



Deneuf' news

Feb 2013

The Deneufchâtel family serving the Monkolé churches with SIM in Benin, West Africa.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” Col.3:16,17

Thankfulness

I begin this letter with a real sense of thankfulness for God's blessing over the last months. The SIM Benin-Togo missionary conference which I helped to organise back in October went very smoothly, and we particularly enjoyed the fellowship with other missionaries. Our speaker, Philippe Flahaut, is the Director of a mission in France, and his messages were both encouraging and challenging.

On November 8th our daughter Eve Sofia was born in the Bembéréké hospital. The labour and delivery were problem-free, and the whole family was, and continues to be, delighted to have her with us. She has remained in good health and has been putting on weight as if she was an advert for the benefits of breastfeeding – which she is, in a way!

We enjoyed our fourth Christmas in Benin, reflecting that it now seems less strange to us parents to be celebrating Christmas in the heat, and entirely normal for our children! In January we welcomed my parents for a 3-week visit. We loved having them with us, especially since I was still on maternity leave. Marc continued to work, however, and Simon kept on with his schooling, as we are saving up our holiday time for a holiday to visit family in Europe this next summer.

Mum and Dad went home at the end of January, carrying with them a short film they had helped us to make about our work here. They will be sending it to each of our supporting churches, so if you go to one of them you should hopefully be watching it fairly soon!

Translation

I went back to work with the translation team on Monday, 4th February. It felt as if I'd never been away, and at least so far things seem to be working out well with Héléne, Pastor Samuel's wife, looking after Eve and Benjy while doing the housework for us. The translation office is only about 50m from the house, so it isn't far for Eve to be brought to me if she needs a feed!



SIM Bénin Togo
B.P. 15
Sinagourou
PARAKOU
République du Bénin
West Africa

SIM UK
Wetheringsett Manor
Wetheringsett
Stowmarket
Suffolk IP14 5QX
<http://www.sim.co.uk/>
SIM France
<http://www.simorg.fr/>

Supporting us.

Let us know if you are intending to **pray for us** regularly (it would encourage us to know that you were!) or would like to help **support us financially**.

We have an account at our mission organisation, SIM (number **79047**) and you can either send cheques directly to SIM-UK or donate on-line at <http://www.sim.co.uk/donate>

SIM Worker profile : <http://sim.org/index.php/worker/1207488>

E-mail address: hilary.deneufchatel@sim.org

Hilary's blog: <http://www.mummydeneuf.blogspot.com/>

Marc's blog: In French: <http://france-uk-benin.blogspot.com/>

As a team, we have finished working on Jonah together, and are starting to look at Leviticus, the text of which I finished formatting the morning of the day I gave birth to Eve! Pastor Samuel and Philémon also continue to work on their rough drafts of Jeremiah and the Psalms respectively.

This week (beginning February 18th) we will be working with our translation consultant, Pastor Pierre Barassounon, checking through the text of Zechariah. Not an easy book!

Teaching

Marc has begun to do some Bible teaching at the French-speaking church in Kandi, which seems to be going well. He also continues the Bible studies in the second Monkolé church in Kandi-Fô. Preparations are in hand for the Monkolé Dry Season Bible School which will take place from February 25th until March 26th here on our property in the village of Pèdè. Please pray that many people in the Monkolé churches will take this opportunity to study God's word together. Pray particularly that people from the Kandi-Fô church will come, as no one has come from that church to the last two Bible school months held.

Please also pray for Marc's father, Jean-Louis, who is coming to Benin for 10 days to do some teaching in rural churches. He will be here in Pèdè to teach in our Bible School on February 26th and 27th. We are also glad that we'll have some time with him as a family, though it will be rather limited!

The future

Marc has been facilitating the formulation of SIM Benin-Togo's vision and strategy for the next five years. He has found this an extremely rich exercise, involving lots of listening to God and the other missionaries. He is also thinking about how to use the skills he's picked up through doing this task to help the Monkolé churches think about what their vision and strategy should be.

The churches face several challenges: the only Monkolé pastor will retire in less than ten years' time, there are far fewer young men than young women in the churches, knowing how to encourage enthusiasm about outreach to other Monkolés (or further afield). It isn't easy to know how much we should be pro-active in this, or how much we should simply be praying for them and encouraging the positive things we see. (For example, it would be inappropriate for us to "choose" the next Monkolé pastor!)

Thank you for your support and prayers.
Much love,

Marc, Hilary, Simon, Benjy and Eve

Famille DENEUFCHATEL

SIM, B.P.15, Sinagourou, PARAKOU, République du Bénin, W. Africa

E-mail address: hilary.deneufchatel@sim.org

Hilary's blog: <http://www.mummydeneuf.blogspot.com/>

Marc's blog: In French: <http://france-uk-benin.blogspot.com/>

SIM Worker profile : <http://sim.org/index.php/worker/1207488>

SIM UK:

Wetheringsett Manor Wetheringsett Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 5QX

<http://www.sim.co.uk/>



A Fulani friend brought us a gift of fresh milk and millet porridge during Mum and Dad's stay.

We give thanks :

- For Eve's safe delivery and good health
- For a restful maternity leave and lovely time with my parents
- For God's daily help and protection

Please pray:

- For the week of translation checking, that our work may glorify God
- For Dry Season Bible School (25/2 – 26/3), for lasting fruit in the lives of those who attend
- That we would know how best to help the Monkolé churches as they look to the future
- That God would help us to cope with the heat of hot season (March-May)

