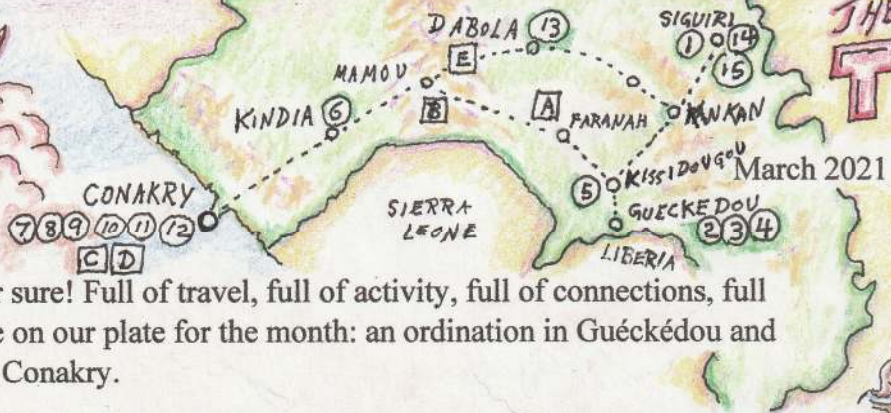


THE TRIP



March 2021



Dear Friends,

This month has been full for sure! Full of travel, full of activity, full of connections, full of...police? Two items were on our plate for the month: an ordination in Guéckédou and application for new visas in Conakry.

① 2-25
LEAVE
SIGUIRI



③ 2-27
ORDINATIONS
+
INSTALLATION
OF OFFICERS



⑤ 3-1
CAR
MAINTENANCE
IN
KISSIDOUGOU

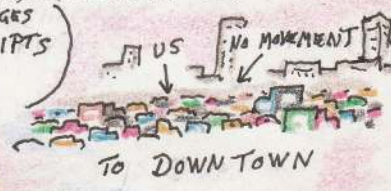


⑦ 3-3
KINDIA
TO
CONAKRY

⑧ 3-4
VISA WORK



ORIGINAL VISA CHARGES
PAYMENT RECEIPTS
LEFT IN
MACHINE



② ARRIVE
GUECKEDOU
2-6
MEETINGS
WITH LEADERS



⑥ 3-2
LONG HARD
DRIVE TO
KINDIA +...

A 1st ARREST
(NOT WEARING
MASKS IN
CLOSED
PRIVATE CAR)

B FLAT TIRE

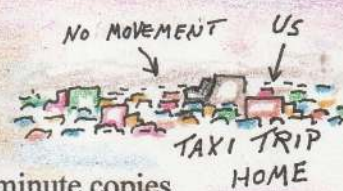
Shortly before we left for the ordination a decree came out from the president that Guinea would be once again tightening covid rules. We've all gotten quite lax since there don't seem to be a lot of cases, however some have popped up recently, and we have also had some recent cases of Ebola raising its ugly head again. So the mask mandate was back as well as social distancing. A negative test is required to travel anywhere in country as well. This wasn't an issue as we can get tested for free just nearby our clinic. So after carefully preparing our dossier for our new visas, getting our covid tests, and making sure we had all we needed to travel, we were off.

We left Siguiri at the end of February, headed to the Forest Region of Guinea. If you've been with us a while, you'll remember that we started our work here in that region of the country, in Guéckédou, where refugees had already been working to start churches. In 2000 war spilled over from Sierra Leone and we had to relocate, but the Lutheran church in Guinea has been based there from the start. Tim has trained many leaders from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. This month we had the blessing of attending the ordination of three more men that have completed seminary training: Moses Boiyoe, originally from Liberia, Edward Korfeh from Sierra Leone, and Jacob Millimouno from Guinea. The service was a real celebration with a reminder from Tim in the sermon of what it means to be a "minister"/servant.

I need to clarify when I say we had the blessing of attending that I'm referring only to the visit. The travel in Guinea has become even more frightening. We're in the dry season, so we avoided what many have had to experience with vehicles getting stuck in the slop and trips taking 2 or 3 times the time they normally take. But with dry season then comes wash boarding and thick, thick dust which can be dangerous when you have no idea what's a foot in front of you or what might be coming at you if you pass. Many vehicles have no taillights, so many prayers go up! We're so thankful we didn't have anything more than a flat tire the entire time. But it's about impossible nowadays to make Conakry to Siguiri in one day, or even Guéckédou to Conakry. The good news is that there is work on the roads going on all over the place. In some places the roads have been widened enough so you're not as often stuck behind a slow-moving truck but can pass safely and with ease (if there's no dust!) That's a blessing!

