



# Reaching the Wolof

May, 2008



This is a picture of our French class on a trip to a "Cabane à Sucre," or "Sugar Shack." We learned about the maple syrup industry here in Québec, and enjoyed a fun lunch, complete with square dancing. Our French professor is in the center, wearing a blue hood.

## Adieu, Université Laval!

*On Thursday, April 24, we took our very last exam at Laval University, where we have been studying French since September. It's hard to describe how wonderful it felt to walk out of the building into the sunshine; leaving eight months of classes, papers, and tests behind us!*

*Originally, we were planning to attend Laval for one more short session, just five weeks. But about a month ago, we got the news that the program we were enrolled in was changing dramatically, and the new price for tuition was going to be four times what we had been told it would be! This meant that we had to find different ways to continue our French language studies for the time that remains here in Québec.*

*Bill will be taking a course with a private tutor, studying Biblical vocabulary and learning how to preach and pray in French with several other missionaries. Both of us will continue to meet with Marie-Noëlle, the tutor we have been meeting with since September, for further practice in oral expression. Kathy will be meeting with a friend from church for coffee and conversation once a week, and will do some work with Rosetta Stone as well.*

*We're looking forward to this change of pace. It will allow us to continue learning French, while at the same time giving us a bit of freedom to pack things up here and the chance to begin making arrangements for the shipping of our household goods to Senegal. Just imagine - the next newsletter you will receive from us will be from Africa!*

*The adventure continues...*

## Our Schedule

- June 8:** Bill visits Berean Baptist Church, Mansfield, OH
- June 9-12:** Bill attends Conference in MN focusing on ministry in a specific context
- June 20:** Kids finish school
- June 29:** Leave Québec
- June 30 - July 25: In Franklin, MA**  
(Sorting, packing, loading, shots, visiting, doctor's appointments, bulk shopping, sending our shipping container to Dakar, saying goodbyes)

**July 26 - August 2: In Maine**  
(Thompson family reunion at the lake)



### August 6: Off we go!

- 10:55 AM - Delta Airlines  
Boston to JFK
- 5:20 PM - South African Airlines  
JFK to Dakar

**August 7: Arrive in Dakar, 5:35 AM**

Our friend A. traveled home to Senegal this winter. When she returned, she gave me this beautiful mbou-mbou, a gift from her mother.



## Our contact information

*Our email address is still:*

**[martinhokies@gmail.com](mailto:martinhokies@gmail.com)**

*Our address in Québec:*

**Bill and Kathy Martin  
3474, rue des Impatientes  
Québec, QC G1M 4E5  
CANADA  
(418) 527-6677**

*Our address in Franklin, MA:*

**Bill and Kathy Martin  
42 Skyline Drive  
Franklin, MA 02038  
(508) 934-9028**

**Il neigeait, il neigeait, et il neigeait encore.**

*Or in English, "It snowed, it snowed, and it snowed again!" We had the privilege of living in Québec during the winter that broke the all-time snowfall record. It snowed up until the very last day of March, and the last I heard, the snowfall total had surpassed 500 cm, or **over 16.5 feet**. The kids had lots of fun sledding on the 12-foot-high hill in our normally level back yard. We had a great time at **Carnaval**, an annual winter event in Old Québec. Carnaval was extra-special this year, since 2008 is the 400th anniversary of the city. Toward the end of the winter, friends from church treated us to a wonderful day at **Valcartier Village Vacances**, a snow-rafting and tubing park. Anna was afraid of the steep slopes, but the boys had an absolute blast. They spent hours tubing on the 42 trails. We've tried to enjoy the snow as much as possible; we know that it's the last we'll see for several years.*

## The kids say...

**Anna:** *"I'm going to miss my friends from Kindergarten. But I can't wait to see my toys again when we get to Africa!"*

(We let the kids bring some of their favorite things here to Québec, but a lot of their things stayed in boxes in Franklin, awaiting the container-ride to Senegal. Every now and then Anna will ask about a particular toy: "Did we save that toy, or did we get rid of it?" She's always happy if she learns that we kept it and that she'll see it again in Africa. It'll be like Christmas for her when we unpack in Dakar!)

**Caleb:** *"I've liked taking swim lessons and guitar lessons here. But I won't miss how they check your lunches at school to make sure you're eating enough vegetables and fruits."*

**Sam:** *"I'm going to miss my friends here but I'm really looking forward to seeing my friends from Franklin again."*

**Will:** *"I'll miss the snow, since it's the last snow I'll see for awhile. But I really look forward to finally staying in the same place for more than a few months."*



In front of an ice castle at Carnaval



Visiting a hotel made entirely of ice!



Anna and Will tubing



In front of church on Easter Sunday

**We Thank God:** **For physical health and safety** Sam jammed his finger playing hockey during recess at school last week - it was swollen and bruised and he couldn't bend it. We had it X-rayed and were thankful to learn it wasn't broken. Aside from Caleb's broken wrist, which he recovered from very nicely, and now Sam's thumb, we have been blessed with good health while we've been living here.

**Please Pray:** **For finances** We have received our annual support budget for the upcoming year, and it reflects an increase over last year. Please pray that this increase will be met in a time of economic difficulty for so many Americans.

**For Québec** In the 1960s, the "Quiet Revolution," a period of intense change, characterized by the rapid secularization of society and the large scale rejection of past values, began in Québec. Today, Québec has the lowest birth and marriage rates in Canada, and the highest rates of divorce, abortion, and suicide. Please pray for "Hope 2008," a joint venture of evangelical associations and churches; for their plans to hold evangelical concerts and other events during Québec's 400th anniversary celebration this summer.