

Dear Prayer Group,

Thank you for all the lovely Christmas cards and for praying for me and the work amongst Fulas over another year. Sorry it's been two months since you heard from me. End of November was perhaps not the most sensible time for me to take a holiday, but it was to tie in with the retreat for Mum's birthday and it will soon be her 81st! Both the retreats were really helpful and in breath-takingly beautiful surroundings. At the first one I was so tired during the 'time alone with God' periods it was hard to focus. I went for a walk first to the little wood with the hermit's hut. A roe deer came thundering out of the undergrowth with her baby, incredibly close to me. (The board said you might see them in the evening and this was the middle of the day!) It really spoke to me about the way we can be so alarmed when there really is no need to be. Later I walked across fields and saw a very big sheep flat on its back with its legs in the air. They looked so rigid, I thought it was dead, but then it began to thrash its legs around. I'd read that a sheep flat on its back is doomed to die if no one helps it – there's no way it can get off its back without help. I gently told the sheep that though I wasn't its shepherd, I wasn't a hired hand either so I would help it!! I was able to kneel down by it and push with both hands under it so that it was on its side. From there it had no problem. Again it spoke to me about my life. So often I thrash around trying to solve a problem that I will never be able to solve alone, when all the time, all I need to do is cry out to the Shepherd who knows just how to help me.

The Ffald Y Brenin retreat was also very special. I felt God saying we had all received 'in embryonic form'! I went straight from Mum's to conference and was SO blessed by our WEC conference. I think the time at the retreats had prepared me for the very special ministry we had at conference. There was more devotional and less business discussion than usual. The holiday was good considering the November weather and Dad having a health problem. After various tests he's been told that he has an inverted pile, which will need a small op. The medics were surprised that it had given such distressing symptoms. Hopefully he won't have to wait too long. It will be a great relief to him to be able to get back to normal life.

Badake 18 is all packed up ready to go to the Sending Units so now I really need to pick up the ball again with Booyataa 20. A Gambian Christian Fula, Pateh has said he will try to answer all the questions I have with Youssouf's translation. I still have to find translators for the other two dialects. So, back to praying for miracles!

Sarah

I had an email from **Sarah** herself but there was no news and she no longer has access to email. Another came from the worker helping her: "*Sarah is now in a reception centre for asylum seekers. After a three hour interview with a (hopefully) capable lawyer, she had to move there the following day. It wasn't only 1600 km on the road in two days, there's also a lot of emotional stress: after two and a half weeks with my parents, she has to stay there for the next weeks (or – worst case scenario – months).*

"The reception was friendly, but the circumstances are stressful: the doors have no locks and are often opened by people who wander around. During the first night, Sarah had a visit by a (hopefully only confused) young man. She got rid of him with an energetic "OUT!"

"She's sharing her room with a woman and her three-year-old son. The lady speaks neither German, nor English nor French, but they communicate nonetheless. Since her room is the only one with a working toilet, they get loads of visitors. There are also some Fula from Guinea. They spoke Pulaar, but Sarah keeps her distance for obvious reasons.

"The first medical examination was scheduled for Monday (14th). Thursday the actual application for asylum is scheduled and on Wednesday she will be probably able to move to another apartment. Please continue to pray for her. If you want to call her, ask me for her number (preferably in French, or easy English or German)."

Distribution

Recently **Beryl** spoke at a meeting recently and asked them to pray that I would find people to give out the papers in **West Africa** so that the circulation increases. Since then I've been amazed at how people have 'turned up'! But there's still a long way to go. The circulation of **Badake** is down to less than half of its what we had reached. because of having to drop people I haven't heard back from. Please pray that people who do still want to receive and distribute it will get back to me and that I will continue to find others.

North Senegal

Do you remember praying for new convert **Steve**? He and his whole family have moved to the town where the church is. He has left the workshop and been able to move the electricity meter to his new room so that he can run his tailoring business from there. His wife sells couscous. Two of his children have been accepted into the overcrowded public school (who did not have a place for most of last year). So there are many signs that they are really in the place

God wants them to be. There is so much community life amongst the believers that his wife and children are very naturally a part of it all and feeling the effects of God's love. A new M. neighbour, who saw him do a kind act, would like to organise a bursary for his oldest daughter to go to a private school. This is great but brings another whole set of problems with it as she is still in the North with his larger family.

Guinea

From **Guinea** it is reported that: *"The Jesus film in Pulaar was projected on three successive evenings with clear appeals at the end. There were also prayer times including prayer for deliverance. Several professed faith and brought their charms (presumably to be destroyed). Pray for the follow up so that these people will grow despite social pressure. Pray they will see their need of teaching and belonging to the Christian community. Pray that the church will welcome and nourish them spiritually. Pray for the team as it continues visiting **Labé** and **Lélouma**."*

Mali

From **Mali** I have been told of desperate conditions even there because of the same drought so badly affecting **Somalia**. People are running out of food and they estimate that by April even safe drinking water could be unavailable. A Fula Christian went to the workers for help, because he had no food to give his family. The next day they heard that he had died in hospital with cholera. Please pray that something can be done quickly so that cholera will not spread, water will not run out and food will become available for those in dire need.

Niger

From **Niger** the workers also write: *"Reports are coming in of a poor harvest, especially in our area. Please pray for the people as they face a difficult year ahead. Many of our friends say that it is much worse than the famine in 2005. Please pray for the NGO's and the government as they seek to provide for the people.*

"Give thanks that since 1st October our programmes have been aired nightly in this new region, with reports that many are tuning in! However, we had to speak with the radio technician because we heard that a M. teacher had bought out our air time and instead of our programme being played he preached against it for 15 minutes. We have been reminded once again that there is a battle for souls going on in the town in question. A Fulani friend said that the devil is shaking as the truth goes out! We praise God that the victory belongs to Him. Please pray that:

- *the technician will not give in to bribes and will be faithful at putting our programmes on.*
- *the believers of this town will be bold in their witnessing and be protected from harm.*
- *many will be able to discern the truth from lies, light from darkness and be brave enough to follow Jesus!*
- *for churches to be planted in this region*

"17 programmes based on the book of Proverbs are now ready. This past week we have been sharing them with our Fulani friends. Next week they will be aired in a nearby town.. Please pray for an impact from these programmes. Pray for us too as we now begin thinking about our next project. We hope to work on some music programmes and discipleship programmes based on 1 John and John's gospel."

Other news in brief

Gweno's just got back from her week's retreat with *Mission Encouragement Trust*, the wonderful ministry that I had a week's retreat with last year. I've never heard Gweno as enthusiastic about anything before. It seems that for her too, it's been a real life changer.

Dates

- 16 November train to **Dawlish**
- 17 November day retreat with Mum and Dad
- 19–26 November a week with Mum and Dad in a flat in **South Wales**
- 20 and 22? day at *Ffald Y Brenin*, (retreat centre featured in the book, "The Grace Outpouring")
- 27 November **Amy** and **Nick's** baptism in **Exeter**.
- 28 November – 1 December *WEC UK* biannual conference.
- 3 December **Beryl** and I at *CAPRO's* one day conference in **Peckham**
- 7 or 9 December *Partners in Prayer for Fulas* to be printed
- 9 December **Badake 18** to be at the printers

For your diary

- Saturday 16 June **Booyataa** tenth anniversary in Leeds (11am – 4pm)

Thank you for praying and may God bless you, Jane

