

# The Downs

"The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."



STEADFAST  
ROOTS

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we've already completed two months here in Côte d'Ivoire! Time has really flown by, and it's been filled with both challenges and great progress. We're happy to say we've moved into our house and are now making it feel like home. Our first month was completely taken up with fixing up our house. It was a big job, requiring a lot of work from all of us, but it was important to get a safe and comfortable place to live for our long-term work here. We are continuously praying that God would go before us and direct us in what he would have us to do, and that he would establish our steps.



As we've settled in, we've started meeting people in our community. We're having regular meetings with pastors to share our vision of helping them become self-sustaining. There's been a lot of interest, which is a blessing from God. These two months have also been packed with different activities: a funeral, church services, a pastors' conference, digging a well, putting up fence posts, and more meetings with pastors. We have certainly hit the ground running! The pictures we've included show a little bit of our lives right now.

We're constantly reminded of why we came here. Every conversation, every challenge we face, makes us even more determined. We're incredibly thankful for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support – it makes all of this possible. We're excited to share more updates as we get further into our work.



In our last letter, we asked for your prayers on several things. We're still praying about all of those, but we've also seen God's hand at work as we've begun settling in. We're thankful for answered prayers in our daily lives and we continue to pray that He guides us in everything we do. Here's the list of things we're still praying for:



## Please pray:

1. **Finding a Vehicle:** We need a reliable vehicle that will work for our family. Finding a reliable vehicle that meets our family's needs is proving difficult.
2. **Making Our House a Home:** We're getting close to having everything set up, even hanging pictures!
3. **Connecting with the Local Church:** We're meeting with pastors and sharing our vision for working together.
4. **Building the Training Center:** We're working on the first steps, such as putting up fence posts and digging a well.
5. **Adjusting to a New Culture:** This is a big one, and we're always praying for our daughters and Sarah as they get used to life here.
6. **Finding a Good Balance:** We want to build relationships and do ministry work, but also make sure we get enough rest. We are praying God will show us how to rest.
7. **Language Learning:** Please keep praying for Sarah as she continues to improve her French speaking skills.

Thank you so much for your prayers!

Tim, Sarah, Lucy, Hazel, & Eleanor