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May-June Prayer Letter

Goals:
Evangelism
Discipleship
Church Planting

Go ye therefore,
and teach all nations,
baptizing them
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Ghost:
teaching them to observe
all things whatsoever
I have commanded you
Matthew 28:19,20

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You know that feeling you get when you lose something important? Since the time I wrote our last prayer letter, we were able to obtain our visas, lose our visas, and reobtain our visas again.

I will start with how we obtained our visas by thanking you for your prayers. Working with government agencies is never a sure thing. Two of the missionaries with whom we are going to language school have to return to the United States just to apply for their visas. Another missionary family had to email their documents to a church near Washington D.C. so they could submit it at the embassy there. We are thankful that we did not have to spend the money or jump through hoops like that in order to get our visas. We had the opportunity to apply at the Ivorian embassy in Paris. Not only was it good French conversation practice, but we were also able to receive the visas in our passport in just a few days.

Now to the losing them part. These past two weeks, we have thoroughly enjoyed a visit from my family. It was great to have my parents and sisters here and not just see them through a screen. As usual, Adelynn especially enjoyed the extra attention. During their visit we took a train journey. On one occasion, we arrived at the station, there was a miscommunication, and the bag with our passports was left on the train. We went back to the platform, but the train had already left. I checked the lost and found at the station and it wasn't there. I called the next station on the line, and nobody turned in the bag there either. I called the next station where the train had not yet arrived, described the bag, and asked the station attendants to check the train for it during the stop. They called back and said that they searched the train, and the bag was not there. I tried to file a report where they contact all the train attendants and stations to search for the specific bag, but it could not be done as it was not a national train. I did file a report that would be processed in a few days, and they would contact me if it ever showed up. I had exhausted all of my options but prayer.

I prayed that a longshot would come through. I was hoping that the train was just going back and forth between two major cities. I figured if that was the case, it would arrive back in a few hours. Even though, the attendants said the bag was not on the train, I thought it wouldn't hurt to check what is hopefully the same train. A few hours later, a train arrives, and "voila!" there it is. I am grateful that we did not have to go through the process of getting our passports/visas replaced, especially in the time frame before our expected departure.

Speaking of that, we are excited to share with you that we have plane tickets purchased to the Ivory Coast for August 8th. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for the transition before and after we arrive. We still need to make preparations such as getting a prescription for malaria preventatives, packing, and other things while continuing in our last month of language school. When we get there, we will be looking for a house/apartment, car, furniture, etc. while continuing to learn the language. Although we are ending our official time of dedicated language learning, we still need your prayers as we continue to learn and grow in the French language. We greatly appreciate your prayers as a lot of big decisions will be made in these next two months and we are thankful to have co-laborers such as you.

-Josh, Alyssa, and Adelynn Clay

