



# Rain Madou

April 2021

Dear Friends,

By now anyone that has been following us since we moved to Siguiri knows what Ramadan is. Or if you have any Muslim friends, you're familiar with the month long fast that happens each year. Ramadan started this week, once again smack in the middle of the hottest time of the year. What we have found is that it seems to be an extremely spiritual time, at least in some parts of the world. For the Muslim, this is a time to focus on Allah and pray that he will reveal himself to them more clearly. For us as Christians, it is a time to pray that, as our Muslim friends are praying to know who they call Allah, the true God will make Himself known to them in a real way.

I'm excited to share a little about what our Discovery Bible Study groups are up to. We can never tell when a group is going to "stick" and succeed and when it's going to just sink. We've been working to get a group going at the home of our day guard, Kaba, for over a year now. It wasn't our idea; it was his son's idea. The very first meeting was well attended but after that it was downhill. At one point Tim cancelled them, then recently the son decided they should get them going again. The first week, Tim went over to the house every day to remind everyone they'd be meeting on Sunday. That first week was a strong week with much of the family there and some from the neighborhood. But for the next 2 weeks there was no one there, so the class has been cancelled again. Pray for this group. If people don't make this a priority it will fall apart as we've seen with several other groups.

Meanwhile, our second generation leaders have had some encouraging things happen. Kwaku has just gone great guns. Remember, he visited a village, one in which we've given wheelchairs and crutches from our Orphan Grain Train container, and found several people willing to meet. He has been paired with John for teaching. They are both from Ghana and speak English, but John knows Maninka much better as he's married to one (Ami). Since we wrote last month about the imam joining them, another imam has started coming. It turns out, one of them has an old Maninka Bible he's had for years. The old translation, which was later deemed 'not reliable' has been out of print for over 20 years. A new translation is currently in the works. But for some reason this man has held onto this book. Every now and then we see signs that God has already been ahead of us and maybe ready to water and nurture some very old seeds! Pray for this strange group and for those seeds long ago planted.

Amadou and Bala were paired together, both of a Muslim background (called MBBs, Muslim Background Believers) and both Maninka men. They've been pretty relentless in finding people to gather, never giving up even when some attempts have failed. The men in Bala's first group decided they'd rather be out hunting gold and eventually fell apart. But he went out and found some folks in another village ready to learn, so started up there. Then recently his first group came back and said they'd really like to start up again! Amadou has been meeting with a man that had been coming to our church but left some time ago, frustrated with how few material goods he could get. We always believed, though, that it was deeper than that for him. He'd also faced a lot of persecution for becoming a Christian, so these meetings are perfect for him. Pray for these groups as well, and for Amadou and Bala as they go out and teach.



JOHN  
KWAKU

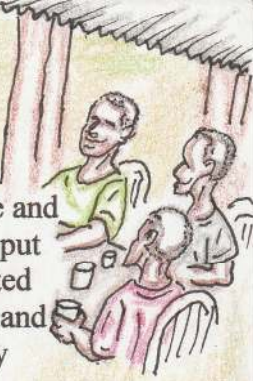
AMADOU

BALA





And then there's Moriba. If you remember, he was part of a church group of 3 men that were and are still meeting together, 2 single men and 1 with a family. One single man is a teacher and put the group on hold for a long time. But Moriba, also an MBB, knew too many people he wanted to share with. Many apparently come and ask him questions, and now, armed with Scripture and a method, he was ready to get to it, so he started his own group. He really likes this discovery method because rather than just arguing with each other about who is right, they are reading, questioning and discussing. Recently Moriba was asked by someone in his group for a French Bible. The man said that he'd had a Bible years ago but it's gone. So we gave Moriba a Bible for him. Pray for "I" as he said he has to keep the book hidden. If his family finds it, they will give him a lot of trouble.



We'd like to thank you all for praying for the clinic as well. This was the closest we've come to closing it all down, or at least "repurposing" it into something besides medical. After losing our 4<sup>th</sup> doctor, stories started coming out about what money shenanigans have been going on, such as overcharging people in the lab to give extra pay to the doctor. Here we work hard to keep prices down for people, and my staff was ripping them off. After much prayer and review, as well as counsel from others here and across the pond, it seems that God is leading us to at least leave it open for now. There seems to be a big need for education especially in the "well-baby" area, how to care for infants, what to feed them, what shots they need, tracking weight, etc. But we'll need people to do that. Please pray that God leads in this. He seems very clear that we leave our hands off as far as closing it down, so we have to believe there is a plan. Lord, give us patience and wisdom!!



I'll close with a post I shared on Facebook last week as some of you probably haven't seen it: Every Wednesday (what we call "Maninka Wednesday") Tim goes up to one of the two hills on either side of town and spends time praying over Siguiuri. Some time ago a couple of kids started following him up there. He was, at first, a little annoyed, as he considered this more a private time and didn't need kids up there making noise. But he noticed at the end that the kids had their hands out in prayer position! The second time this happened he heard some kids calling some other kids to follow them and heard someone say, "Allah matara" (praying to God). Up they all went. Last evening Tim wasn't feeling all that great and since he's been sick has had a bit of trouble running as he did before. So his climb up the hill yesterday was at walking pace. Soon he noticed that kids were following and more were gathering as they climbed; children from about age 12 down to just wee little ones, one girl carrying a child on her back. When they got to the top, Tim turned to the children and asked in Maninka, "OK, what do we do now?" They spread their hands and replied, "Allah matara." Now that his Maninka is better, he prays much more specifically, and there was with the next generation right there praying with him! Had he been feeling in tip top shape he'd have probably sprinted up that hill and left many behind. He even said that on the way back down suddenly his legs weren't shaky anymore, and he felt more normal. Maybe God would like His little ones to learn that they can talk to Him in Jesus's name! May these seeds planted through prayer someday yield a harvest beyond imagination!



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In Jesus,  
*Tim + Beth*  
Tim and Beth >>

