



November 2019

ALESSANDRO & CHANTAL PARRILLO

among the Konyagi of West Africa

I started writing this update over a month ago...

As in Canada, we've also had a change of season here – the rainy season has ended and the dry season has begun. In a matter of days, the climate changed drastically – the humidity dropped, the hot dry wind started, and the nights have become cooler. Here too, every change of season is hard on the body and we get sick more easily.

These last months have been very busy and your prayers have been greatly appreciated! Here is a little photo update:

The visit with our mission leadership and the meeting with the village men to introduce our new coworker Leah went well. She was well received by the village. Leah is presently on home assignment and plans to move to the village in February.



Our missionary team among the Konyagi – our family; the Nachtigall family; Leah; Abi and Madi who came to help the Nachtigalls for this school year.



Since Chantal arrived among the Konyagi in 2007, Samuel Coline has been her Konyagi father. He has



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been a great blessing, a huge help and a good counsellor throughout the years. In October, he passed away after a short sickness. We were able to visit him a few hours before his death, but he was in a semi-coma. Our hearts are heavy.



The Hofer family was part of the missionary team among the Konyagi but had to leave unexpectedly in 2017 due to health concerns and they now have a new ministry in the United States. Brian came for about two weeks to take care of their belongings and give closure to their time here.



Jolissa turned 4. She likes to draw and play with little toy animals. She can be pretty funny, but is very shy around people she doesn't know. She likes

to help and is very stubborn – she knows what she wants!



Samuel turned 6. His passion is building with Legos, whether that be by following the instructions or making his own creations. He likes to learn and always has tons of questions. He likes to play with his friend Timon (our co-workers' son).



As for language learning, we have now completed over 500 hours of language session time in phase 4. We plan to do another 100 hours before starting phase 5. It's estimated that we'll then have to do an additional 600 hours to reach a good level in the language. So, we're making good progress, but we still have a lot of work before us.

With all that, we're exhausted. We came to Dakar for a little break. When we're in Dakar, it seems there's always lots to do (doctors, mechanic, supplies, etc.) so it's easy for the time to go by without us really getting a good chance to rest. One weekend however, Chantal had the special blessing of participating in a women's retreat (Alessandro did a good job of taking care of the kids).

Our time in Dakar has been extended since Chantal continues to have some health issues and is having some medical exams done. Pray for Chantal's health and pray that both of us can regain our strength as we're having a hard time recovering from the demands of these past months. Now, the plan is for us to return to the village in a few days. Pray for our return and that we'll find a way to adjust our daily routine to be able to progress despite our lack of energy.

*We're so thankful for you, for your support and for your prayers!
Thank you!*

