



The Cain Chronicle

NEWS AND NOTES FROM NIGER

Phil and Kimberly Cain
B.P. 10038
Niamey, NIGER REPUBLIC
pnkcain@yahoo.com

August 2005



Hunger Update

Many of you have seen news reports of famine in Niger over the past several weeks. If you get our prayer letter you know that hunger is a continual problem in this part of the world. Although we haven't seen problems in our area as severe as those displayed on television there are hungry people here—the cost of grain is also very high now and many people simply can't afford to buy it.

First Baptist Church of Opelika, Alabama sent about five tons of rice earlier this year which we've distributed to needy families. There are now a number of humanitarian organizations working in Niger so it looks like there will be food available to last until they're able to start harvesting next month.

There is also a spiritual hunger here that only a relationship with God through Jesus Christ can satisfy. We want to see the Zerma physically nourished, but we want to see their souls nourished as well. Pray that these efforts at alleviating hunger and sickness will also open doors to spread the gospel.

The Book that did not burn...

Muslims believe that the Koran is the word of God—they say that even in a fire, God will give the book wings so that it will not be burned. A Zerma woman was given a copy of the Zerma Bible. One day she was gone to her field and returned to find her house completely burned—even the cooking pots were melted. Sifting through the rubble, she found the Bible, which amazingly had not burned! Word spread quickly and soon the whole village was talking about the book that did not burn.

West Africa to be the focus for a special missions emphasis during 2006.

We're excited that the IMB will be focusing on West Africa during 2006. Recently we were privileged to have Dr. Jerry Rankin, president of the IMB visit us along with a group of pastors and church leaders from the U.S. We're hoping to see a number of partnerships with Southern Baptist churches emerge from this visit as these pastors return to the U.S. and share their experiences and insights with their congregations.

Out of these partnerships we are expecting an increased awareness of lostness across West Africa and a desire to make an impact on this lostness by more prayer support and personal involvement through volunteer mission trips.

Perhaps you or your church would like to have a part in impacting this lostness among the Zerma by engaging in partnership with us or simply coming as a volunteer. For more information contact us at pnkcain@yahoo.com.

New Team Members!

Many of you have been praying for some time that God would send us additional laborers to help in the harvest. God has answered those prayers by sending us Shad and Melissa Black and their son Hezekiah who'll be arriving August 19th. Kanesa and Brandy Nelson will arrive near the end of October. Shad and Melissa are coming as indigenous music catalysts—helping the Zerma strengthen their evangelism and discipleship efforts through the medium of music. Kanesa and Brandy will be focusing on church planting and discipleship with an emphasis on reaching women in the villages.

Caroline: This summer we went to a meeting for missionaries in Ghana. They had many activities and programs for the kids and I had lots of fun being with other missionary kids. I got to be in a musical we put on for the parents. The picture here was taken at Kintempo Falls in Ghana. We stopped there for a while on the way home. It was a three-day drive! I'm enjoying sixth grade, especially all the new books. Last year I got an award for reading the most books in the FES program in Ouagadougou.



Caleb: I've started homeschool and I'm excited about being in first grade this year. I've also met some other boys who are missionary kids and we have a lot of fun together when we go swimming at the rec center. I've made friends with some Zerma kids in the neighborhood—we like to jump on the trampoline together and play with my cars and trucks.

Zerma Proverb

Suba hawru se i ga kusu nyum cini.

(For the sake of tomorrow's food,
one washes the cook pot at night.)

Prayer Requests

Pray for a good harvest—spiritual and agricultural.

Pray for the new missionaries arriving, for their adjustment to a new culture and climate, and for their study and acquisition of the Zerma language.

Pray for us as we lead the Zerma team and plan and help implement strategies to reach the Zerma people.