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GIESKE MONTHLY UPDATE

December 2024

News from the Gieske family serving in Senegal, West Africa, with SIL International,
a partner of Wycliffe USA and Wycliffe Bible Translators UK

*"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ
is God's child."* (1 John 5v1, ICB)



Dear friends,

Thank you for your prayers for the Karon Epistles recording in early November. **We praise God that despite many challenges, it was completed within the time allotted. Let's join the Karon team in asking the Lord that these recordings will find fertile soil and contribute to people growing in understanding and in faith.**

Other members of the Karon and Contemporary Wolof* translation teams were encouraged by their recent consultant checks of Matthew and Mark respectively. **Please keep them in your prayers as each starts on something new: the Karon team is planning to produce an AI-generated first draft of Mark, and the Contemporary Wolof team is beginning a first draft of Revelation.**

John is currently busy recording Matthew in Regional Wolof* with a team who have never done this before! **Praise God for their joyful energy and commitment to excellence; pray that the recording will be completed in good time and touch many people's hearts.**

*Two translations into Wolof: The **Regional Wolof** Bible is a beautiful literary translation, targeted towards the traditional heartland in the region around Thiès. The Old Testament was recently finished and the New Testament revision is almost complete. The **Contemporary (Basic) Wolof** translation is a lively translation in an oral style for the millions around the country – and beyond – who speak Wolof as a *lingua franca*, a means of communication between speakers of different native languages, and now a mother tongue for many people born and raised in the cities.

John also has loose ends to tidy up before going on Christmas break / paternity leave, knowing that when he returns to work it will be a busy spring! There are recordings

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and songwriting workshops planned by both the Karon and Wolof teams, potential recording projects in three other languages, as well as two training courses. **Pray for him to trust God and focus well on each task in turn, and that recent progress made on the cybersecurity issue would lead to a resolution.**

For her part, Sarah has been very thankful to enjoy a recent period of good health as Baby continues to grow well. We are all eagerly anticipating this little one's arrival whilst wishing the apartment were a little more ready! At the same time, our Advent traditions are helping to prepare our hearts to celebrate an even more wonderful baby. **Please pray that our minds will be fixed on Jesus through this busy season of Christmas celebrations (including Christmas day with Sarah's brother and family, who live and work alongside us, and her parents, who are due to arrive on 19th December 😊), administrative paperwork, several family birthdays and a birth day/night! Pray also that we would find appropriate ways to share our joy with the neighbours in our building.**

We wish you all a very happy Christmas season and a thoughtful, joyful celebration of the Christ – God's promised King!

With love,
John & Sarah

with Lily (Elizabeth), Andrew, Joanna and Baby

sarah.gieske@wycliffe.org.uk

new phone numbers +221 78 895 3001 (John) / +221 77 855 4534 (Sarah)

Wycliffe USA: www.wycliffe.org / Wycliffe Bible Translators UK: www.wycliffe.org.uk