

February 15, 2007

Dear Praying Friends,

It is mid-February and we are still in Phoenix. Ernie is executor of the will so he is trying to get the family's legal stuff in order. That would be very difficult to do from a distance. Also one of our supporting churches here, Desert Springs Community Church, has just purchased another church building and it needs maintenance work and remodeling done. Ernie has been keeping busy there.

Next week we are going to California for Ernie's check up. This will be the beginning of his second year of check-ups of the five years that the doctor says he needs. Although Ernie is doing well, we need to continue to remember that cancer treatments were not so long ago and we must be diligent about his follow-up. So pray with us that we will get a good report and green light to continue on toward Mali.

We received some good news from Mali. Do you remember Sibiri? He is the Muslim student that we have been supporting. His uncle is the pastor in Kadiolo. Many of you have been praying for him for several months, even years. He shares a room with Joshua, a very strong Christian student whom we also support. They are the top students in their class and have become fast friends. From time to time Sibiri brings up religious subjects and challenges Joshua. Their discussions have only caused Joshua to become stronger in his faith as he also prayed for Sibiri. Just last week Sibiri agreed to study the Bible with fellow missionary, Tom Seward. At their first meeting Tom was surprised at Sibiri's openness to the Gospel. Was this just a fluke? The second meeting Tom found Sibiri's heart softer, and he was eager to learn. Please pray with us that Sibiri will accept the Lord before he graduates from high school in June.

With the mission we decided that March, April and May would be Home Assignment months and we would head back to Mali in early June. One thing we have learned throughout our life is that when we make plans like this and start to follow them if it is God's will He will allow that to happen. If He wants us to walk a different way He redirects our steps in another way. We are trusting Him to do the same thing now.

The political news from West Africa is a little unsettling. Mali is doing well at the moment, but their neighbor, Guinea, (4 hours by car from our house) is reeling with violent riots, major strikes and martial law. Usually these situations spill over the borders so pray for peace in that part of the world.

Thank you so much for your love and prayers. We would not want to continue this walk without your support.

Sincerely,

Jan and Ernie

