

The Downs

So Much News!



STEADFAST
ROOTS

Good morning, friends!

May/June 2024

Well, friends, we have been hustling the last few months! This semester of language school was full and rigorous. The last eight weeks of school flew by (without any holidays) and while it was intense, it has been so fruitful. While we are both happy that we passed our exams, for us, it's more exciting to see the real-life progress we're making in French. For me (Sarah), I'm at the point where I can understand so much and now have the foundation to tell stories and add to discussions in French. Tim has continued to strengthen grammar and apply it to his speech and writing. We praise God for the stamina to get through another semester and for teaching (me specifically) to give myself more grace as I balance being a student with the rest of life.

While we didn't have any official breaks from school the last few months, Tim and I were able to take a few hours off to see our girls in their end-of-school "spectacles." Lucy and her class performed drumming and dancing while Hazel's class demonstrated a variety of songs and dances they had been learning. It's such a joy to see our girls doing well in school. Thank you for praying for our children as they have transitioned the last six months. We have prayed for and talked about the peace and hope we have because of Jesus every day, before the girls leave for school, and we have seen Him working in their hearts and minds.

Thank you for praying for our Iranian friends! We have witnessed a miracle! Last year, of all the applicants seeking asylum in France, zero were granted. Our friends found out last month that their request for asylum had been answered . . . with a yes! They were asking God for a place to finally call home, and France is that place. Will you praise God with us? We are thankful for His work! We will continue to pray for direction for them as they think about and plan for their future.

We have more BIG news! In one week we will be leaving for the Ivory Coast!! No, we are not finished with language school yet, but we are taking advantage of our summer break to spend four weeks in the Ivory Coast. And we are so so excited! I'm excited to FINALLY get to be there and interact with the people God has been equipping us to serve. We are also looking forward to our girls getting the opportunity to see where we will be living and start processing what home will look like for our family. Even though our visit is just for a month, we have some goals laid out for ourselves. Would you please pray with us for the coming month?

Our goals are:

- 1) Check out the house we will be living in (we get to stay there for part of our trip) and any updates that need to be made before we move in when we return in December.
- 2) Look at the land and begin planning where the permaculture training center will potentially begin
- 3) Scope out the layout of Bouaké and start answering questions that come with this move: Where will I get groceries? What will errands look like? How long will they take (potentially)? Where can we get other supplies? What are some items we need to buy before leaving France?
- 4) Finally, we have carved out some time to be together as a family. This year has been a big adjustment for all of us and we know our family needs time to have fun and enjoy being together without continual interruptions (or one of us leaving to go study).

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Sarah sharing a devotional in French before our class day begins.



Lucy giggling with classmates before their "spectacle."



Hazel loving her moment in the spotlight.



Celebrating the 4th of July. Our girls like a good "fête."



Tim's class. Missionaries learning French to take the Gospel around the world.



This view never gets old. God's handiwork!



Hazel's 4th birthday. She was so excited!

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