

The Stadtlander Story

January/February 2009

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We pray:

- For Bible translators, as they faithfully work to make the Gospel accessible to more people.
- For health, wellness, and encouragement for the Stadtlander family.
- For wisdom and understanding within the Christian community of Linguere as new arrivals bring a time of transition.
- For those who live far from family, for opportunities to be together.

Lord, in Your Mercy,
Hear Our Prayers.

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Pastor Dirk, Sarah, Eva, & Ellen Stadtlander—ELCA Missionaries serving with the Lutheran Church of Senegal (ELS)—were sent to live and work in the name of Christ in Linguere, SENEGAL, West Africa.

COTAT moves to Linguere

COTAT... is a French acronym for the Organizing Committee for the Translation of the Old Testament in Pulaar and consists of the Lutheran Church of Senegal, the ELCA, the Finnish Lutheran Mission, the Southern Baptist Mission, WEC—with technical support from the United Bible Society and SIL/Wycliffe.



Malick Sy and Samba Coulibaly, who are translating the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) into Pulaar, have arrived in Linguere. Samba worked on the translation of the New Testament which was published several years ago, but Pulaar-speakers are

still waiting for a translation of the complete Bible.

Malick and Samba work with Marko Hanslian, a Finnish Lutheran, who lived in Senegal for many years and returned to Finland last year. Since his departure, COTAT decided to move the team

to Linguere. They and their families arrived just before the new year. We are excited to add new people to our small community of Christians.

Thanks to high-speed

internet the team continues to work together with Marko in Finland and Malick and Samba in Linguere. Using a live video feed, they even were part of a celebration of 150 years of mission work through the Finnish Lutheran Mission taking place in Helsinki, Finland.

Health Update

At the risk of sounding redundant, we write about our health once more. We are thankful that Ellen has had no more recurrences of her urinary tract infection, and that Dirk's kidney stone passed relatively quickly. However, we continue to find that one of us is coming

down with something literally every few days. Between the four of us we have fought off head colds, swollen glands, flus, and various stomach bugs, what now seems like over and over again.

Though we try to do what we can to stay healthy,

the germs seem to have the upper hand most of the time. This is perhaps the most tiring and discouraging part of our lives right now. We thank you for your prayers and ask that you keep praying specifically for good health for all four of us and also for our morale.



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God's work. Our hands.

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Stadlander Experiences

We had an extra special holiday season due to a visit from Dirk's parents. Bob and Judie spent almost a month with us here in Linguere. Eva and Ellen were particularly excited to have grandparents in the house as well as the great number of wonderful Christmas gifts and other goodies that came in their suitcases.

We enjoyed the opportunity to share our experience of life in Senegal with them as they visited the market, the large mosque in Touba, Eva's school, the hospital, and the health and milk projects.

Being here over Christmas, they were able to see the preparations for a big holiday meal and then eat with the Christian community. They experienced the rhythm of daily life at our house, worshipped multiple times with the community, and were invited for dinner in Senegalese homes.



In addition to all that, we made lots and lots of good food at our house. Dirk and Sarah especially enjoyed having extra hands to help with the girls and the dishes!

THANK YOU!

Especially during this time of economic uncertainty for most of the world, we are very thankful for your prayer, emotional, and financial support. If you would like more information about giving globally through ELCA Global Mission please contact:

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Home Assignment 2009!

Quick Quote:

*Eva responded to Judie's
comment about her eyesight
going downhill:*

*"Omma, does
that mean your
butt can see?"*

It seems too soon to be planning already, but the time has come. Our next home assignment will be this summer!

We will be back in the States for two months of work and one month of vacation, approximately mid-June to mid-September. We are excited to see as many friends and family as we possibly can. Our home assignment work consists of visits to our sup-

porting congregations and Summer Missionary Conference, where we meet with other missionaries on home assignment and our US-based colleagues at Global Mission.

While we have not started penciling things into the calendar as of yet, that step comes soon! If there are any specific events you think we should be a part of during this time, please let us know. The sooner we know about

things, the more we can try to fit into our schedule.

SPONSORING CONGREGATIONS: You will be receiving communication from us in the near future regarding specific information we would like to have from you, as well as more information from us regarding dates and ideas for our visits.