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# The Diédhiou family



Oct 2023



### **Contact us:**

Dear friends,

## Finding new routines

It's a year and a half since we moved to Thies, and we have finally got some semblance of a more normal weekly rhythm, after everything that has happened in the past 18 months: travelling to NI, Adele's birth, settling back into Thies, Francis starting nursery, getting the new offices ready, Séba's operation, and a summer filled with house guests. We are thankful for God's presence with us through this eventful period. And we are glad to be settling into new normals.



My host mum, Adele's namesake, spent a day with us while she was in a nearby town visiting her daughter.

Francis went back to nursery in early September and is happy to be back. He goes five mornings plus two afternoons, so he usually eats at the canteen on those two days, making it a long day for a just-turned-four-year-old, but he seems to be taking it all in his stride. He is in a combined class for the first two year-groups of nursery, so he is enjoying being one of the "big boys" this year. A highlight of his week is getting to bring home a new, French,



Adele helping to clean the offices (behind the camera is a sand pit – the real reason she's there!). Clare's office is the third and fourth windows on the first floor at the left of this photo, and Séba's is just underneath.

library book each Friday.

Adele is at home with our nanny, Tata Leontine, three days a week, and Séba and I each have one day a week at home. She loves to sing and dance, and if anyone leaves the house she always wants to go with them. She only has a handful of words, but finds other ways to get her point across patting your knee to get your attention, or taking you by the finger and dragging you off.

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Francis turned 4 on 8<sup>th</sup> October

Séba stopped using his crutches about a month ago, which is a great encouragement. He still has to take it easy as he tires quickly, but he has even managed to walk from our house to the office a couple of times (5 minutes at a normal walking pace – on sandy roads). His physio was away for a month and recently returned; he was happy with Séba's continued progress in his absence. They will now continue weekly sessions.



## At the office

Clare has had lots of meetings recently – both with colleagues,

We spent a week in August in an Airbnb with a swimming pool, near the beach. We were joined for the first days by our colleague, Liz. Fun was had by everyone!

and with other organisations, considering whether we can partner together for different projects. For example, our organisation worked in one language about 20 years ago. Some Scripture portions were translated but the project came to an end when those involved had to move away. Another organisation have had two families learning that language for the past couple of years, and they are interested in Bible translation. Therefore, we are putting things in place to give them permission to use the work that has already been done and to continue it.

Séba has learnt how to duplicate SD cards, so that once recordings are made in local languages, they can be distributed. He also continues to supervise the remaining work to finish off our new offices (the air conditioning unit in Clare's office has never worked – it finally got replaced last week!) as well as the regular maintenance that is required to keep things running. We have over 100 solar panels, which produce enough electricity to enable us to be fully solar-powered most of the time, but given the dusty climate they need regular cleaning – that's just one of the things Séba coordinates as office manager.

## **Upcoming travels**

Clare and Adele are getting ready to go on an adventure: a trip to Kenya. Clare has seven days of meetings, and as Séba continues to recover from his operation, we decided it was best for Adele to go with her rather than Séba having both kids to himself.

We then hope to make a family trip to Ziguinchor around Christmas time, similar to last



year. Exact plans are still to be decided, including whether we'll manage to see Séba's parents.

Until next time, Clare and Séba

## Praise and prayer

Give thanks that Séba is walking without crutches. Pray that he would fully regain his strength and balance.

Give thanks that Francis has settled happily back at nursery. Pray for him as he juggles multiple languages on a daily basis.

Give thanks for our holiday in August. Pray that we would each be able to manage our responsibilities at work and at home.

Please pray for Clare and Adele's trip to Kenya, from 25 Nov to 5 Dec. Pray that Clare's meetings would go well and that Adele would warm up quickly to the childminder who will be looking after her. Pray too for Francis and Séba back home – Clare has never been away from Francis for so long either.

Give thanks that work is moving forward on the new centre. Pray that things would continue to be ticked off the to-do list and that soon we wouldn't have workmen constantly coming and going!

If you would be interested in praying for us or in supporting us, either with a one-off gift or by standing order, please contact Lynn Orr for more information. Alternatively, cheques payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators can be accompanied with a covering note explaining it is for Clare Orr and sent to Wycliffe UK direct. You can also give online at <u>https://wycliffe.org.uk/</u> <u>support/Clare+Seba+Diedhiou</u> Gift Aid forms are available on request.

Some of our solar panels