



# Wilkinsons' News

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*Dear friends,*

We've been in Thiès for over a year now and praise God that we definitely feel settled. Over Christmas we enjoyed having David's parents visit, and later his other sister, to meet our newest niece. In between those visits, David had a trip to Cameroon for some meetings, but most of our activities have been more local. As David has been interacting with the local Church, we've recently been struck by several examples of how the Church is growing here in Senegal.



Christmas lights in Thiès

Last month the organisation SIM organised a big conference called "Pastors' Book Set". Nearly 300 pastors gathered for a time of Bible teaching and mutual encouragement, as well as receiving a library of theology books. SIL was invited to partner with them and share about the availability of Scriptures in local languages. This event last happened back in 2011 and, having attended part of that one, it was such an encouragement to David to see how the Church has grown since then and hear testimonies of God at work in areas of the country that had been very resistant to the gospel.

Here in Thiès there was a great show of unity among the churches a few weeks ago, with a joint service of all the evangelical churches in the area. It was a joy to see so many believers gathered. At the end of the service we shared communion, but there wasn't enough bread or wine to go around. Several people pointed out this was because there were quite a few more people in attendance than last year.



The open-air joint service



Wolof Luke & Acts Dedication

One of the key projects here, run in partnership with the local Church, is a translation into contemporary Wolof. It was a delight to be able to join with numerous representatives from churches and other organisations to celebrate the launch of Luke and Acts in printed and audio versions. This was an important way of getting the message out about the ongoing translation project, and hopefully it will encourage those present to participate more actively as the work continues.

In our last prayer letter we mentioned plans to recruit a Church Relations worker. Thank you for your prayers for this process. We have appointed a young man, Josué, to this role. Pray for David as he guides Josué in his new responsibilities, and that this work would open up new opportunities here. We also asked for prayer for a complicated copyright issue, and God has answered those prayers too. After many hours of discussions, the multiple parties involved were able to come to an agreement, and now progress can be made in getting the translated text ready for printing.



Josué at the Pastors' Book Set conference

We have also been recruiting for an assistant for a colleague. During one of the interviews, a candidate mentioned her desire for her family in the village to have access to the Scriptures in their mother tongue, but she had no idea how that was going to happen. The village she was talking about was Thionck-Essyl and the language was Gusilay! She's a believer living in Dakar who was rejected by her family because of her turning to Christ and had no idea Scriptures are available in Gusilay. At the end of the interview, I was able to give her a copy of Genesis, much to her surprise and joy. Praise God for this huge encouragement that He's also growing the Church among the Gusilay, and continue to pray for the various Gusilay who are listening to the recorded Scriptures.



*Aminata discovering  
Genesis in Gusilay*

The coming months will see quite a lot of travel for various meetings. Next week we will be experiencing an unusual role reversal when it's Janet's turn to leave the boys behind and travel to Kenya for a week for finance meetings. Please pray that the meetings would be helpful and further equip Janet for her finance role. Immediately after Janet's return, David will be off to a conference gathering together workers from across the Sahel region. This conference is held in a different country each year, and this year it will be held right on our doorstep only an hour away by road. In late April, we will have our annual gathering of all our colleagues here in Thiès and then in early May, David will travel to South Africa for a once-every-4-years worldwide gathering of SIL Global leaders.

Looking ahead to the summer, we are looking forward to being in Northern Ireland from mid-June until mid-July, then in England from mid-July to mid-August and to catching up with many of you. Please do get in touch if you would like to meet up!

Love,

*David, Janet, Joel, Isaac & Theo*

### Praise God :

- For answered prayers in the provision of a Church Relations worker and a solution to the copyright issue.
- For the encouraging signs of growth in the local Church. Pray that this growth would be wide but also deep.

### Pray:

- For safety in all our upcoming travels and for helpful meetings.
- For a car for us to use during our time in Northern Ireland (mid-June to mid-July).
- That God would continue to speak to the Gusilay who are listening to the recorded Scriptures.



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