

July 2008

Dear friends & family,

First, let me apologize for the 3+ week delay in getting to you a report on our latest trip to Mali! There is no excuse for allowing so much time to go by, especially since God did some more amazing things while we were there!

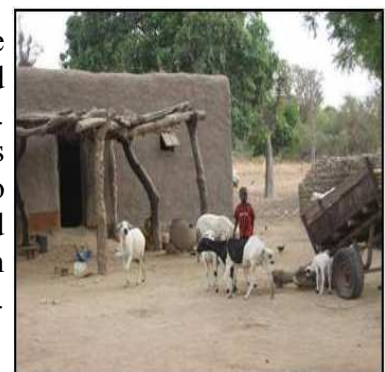
The news that brings the biggest smile to my face is happening in “S” Village, the village we are actively partnering in. Let me tell you- -God has planted Himself in the lives of so many of the people there, and we see evidence of this in changed lives, as well as in their hunger for the word of God, and His truths. That is the best news, but it comes as a two-edged sword! With every person who wants to know more about God & Jesus, there is a need for teachers. In fact, if we heard this phrase once, we heard it dozens of times—”We need more teachers! When can you come again! Can you come more often??” It was heart-breaking to see the hunger & thirst in their faces, and not have the answer to their questions!



The next wonderful news comes out of several neighboring villages. A couple of our team members traveled to nearby villages where there were people who wanted to know about Jesus, and in each of these villages, there were people who placed their trust in Jesus, and wanted to walk on the Jesus road. However, in these villages, the now familiar request was made... “We need teachers. When will you be back to teach? Can you come again soon?”

- \*Please be in prayer for these young believers (of every age) who want to know more about our God.
- \*Please be in prayer for more teachers—for the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.
- \*Please be aware that God may be calling you to go to Mali—I am willing to listen to you & pray for you if that is the case.

Also, we were asked when we would be building a house in our village for us to live in whenever we come. A home in the village would provide us with a bit more independence and privacy than we now have. It would also free up the villagers who have so far been gracious hosts for us. Perhaps more importantly, a permanent structure would also provide for the new believers a sort of a “standing stone” that they could look to as a promise that we intend to return & teach more. We are in the process now of raising the funds necessary to build such a structure. It costs between \$3000-4000 to build a nice home.



\*Please be in prayer for those funds! We all know the tough economic times we are in, but is God asking you to share out of your relative abundance with those who have so much less.

There is another, more difficult prayer request. Last year in June, we saw that the villagers had little to eat. By July, they were eating roots & leaves to stay alive, so a grain distribution project was organized. This year, the circumstances are more dire. While we were there in June, most of the families had no grain at all, and many had not had grain to eat for weeks. Therefore, a massive grain distribution project is underway. Famines are horrible to hear about, but this is particularly difficult because we know so many of the names and faces. These are our friends-our brothers & sisters in Christ who are hungry. At this time, there is nothing we can *do*, in our usual sense. However, there is something that we can do as children of God, and that is to go to Him in prayer and intercede for these people. So, I am asking that you do that.

\*Pray for the people of “S” Village, that the Lord of the harvest would be their Lord in their time of need. Thank You!



As I review this letter, I have seen so obviously that the prayer requests have a profoundly similar theme.

\*Please join me in praying for the new believers in Mali, who hunger & thirst for both the things of this world, and the greater things of God. And on behalf of these people, let me thank you for your prayers!!!

As always, if you have questions, concerns or comments, please feel free to write back to me, or call. I'm always eager to talk Mali!

Because He is worthy!

Diana

