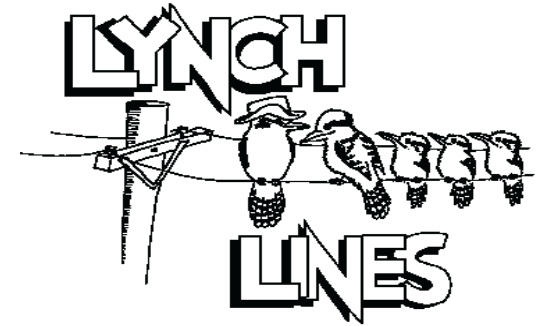


There are many repairs & improvements here that Neville sees as important, particularly in the area of electrical wiring. Neville doesn't have the time to do them himself and Seibou is far from 100% working ability. If there are any qualified electricians who would like to come for a month or two it would be great & ease Neville's anxiety about the electrical safety here. If you have any questions don't hesitate to write.



Prayer & Praise

- Praise for Seibou's life being saved & for continued restoration
- Praise that the thieves were caught
- Praise for a profitable time in Niamey & pray that we may not forget what we have learned
- Praise that a youth pastor & his wife is coming to Niamey
- Pray for safe travel to & from Niamey
- Pray that the kids will be able to cope when things get tough at school

March 2002

Sadly, our cooler season has passed & we are now entering the hot season with daily temperatures of 35-45C. However, this too will pass & then the rains will come. One thing I like about the seasons here, is that they are predictable.

Christmas was a very enjoyable time together. After having spent 8 weeks with the kids it was hard to say good bye, but knowing that we would see them in another 4 weeks made it a little easier. Thank you to all who sent Christmas greetings. It was really nice to hear your annual reports, I realised that people are now actually sending New Year letters rather than Christmas letters. Life obviously, is getting faster with each passing year. Some of your letters took 8 weeks to arrive & I think there is one parcel that has found it's way into the hands of someone other than us.

On Thursday 17th January, Seibou, one of Neville's co-workers was electrocuted quite seriously. At the time of the accident he was up a pole removing wires. Thankfully it was not far from the workshop and main switchboard so his helper didn't have far to run to turn off the electricity. Neville said that he may have been attached to 220 volts for 15-20 seconds which is long enough to be fatal. We later found out that he forgot to double check the circuit breaker before going back up the pole (he had been working on the installation earlier that morning and presumed it was still turned off). For a while we didn't know whether he would live or die, but we all knew the impact his death would have on us, not to mention his family. People began to pray as we knew that the extent of his injuries could be far beyond our capabilities to treat.



Our Benin Address

Hôpital Evangélique
BP 28
Bembéréké
Rép du Bénin
Email: nev-faye_lynch@iname.com

The Children's Address

Sahel Academy
BP 10065
Niamey
Rép du Niger
Email;
klynch@sahel.sim.ne
candice@sahel.sim.org
scott@sahel.sim.org

SIM Australia

Locked Bag 2
TAREN POINT 2229
Tel. 02 9525 8355
Email: postmaster@sim.org.au

Change of address please inform;

Marion Fowler, 15 Wimbledon grove KOTARA 2289. Tel. 02 4954 9383

We have no Intensive Care Unit here at Bembereke (as at home) & in some cases of electrocution even the best Intensive Care may not be enough. So, we did what we could, prayed & waited for God to do the rest. As the days passed it was decided to transfer him to Cotonou Hospital as there were doctors there who were specialists in certain treatments that Seibou needed. We hadn't transferred anyone there before so it was a bit of a test case. Fortunately one of our doctors in Surgical training was there so he was able to liaison for us. The extent of Seibou's injuries were, 3 broken ribs, a cracked pelvis, & serious lung complications. It's now 5 weeks since the accident & Seibou is at home with his family. We believe that he is still with us because people prayed for his life to be spared & God answered. This request went all over the world as each of us emailed word home to share this urgent request for prayer. God has touched Seibou's life in more ways than just physically, let's pray that he will never forget the awesome gift God gave him.

To continue with some of Neville's challenges. About 8 weeks ago he became aware that someone was stealing diesel fuel from the garage. He suspected who it was but proving it was difficult. He needed to be caught "red handed". Several times Neville went to wait for the thief, but found that they'd already been or they didn't come. Once again those with whom he shared the problem, prayed that God would intervene and the thief would be caught. Then, the night Neville was in Cotonou picking up Seibou one of his other workers set up a plan to catch the thief & they were caught in the act. It turned out to be two of the garage staff.

From Feb 11 to 15, Neville & I went to a course/workshop in Niamey on "Sharpening Your Interpersonal Skills". This covered such topics as; How to kill your relationships, Listening, Confronting & receiving confrontation, Managing conflicts, Building trust, Managing grief & Managing stress. We found that it was a very helpful course as we discovered explanations for certain problems. It was also good to mix with people we didn't know, to be encouraged & to do some self-assessment in a non-threatening environment. This is a course that everyone should do every ten years just to keep on track. We

also took the opportunity to celebrate Neville's birthday with the children, which is the first time they had been able to do that here in Africa, normally it's a delayed celebration. After the course we stayed on in Niamey as the following weekend was a weekend out of the dorm for the children. It was good to spend some extra time with them.

Easter holidays are March 23rd to April 8th - we will bring the children home for this time. The school year finishes on June 14th. We can't wait for that!!

The latest good news is that there is a youth pastor coming to work in Niamey, focusing mainly on the missionary kids. He and his family will arrive before August.

On the Teacher situation, it seems that there are still no teachers available to come next year apart from French & Bible. What will we do? We have no idea at this point & are just waiting for the Lord to give some direction.

One of the sad things we see here is the number of children that are burnt each year. These are the results of accidents with kerosene lamps or children falling into fires or cooking pots. In early January, Sabi, age 4, went with a lantern to the outside toilet when his clothes touched the lantern catching alight. The extent of his injuries were full thickness burns to his stomach area & half thickness to his arms and down to his knees & around his head. It has been 2 months since the accident. Now we are starting the skin grafting process. He is still in danger of getting an infection that could take his life. Pray for him that he will survive & will one day be happy

again. Pray for the family, the father is with Sabi, as the mother is deaf & is taking care of the other two children. Because of this the father was not able to harvest all their cash crop, so now they will not have enough money to last until the next harvest.

