

Nuts & Bolts

May 2010

All in good time.....

Good things come to those who wait as we've all heard often enough as children! Well since we took delivery of our Toyota Landcruiser in August last year we have been waiting to receive the permanent registration plates! The temporary plates, a plastic sticker, had to be renewed once, so our car has already had two different rego numbers!

Well, in late April Lisa returned from a Cotonou trip where she is busy getting a Guest house bathroom renovated and guess what? Yes, our Landcruiser is now officially and fully registered, with proper plates! No more renewing the paperwork each month and being mistaken as a "port" car by the police. It took nine months, but it happened!



Look at our plates!!!!

Under control for another year!

As you may remember we have shared the need for funds for the Benin Leadership Training project in the last couple of Nuts & Bolts. Unfortunately this did not produce any results that we are aware of, but the story has a happy ending all the same (at least for this year!).

As well as making the need known, Neil put in a grant application to an English organisation that helped out last year and once again they have come forward with assistance! This is especially encouraging as we have a student graduating this year at a theological college in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and the last year can be quite expensive.

Please pray for the Scholarship Committee that Neil is a part of, which will be meeting in June to

consider new candidates for the coming few years. They will need God's wisdom as to who to accept, and who to refuse. The latter not an easy thing in the African context! Our partner church the UEEB, has approximately 400 churches but only 250 trained pastors.



The Kpétéré family studying in Niamey, Niger.

Garage sale on a grand scale:

Working on the mission field is sometimes very "down to earth", especially for those of us in the service type ministries. If you have been following our progress here in Benin for a while you may remember that when we arrived here we discovered store rooms full of old household equipment that had belonged to past missionaries. As Station Manager, Neil is responsible for keeping things in order, so way back in 2004 we had what we think was the first Garage sale for SIM Benin to clear the backlog of old stuff.



The "Checkout" for the 2010 Garage Sale!

Well, six years on we have done it again! Naturally we thought, seeing as we had done a Garage sale once already, this next one would not be so big. Well, we think it was bigger! What was really cool though this time is that the profit from all the items sold (approx \$800 AUD) went towards the National UEEB church's head office, which often struggles to make ends meet. Pray that they will use the funds wisely and for God's glory.

They are getting older....

As this Nuts & Bolts goes to print our eldest Bethany will be turning 15, on the 24th of May! We were up in Niamey for Mother's Day weekend in early May, and as we wouldn't be there on the actual day we had the traditional cake, and she scored an early birthday present.



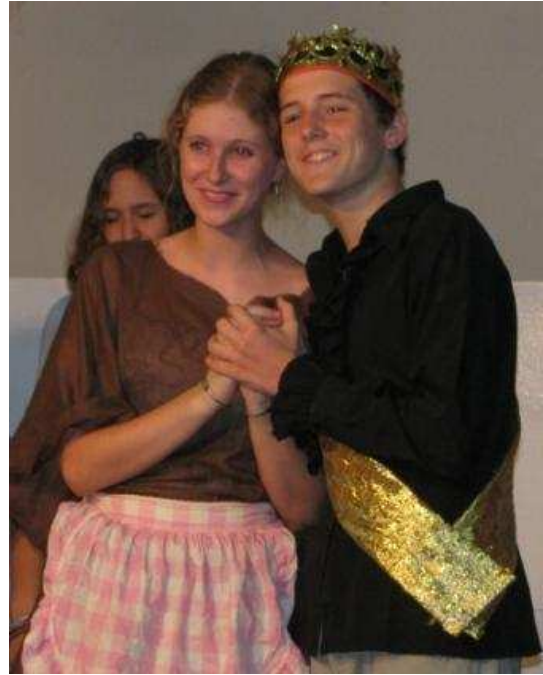
Bethany and Hannah. Getting ready to attack the cake!

Hannah turns 12 on July 19th, and is finishing primary school in early June. We are so thankful for the way she has recovered from her broken arm and is even now back on the roller blades (with protection of course!).

Acting up!

Besides being together for Mother's Day and an early celebration of Beth's birthday, a key reason for our latest trip to Niamey was to see Bethany and Joshua perform in the annual school drama presentation. This year it was a series of short pantomimes of well known (but slightly reinterpreted!) fairy tales, such as Cinderella, Jack & the Beanstalk, Mother Goose etc.

Bethany's main role was the mother in Mother Goose, as well as one of the ugly step sisters in Cinderella. Joshua charmed the crowd as Prince Charming in Cinderella, as well as narrated one of the other plays. Everything was in rhyme. Little did our kids know that they were following in the footsteps of their mother! Their father having never performed in any play that he is aware of!



Joshua hamming it up as Prince Charming!

Surgery on the edge of the desert!

Neil discovered recently that age was catching up to him too. After a consultation with a missionary doctor in Parakou, he was diagnosed with a small hernia that needed attention as soon as possible. So after our visit to Niamey in early May we continued on to the SIM Galmi hospital, situated on the southern edge of the Sahara desert, to see what the next step was.

What was to be just another consultation turned into actual surgery, with a visiting American surgeon and anaesthesiologist putting things right for Neil. This has meant enforced idleness with the doctor's orders being to remain horizontal as much as possible for the first couple of weeks, no driving, no lifting (and the list goes on) for a few weeks.

Neil has managed to continue project report translating and writing with the laptop on the bed, but pray he will be wise in his activities as idleness is not his strength!

That's our news & thank you for your prayers,

Neil & Lisa, Bethany, Joshua and Hannah.

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