we're uncomfortable about sharing our faith with someone, we claim that we weren't given the gift of evangelism while some missionaries in the world are kicked out of their countries for sharing their faith. We hold back massive amounts of "our" income because "we" need it, while millions around the world won't hear the Gospel because we can't afford to send missionaries anymore. I could probably say with confidence, in this election year, that many Americans will give more to a political candidate than they will to their church. This is not meant to be a guilt trip but more of a little "shake up to wake up"! Everyday that passes is one closer to the Lord's return and one less to fulfill the Great Commission that Jesus left us with. Don't allow Satan to anesthetize you all the way to uselessness for the Kingdom!!

Please continue to pray for direction for us for the future in all that we do. Pray for the church in the Forest Region. It's so exciting to see them begin to take on more and more responsibility. Pray that God protects them from the temptations of this world! And pray for her leaders, to be faithful and dedicated to Him. Pray especially for those terrified of learning about their Savior, like our veggie guy in Dakar!! During this time of Ramadan for Muslims all over, may God's Spirit touch many hearts with courage and assurance of a world far better than this one!

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Love in Jesus!

*Tim, Beth  
+ kids!*  
Tim and Beth Heiney  
(with Joel, Jonathan, Katie  
and Andrea from afar!)

