

Subject: News from Alessandro and Chantal Parrillo written by Chantal's mom  
Date: Mon, 25 Feb 2019 14:53:43 +0100  
From: IG Pilon <igpilon@gmail.com>

Hello Friends!

Thank you so much for praying for us and for the Parrillos. Your prayers have been answered!

Our three flights (Ottawa – Montreal – Brussels – Dakar) went well and the kids were well behaved. It took us about five days to get over our jetlag (photos 1-3).

Jolissa was so happy to once again see the little play area at the mission guesthouse in Dakar (photo 4). Samuel discovered that it is possible to use the fruit of the baobab tree to write on walls (photo 5), and they found a little gecko that Samuel enjoyed letting walk on him (photo 6).

Three days after our arrival in Dakar, Alessandro made the 12-hour trip by taxi (photo 7) to the village in Guinea, taking with him a lot of our baggage as well as our food supplies for the first two months. Three days later, he returned with his own vehicle and we set out for Guinea on Saturday the 13th, arriving in the village on Sunday the 14th.

For us (Gaetan and Ivy), it took two intense days of cleaning and organizing to get settled into our house. Ivy had the help of her language helper and her cleaning girl, which made things go faster. We were pleasantly surprised at the good shape the house was in – very few insects (just a few spiders) and no problems with the water and solar system. We feel at home here!

Our backyard, on the other hand, was quite a disappointment. The fence was broken in three places, the cows had left us a few cow pies, the weeds were waist-high, and the branch of one of the trees had been broken off by some villagers who had climbed too high to pick off the leaves (photos 8 to 11). A cow was nicely settled in our little hut outside the house (photo 12) :-)

Parrillos, on the other hand, are not quite settled yet. Their yard was in relatively good condition, but their house, like our own, had a lot of dust, and they have more things to organize and unpack since they will be staying for four or more years this time around and there are four of them as opposed to us two short-termers. On top of that, Chantal's cleaning lady is sick and so she had no help at all for cleaning. After our own two days of cleaning and unpacking, we began to take the kids in the morning so that Alessandro and Chantal could make some progress on getting settled. Ivy also started school with Samuel.

We were glad to see that the villagers were happy to see us, and we have already had some good contacts with them. The children in Ivy's Sunday School class in Canada had made greeting cards and donated t-shirts to be given out to the kids here. We were able to give out about 40 t-shirts (photo 13). We will ask the kids back home to pray for the ones here who received their cards and t-shirts, that they might come to know the Lord.

However, the best news is that Alessandro and Chantal can have Memakou as their language

helper once again this year! This is a great answer to prayer, for he is an excellent teacher. And on top of that, he is very interested in learning about God. While he was helping Gaetan in the yard this week, he was listening to the Gospel of Matthew in his own language on his telephone. Pray that he will clearly understand the Gospel.

We pray that God will give you a good week and that He will encourage you during this winter, which seems to be particularly difficult for most of you. Here, the temperature is between 35 and 39 degrees every day, however since it is not humid at the moment, it is bearable, with the help of a fan.

Thank you for continuing to pray for us, the Parrillos and for the Konyagis!

Gaetan & Ivy