

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Harvest Baptist,

Thanksgiving time is past. I am sure for many of you this year was different than normal for your family. Bella and I also had a different Thanksgiving time than we were expecting. Normally, when we are in the tribe, we don't celebrate Thanksgiving in November. We celebrate with the people here after harvest. But this year we had to go out to town for our visas, and it just happened that we were out there over the holiday. We ended up having a really great meal and a great time visiting with all the missionaries living in town. That was very special for us.

I mentioned our visa. It was granted a few weeks ago. We were told we had to go out to sign it and get fingerprinted. We did that our first day out. Our new visa is good for the next five years. Thank you for praying about that with us.

Two days before we left interior to go out to town some problems came up here. For the last several years, one of the men here has been doing all the leg work to get money from the government for the church. This was all his idea, and the rest of us just went along with it. Well after two years and money and time being spent to get this money, it finally came through. The money was given to repair and renovate the church building. The week after the money came we had our normal meeting with the men from the church. In the meeting, this fellow who has been working to get the money made it clear that he expected much of it to go to him. He wanted money, a new computer and a new motorcycle. To say that this took the rest of us by surprise would be understating it. That meeting was very tense as it became clear that the church was happy to give a token amount to this man, but not all that he was asking for. It was evident as the meeting went on that he was getting more and more angry. I had hoped he might calm down overnight, but just the opposite happened. The next day he did a number of things in anger that were completely unacceptable. This was all bad enough, but the man who did this is one of the two men who were to be ordained as elders in January. That is not going to happen now. There are two other men who will be ordained, but not him.

It was very hard for Bella and I to leave two days after all this happened. But the day before we left, we are very encouraged to see the reaction of some of the other people in the church. Their concern and care were good to see. Two different men came to our house and prayed together with me about this.

When we came back, the next day we had to go and talk to this man who was angry. If anything, he is more angry than he was. He has been calling everyone he knows and doing everything he can to make trouble for the church and for us. I really think this will just end up causing more damage to his reputation. In spite of all of this being hard, we are so grateful that the Lord brought all this to light before the ordination. We do ask that you would pray that the Lord would draw this man (Akim) back to the Lord.

The village is full speed getting ready for the ordination. It is a big deal for a small village like this one. We are making a bathroom and putting in sidewalks to make things more pleasant for the visitor. All of this is happening around all the rain storms that are normal this time of year.

We do so much appreciate your prayers for us and for the church here. We want this ordination to be a good and special time for the church. We want all that we do to honor and glorify our Lord. Please do keep praying for us. Thank you very much for the \$100 that you sent to us in October and November.

In Christ,

Paul and Bella

Prayer requests;

1. For the ordination to be an encouraging time for the church.
2. For Akim and his family. His wife has been helping Bella check the Bible translation. We have no idea if she will continue doing this now. She was also supposed to be appointed as a deaconess. But her husband said this he forbids this.
3. Pray that we will stay focused on what we need to be doing in here. I have two books left to draft to be finished with the New Testament. Bella is checking some of the ones I did earlier.
4. We heard that a nearby village which we have much interaction with has covid. Up to now we have been living in a covid free area with no restrictions or masks. Now? We don't know.

The three pictures are 1. Bella and some of the things we brought home with us. All of it was carried on the back of small motorcycles. 2. The trip home was wet. It is rainy season. 3. Some of the sidewalks the folks here are making in preparation for the ordination. The church building is at the top of the hill in the background.

