**Bledsoe’s Update**

**What happened in April & first part of May for us:**

**Personal:**

Furlough:

It is that time again!  We will be in the US on furlough this June and July.  We are looking forward to getting a chance to report on our work to our faithful supporters.

With the passing of Bernie’s mother, we did come home last December to care for her and close down her affairs.  During that time, we were unable to report to supporters and it was a very hectic time.  Bernie does still have a couple of administrative things to close out his mother’s estate; however, this furlough will be focused on sharing God’s work in our part of the world, recruiting prayer partners, renewal, and a short family vacation.

Please let us know where you will be at this summer and we will see if we can get together.  God is doing incredible things and we want you all to be a part of it.

**Prayer Requests/Praises:**

* Pray for all the preparations to come home, our time at home and then our preparations to return in Aug.  Nine weeks goes by fast and we want to make the most of it.

**Ministry:**

**Saga:**

* We continue to work in Saga and see their project moving forward.  We finished training 5 groups in Micro Enterprise so they can begin a small business for their group.  Two of them are up and running and the other 3 will be starting soon.  They are using not only the information in the business training we gave them, but they are pairing it with the information they learned on malaria prevention as well.
  + One group is making liquid soap that has mosquito repellant properties.
  + Another is making a local incense called Dugu Bi.  The perfumes they put in this incense also contains mosquito repellant properties.
  + One of the younger groups is making a Baobab-based candy called Kakandady to sell at school.
  + The last 2 groups want to work with peanuts.  They are hoping to start making peanut butter which is used as the only protein source in most family’s food.  From the peanut butter, they can also extract peanut oil and make a peanut seasoning that is very popular here called kuli kuli.
* Over the next 3 months, the health topic this community has chosen is the Health of the Pregnant Woman and the Newborn baby.  The community is very excited to start learning about how to have healthier babies.  This will make a great impact in the lives of families in Saga.

**Fadas**:

* We finished our initial visits for the 7 men’s groups (Fadas) this month.  All of the groups are excited to get started.  Over the next 3 months, we will be building relationships with them and listening. Learning about their lives, the challenges they face, and hopefully show them that there is hope in Christ both now and for eternity.

**Prayer Requests:**

* Keep praying for our training team: Issiakou, Adamou, Bernie and Andrew
* Pray for Saga as they continue forward making impacts on their community.
* Pray for the Fadas that we have visited and pray that we build good relationships with these men.
* Pray for the agencies that work with HIV that they would be open to us working with their patients.