

Germany, December 2008

Jesus Christ is the same: Yesterday, today, forever. Hebrews 13:8

Dear friends and prayer partners,

Christmas has gone by, and we've got three more months to go before leaving Germany for Guinea once again. It's been a lot of joy during these past months to serve an eternal God; it'd be a lie to say there hadn't been any stretches along the way draining our strength (and joy), but looking back we find our hearts full of thankfulness and praise.

Back in September we left Guinea to spend a hot month in Senegal which borders Guinea to the north. Senegal gets less rain than Guinea and especially Damaris fought the heat a lot - ...might have related to her pregnancy as well. Away from climatic differences we enjoyed Dakar a lot as it is much more developed than Guinea - ...and still a third world country. In Guinea people are fortunate to receive a few hours of electricity and town water at night whereas in Senegal even the remote towns start rioting when electricity is gone for "just" a few hours. Having nicer roads than Guinea and some other "perks" made our first week in Senegal a real treat.

For the following three weeks we spent time with a visiting missions team from Germany and Canada. We had a real blessed time together as we got to know missionaries of all trades and the work they do. Challenging classes held in the mornings by various missionaries paired with visits to some tribal locations, downtown Dakar and even couple days spent at a beach resort made the whole trip a real experience to all of us.



Towards the end of September Damaris and Johanna left for Germany with the visiting team. For a short time Sascha went back to Conakry, Guinea to finish-up handing over his responsibilities to other missionaries and Africans working for the mission.

Back in Germany Damaris enjoyed the cold weather and the never ending variety of German breads. The only bits and pieces of reverse culture shock were to be found in her not trusting tap water to brush teeth (you'd never do that in Guinea), swatting after just about any flying object (to many mosquitoes and other evil minded flies in Conakry), and we would always make sure to lock our car doors from the inside before going anywhere (common security practice in Africa).

October 1st, when Sascha arrived in Germany, we moved into a beautiful little apartment in Sascha's hometown. Unfortunately we didn't get to enjoy much of our apartment until December 9th when our travels through Germany to meet up with churches and friends and family came to an end – a blessed time. Now we'll be "stationed" in our place until the end of March, enjoying spending time with our local church and our immediate family. Too bad most of you can't swing by for a visit.

If you were to come by you'd be able to meet up with the latest addition to our family. She's been around since last Saturday (12/20/08) and her "specs" can be found in the birth announcement attached. We do appreciate your prayer for the time of finding a new balance between family, ministry and other needs.

Future plans? Sascha got yet some more travels through Germany to attend mission meetings before we are planning on arriving back in Conakry within the first week of April. It's encouraging to hear news of God drawing Guinean hearts to Himself through the commitment of our co-workers. Is there anything better we can do with our lives but to be involved in building God's kingdom? In that light we are joyfully expecting the things God has in store for us in the near future. Please pray with us that we would always take out time to listen to his quiet voice of guidance in our lives.

It's an amazing experience to have been carried by an eternal and almighty God as this past year was full of changes for us - we travelled, moved several times, changed ministries and had an addition to our family. Our Lord did not only meet our needs healthwise, emotionally and financially. Much more He has blessed us with a Spirit lead NTM leadership team both in Guinea and Germany and many prayer partners in churches like BWBC in PA, Louth Evangelical in the UK, and through family and friends in various churches in Germany. The glory goes to God alone for all that!

Thank you to all of you who have supported our ministry in one way or another.

Bound and connected through the love of Chris we wish you a blessed start into 2009 and His guidance and favour in all you do.

Sascha und Damaris Kröcker with Johanna und Elisabeth

Points of Praise:

- A blessed time with the missions team in Senegal
- Re-entry into Germany
- Healthy birth of Elisabeth
- Our support team

Gebetsanliegen:

- God's continued touch on the hearts of the Senegal missions team
- Grace to find a good balance
- Protection for Sascha's travels
- A listening ear to God speaking