

Church Planting in
MADAGASCAR



July 2019

Dear Praying Friends,

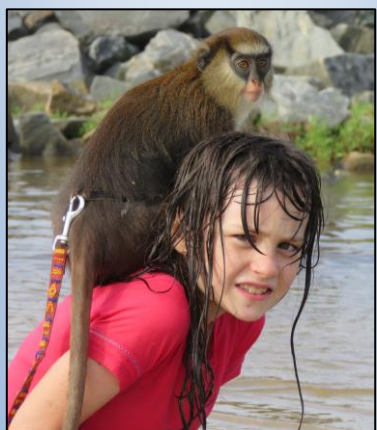
Life has been an adventure for our family! On our way to the Ivory Coast, we spent a few days in NYC; then we had a long layover in Paris where we went out into the city and saw some of the sights. We had a safe trip and got to the Ivory Coast without problems except that the airline lost 2 pieces of our luggage (this actually turned out to be a blessing because it gave us more space in the car for the 9 hour trip from the capital to San Pedro). The luggage arrived in San Pedro a few days after we did.

Much has been happening here in the Ivory Coast since we arrived! We have adjusted to living in this environment and culture and have gotten involved in the ministry that is going on here. The week is busy with school and outreaches and services; Sunday is busy with church. Richard has had the opportunity to preach on several occasions in various works that are going on here. Along with the “normal” schedule, there have been other things added to the weeks such as: replacing the plumbing under the tub in our bathroom, a lady from church giving birth, and Richard and I spending a few days in a nearby town for a time together before the baby comes. July 22nd, a basketball camp outreach began that some from our house and church are participating in.

The house is full of people! Ruth’s brother and family and her single brother are here for the summer. Ruth’s sister, Hannah, arrived with her baby. She will be staying for two weeks (hopefully for the birth of our baby). Ruth’s mom has been doing a LOT to keep the house running and food fixed for a house of 20 people!!

Richard has had a month of French classes from 9-12, Mon. through Fri. He is starting to understand French but is still working on his pronunciation of words. We have been doing school since the beginning of June, and it seems to be well underway. It has been good to get into school and to get that organized and a routine in place. Ruth’s mom has been helping Ruth have time to do school with the kids and has helped the kids with school.

As some have heard, several people were in a car accident this last Friday night as a group was coming back from a meeting in the village. Richard, Matthew, Ruth’s dad, three of Ruth’s brothers, and five others were in the car when the accident happened. With a person walking on our side of the road preventing us from moving over farther and with the truck’s high beams in our eyes, we made contact with the truck. As our car was passing an oncoming truck, the back tire of the truck hit the front





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driver's tire breaking the steering linkage under the car and causing Ruth's dad to lose any ability to steer the car. The car spun and skidded for about 50 meters before flipping all the way over and landing right-side-up in the bush on the side of the road. Matthew and Isaiah were sitting in the front and both sustained broken collarbones. Matthew also broke his arm. Ruth's dad pulled muscles. Josiah had to have stitches in his back. Richard, Joseph, Ruth's dad, and a girl from church all had some scrapes and bruises. And, of course, everyone is SORE. We took the ones with broken bones to the hospital that same night, but... this is Africa. They were not ready to fix it that night as the OR was closed. They told us to come back in the morning at 8am. Ruth and her mom took Isaiah and Matthew to the hospital the next morning and were at the hospital WAITING for the Doctor, for the anesthesiologist, and for other people! We finally left at 2:30pm all bandaged up! It was a LONG morning in a hot African hospital! Poor Matthew does not really have the use of either hand as both are wrapped up.

Many people in the car were injured, but we praise God that no one was hurt more seriously!! We also praise the Lord that the person walking on the road was not touched in the accident. If Richard were sitting in the front where Matthew was sitting, he would probably have sustained a very serious head injury. Also, Hannah and her baby were supposed to have gone; but at the last minute, her baby was sleeping; so they stayed home. If she had gone, she would have been sitting in the front and her baby would probably have gotten flung out of the car. Also, the roof rack helped protect the top of the car from caving in during the roll. It could have been much worse than it was! God was protecting!

We also praise God that the water came back on after being off for several days. We are ready for the new baby to make his/her appearance. It could be anytime. Thank you for your prayers for us!

Please pray with us that the baby will come during the time that Hannah is here and that everything would go smoothly.



Please pray for healing for all those who are injured.

Please pray for Richard to learn French and for schooling for the kids to go smoothly.

Please pray for God's work to advance as the gospel is preached.

Richard and Ruth Jertberg
Matthew, Sarah, Nate, Abby, Kezia,
and baby