

KENNEDY CLAN

Sep - Oct 2009

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Some day I am sure we will be able to get back into a routine, once again the last few months have been rather chaotic and brilliant. So when we left you last we were on our way out the door and setting off for the UK. We had no electricity for the last five days before we left due to the electricity meter doing a Guy Fawkes impersonation, and a good one I might add! The boys were very excited about the trip and we did make it to the UK after missing our connection in Paris and all that did was heighten the expectations on the side of the grandsons and the grandparents. Now, one needs to remember that from this point on the parents do not play a very big part in the story, it is all about the 'grands', the ones I have mentioned already.

It was great for the boys to be able to spend time with and get to know their grandparents; they loved the time out in the garden, cleaning up, digging, planting and reaping, even stuff that was not ripe! Plenty, and I mean plenty of reading time, thankfully there was usually a granny awake in the mornings so when the boys woke up they did not have to bother the parents.

Once again our time there also included a few days in Dublin visiting with Samuel and Lorraine, Garth's sister and her husband. Daniel was able to join the local school as they started off their new year. He had a great time and enjoyed himself, as did Timothy who was able to have Uncle Samuel all to himself in the mornings, and he just happened to have the best tool box in the world!

As always the problem with trying to pack so much into the time away is that you invariable miss certain things and people. We were able to have some great visits with friends and share in a number of churches as well as smaller groups. To those we were able to see and spend time with, thank you for your encouragement and patience with us, to those we did not get to meet up with, thank you also for your encouragement and patience with us.



The Kennedy's on time out

BENIN OPERATIONS

I mentioned last time that our new International Director for Africa was coming to visit; well he did and had a good time. Paul Cox, Station Director, was able to get him up to speed on our setup in this part of the world and he also made the journey up to Parakou to have a look at the Station and also visit with the TWR folk in town. (The Kennedy's had left already at this stage and were not able to meet with him).

Once again we praise God for the ongoing broadcasts and tireless activities going on in many parts of Africa that come together in our daily broadcasts.

Just to share with you a real testing time over the last few weeks was a situation we had with Lazare, who runs the Station operations, or rather a situation he was involved in. One evening after work he was on his way home when he was involved in an accident in which a man on a motorbike was killed. Lazare ended up spending almost a week in prison and had a number of court appearances before he was acquitted. It has not been an easy situation and many people were involved behind the scenes in trying to get the situation resolved. We thank God for the way things worked out, and do continue praying for Lazare as he works through the experience he has gone through and also for the family of the deceased. We do give praise for the things that we can see God doing through this situation but pray also for the tying up of all the loose ends involved.

Heading back to Benin we travelled with Samuel and Lorraine (Read their report on the last page). Once again it was good to travel with them and we enjoyed having them in our home as they were able to input into our lives. The boys loved having Uncle and Aunt around at their beck and call, now they need to settle back into a routine with Mom and Dad, something they have not had to do for months.

We have also had Kara with us here in Parakou; she arrived while we were away and now teaches Daniel for half the morning and the Cox girls for the rest of the morning. It has been great to have her around and I think the children (we had 12 kids from different parts of the country) will remember their survival weekend out at the Station that she helped organise. Please pray for her as she finishes up and heads back home at the beginning of December.

Our Praise and Prayer Items:

- Praise for the wonderful time out in the UK and Ireland
- Praise for the many people we were able to meet and get to know better
- Praise for a good trip back and time with Samuel and Lorraine
- Praise for safe arrival of Kara
- Praise for the situation with Lazare
- Pray for our trip to Togo in November as we join SIM in their annual conference
- Pray for Paul as he travels to SA for planning meetings
- Pray for the Cox family and Kara as they take some time out in November
- Pray for the work being done on the Short Wave licence application

We have very much been blessed and this was again evident in the many people we were able to talk to and see the last few months and also to all of you for your phone calls, emails and prayers, much appreciated.

G. Kennedy

God's Blessings
Garth and Fiona
Daniel and Timothy

F. Kennedy

I got to go to school at aunty rain's which was great except when they tried to make me speak Irish. It was much better at the school down the road from granny's because they did french and I got to play with the toys in the corner because it was too easy for me.

I was always looking out for the post man and was annoyed when he didn't bring me any letters, granny said that somebody had to post me something but I couldn't see why he couldn't just give me one of those in his bag...he had so many!

I missed 'browny' (Pet rabbit) very much and told everyone about him

.....we did take off in a biiiiiiiiing air france plane, then we landed and i wanted to take off in another one, my daddy was not very nice to me when we were waiting on the plane because i wanted to make a wee on the runway and he said no, my granny was better and she said yes to me for many things, play park, reading, eating drinking yoghurt, reading, playing in the garden, looking for hay bales, reading, then we had to go come home and I found all my old toys to play with...

Timothy's Tales

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Daniel

'Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God'
PSALM 20:7

BONUS MATERIAL

Visiting the Kennedy's

For the 3rd time Samuel and I went over to Benin for a holiday. It is really a holiday with the Kennedy's that happens to be in Benin. But for almost 3 weeks we could relax fully. No financial or social responsibilities (not speaking French is a bonus and we carry no local currency so we sponge off missionaries!). There are no malls to rush off to nor 'must see' things to get to. We get to play Uncle and Aunt and just be part of the family. The many things we so easily take for granted here are enjoyed in a new way; electricity, drinkable water, milk. Because we had been over before we also got to enjoy the local food and fellowship with mission folk we had met before- turkey wings and chili salt dip and yams. And this time we added ground nuts to the food we will be dreaming of on cold winter days.

We also get to indulge our enjoyment of birds. With the dam fixed and full, the bird life at the TWR site is even more interesting. We saw 3 kinds of kingfishers and a whole variety of raptors just sitting on the dam wall one morning.

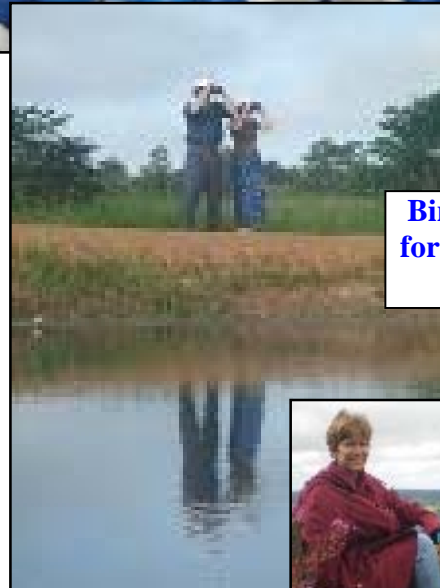
But I think what made it a real break for Samuel and I was the time you have just to chat, about anything and nothing. There is not only the time, but the many activities we are involved in at home, are not there. Well, except for Age of Empires played to the wee hours of the morning by some members of the family.

Thank you to all of you who support the Kennedy's, so they can continue to live where we can go on holiday! Above all our thanks to Garth and Fiona, Daniel and Timothy, for allowing us to have the break and rest we both needed.

Lorraine & Samuel



Hay bales and Ball park, all part of the fun!



Bird watching for Samuel and Lorraine



Walking in the hills and canoeing on the river Wye