



July 2019

# ALESSANDRO & CHANTAL PARRILLO

among the Konyagi of West Africa

Summer has finally arrived for you! Here, the rainy season has arrived and we're thankful it's not quite as hot. Now that the rain has come, everyone is starting to work in their fields. Some families, whose fields are far from the village, move to their fields for the rainy season and live in simple shelters there.



Shortly after our last newsletter, the father of our language helper Memaku became sick and Memaku informed us he could no longer help us. We were very sad about that. We were especially sad that Memaku seems to be suffering from depression. We don't know the cause, but we suspect there is a spiritual element to it. **Please pray for Memaku and that he will continue his search for God.**

Now, we have a new language helper whose name is Vieux (which means *old*). He is a high school student and during the school year, he has classes

in the morning, so we are now having our language sessions in the afternoon. At first, we found it difficult to change around our family's routine but there are also certain advantages to this new schedule. One huge advantage of having Vieux as a helper is that his field isn't far from the village so he stays in the village during the rainy season and should be more available to help us. We are very thankful we should be able to continue to progress in the language.



Speaking of progress in the language, we must say that despite many disruptions, we are encouraged with our progress. We're now able to have simple conversations. Granted, it's FULL of mistakes but generally, we can make ourselves understood and get corrections. Being able to communicate a bit more, really helps our relationships and we're thankful for these growing friendships! **We still have a long way to go before we speak the language well so continue to pray for us!**

Another huge blessing is that we now have someone to help us with the housework. Most missionaries have someone help them with the



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housework as it's very time consuming, especially with all the dust we have here. We've wanted help for a long time, but nothing really seemed to work out. Nedamu is a teenage girl of about 13-14 years old. She doesn't go to school, so she is available to help us. She does a good job and does so cheerfully and she's willing to learn new things. However, she normally moves to the field with her family during the rainy season. **Pray that Nedamu will be able to help us year-round!**



During these four months in the village, we've been so grateful for the help of Chantal's parents. For all of us, these months have been full of challenges, cultural stresses, things breaking down, many requests for help, many funerals and sacrifices to attend, and of course, the intense heat. By the end, we were all completely exhausted and in desperate need of a break.



Three weeks ago, we came to Dakar. Chantal's parents kept the kids for a couple days so we could get away for a little break. Then, they returned to Canada. It was such a great privilege to have them with us, to have their help and to have them invest in our children. **Pray that we can adjust to no longer having Grandpapa and Grandmaman nearby and we can find a new routine now that we don't have their help.**

We are still in Dakar as Alessandro is having some dental work done. It should be completed next week and then we'll return to the village. While we're here, we're getting some rest, working on our long to-do list, visiting with friends, and doing a few special outings. We are gradually regaining our strength and hope to be ready for our soon return to the village.



Our co-workers, the Nachtigalls, will be returning from Germany next week. We are excited about having them back with us. A young German couple is also coming with them to help with their boys' schooling. **Pray for the Nachtigall family as they prepare to come and for all the adjustments ahead of them. There's also a possibility that a young woman may come to help our family. Pray for God's will in this.**

Thank you so much for your partnership and for asking God to uphold us day by day. **Let's not give up praying that God will do great things amongst these people!** Thank you!