

The WAM Report

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Gabon at last!!

After a fairly uneventful 30 hours of flying including layovers in Zurich (Switzerland) and Yaounde(Cameroon), we arrived in Libreville Gabon at approximately 7pm local time. Thanks to all who prayed us through it. Awaiting us were Myles Leitch, our director, and James Emejulu, head of the Gabonese linguistic research group GRELACO. All thirty of our 70lb. boxes arrived safely but because half of the boxes had computer equipment destined for joint use by us and GRELACO, all but four of the boxes were kept at the airport awaiting official paperwork.

We proceeded to the Christian Missionary Alliance (CMA) guesthouse where we could stay for three weeks until we found our own apartment. After a few days of resting, we began our apartment search and we decided to take the first apartment we looked at! The building which has four apartments was built seven years ago but has been vacant ever since it was built. It is only in the past few weeks that the apartments became available. Two of our members had already taken the 4th floor apartment. Ours is the ground floor. It is quite nicely remodeled with three bedrooms and two baths, even equipped with french bidets. The neighborhood is called Akebe and across the street from us is one of the three movie theaters in Libreville. We signed the lease and they finished fixing it up which took about a week. The day before we had to leave the guesthouse and move in, Wendy felt sick and went to see the doctor. Blood tests showed that she had malaria. Because of the risk to the baby, the doctor wanted to treat the malaria aggressively and so had Wendy admitted to a private clinic where Wendy was kept on malaria medication intravenously for three days. We praise God that she did not have any of the usual negative side effects related with malaria treatments and that the baby is doing fine! It was a rough three days for David and daddy but we were able to move into our new place with the help of friends and even got it tolerably clean before we brought Wendy home.

The next couple weeks were spent buying appliances and furniture to outfit our home. After one month it is finally beginning to be comfortable and functional. And just when we could really unpack and use them, we were able to get the rest of our personal boxes out of customs without any fees!! What a gift from the Lord that was!! Thanks for praying.

A week later, the final Wycliffe members of our initial startup team for Gabon arrived. A family with a young boy David's age and a six month old girl. They were also with us in Brazzaville Congo. They moved into a spare "guest house" room with our two single ladies on the top floor and after a couple days resting, began their house hunting. They went out the first morning and were suppose to look at a few places but the realtors didn't show up. When they arrived back at the Akebe apartments they noticed that there was an **apartment for lease** sign hanging from the balcony on the third floor of our building. The apartment had been spoken for but for some reason the apartment was again available. It did not take them long to decide to take the place. Wendy was estatic to have her good friend and a playmate for David so close, in fact it was an answer to our prayers. We certainly serve a mighty God, our theme song since arriving in Libreville, has been, "My God is so Big, so Strong and so Mighty, there's nothing My God can not DO!

Life in Libreville

You may be wondering what Libreville is like. It is a fairly modern, prosperous city of 400,000 including a large number of foreigners from other African countries and Europe. It has electricity and water in most parts of the city and phones in certain areas which unfortunately does not include ours. Cellular phones are also available - for a price!. There are city buses which cost 100 CFA (600 CFA = \$1) and also taxis which depending on the length of the trip and whether you share it with others cost from 100 CFA to 1000 CFA. Public transportation requires some planning of destination, negotiating a fare and lots of time and prayer as you go along for the ride! I recently discovered that I'm not alone in praying while in a taxi. The other day I shared a taxi with a Gabonese man who was obviously Catholic because he crossed himself as he got into the taxi.

Praises

*David has had a few colds but no breathing episodes! This is no less than a miracle from God!! Thanks for praying!!

*We have found a great apartment! And friends nearby!

*The national church is very intrested in committing to and investing in Bible translation themselves!! (More about that in our next newsletter-stay tuned!)

* Wendy is pregnant!! The due date is November 7, 1999.

Prayer Requests

*David's continued adjustment to Africa, confidence and opportunities for learning to speak French and friends to play with.

*Pray that Wendy would find a way to connect with the African culture. Michael's job defines his role in the culture, but being a mom can be very isolating.

* Pray for a wise decision where to have the baby. Either to fly to a local mission hospital or stay in Libreville

David news

David just had his third birthday and is slowly adapting to life in Gabon. He loves taking taxis rides and shopping with mommy. He can say "bon jour" and "ca va?" which means "hello and how are you?" He just learned how to ask someone what their name is in French too.

Gabon Vehicle update

Thanks to all who have given to the vehicle fund. We are afraid however, that we started this fund before all the information was in about transportation options here, specifically how cheap taxis are. We are therefore discontinuing the Gabon Vehicle Fund. For those who gave gifts towards this fund, we will be contacting you personally to discuss the situation further.

You know it's real hot and humid when:

- the peanut brittle you made melts while sitting on the dining table.
- your leather billfold turns white from mildew after only 2 weeks in the closet.
- the pretzels go soggy 15 minutes after you've opened the bag.

Our NEW address

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For financial gifts, please send checks to the Wycliffe address above and include a separate note indicating for Mike and Wendy Buchanan. Thank you!