

Dear Friends & Family,

Summer break from school is over, and we are thankful to have a noisy campus again! The whistles are blown at 5:15am which means pretty soon you will hear the kids sing!! What a way to start the day!! I thought I'd share a few more stories and ask that you join me in prayer for the coming school year here at the Village of Light that we may point our students to Jesus and encourage them to desire to walk and act like His disciples.

In 1996 a little boy named **Mendenessol** came to the blind school. He was a typical boy who loved to play and be given piggyback rides! After finishing 7 years of schooling here, Mendenessol integrated into the local junior high school and then graduated from high school and went on to university where he received his Master's.



1996



Class 2024



Sport

And in His providence and timing, God brought Mendensol back to the VOL as a teacher last year, and this year he is teaching 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He really loves the kids and definitely has the gift of teaching. Mendensol has been such a great addition to our school, bringing such a positive and encouraging spirit. He leads gym class and has experience with computers that talk to you! He is presently teaching computer to some of our former students who have integrated into the junior high school. Would you please pray for Mendensol to continue to grow in his relationship with the Lord? He was involved for many years in a church in Lome where the members really cared for him and encouraged him spiritually. **Please pray the Lord provides good, godly men here in this area to mentor him and that God would use him to disciple and mentor many others. Also would you please pray for some of the students that God has given to Mendensol this year?**

So many of our students come with so many sad stories of rejection and difficult home life situations. **Isaac's** mom left when he was very young, and when you ask him, he doesn't want to talk about it. During the summer break, he stays mostly with dad who spends his days making palm wine. We can only imagine what Isaac is exposed to and the temptations he faces. Isaac is very intelligent, but it's obvious he has lacked having a mom figure in his life. Sometimes he stays with his aunt and grandma, but it seems he is just tolerated. We know God is able to work in Isaac's life, so please pray for all those investing in his life.



*Isaac with Grandma, aunt, uncle, and sis*



*Yaovi in white/yellow shirt with his mom and siblings*

When we traveled a very long way to visit **Yaovi**, we were offered alcohol by his uncle. It makes me sick to think of what Yaovi is exposed to when he's on summer break. Yaovi is a very intelligent kid and has great potential to be a good leader and teacher one day! He used to tutor other students on a regular basis, but now that he's a teenager I guess that isn't cool anymore, but we will keep encouraging him. The other day I asked Yaovi to bring a book of the Bible in braille so I could listen to him read. He chose Romans 12, and we discussed what it meant that God gave different gifts; I asked him what he thought his gift was. He admitted that he wanted to be a soldier and didn't understand why God let him go blind when for 10 years he could see. Yaovi says that he can't stay focused in class because of this question that nags him day and night—Why did God let this happen? [This am I was reading Deuteronomy 29:29—***"The secret things belong to the Lord our God..."***—very apropos ] I told Yaovi I don't understand God's ways or how He wants to glorify Himself through Yaovi's blindness; I can't answer that question "why," but I do know that God has a plan for his life. Please continue to pray for us as we work with Yaovi and so many other kids, teenagers, and adults who struggle with accepting their handicap. We know God has placed Mendenessol in these lives for a reason!

**Nina and Ramatou** are back, and thankfully **Pierriette** has been feeling better so she can help them. Please pray for them as well as the other kids that finished elementary school here and have been integrated into the junior high school. It's not always easy.

There are many other stories and requests for prayer, but this has gotten long so I will close by asking you to continue to pray for the **pastors' wives** and me who meet each week to better learn how to counsel Biblically--they always bring tough situations they are dealing with as they seek to help teen girls and women in their churches and villages.

Also I would ask prayer once again for **P. Martouka**—he is still scheduled for surgery in October, but this weekend will bury his father so prayers for the family are appreciated. We are grateful that his dad renounced his idols and believed in Jesus a few years ago.

Love & Prayers,  
Beky