

The Stadlander Story

A newsletter of a missionary family in West Africa

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Sunday School on Wednesday?

We Pray:

- For the children of the Linguere Congregation and their parents, that they learn the love of God in such a way that they can share it with others.
- For all those who labor in Linguere, that they are protected from injury and continue to serve their neighbors.
- For all people living in the Jolof as hot season begins to take hold and rainy season is right around the corner.
- For the Pulaar-speaking Christian Community's new relationship with the Lutheran Church of Senegal.

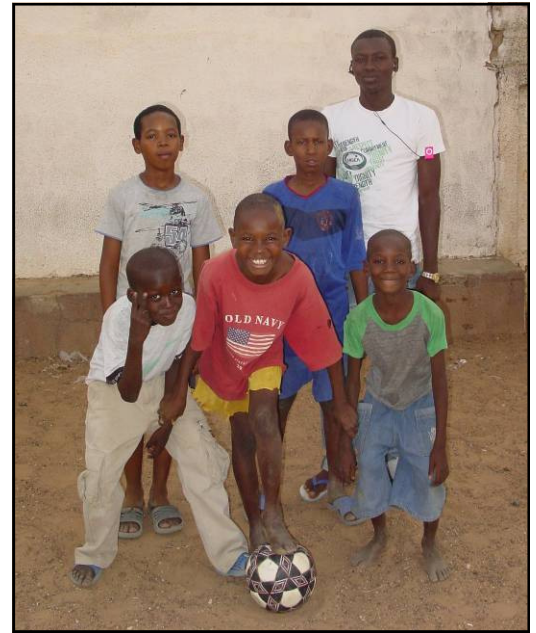
**Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.**

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The Linguere congregation is blessed with many children on Sunday mornings, so Sarah volunteered to help teach Sunday school to the twenty or so children. Babacar DIALLO, a young man who recently attended a church planting seminar, was chosen by the congregation to help out. Most of the children speak either Pulaar or Wolof at home, so Babacar's help is indispensable as Sarah prepares and teaches lessons in French. Babacar is also quite proficient at crowd control. The community's hope is that he will work more and more with both children and adolescents acting as a "big brother" and encouraging a Christian walk. Many of the children are the only Christians in their classes at school.

In Linguere, our Sunday school time is during the sermon with the children returning during the prayers of the church, but Dirk and Babacar also take the "show on the road" to Dahra, a town 30 miles west of Linguere, on Wednesday afternoons. Three brothers, the sons of a member of the congregation living in Dahra, were baptized at the Easter Vigil. So, on Wednesday afternoons Babacar and Dirk are invited into a private home to teach. The past few times, two children from Lin-



Sunday School—Dahra Edition gathers on a Wednesday for a "team" photo. "Coach" Babacar DIALLO is standing in back.

guere have also come along to have fun with the Dahra kids and also to reduce the stress of one-on-one learning. As in Linguere, Babacar works as an interpreter making sure the message is understood.

A recent highlight for the children of the Linguere congregation was the gift of a soccer ball from a congregation in Finland. Our colleague, Marko Hanslian, who works with the bible translation team, brought the ball and presented it to the youth during his sermon which compared the Holy Spirit to a defensive player, the sweeper, on a soccer field!

Linguere Repairs

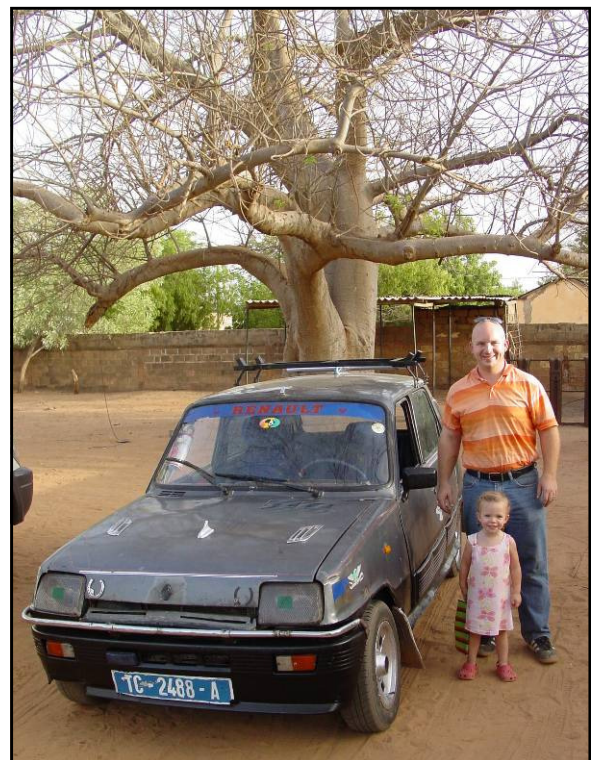
Linguere is definitely not a repository of skilled repair technicians for things like refrigerators, air conditioners, computers, or the like, but there are many who get certain jobs done well enough. Dirk repaired our washing machine by buying (in Dakar) a replacement for the broken pulley, but enlisted the help of a modern day blacksmith to help free a seized bearing in our swamp cooler so that we can continue to cool our house during the hot/dry season with cool, moist air. This same local blacksmith helped Dirk earlier this year out of a tough situation:

It was the Sunday evening that a group of ELCA visitors left Linguere, and I stopped at the post office. Thinking better of leaving the truck doors unlocked with my bag containing the money from the Offering Festival, I locked the doors. After checking the mail I saw that along with the bag and offering, I also locked the keys inside. The only other key had recently been broken in two pieces, so I thought the third key would need to be brought up from Dakar. With a defeated attitude I took the broken key to the blacksmith, who said, "No problem." The key was welded back together, the grooves were cleaned up with a hacksaw blade, and voilà, the door was open!

Refrigerators and computers may still pose problems, but if a problem is encountered the workers here will try to solve it!



decided to buy a little car (Renault 5) for Sarah to drive Eva to/from school and for other in-town jaunts. Ellen holds a mint that fell out of Dirk's pocket and Dirk holds two spiritual charms the former owner had attached to the brake pedal and the steering column in hopes of divine protection!



Our contact information:

Mail:

**Dirk STADTLANDER
B.P. 41
Linguère
SENEGAL**

E-mail:

dirknsarah@hotmail.com

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:

**The Reverend Twila Schock
Director for Global Mission Support
8765 W. Higgins Rd. (800) 638 - 3522
Chicago, IL 60631 Twila.Schock@elca.org
<< www.elca.org/missionarysupport >>**

Ellen and Dirk with our new "town car." With Dirk's frequent trips, we

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