

KENNEDY GANG

OCT - DEC 2010

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Aha, so just when you thought your inbox was getting a breather after the end of the year rush you get another email, more news from us, the Kennedys.

It has been a crazy few months for us, when is it not? But we have had a great time, God is good. The beginning of November saw the annual SIM conference in Parakou. Garth and Fiona were involved in the organising committee with another couple from SIM and a great week was had by all. It was good to catch up with many missionaries from around the region and see what everyone is up to and share in their joys and trials. The speaker really challenged us and gave us all something to think about.

December was celebration month, in more ways than one for us. Garth had a birthday on the 1st, I know now you feel bad as you forgot, but just tell him it is in the post and blame the Benin postal service. There was also Garth and Fiona's anniversary, 17 years of marriage on the 17th of December. Now you feel doubly bad!!

The week before Christmas we had an extra special celebration, a Carols by candlelight service down by Lake Bature*. In fact, a number of us went down before lunch and spent a great day just enjoying ourselves playing games, fishing, swimming, relaxing and reading. At sunset we all had a meal together and lit candles and pushed them onto the Lake, then had a service that was led by a couple from Switzerland. Extra special for us was that Daniel played the music for Silent Night on the piano and did a great job.

Christmas was spent in Parakou, the morning at church and then on for a late lunch and gift exchange with some other folk in town. It was a great celebration of Christ's birth and a day we thoroughly enjoyed. There was no taking it easy as the next day we headed for the beach and spent five days down there with a few friends. For the first time we have been able to swim in the sea every day, usually it is too rough and dangerous, the boys had an absolute fun time, going from beach to sea to pool to sea to pool to eat to bed!

*Lake at the TWR Transmitter Site



The boys playing cricket on the beach

BENIN OPERATIONS

A new year and some great challenges lie ahead of us. It has been quite a wait but finally we have been given the go ahead to continue construction on the boundary wall on the TWR property in Parakou. Just to give you some background, we bought some property in a new area in the northern part of Parakou. The land was surveyed and demarcated and assigned to the various owners, us included, and we started work. Then some family members of the previous owners, the ones who sold it to the people we bought it from, disputed the deal and complained to the local council. We are thankful that this issue now seems to have been resolved and the council have given us the go ahead to continue. Please continue to pray for this work and also fundraising to build houses and offices.

For the best part of the last two months we have had a couple here from Montana, USA. Sid and Betty are farmers and they are here to help us on the property development out at the Transmitter Station. Their knowledge, work and enthusiasm has been incredible and we are very thankful for what they have done and the new projects they have been working on. One of the things they helped with was our harvesting of the maize, somewhat different doing it by hand.

We have used our harvests to help those in need, please pray for us as we see more and more needs in the communities around us. The recent floods in Benin have caused many people to lose their crops in the fields, leaving them with nothing for the coming year. Please also pray for the resources we need to continue with these projects, we see large needs and are only able to do a small amount.

If you remember from our last Prayer Letter, I know that was last year some time, but we mentioned that we were heading back to South Africa for a few months. Things are still on track except for a slight change in our departure date, so we look forward to catching up with you. This is the phone number of where we will be for most of the time, +27 11 979 4453, so you have no excuse not to get hold of us!!! We would love to see you and have chance to catch up.

Our Praise and Prayer Items:

- Praise for a great Christmas and New Year celebrations
- Praise for the work done by Sid and Betty Kamps
- Praise for travel mercies as the Kennedys did a fair bit of local travel to Djougou, Natitingou and Grand Popo on some not so great roads
- Praise for a great few days away down on the coast for the whole family
- Praise that the issue with the TWR property in Parakou has been sorted out.
- Pray for the building work on the property in Parakou.
- Pray for an interesting and safe trip back to South Africa, we plan to leave Parakou on the 19th February and we arrive in Johannesburg on the 22nd February
- Pray for a good furlough and good times of rest and catching up with friends and family, and reconnecting with our church and supporters.

We look forward to catching up with some of you soon, thanks for walking this journey with us.

God's Blessings
Garth and Fiona
Daniel and Timothy

PS - to read and see more, www.kennedygang.net

F Kennedy

I am getting to be really big now, I keep measuring myself against my mom and she gets shorter every time. She even borrows my flip flops to wear outside sometimes if she cannot find her own shoes quickly. I am not sure why Dad keeps on snickering when he sees that. I got to play Silent Night on the piano with Auntie Kaye at the carol service, I was nervous with all those people looking at me but it was fun anyway. I did also catch many fish with the net the last time I went fishing with Dad and it was fun.

...life is too busy for me at the moment, i have had too much fun during the holidays, my mommy says i have too much energy, she wants some, we did go to the dam and do carols by the water and the best thing about the whole night was when the candle floats on the water started burning and we had a big fire on the water, i told my daddy to do that again next year, it was so much fun, then we went to the sea and all i did was swim in the sea and then in the pool and then in the sea and then in the pool, now every day when i wake up i ask if today is the day to go to south africa, but my daddy always says no, when are we going....

Timothy's Tales

PO BOX 13037
NORTHMEAD
1511
GAUTENG
SOUTH AFRICA



TWR BENIN
BP 1039
PARAKOU
REP DU BENIN
WEST AFRICA

EMAIL: garth@kennedygang.net

EMAIL: fiona@kennedygang.net

WEBSITE: www.kennedygang.net

GARTH CELL: +229 95 42 77 58

GARTH CELL: +229 97 15 73 22

FIONA CELL: +229 95 57 34 56

FIONA CELL: +229 97 18 00 20

TWR OFFICE: +229 23 10 20 55

Daniel

[Handwritten signature]

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