

West Africa OneStory to Guinea, West Africa Konyanka People Group Brittany Bedford



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Friday, November 28, 2008

Happy Thanksgiving

Hey My People,

So a common greeting or leavetaking here is to say that you should greet your people so consider yourself greeted by all my African friends here!

Here is some of how village life is and then the blog has pics of it too. My partner, Amanda, and I spent 5 days in a village up on a mountain with Kacy, another One Story girl fluent in the Maninka language. Her local story crafter Andre, the only Christian in his village, was our host. A "typical" day may have looked like this: We would wake around 7 from sleeping in our bug net inside our mud hut. First you go around greeting everyone and then you take a hot bucket bath (they boil the water). In the morning we would maybe go greet someone and chat, mostly just listen for me, or watch the women prepare food. Lunch was usually some sort of rice and sauce.

In the afternoons we would go to the field and help a woman pull her peanuts. Then we would come back and take another bath and do our devotions before dark and dinner. Sometimes it is tho, a mushy non-favorite of mine, or sometimes rice or another type of millet with sauce. Then we would sit around the fire and crack peanut shells and our friends would talk.

Probably my favorite part of the village experience was learning some of Andre's story and being able to pray with him and encourage him. He used to go to the fetisher/witch doctor to seek advice and sacrifice a chicken but he realized it only wasted his money. After seeing the Jesus film he became a Christian. But he struggles to get enough work as a tailor to provide for his family. Although his family has isolated him some, for changing his religion, he is eager to share with them his belief. Pray for opportunities for him to do so and for my friends Kacy and Reaiah as they work on finishing the Maninka story set!

We have done our grocery shopping and yesterday we celebrated Thanksgiving with other missionaries here and then today we left for Guinea. The roads are really bad and we will be learning to drive on them so pray for our safety! We have a house in town and a village picked out for us where we will live but we do not really know what to expect. We also do not know how often we will have access to Internet so send prayer requests. Our main task for the next two months is to start learning the language and really participate in the culture - drawing water from the well, cooking/working in the field with the women etc. We will return to Bamako for our next set of training in late January.

Blessings and Happy Thanksgiving to all,
Brittany