

Martins' Voyage

September 2008
martinhokies@gmail.com

Mailing address: William Martin
BP 29872
Dakar-Yoff
Senegal

Who we are

Bill and Kathy Martin
Will, Sam, Caleb, Anna



✦
Serving with
Converge Worldwide
Baptist General Conference
in Dakar, Senegal
West Africa

✦
Facilitating a
church planting movement
among an
unreached people group

A new continent, a new look

You might notice that this month's newsletter looks a bit different than our others. There are two reasons for this. The first reason is that we are close to launching our new website, martinsvoyage.com, which uses the graphic above, and we wanted the website and our newsletters to have the same look. "Voyage" is defined as "A journey to some distant place." It is our hope that through the website and our newsletters, we will be able to share the adventure of this journey with you! The second reason is in response to a growing awareness of people living overseas to protect themselves and others they work with against internet word searches by those who don't have our best interests in mind. In light of this, it seemed prudent not to mention the particular people group that we will be working with by name in our newsletter title. But this does not change our ministry focus in any way; we're still the same people, doing the same thing! We invite you to join us on the trip.



Mary and Allen Thompson, Nancy,
Kathy, Janice, Barbara, and Wendi.
Happy 50th Anniversary, Mom and Dad!

A Time to Laugh

After leaving Québec and our French language learning, we had the opportunity to spend several weeks in New England before heading out to Africa. We always look forward to our annual week in Maine with Kathy's parents, four sisters and their families. But this summer the family reunion was especially sweet. We knew it was the last time we would all be together until our home assignment in 2011, and each moment spent swimming, eating, and laughing together was a gift. A highlight for all of us was the chance to celebrate together our parents' 50th wedding anniversary. How thankful we are for the example of faithfulness, love, and joyful service that they have been to us.

Off to Africa!

Our trip from Boston to Dakar on August 6 went very smoothly. We had seats together on both flights, TV screens in the back of each seat, even a pretty good dinner! We arrived in Dakar around 5:00 in the morning, and collected all 14 of our checked bags. Bruce Adamson and another friend were right there to help us load ourselves and our bags onto their trucks, and off we went to the Adamson's house for breakfast. We arrived in the middle of a power cut, so we ate by candlelight, and tried to ignore the heat! After breakfast, they drove us over to the apartment we are sub-letting from another missionary family until the end of the year, and we were able to rest. It was a tiring and emotional 24 hours, but we made it. Thank you for praying for us!

Our life and ministry in Dakar - Chapter One: the Beginning



One of the interesting things we've noticed about Senegal is the manner in which homes are built. People work on their houses as they find the money to purchase supplies and labor for each step, so often building a house can take years, with long periods of inactivity between stages. This results in a kind of hodge-podge appearance to the neighborhoods; fully completed houses that have been lived in for years stand next to empty lots strewn with debris, which stand next to houses in various stages of construction. The beige building on the left is the side of our apartment. **Please pray for us as we continue the search for a place to live once our time of subletting is over in December.**

Food here is delicious, but it is very expensive. This is the "haul" from my first trip to the small grocery shop; the bill was almost \$90! We eat a lot of rice, beef, onions, potatoes, and fruit. We miss dill pickles, pepperoni, and "real" milk (not powdered)! **We're so thankful for Marie**, the woman who works here, who cooks us wonderful Senegalese dishes.



It took some time to find a vehicle that would work for our family - one big enough to fit 6 people, with four wheel drive. (This is essential for navigating the roads in Dakar, which are mostly sand and dirt with sink holes, gulleys and chunks of concrete everywhere!) But we finally found one, a 1994 Toyota Land Cruiser with 338,000 kms (almost 200,000 miles) on it! When we told the kids about it, Will said he had the perfect name for the car: "Indy." (He was referring to the famous line in the latest Indiana Jones movie - "It's not the year, honey, it's the mileage.") But, the car has been well maintained, owned by another missionary family and a Swiss mechanic, and we pray it will run for many years. **We're very thankful for "Indy"!**



Ministry: What will Bill be doing? *Bruce and I have been spending time on the University campus each week. We've met with campus group leaders, taken prayer walks, and generally tried to get the lay of the land as we prepare to begin ministry there once the students return in October. I am planning on taking a class at the University this term, to improve my French and to initiate friendships with some Senegalese students. We're also considering becoming conversational partners with students in the existing English Club at the University, as another avenue to forming friendships with the Senegalese. **Please pray for us as we consider opening an off-campus Student Center**, perhaps with a coffee shop, computer/Internet capabilities, and weekly discussion groups on Biblical topics.*

Ministry: What will Kathy be doing? *There are hundreds of young boys here in the city who spend many hours every day begging on the streets for their teachers. They often are not fed, bathed, or talked to by adults. Julie and I have visited several existing ministries to these boys and are praying and talking together about where God might want to use us to reach out to these boys and show them love. As women in a M—m culture, there are things we cannot do. For example, to be taken seriously, Bible Stories are best taught by men. But we think that perhaps God might use us to teach other classes, like art, health, or reading (literacy rates are very low here). **Please pray for us, as we make decisions about where to serve.***

Phone: (508) 613-9045

(Dial just like you were calling Massachusetts. It's a Vonage Phone, and the call will cost the same as a call to Massachusetts. But don't forget—we are 4 hours ahead of East Coast Time!)