Following the ordination, we packed up our things and headed to Conakry (two days in my opinion; one ugly day if you're Tim) It's been almost 3 years since we were there, so it was good to visit again. The last time we went we could hardly go out because of rioting going on. This time things were fairly calm, so we were able to get around, see our old stomping grounds, and visit with both new and old friends. Of course our objective was to get our applications in for the new biometric visas now required here. This meant putting together a rather large dossier of papers, paying ahead of time and bringing a receipt, and traveling into downtown Conakry where no one enjoys going ever. I was so proud of myself for having everything in order, but then on

⑧ 3-4
VISA WORK
(CONT.)



the morning we were headed downtown I rushed into the office to make some last minute copies of our dossier and proceeded to leave the receipts in the copier. Frustration and tears, but we were able to get someone to bring them down for us, thankfully! Tim was also able to preach at our church in Petit Simbaya (Conakry) where newly ordained Pastor Edward Korfeh is serving.

As for the police comment above, we got caught on the way down without masks...in the car! Then again in Conakry with three people in our front seat when we gave one man a lift to his office after he helped us withdraw some money. We weren't social distanced (even though we'd recently been stuffed into the back seat of a taxi with 4 people in a small car!) Our guest gave us some really poor advice on how to handle things and in the end, the police took off with all our car papers, and our new friend took off on foot back to his office. So there we sat! We looked and looked for the policeman who had the papers and he was nowhere to be found. We finally found another policeman who said he'd go look for the first guy (price: 3 liters of fuel) and came back having at least found our papers at the larger police station a few miles away. He led us there and we ended up with a very nice chief who loved that we were with the church. No fine, and we were able to pray for him before we left. Because the trip was longer than we'd planned, our covid tests had expired and, we found out at one checkpoint, so had our car insurance. So there was plenty of stress along the way, but we made it home safely on a Saturday afternoon.

Sunday morning Tim woke up sick. He thought about pushing to go to church, but having just been traveling and with all the diseases floating around now we decided to just stay put until we knew what we were dealing with. I called our lab tech who came right to the house to do a blood test. He later delivered the results: malaria. Meanwhile Tim went downhill very quickly, so we called our nurse and she ran to get all she needed to set up a quinine drip here at the house. Don't we have a great team?! He's better now, thank the good Lord, but I imagine it'll be a while before we do a big trip like that again!

We found things going pretty well when we got back. The big news was from Kwaku, who is going great guns with his DMM classes. Remember he started 3 in the same village. While we were gone, one of the men he's been talking to brought along an imam. They say together and talked about the classes, and both men said that they wanted to try and bring their families as well!! Even though Kwaku is just starting these classes in this village, he's already talking about moving on to the next village when he's done! I told Tim that I've always known he had an evangelist's heart, even more so than a pastor. God seems to have put him where he needs to be right now. Please pray that God will also give him the "wherewithal" to convey what needs to be conveyed through these lessons, and that the Holy Spirit will take that "wherewithal" and water and grow it into life-giving faith! Remember also our other men out starting on their own: John, Moriba, Bala, and Amadou. May God use these men to plant seeds across this whole area!

To support our work:
Global Lutheran Outreach
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For the work of Tim and Beth Heiney



In Jesus,
John +
Beth
Tim and beth >>



⑩ 3-7
PREACH AT
PETIT SIMBAYA
CHURCH
+ VISIT TAMBOL'YA
CHURCH



① 3RD ARREST
CHURCH MEMBER
IN CAR WHO
TOLD ME TO
TURN THE
WRONG WAY
KNEW THE
ARRESTING
OFFICER
(HE LET US GO)



⑫ 3-10
TRY TO GET
COVID TEST
FOR RETURN
UNABLE
STATUS:
ILLEGAL!



⑭ 3-13
BACK TO
SIGUIRI!



⑨ 3-(5+6)
SHOPPING
BANKING
+



① 2ND
ARREST:
3 IN FRONT
SEAT



⑪ 3-8
DOWN TOWN
FOR CONTINUED
VISA WORK -
FINGERPRINTS



⑬ 3-12
TO DABOLA
+



① 4TH
ARREST:
EXPIRED INSURANCE
(BY 3 DAYS)
400,000 FRANC FINE
(\$40)

⑮ 3-(13-18) TIM GETS MALARIA!

