

THIS IS THE LATEST PRAYER LETTER FROM  
THE DAVID EDENS FAMILY

Larry,

Thanks for the special offerings. Enclosed is our prayer letter. David

June 4, 2007

Dear Friends,

Since last writing, we continue to feel the repercussions of the vast religious conference recently held here of which we wrote to you back in April. Civil unrest has increased somewhat, and bandits who are always ready to take advantage of such situations have begun to rob vehicles. Several were stolen at gunpoint in town during the last month, and because of this some foreigners residing here (for development and relief projects) have opted to leave this area. Threats and offers for a "truce" continue to be exchanged between the authorities and the offenders. Of course, we have had to curtail our evangelistic trips in some directions because it is not sensible to travel on roads where mines have possibly been set. There are some areas where we can still reach out, and we continue to do so. And the radio broadcasts are not hindered by land mines! We continually hear testimonies from many who say they listen to our Gospel radio broadcasts.

A young man named Jacob came to us about a month ago. He received Jesus as his Savior. He does not speak the Tamajaq language, and we have been teaching him in French. Pray for him. He plans to be married this summer. The family of his wife-to-be has been influenced by the Jehovah's Witnesses. He informed her, however, that he intends for his family to be Christians. Last week he reported to us that his own father is threatening to disown him because he has become a Christian.

We have renewed contact with a young man, Hosea, (not his real name). He is in junior high school now. About two years ago he made a profession of faith here at our home. I have begun to teach him about the Bible and practical Christian living in French. His parents live out in the desert, but he now lives in town with relatives in order to attend school. Pray for him.

We visited Abraham last week, one of our baptized believers who lives in the desert with his family and livestock. It was a very hot day (about 120 degrees in the shade), and it was difficult to find enough shade in which to pass the day. Abraham has been distributing the latest Tamajaq New Testament (in Arabic script) to those with whom he is in contact in the desert. We had a time of Bible study with his family (wife and three children), as well as prayer. His wife has been ill for months. We visited them back about six weeks ago, and she asked that we pray for her. Praise the Lord, she is much better now. Please pray for this family, along with numerous other of our friends who are now going through the most difficult time of the year for their livelihood, herding camel, sheep and goats in the desert. The heat is intense, and the food very scarce. Even when the rain comes it is often disastrous because of the weakened state of the animals. These dear folk live in precarious tents made of palm leaf mats and tree root poles. Recently we were visiting one family when a rainstorm came upon us. As the wind rose, the tent began to shake violently. There were no side mats for the tent to keep the wind from getting under it. The young men of the family did their best to keep the tent from being swept away by holding on to the poles from the inside to anchor it better. But the lady of the household was very frightened, and she began to recite some type of formula by which she hoped to save her home from being swept away. I was praying that God would keep us from being blown away, and He did.

Pray for Obadiah who continues to attend the Sunday preaching services. We are not sure of his grasp of the

Gospel.

We have received a total of thirteen of the arabic-alphabet Tamajaq New Testaments which were printed in China. These were mailed to us from England. I just received word this week that the total printing of 1,000 (over 1,800 pounds) has arrived in England. The week of June 18th they are to be shipped by air freight to Niamey. Pray with us for the safe arrival of this shipment. Once in Niamey, the shipment must pass through customs formalities, and then be shipped to us in Agadez.

We praise the Lord that our printing of Genesis was delivered to us last week. We received 2,000 copies in all, one thousand in Arabic-scripted Tamajaq, and one thousand in phonetic script. We have already begun distributing these. We wish to thank all of you who have had a financial part in making this printing possible. The cost was eleven thousand six hundred dollars.

Each Saturday morning at 5:30 a.m. we hold a Bible study at the home of one of our Christians who lives about four miles out of town. We have had this meeting for several years now. Two weeks ago on Saturday morning a muslim priest who was visiting in the neighborhood came in near the end of the meeting to ask that we bring him to town afterwards (which we did). I showed him a copy of the new Arabic-scripted Tamajaq New Testament (it is a very nice book). It was apparent that he did not have any problem reading it. When I offered it to him as a gift, he accepted it. The next Saturday morning we were all surprised when he showed up for the meeting at 5:30 a.m. at the beginning. He listened well, and even had a question to ask about the lesson from Acts chapters 1-3. Pray for him.

These "priests" wander the desert with their writing instruments and their own holy "book". From tent to tent and home to home they wander, and many of the desert dwellers ask for their help. Usually this help consists of copying a passage from their "book" onto a wooden tablet, then washing the ink off into a bowl. These people believe that one only has to drink this ink to experience answer to his prayer, healing from illnesses, special power over adversaries, or help with whatever might be the need. Sometimes a passage from the "book" is copied onto paper. This paper is then sewn up into a piece of cloth or leather, and attached to a cord, or string, which is then attached to one's arm, or neck. This talisman may protect the wearer from evil spirits, the evil eye, or any number of dangers that he may fear. Desert dwellers even tie these talismans to their animals to protect them from danger! This "help" does not come free of charge. One pays for it with money, or perhaps a sheep or goat. Some of the more powerful "portions" may even cost a whole dromedary! Since these priests are schooled in Arabic, any of them who speak the Tamajaq language will be able to read the arabic-scripted New Testament which we have just printed.

Recently, Abraham, one of our friends in the desert gave one of these New Testaments to an itinerant Muslim priest who visited him. This particular priest read the New Testament for several days. Then he returned to our friend and asked for three more for his children to read. He said to our Christian friend, "How am I going to make a living from now on?" In reading the New Testament he realized that he is in error, and that he will have to abandon his profession of deceiving people with false hope. Please pray for this man and his family.

"The entrance of thy words giveth light. " Psalm 119:130

David and Donna Edens