

Bonjour from northern France,

A quick up date to thank you all for praying for Kurt and I since March 17 when we left for W. Africa. We had a wonderful trip, truly blessed of God and we were so thankful to have spent such quality time together doing things we love. We said good bye to each other in Abidjan Ivory Coast on April 13 as Kurt returned to Burkina Faso for two more weeks of ministry and travel. I came to France to visit the Lungrens until Friday April 16 when I was scheduled to arrive in Montreal.

Then you all know what 'blew up' over in this part of the world and everything changed for a few million people. I have enjoyed being with the Lungrens, their pastor and family along with the church family that they serve as leaders. I'm not stranded like many who are in airports and paying for hotels. We always have much to be thankful for.

The only sad thing is that Shelly and I had a vacation planned for this week beginning Wednesday and even though a couple of flights opened up for me to get home today, Air France would not put me on unless I paid several thousand dollars for the upgrade. So I wait till Friday... not to be surprised but it seems to boil down to 'money' and not really passenger care...

Insurance as you can imagine also had a 'loop hole' and would not cover this global catastrophe (volcanoes not on their list of reasons). We were going to take a 100% loss on the trip so our daughter Kyla as of today has arranged to travel with Shelly. Not exactly as we had planned but as we say the Lord knows and generally one day we find out why.

For example, Kurt and I were delayed in Ghana for 24 hours -- missed Sunday services in Ivory Coast and wondered why. The next day we found out why as we were able to spend several hours with a young Jewish man (also stranded), give him a Bible and pray with him. We've since been in email contact where he says he is getting strength as he reads 'the book'. We also have an open invitation to visit him and his family in Israel. Pray for Ztahi, Shani and daughter Mia.

So either me, CBC or CNN will keep you posted as to Volcanic ash and the like but I hope to be in Canada by the week end.

I so appreciate your prayers,
Gary



Pastor Wantinga and family give us each a rooster



1st yr Bible students in Ivory Coast



Bruce and Lauren Lungren at a leadership breakfast



Lauren Lungren outside their home la Neuville Fr