

Dear Friends around the world,

We rejoice with you this Christmas Day (starting here for us a lot earlier than for many of you!!), remembering the birth of our Savior Jesus, and anticipating His return someday to take us to be with Him for eternity. What an incredible concept: the Son of God wants YOU to be with Him forever. That is indeed cause to say, "Merry Christmas!"

Our Christmas was blessed especially this year with the visit of our two boys from the US: Joel (20) is visiting from Michigan where he is in his second year at Ferris State University studying in the pharmacy program. Jonathan (18) flew in from Stilwell, Kansas where he is finishing up his senior year at Blue Valley West High School. It was a typical Guinea arrival. The boys came in on the 17th and of course a piece of luggage was missing. "Come back in two days when the next flight comes in." To add to the joy of the evening someone stole my cell phone. Two days later Tim and Joel headed out again and waited for the (very late) flight to get in only to find that the box still hadn't arrived. To add to the joy of the evening someone stole Tim's cell phone. We realized that if that box didn't show up on the next flight it would be a very different Christmas than we'd planned as many of the gifts were in that box. The next time we sent an agent to look for the box and warned him to hang on tight to his phone!! He arrived the next morning with the box, thoroughly searched and repacked, but all items accounted for. We've had a great visit and have tried to recreate many of our old traditions. We have enough cookies to feed the city. We painted "Christmas eggs", a tradition started the year all our Christmas ornaments were stolen from Gueckedou and we had nothing for our tree. We sit at night with only the lights of the tree and remember Christmases past. The boys, both coming from frigid climates, want to spend every day at the nearby pool soaking up some sun (of which we have plenty), so we do that too.

We thank you for your prayers for the May family. They got off as scheduled on Saturday morning. Again, a typical Guinea experience. They arrived a bit late and had about 17 pieces of luggage on the way to language school in Burkina Faso. Tim was able, by some miracle and foreknowledge of God Himself, to get in with them to the check-in area. Normally non-ticketed people are not allowed in. At one point Tim noticed that the line was not moving so he went up to the desk to find out what was going on. Here they had over booked the flight by 7 tickets, and ALL passengers showed up. Tim asked how many tickets were left and they said "Four." The Mays are six people (5 and a baby). Tim quickly verified with James that he could hold one on his lap and shoved the tickets and passports to the ticket agent who was getting flustered at this point. It wasn't long before others started getting wind of the lack of seat and the temperature in the room rose noticeably. The agent came back, handed the papers to another agent who checked them in...the last four seats. God is good. Continue to pray for the Mays as we just heard that, while they made it fine, none of their luggage did. Flights to Burkina only go in once a week, so they will be without for a while. Ah, Africa.

Thank you also for your prayers for Gary Lortscher. He is at home and recovering after a difficult time. We pray for complete healing.

Praise God with us and with Tim and Heidi Norton in Siguiri where 6 Maninka will confess their faith in Jesus and be baptized in His Name this Christmas Day!! Yes, God is so very good.

Our family would like to wish you and yours all a very special Christmas Day and a blessed coming New Year 2007. We appreciate you and your heart for God's work in this part of the world. We pray that many, many people here in Guinea will hear the remarkable concept that God loved them enough to save them from the fires of eternal hell.

God be with you all,

Tim, Beth, Joel, Jonathan,  
Katie and Andrea Heiney

The Heiney Family: (front) Andrea, Tim, Beth; (back) Katie, Joel, Jonathan

**"The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity,  
but its sending capacity." -- Mike Stachura**

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Reaching the goal: 80 percent of the world's people have access to at least some portion of the Bible in a language they can understand.