



2016 NEWS...

Imagine you are standing in a circle like the one above. Listening, hearing, smelling and observing what is going on... and finally understanding slowly that these people need God! For life and for eternity! But who will tell them? Maybe you can spot Amy in this picture. But what about those hundreds of other villages who do not have someone seeking to reach them...

OUR COWORKERS ARRIVED!

In January, our new coworkers finally landed in Monrovia and shortly after in our village. We were excited to host them for 2 months and to help them get somewhat settled in the village. All together we worked on their house (picture on the right) before they left for home assignment. They are planning to come back in January, make their house livable and then start full time language and culture study.

LITERACY

You might remember that we mentioned wanting to start a 'trial' literacy class, so that we could have some literate Glarro to help us develop the full literacy program. Well, that class has been meeting twice a week since October. Some dropped out early on, but we have about nine faithful students who are making progress. They are currently at a slow reading level, but writing is challenging for them, as they struggle somewhat with the tone markers that we write over the vowels.

A TRIP TO SENEGAL?

They say that a solid church is always accompanied with believers who can read the Bible in their own language, therefore, we want to make the best literacy program for the Glarro that we can. That means that we will go to Senegal in August, where NTM is holding a three week workshop on literacy. We hope to carry two

locals from our 'trial' class, who can help us to develop a thorough literacy teaching program during that time.

AND ON AND ON WE STUDY?

A few weeks ago we had a formal language evaluation. Amy is approved to turn her focus away from language study and will only have language sessions on an as needed basis. This means that she now will concentrate on literacy, get involved in helping with the Bible translation, etc...

Aaron will continue to focus on language study. If all goes well and he can study without too many interruptions, he is hoping to conclude his official Glarro studies at the end of the year. At that point, he would switch his focus to developing Bible lessons. Sometimes we wonder (maybe you do too?) why it takes us so long to learn Glarro. Could not God speed up our language learning process? Or could he not have taken away the interruptions we had? After all, he wants the Glarro to hear and believe his Word even more than we do. We only can come to the conclusion that God still is in control. He has a perfect plan, that sometimes does not look convenient to us, because we don't know all the details of His plan. Therefore, our priority should simply always be living every day by His Spirit, sensitive to His leading.

INTERRUPT ME, I AM DOING SOMETHING!

Sometimes it is easy to get caught up in doing everything that we think needs to be done. But, when we stop and really look at the enormity and "impossibility" of the task ahead of us, bringing light to those in darkness, then we realize that all of our "doing" is useless if it is not according to God's plan. "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it." We realize that what we really need more of is praying, not "doing." So, please be praying for us and let us know how we can be praying for you!



NEWSFLASH

Aaron and Amy Speitelsbach's

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FIRST FRUITS IN IVORY COAST

We have recently been very encouraged by reports from our co-worker Lesley, who is translating the Bible into Glarro. She lives among the Glarro in Ivory Coast and has been teaching a children's Sunday School for quite a few months now and is seeing some real understanding and growth in these kids! She has also been participating in a small Bible study with some young men.

Recently, wrote Lesley, as they were reviewing the Old Testament and tying it all in with faith and Christ and the Gospel, "Charles, the Glarro lay pastor, sitting there putting all the pieces together, said reflectively, 'So, salvation is a gift.' Praise God, he has come to understand the truth that it is by grace we are saved, through faith." We thank God for the work He is doing among the Glarro in Ivory Coast!

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are thankful for:

- The fruit Lesley is beginning to see among the Glarro of Ivory Coast after years of labor!
- The time we were able to spend hosting and getting to know our new co-workers. We are thankful that they will be working here with us!
- The students progress in learning to read and write Glarro and that they will soon, by God's grace, be able to read His Word in their own language!
- That God is sovereign, that His timing is perfect, and that He is trustworthy!

Please pray:

- For Lesley as she continues teaching the kids and women, translating the Bible and participating in the young men's Bible study
- Regarding the upcoming Literacy workshop, please be praying with us for who to take and for the logistics of how to get them there – passport, transport, etc....
- That we would be completely depending on God and be sensitive to His direction in everything, not following our own plans and ideas but His!
- For wisdom in regards to our transportation. Our village road continues to deteriorate, and we are wondering if we should switch from car to motorbike... or helicopter. 😊

For His love endures forever,

Aaron and Amy Speitelsbach