

The Downs

3 Months in the United States



STEADFAST
ROOTS

Dear Friends,

October/November 2025

We are already halfway through our time in the U.S! Our first month and a half has been full of seeing friends, visiting family, giving updates to churches, and sharing our hearts for the people of Côte d'Ivoire with small groups. While it has been a break from the rigor of life in Africa, we have a constant underlying desire to be back in Côte d'Ivoire so we can continue to invest in relationships and the ministry God has placed before us.

Time in the U.S.

We landed in the States and hit the ground running with doctor, optometrist, and dentist appointments for everyone. One of the appointments was to get an x-ray of Hazel's arm. If you remember, she broke her arm two years ago a few months before we left for France. Over time, her arm movement caused us to wonder if it hadn't healed properly. We praise God that the x-ray revealed that it has healed completely! In between our time with people, appointments, and homeschool, we have enjoyed activities that we don't get to experience in Côte d'Ivoire.

The girls have LOVED playing at parks on playgrounds (playground equipment is VERY limited in Bouaké)! Of course, experiencing snow has brought so much joy as well! They have also enjoyed visiting a new museum and the zoo that we used to visit several times a week when we lived nearby. Tim and I have a mix of emotions as we watch Lucy remember places and things while our younger two girls have little to no memory of the United States. While their native country has become foreign to them, we thank God that we get to remind them of how their identity in Christ does not change and that our citizenship is truly in heaven.

Update on the Water Tower

The water tower is now in place and functioning as it was designed to do! We had been praying that we would be able to finish it up before leaving for the U.S. Just one week before we departed, it was up and running. Because of the water tower, the animals and the gardens are being watered via drip-irrigation while we are away. We will be returning to Côte d'Ivoire in the middle of the dry season and we are looking forward to (hopefully) seeing green gardens. Thank you for praying with us over the last nine months as we figured out how to get a reliable water source at the center!



The Election

One of the reasons we are in the U.S. is because of the Ivorian presidential election that was in October. We are happy to report that the election had few protests and the country has remained peaceful. The current president has been re-elected for his fourth term. We are praying that this term will also allow Côte d'Ivoire to remain at peace in the coming years.

Points of Prayer:

1. Safety as our family travels in the States and back to Côte d'Ivoire in January.
2. Transition for all of us. The girls as they experience the States and get to be with people who love them dearly. They are loving their time here, but also have big hellos and goodbyes throughout our trip. For our entire family to experience God's peace as we travel and spend time with friends and family.
3. Our financial support: We recently learned that the price of our insurance will increase by \$160.00 a month in January. We have seen God provide all we need thus far. Please pray with us that God will increase our monthly support and increase our faith in Him as our Provider.
4. For our time in the States to reinvigorate us as we return to the ministry in Côte d'Ivoire. We are eager to return in January and get back to the work God has given us to do!

Thank you for your constant prayers and your support as we continue to minister in Côte d'Ivoire!

Tim, Sarah, Lucy, Hazel, & Eleanor

