

# The Downs

## Surgery, Language Partners, and Freedom



STEADFAST  
ROOTS

Dear Friends,

### Praising God for others

March 2024

Have you ever looked around you and wondered what story others are carrying? Each school day we start our day with devotions and I (Tim) find myself looking around at the other students who have accepted the call to go to places that are unknown. We sit in language classes with surgeons, bankers, veterinarians, counselors, teachers, handymen, and refugees. I find myself praying for them as they learn French and continue to prepare for the mission field. We know you pray for our family, and you sacrifice your resources for us to be here, we would like to ask you to pray for the other students who are here? Some of them are struggling and others are excelling, but all of them are far from home and answering the call.

### Surgery

Tim had to have surgery the end of February. Everything went smoothly, we are praising God for an uneventful surgery. Tim has been recovering and has a follow-up appointment on March 25th to determine if he can return to normal activities.

### Language processing

Our girls are doing very well in French school. We have found that speaking English to them after school has become difficult for them to comprehend, we now have to mix in some French words, so they understand what we are asking. We are thoroughly enjoying the mélange (mixture) of languages and watching their minds work to comprehend both languages.

### Language partners

Sarah and I, have language partners! That means we get to go get coffee and use our extensive French with them and they get to laugh at our mistakes and correct us. It is very humbling and quite enjoyable. We are already not looking forward to having to say goodbye at the end of this year when we move to the Ivory Coast. We are praying for Gospel conversations each time we meet. We wish we could share pictures of them.

### Freedom

In our last prayer letter, we said, "Where words fail, music speaks", that story has become bigger. We have found out that the Iranians who were playing in the worship band have an asylum interview on Friday (3/22) with the French government. Our friends have been refugees for nearly 10 years without a country to call home. When asked, "What they are hoping for when it comes to the future?" their response was "Freedom". Would you please pray along with us toward that end.

We are grateful for each of you.

Tim, Sarah, Lucy, Hazel, & Eleanor

