

The Downs

6 Months on the Ground in the Ivory Coast



STEADFAST
ROOTS

Dear Friends,

May/June 2025

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,..." - Philippians 1:3-5

It is hard to believe that six months have already passed since we arrived in the Ivory Coast. Time has moved quickly, and we are grateful for God's faithfulness and your partnership with us.

In this short time, we have seen God at work. We have set up our home, connected with local pastors, and started attending a local church regularly. Witnessing the baptism of 78 people on Easter weekend was a true highlight of our first months here. Tim was also able to attend the baptisms of 5 more people from the church we attend. God is working in the Ivory Coast as the gospel is preached, and people respond in faith!

Tim had the opportunity to preach in French a few weeks ago, which is still a challenge for him. He used a popular local food "attieke" as an object lesson of the long process of sanctification. Attieke is made from casava, a root vegetable that grows well here in the Ivory Coast. It is peeled, pounded, fermented, squeezed, steamed, dried, and rehydrated before it is ready to eat. Tim used the passage from Romans 6:19 "...so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification."

We have asked you to pray about a car since we arrived; we are happy to report that God has answered that prayer! We bought a car that is newer than any car we have ever owned (2013). It needed a little TLC, but we believe we can get it worked out and it will be a mechanically sound vehicle that our family can use for years to come. Thank you for praying and thank you for giving toward the purchase of a vehicle!

We have also asked you to pray for our water situation here at the training center. We stopped digging two wells because we hit rock. The third plan was to dig a 1,000 foot trench and connect it to an existing well on campus. That has been a success and we are now able to get water to our animals and gardens! In order to keep the well pump from running for long periods of time, we will be building a small water-tower that will allow us to water our gardens and animals during the day without the constant use of the pump. We thank God for an answer to prayer with this dependable water source!



Our days include both spiritual efforts and practical work. We have a small garden, a few goats, some trees growing in what is becoming a food forest, and a dependable water source. The training center is coming together. We feel at times we are moving slowly, but we look back and see the faithfulness of God through the process. We are continuously praying for an impact on this nation through the gospel as we prepare the center for pastors to come and learn.

We have 4 things we are praying about:

1. The building of the water-tower.
2. Language acquisition as Tim and I begin taking Djoula classes this week. Djoula is the language commonly spoken here in Bouaké, and we pray that we will be able to connect even deeper with people as we communicate in their heart-language.
3. For our girls' education. We want to make the right decisions for language acquisition, making connections in the community, and the right fit for each of our girls.
4. We still have a shortfall of \$750.00 per month. Please pray for God's provision for our family and ministry.

Each step forward is an answer to prayer. Your support and encouragement make this possible. Please continue to pray for wisdom as we build new relationships. We know that God is faithful, but we also know the, "...effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers. You are a vital part of this work, and we are grateful for you and your friendships!

Tim, Sarah, Lucy, Hazel, & Eleanor

