



Josh & Alyssa Clay to MALI

November-December Prayer Letter

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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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Some of you may think I'm crazy for this opinion, but I really like snow. Many don't like having to shovel the driveway or the increased risk with driving. I've always enjoyed snow as it added to the Christmas season. This was our first Christmas where there wasn't the possibility of snow as I've never heard of it snowing when the "feels like temperature" is close to 100 degrees.

Despite the unusually warm weather and being away from family, the Lord still gave us many reasons to enjoy this holiday season. For example, we did get to feel like part of the Mach family and eat a great Christmas meal with them. We also got to celebrate with the church here as they do a Christmas service from 10pm to midnight. However, enjoying the Christmas season in Africa was mainly in remembering the true reason of Christmas doesn't have to do with weather or family. As you know, it has to do with Jesus coming to earth to die for us sins. That message is why we came to Africa.

These past two months we have enjoyed hearing and sharing that message through different opportunities. First, we have been telling a missionary story in each Sunday school class. The second opportunity that I am particularly excited about is the beginning of a Bible study program in the Basketball Center which I hope to start this next month. There are teenagers from Catholic, Muslim, and Christian backgrounds that play there. Please pray that I can build relationships with these teens as I am allowed this opportunity to share God's Word with them.

It has been helpful to start with such an established ministry as it provides some unique opportunities. Brother Mach hosted a pastoral conference for the national pastors here. I enjoyed making connections with many of them, improving my French, and learning things from the material as well. I was able to do the same thing the following week as there was a Bible Institute class for those in training.

We have enjoyed the different ministry opportunities and that brings me to an update on the Bible project. To be honest, I wasn't sure this was the best timing when my Pastor first brought the idea up. Our ministry fund is low after language school in France and the moving/set-up expenses, so if churches weren't able to give at this moment, we wouldn't be able to cover the whole expense. It is an ambitious amount of money to raise in a short amount of time, but it is always amazing to see how the Lord uses His people to provide. I had some good friends and a couple supporting churches who gave above and beyond. In particular Faith Baptist church in Pikeville, TN, gave more generously than I thought possible. We now have all the funds needed including some to cover those unforeseen expenses that always come up.

We are excited to start the printing process and get the Bibles over here next summer. We are looking forward to seeing how God will use His Word here in West Africa. Brother Mach mentioned that the national pastors act like it's Christmas when they are able to receive a box of Bibles. Please continue to pray for the project.

I also need to give another administrative update. It seems like I am changing my phone number every letter and I promise it's not to avoid you. I was able to find a way to get an American number for a much better price (Free!). So, I switched services which means my new American number is (937) 815-0618.

Thank you for reading through another one of my wordy prayer letters. We appreciate you taking time to pray for us. I also can't fail to mention how grateful we are to receive the extra Christmas support from so many of you. We are thrilled to continue laboring for Christ with you in this coming year.

-Josh, Alyssa, and Adelynn Clay

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