

Covenant Missionary Africa Fellowship. It was a small group, but we had a wonder time of fellowship together. We were extra blessed by Florence and Keith Gustafson coming to share with us.



The "Good News" first!!

Erik and Jessie welcomed Sadie Zaire Noren into their family on June 22nd. Sadie, mom and dad are doing well as they adjust to being a family of three. We look forward to meeting our new granddaughter. This means a visit sometime this fall to Hillsboro, KS!!! Pray with us for wisdom, strength and sleep for Erik and Jessie. We are filled with joy and thanksgiving for the new blessing in our family.







The next "Good News"

Our oldest granddaughter, Ruth Esengo Noren graduated from Rain Forest International School in June. It was to be in Yaoundé for all the activities that surrounded her graduation. Ruth plans to attend Tabor Christian College in Hillsboro, KS and is already in the states with Mary starting the process of being in the states again. Pray for Ruth as she gets ready to live away from her immediate family, start college and make new friends. Pray for Mary as she helps Ruth and visits with her parents, other family and friends before returning back to Yaoundé to Karl and the rest of the kids. (Yes, Ruth is going to be attending the same college Erik is teaching at.)

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**Noren News (Some hard and sad news)
and Prayer Requests:**

- Prayer for a security issue we had at Karawa. We are out of the country to attend a Covenant Missionary Conference in Cameroon and extended the stay due to the Ebola outbreak in the eastern part of the country, **so we were not there**. Our home was broken into twice in the last month. A very rare problem, but during the first robbery they beat and tied up a guard and broke into the house but did not get a chance to take anything that we know of, when other guards from nearby surrounded the house and let the thieves escape out the door they had broken into.
- The second time, the thieves came back armed and beat up three of our guards who are recuperating well now in the Karawa hospital, but who sustained bad lacerations, and one a broken jaw and two broken teeth, and trauma from the situation. The thieves spent about 90 minutes in the house, breaking into all the rooms in the house. They dumped out or pawed through everything that was in trunks, drawers and closets, probably in hopes of finding lots of money. We did not leave mission or personal money there. They did take a bunch of stuff that was important, but it is hard to know what all is gone without being there. We are most upset about our friends that were beaten badly watching our home and the adjacent houses.
- Please pray for healing physically and mentally for our guards.
- Pray for wisdom for us to how to plan for our return to Congo in the future when the Ebola epidemic is finished.
- The CEUM leadership along with us need to come up with a security plan to make this kind of an armed robbery much less possible to happen again. This isn't just for us, but will affect any visits from Paul Carlson Partnership, Serve Globally, and others under the Covenant umbrella.
- Pray for us as we plan to work at the CEFA project in Central African Rep. We are in Bangui now in order to extend our visa. We had hoped to get a resident card but for now it is a new three-month visa. Praise the Lord that we did receive the visa and did not have to pay the existing caution expense on Americans of \$5000 beyond the visa cost. With this new visa we can return to

Yaoundé, Cameroon and drive to the western boarder of CAR and Cameroon in CAR at the CEFA farm for the time being, which is a CWRD funded project that Paul is involved in.

- Prayers to how to finance expenses incurred because of the robbery. Hopefully, insurance can help.
 - Continued prayers for the Ebola situation in Eastern Congo, that the spread can be stopped, healing for those sick, their families and for the medical staff catering for the sick.
 - For continued safe travels on the bad roads.
 - Continue to pray for the CEUM members and leadership of the Congo Church.
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- We thank and praise God for all our faithful supporters! Please pray with us that we can meet our goal for this year and for the increase in next year's support needs.
 - God's word and love to be seen in us and the church.

OUR IMMEDIATE PLANS

We plan to stay here in Bangui for the next few days. We are at a nice Baptist Mid Mission Guest house. Our Congo truck is to arrive to Zongo, the Congo port across the river from Bangui on Tuesday. Pastor Dole who oversees the Fish Project for the CEUM is coming to meet with fish farmers in Zongo and here in Bangui. Paul will also meet with them and return with Pastor Dole to Gemena, with permission from our Covenant security team, then on to Karawa.

Our focus for Paul going back is to share the burden of this with the CEUM, to care for guards who were hurt, and to plan with the CEUM for improved security. The main reason for this trip is not to deal with stuff, though that will have to be done, but to support the CEUM, to show solidarity at this time. President Duale requested this along with the rest of the CEUM leadership. We know that they care about our safety

and wouldn't ask Paul to return if they didn't think it was safe. Sheryl chooses not to go since it is a short trip with four long days of driving. Plus, this will give more time for Paul to devote to talking and working with the CEUM leaders, our friends, and community at Karawa about possible new strategies for security. Already the CEUM has put new measures in place.

Paul will need to take time to sort and pack away our clothes, and other items that were scattered around the house. The CEUM does not want to be responsible for trying to sort and pack. They would not know what might be missing or what things might be most important as far as documents and such go. Paul will try and make an inventory of items that we know are already missing and other items. This needs to be done for insurance and for us to know what we might need to replace before returning.

We do know that two new computers, house solar batteries, replacement solar regulators and inverters were taken and many of Paul's tools. However, we do want to make this trip about relationships and the future. We have lost our belongings in past evacuations, and we know that God provides what we need when we need it. We all have much more than we need so we trust God will be with us in all aspects of this incident.

Our **priority prayer** is for the health of our guards and their families. This was a serious trauma experience for them. We pray for complete healing of their bodies, minds, and for God to grant them peace.

Pray too for Paul as he listens, talks and prays with our dear friends. Pray for good discussions of what possibly can be done to make this type of robbery not occur again, not just for us but for the whole mission.

Pray for how the new security system or structures would be paid for as the CEUM would not have the funds to cover these types of security measures.

Please pray with us that Paul's presence at this time is meaningful to CEUM leaders, to mission

employees, and to the church in general.

Pray for good travel weather, safety on the roads and for safety during his time in Gemena and Karawa.

After Paul's trip to Congo

After Paul returns from Congo to Bangui he will fly back to Yaoundé. We both will drive out to the CEFA farm to work there for a month. We also have plans to be back in the States from about mid-October to mid-November for dental and doctor's appointments that we planned last year. Of course, meet SAdie and check up on the new parents and see how Ruth is doing at Tabor.) We hope by then we will be able to share what our plans will look like for going back to Karawa. We need to see if the Ebola situation gets better and allows us to go back to our area of work. It is still quite a long way off from the main CEUM area and where we live. We will never know, but we along with our church leaders and community think our house was targeted because we weren't home and maybe had a large amount of money left there. We did not. We are thankful we weren't present and don't take lightly what happened and want to do what we can so that doesn't happen again to our friends. There are many other people that could be targeted as well, and we are thankful that they weren't.

Thank you, it means quite a bit to us and our ministry partners that you are praying with us for the many needs in Congo.

Paul and Sheryl



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