



March 2020

# ALESSANDRO & CHANTAL PARRILLO

among the Konyagi of West Africa

Our world is certainly facing some uncertain days and all of us are affected by it in one way or another. In the midst of it, let us trust God who knows all things and who is in control. It's reassuring to know that we are in His hands and that He is with us.

We are presently in Dakar, Senegal and have been here for a week and a half already. This was not a planned trip but we came to seek medical help as Chantal was not doing well. We praise God that she is now doing better and is in the process of regaining her strength. She will have her final doctor's visit today and then we hope to head back to the village.

As we head back to Guinea, we don't know what to expect. Will the borders close, further limiting our access to medical care and our regular source of supplies? Will this virus reach our village location where there is little medical care and put our local friends at risk (especially the elderly)? Where is the balance between taking precautions and reaching out in love? How will it go with the legislative elections in Guinea scheduled for March 22? So many questions... yet, we trust God to guide us one step at a time and entrust the unknowns into His hands.

### ***Culture and language study***

We have completed phase 4 of our language program and have begun phase 5! This new phase consists of about another 500 hours of language session time and the goal is to bring us to the point of being able to communicate about abstract

things such as feelings, opinions, etc., to better understand native-to-native speech, and to integrate more fully into the community. Once we've successfully reached these goals, we will have completed formal language study. We estimate that will take another year if everything goes smoothly (which it rarely does). **Please pray for perseverance and success in reaching these goals!**

### ***Bible teaching***

Our target date to begin the Bible teaching is still the beginning of 2021. There's still much to be done and so many interruptions that come along to slow progress. Yet, there is progress and we rejoice in it.



Our coworker Lina is working on translating OT portions still needed for the Bible teaching. She had her first translation check and it went very well. **Pray for the right language helpers to be**



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**available, for good progress as Lina continues this important work and for a clear and accurate Bible translation.**

Our coworker Jakob is working on developing Bible lessons to communicate God's Truth in the local language and in a way that is relevant to this culture. It's a huge and often overwhelming task. He has begun teaching these lessons to us, the rest of the team. It's exciting to see them take shape. **Pray God will provide the right language helpers and give Jakob insight into how to best communicate God's Truth in a way that will really resonate with them.**

**Pray for the Konyagi - that they will be seeking God, eager to hear God's Word and be transformed by the Truths they learn.**

It has taken SO long to get to this point – many years, many challenges. It's exciting finally to see the beginning of the Bible teaching approach. **Please pray for our team, for unity, for wisdom and ultimately for God's glory.**

### ***Other happenings***

Our new coworker Leah has moved to Konyagi land and is now settled in our former coworkers' house. **Pray for her as she adjusts, makes friends and begins language study.**

Chantal and the kids have gotten into a good homeschooling routine each morning (until we left for Dakar). **Pray we will all have good attitudes and enjoy learning together. Pray for our kids' wellbeing (first of all, spiritually) and for us to do a good job as parents.**



**school on  
our roof**

We now have a cleaning lady coming to help us with household work. It's a great help which allows Chantal to focus on homeschooling and language sessions and allows Alessandro to be out in the village a lot more.

Chantal continues to struggle with her health. The hot season has arrived and from experience we know how draining this season is. **Pray for our health and the strength for each day.**

Some of you have been asking how Alessandro's family in Italy is doing. We are thankful that until now none of them have been infected by the virus. Thank you for praying for them.

The future is full of unknowns. We're disappointed too that Chantal's mom won't be able to come visit us next month as planned. **Pray for peace in these uncertain times and that we will trust God completely in all things.** Be assured that we are praying for you too!

***Thank you so much for partnering with us, being part of this journey with us and praying for us! We appreciate you!***