



**Being in Benin April 2013**

Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this letter, I'm enjoying the sights and sounds of a short but intense thunderstorm rolling through Parakou. The lightshow outside is impressive (helped by the current power outage) and with the hot season now upon us in West Africa I'm thankful for the strong breeze and the promise of a cooler night.

**Projects**

The last two months have been filled with a variety of project work. I've been involved in initial discussions about setting up a new income generating project for widows, expanding a school project to include the replacement of two on-site houses and helping to renew our seven literacy and translation projects. With 50+ languages in Benin and only 42% of people aged 15 and over able to read and write, the literacy needs seem overwhelming. It has been encouraging to hear of the impact of past work and to support those still making a difference through, for example, Old Testament translation work (Yom, Monkolé & Fulani languages) and training of Beninese literacy teachers.

**Car**

After a few months of indecision (see page 2!), I'm very thankful to have been able to buy a year 2000 2WD Rav4 through the port in Cotonou. The purchase was a little nerve wracking as I relied solely on an agent based in Cotonou whom I'd never met (though had been recommended) and his over-the-phone description of the car. Never once did I really feel in control of the situation! Your prayers were greatly valued and answered - thank you :).

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of my news including my first taste of playing volleyball in Benin! A bumper edition - I shouldn't have left it so long!

Thanks for your partnership.

*Sil*

**PRAYER & PRAISE**

- Give thanks that I have been able to buy a car, that it arrived safely in Parakou and for the added flexibility and protection on the road this gives me.
- Please continue to pray that I adapt well to living in Benin. For a good understanding of the local culture and for opportunities to develop and deepen friendships with local Beninese women and families.
- Give thanks for the girls who have been coming each week to our SIM compound to play volleyball! Please pray we will all have fun and for opportunities to share my life and faith.
- It's time to submit another round of biannual project reports! Please pray that all my project managers will send their reports to me on time and for my workload over the next 6 weeks.
- Give thanks that all our translation and literacy projects have now been renewed. Please pray specifically for funding to help translate, print and distribute materials such as evangelistic brochures, hymnbooks, bible studies and prayer guides across 10 language groups.