

# The Stadlander Story

*A newsletter of a missionary family in West Africa*

Volume 5, Issue 2

April 2010

## *Easter's Independence*

### **We Pray:**

- For newly baptized Fulani Christians and their parents, that they may be a light to others.
- For Senegal's people and government, that they continue to work towards a fair and sustainable democracy.
- For the production and distribution of newly recorded Pulaar audio bibles.
- For Fulani people who will hear the word of God in their own language, that it speaks to their hearts.
- For the Pulaar-speaking Christian Community's new relationship with the Lutheran Church of Senegal.

### **Inside this Issue:**

Easter 1  
Proclaimer Recording 2

Easter fell on Independence Day here in Senegal. Not only that, but it was the 50th anniversary of Senegal's independence from France. Due to the many planned celebrations and activities, the Christian community here in Linguere decided to hold its Easter celebration on Saturday night. Worship was at 6pm, followed by a community meal of mutton and potatoes in an onion sauce, eaten with bread. A couple rounds of *toufam* (a favorite Fulani sweet yogurt drink) followed.

An exciting part of our Easter worship was the baptism rite. Six babies and children were baptized during the service. The baptismal font was a carved wooden bowl, traditionally used for milk and couscous in Fulani culture. It was wonderful to see these children welcomed into this small community of faith, supported by so many Fulani Christians. Not only were regular

worshippers present at the service, but many of the Christians who live farther from Linguere were able to come into town.

The following day was an unusual Easter for a pastor's family, having no church services. Our colleagues, the Grow-Hanson family, came up from Dakar for Easter weekend. The kids hid and hunted Easter eggs in the morning. Then everyone walked to the Independence Day parade to watch schools, performing groups, and military file by. We had an American-style Easter dinner with pork roast and mashed potatoes. As wrestling is very popular here in Senegal, we watched some matches on TV. We finished off the evening with an Easter hymn sing. We hope your celebration of Christ's resurrection was as enjoyable as ours.



*Pastor Dirk, Sarah, Eva, & Ellen Stadlander are ELCA Missionaries serving with the Lutheran Church of Senegal*

## *So That All May Hear...*

There is an organization called “Faith Comes By Hearing” whose mission is to provide audio bibles in as many languages as they can. They make a digital player containing the entire New Testament called a “Proclaimer” that can be plugged in, hand cranked, or charged by solar power. It produces digital quality sound that can be heard by up to 300 people at a time.

([www.faithcomesbyhearing.com](http://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com)) This organization sent two Ghanaian technicians to Linguere for nearly a month to record the New Testament in Pulaar. The project was housed in the ELCA mission’s guesthouse. The technicians recorded the voices of many Linguere Fulani Christians as well as others from around Senegal. COTAT translators, Malick Sy and Samba Coulibaly, assisted the technicians (who spoke no Pulaar) in the recording and editing process.

Faith Comes By Hearing also recorded the Serer language, which is spoken by a majority of the Lutheran Church of Senegal. We are excited by their work and see the Proclaimer as an exciting tool for bringing the Bible to many illiterate people in Senegal.

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### *Thank You*

**Your participation in sharing God’s love in Christ is very exciting for us. We are supported by you through prayer, interaction, and financial giving. Thank you for all that you do to make it possible for us to continue to serve in Christ’s name in Senegal. For more information about giving globally through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, please contact:**

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Large crowds gathered for Linguere’s Independence Day Parade. A comedy troupe does a parody of military marching, foreground.



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