

2025 #1

Joyful Servanthood

The Gieske family serving in Senegal, West Africa, with SIL, a partner of Wycliffe USA and Wycliffe Bible Translators UK



Dear friends,

In this new year with our beautiful new baby Esther, we are full of thankfulness for the Lord's new mercies every morning (and we love this memory verse song!). But one blessing is not new.



John [left, in the Control Room] is delighted to be back into the part of his job that he loves most: creating high-quality Scripture recordings in the languages that speak to people best. Since our last newsletter he has worked on three projects in Wolof, Senegal's most widely spoken language:

- **Matthew** in *Regional Wolof**, from the revised New Testament.
- A radio theatre project in which a team of six local believers brainstormed, improvised, and recorded a fifteen minute drama on the subject of marital fidelity.
- **James** in *Contemporary Wolof**, the first book of Scripture that John has recorded with this relatively new translation team.



Pastors and SIL staff pray at the dedication ceremony for Luke & Acts (print and audio format) in Contemporary Wolof

One language, two translations

*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 Wolof project* is a lively translation in an oral style for the millions who use Wolof as a language of wider communication, especially in the urban areas.

"[His mercies] are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!"
Lamentations 3:23

Prayer Corner

Praise God

- > that His Word is going out across the country in audio and printed form
- > for Esther's safe arrival & for special family visits
- > for the beginnings of meaningful interactions at church
- > for our family's good health

Ask God with us

- > for wide distribution and great impact of the Wolof recordings
- > for deeper relationships with Senegalese coworkers
- > to equip all those on the Audio Production course
- > to help us be a good witness to those around us observing the month of Ramadan (fasting)
- > for grace with one another in home school, and that we would each learn what He wants us to
- > to protect the Saafi team, currently recording the whole New Testament with a team from TheoVision (not John)

Please treat all information as confidential and check with us before passing on or displaying letters electronically or physically.



The other recent recording was for several **Epistles** in Karon: not the Scripture text (which was in process when we sent our previous newsletter) but the book introductions and the ‘headers’ such as chapter numbers and section titles. Every detail matters!

In his capacity as a consultant, John has several major projects this spring, beginning with the online Audio Production training in March. Though he has taught on this course before, he hopes his lessons will be refreshed by skills he acquired in February during a week-long course about how to teach adults [website [here](#)]. And in April he anticipates helping to teach others to check the content of Scripture-based materials.

More recording projects are scheduled following our annual staff conference in April, with songwriting workshops for both the Karon and Contemporary Wolof teams in May.

Meanwhile, back at home, we are discovering our ‘new normal’ after the joy of welcoming Sarah’s parents for a month (Esther finally made her appearance a week before they left!) and later her twin sister for a week. Home education requires more determination and flexibility when a cute distraction is with us, but this season won’t spoil our learning any more than cuddles spoil our baby! “Children are a gift from the Lord” (Psalm 127:3), and though parenting is never easy, it is an honour to have been entrusted with these four energetic, funny, loving gifts.



Because of His faithfulness,

*John & Sarah
with Elizabeth ‘Lily’,
Andrew,
Joanna
& Esther*



Our pastor prays for Esther as part of the presentation ceremony at church. Another baby was presented the same Sunday. What a joyful day!

Key Dates

For your information and prayers

10-28 Mar - Audio Production training online

22-23 April - Scripture materials checking course

24-29 April - SIL Senegal annual conference

7 May - Andrew’s 7th birthday

12-16 May - Wolof Songwriting

26-30 May - Karon Songwriting

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NB: new phone numbers

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Join the Team!

Want to be part of God's work in Senegal? [Contact us](#) to find out about the prayer & financial teams that partner with us to make it possible.



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Andrew (in red) & Lily (far right) enjoy playing various ball games with neighbours. Joanna plays for as long as she can keep up.