

The Oliver Family Newsletter

John & Paula Oliver - Missionaries with New Tribes Mission
Serving at NTM Headquarters in Sanford, Florida
Newsletter 43 - March 2007

Return to Senegal

It was 1983, my first time to Africa, when our plane touched down in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. I had friends in Senegal - a missionary couple (Steve & Jessica Bastow) who God had used to share with me the spiritual need of unreached tribal folks, the responsibility of Christians, and the ministry of New Tribes Mission. It would have been nice to see them, but it was not to be, as we just sat on the tarmac in the darkness of night until the plane took off again for Liberia, our final destination.

In 1995, twelve years later, I visited Africa again, this time with Paula and co-workers, Virgil & Nancy Wuthrich, to install our previous Field Accounting System for the NTM bookkeeper in Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).

Now, **in 2007**, 24 years after my original "visit" to Senegal, I had an opportunity to return and hopefully to see a bit more this time. Virgil and I flew over on January 22 and stayed for three weeks. Our objective was to install our NTM Accounting & Administrative (NTMAA) system for the field bookkeepers and for the supply buyer, who buys groceries and other items to deliver (via bi-weekly supply flights) to tribal missionaries and to sell in a small store for the local missionaries in Dakar.

We imported the beginning balances from their old accounting system and helped the bookkeepers enter a month's worth of data into the new system. This was their teaching time; it also put the system through its paces and proved that it was working properly, by producing ending balances that were equivalent to those from the previous system.

Working with the supply buyer, we imported their inventory into our purchasing/inventory/sales module, scanned in barcodes for the various items, created customer orders for the tribal missionaries, then printed an inventory pick list and a shopping list. As items were purchased and brought in from the various stores around Dakar, we created vendor orders and against the packing lists. Finally, the groceries were loaded on the plane and delivered to the waiting missionaries. After a physical inventory is taken and checked against the computer and new orders are received, another 2 week cycle begins again.

As part of this transition, we were excited to be able to provide the supply buyer with a **new feature**, the ability to import a spreadsheet into a customer order. Now, rather than the supply buyer having to key in all the orders by hand, the tribal missionaries can enter their desired quantities into an order form spreadsheet and email it to the supply buyer, who then imports into directly into a customer order. This helps save time and data entry and also reduces errors.

While in Senegal, we also had opportunity to visit the downtown market, shop for souvenirs, evade some pickpockets (yes, they were after me!), eat at some local restaurants, and visit Goree Island (with its slave house and Door of No Return). We enjoyed visiting with Steve & Jessica and other NTM Senegal co-workers. We appreciated the opportunity to visit Senegal, meet some new friends, and provide our NTMAA system as a tool to help our fellow missionaries who are ministering there.

Family News & Travels

- ◆ You may recall that **Nicholas** had oral surgery last August to expose one of his upper cuspids that was not coming down. We are encouraged that the tooth is now coming into place and are hopeful that he will get his braces off later this year.
- ◆ **Joy & Hannah** are continuing to enjoy AWANA and their weekly gymnastics class. All three kids are also learning piano from one of our fellow missionaries here.
- ◆ **We thank the Lord** that Paula has made great progress on her diet & exercise program; she's now near her goal weight with a total loss of nearly 100 lbs.
- ◆ In early March, I flew up to Michigan to participate in the annual missions conference at **Skiff Lake Bible Church**, and also to spend a day helping out at New Tribes Bible Institute (where Paula and I met), as they are starting to transition their bookstore to our computerized purchasing/inventory/sales module.



We recently had some **2007 prayer cards** printed and have enclosed one for you. We would invite you to write us or email us (JPOLiver@WithAWeb.com) with your prayer requests (and include a recent family photo, if you have one handy) so that we can be praying for you also. Thanks for your love, prayers, encouragement, and support!

Your missionaries, John, Paula, Nicholas, Joy, and Hannah Oliver ☺

John & Paula Oliver, New Tribes Mission, 1000 East First Street, Sanford FL 32771-1487

Home Phone: 407-547-2512, Office Phone: 407-547-2378, Fax: 443-264-2593

Email: JPOLiver@WithAWeb.com Ministry Web site: www.JPOLiver.com Resource Web site: www.WithAWeb.com