



Nehemiah, Miriam, Micah Joy, Donna & Paul

A new day for TWR in Africa (and a new responsibility for Paul)

On May 2, 2009, Dr. Emmanuel Mbennah was appointed the new international director for TWR Africa; his predecessor, Rev Stephen Boakye-Yiadom, died unexpectedly in June 2007. Shortly after the loss of Reverend Stephen, TWR's international president resigned, the subsequent search and appointment of Lauren Libby (the current TWR international president) significantly delayed the search and appointment of Dr. Mbennah. Everyone in TWR Africa is thrilled that Dr. Mbennah is at the helm and the long (and sometimes arduous) interim is over.

After four months of observation, Dr. Mbennah decided to re-evaluate, re-work and re-formulate the strategic plan for TWR Africa. At this point let me make clear that the objective of TWR to proclaim the gospel and provide biblical teaching remains unchanged. The strategic plan is the who, what, where, when and how of achieving the objective in the African context. Dr. Mbennah has asked me to join the team that is working on the

new strategic plan. This is a tremendous honor and privilege for me to be part of this team as we pray, reflect, plan and (with God's help) execute the re-formulated strategic plan. Being part of this team has required me to travel to South Africa two times in the last two months with another trip planned in November. This is on top of multiple trips to Cotonou (seven hour drive from where we live) to continue the work on the application for the short-wave license and other details.

Bible club

Donna has helped start a Bible club in our neighborhood. Many of the children are not churched. From the beginning of the planning it was made clear that this was to be Beninese; not an American or missionary thing. So our Beninese friend, Mrs. T., and her son, Jacques, are leading the Bible club. Jacques is very animated in telling the Bible story using pictures. He tells it in the Matinba language and then it is translated into Bariba and Dendi with some French thrown in as well. 28 children were at the first Bible club where the memory verse was written out on colorful paper and Jacques had each child say it. By the fourth child it had become a song. A promise of a surprise was given to those who could say/sing the verse next week. A teenage mother with her baby on her back exclaimed that her baby could not say the verse and Mrs. T. replied that the mother could say it. Mrs. T. then went on to tell the mother that it is very important to sing the verse to the baby so that when she grows older she will know it.

See the blogs at
www.cox-net.com
for the most up-to-date
prayer requests and family
information.

On the Family Front

Nehemiah LOVES Rift Valley Academy! Why shouldn't he? He is in a dorm with 17 other 7th grade boys. He has made a really good friend that he talks about often. They have a huge library. As long as his grades are good and his homework is done, he gets to play Nintendo during free time with 17 other boys. He likes his teachers and even loves most of them. They have middle school youth group. His dorm parents are awesome but are still a lot like mom and dad. There have been a few adjustments like sharing a room, keeping up with and turning in many assignments, and finding his way around the campus including the lost and found. Paul had the opportunity to visit him in October and is very encouraged at how well he is doing. He told us several times that we have to send his sisters in 6th grade. "They will LOVE IT."



Kara (short termer) & Donna

We have a short-termer named Kara living with us for three months helping with the school and exploring missions. Paul being away traveling has allowed for some great girl times. We have had many tea parties, baking parties, and girl movie parties. Even school is a bit more girl-centered with dancing (not just listening) to folk songs in American History. Nehemiah is greatly missed with his wealth of knowledge in History and Science. Often the girls say, "maybe we should email that question to Nehemiah, Mom."

Prayer Items

Praises

- Health - for the most part we have been healthy
- Safe travel for Paul during his voyages
- Productive meetings in South Africa and a good start on the strategic plan
- Nehemiah's excellent adjustment to life at RVA

Prayer requests

- Safe travel for Paul on up-coming trips
- Wisdom and insight for Paul as he helps with the strategic plan
- Nehemiah at boarding school and returning alone from Kenya at the end of November

Top 10 Thankful List for 2009

- 10 A good Internet connection (most days)
- 9 Great missionary community
- 8 The TWR team in Benin (especially the leaders)
- 7 Time spent with families during home assignment in the US
- 6 God's timing in our being in the US to help with the health issues of our parents
- 5 Opportunities to share in churches while in the US
- 4 Nehemiah doing well in boarding school
- 3 God's continued provision (especially in light of the economic crisis)
- 2 Tremendous grace and peace of God in the midst of battles
- ... and the number one thing ...
- 1 Tremendous joy in serving the Savior in Benin

Contacting the Cox Family

If you would like to get in contact with us you may call **214-764-3929** (do not forget the time difference, we are +1 UTC / GMT). At minimum you will be able to leave a voice message that we check regularly. If you are really lucky and God smiles upon you, you might even get to talk to us. Alternatively (and if you like large phone bills) you can try our cell phone in Benin. Normally you have to dial two, three, five or eight times before the call goes through - good luck. Paul: **+229 95 27 29 94** and Donna: **+229 95 30 84 19**. Also as a reminder, we rarely receive mail or packages that are sent to us. So, in lieu of packages through the mail we would like to encourage you to pray for us or send us an email: **family@cox-net.com**. Please send financial support to: TWR, PO Box 8700, Cary NC 27512. Please ensure Paul & Donna Cox is on the memo line.