



September 2017

ALESSANDRO & CHANTAL PARRILLO

among the Konyagi of West Africa

It's finally time to resume our Konyagi language and culture study. We've been waiting a long time for this moment and we're thankful to finally be settled in a pure Konyagi village where we can be immersed in the context and focused on learning. But it's a challenging adventure. We continually have to be willing to step out of our comfort zone, to feel lost, as we don't know how to act in this culture and our language skills are so limited. This language and culture study requires an incredible amount of discipline and perseverance in the face of discouragement.



To learn the language, we use a method called the 'Growing Participator Approach'. This program requires that we have language sessions with a language helper in order to progress well. That's not as easy as it may seem! At the moment, and until the end of the harvest in December/January, the Konyagi are very busy working in their fields. Therefore, it's difficult to find people available to be language helpers. Alessandro has found a man to help him, however it's more difficult for Chantal since the women are very busy, not only with field work, but with their responsibilities at home. We

had found someone to help her part-time, but until now, they haven't succeeded in having a session. Maybe we'll have to look for someone else. It's also difficult to organize our days since we never know when these language helpers will show up. The only guarantee is they won't show up at the time they said. 😊 They either arrive late (sometimes several hours late), or they come to tell us they won't be able to help us today, or they want to come at another time which doesn't work for us (for example, we can't both have our sessions at the same time since someone must care for the children), or they just don't come at all. It's often quite frustrating. We are hopeful that eventually we'll find some kind of rhythm for our days, although we know we'll have to be very flexible and ready to adapt. That's just one more challenge of life here.

We're sharing this with you so that you can better understand our situation and better pray for us. If we succeed in learning this language, it will be a miracle. Thankfully, we serve a God who specializes in miracles.

Please continue to pray for our adjustment to life here, for good relationships with our neighbors, for our language learning, for a good balance between family responsibilities and learning the language for both us. And of course, pray that God continues to prepare the hearts of the Konyagi to receive the message of Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much!



Box 707
Durham ON N0G 1R0
ethnos.ca



Please note Chantal's new e-mail address

Alessandro & Chantal Parrillo
alessandro.parrillo@gmail.com
chantalparrillo@ethnos.ca



Learning the culture and making friends.

We had a wonderful visit with Chantal's parents and even had a little holiday too!

