

## Special Announcement

We've got a little secret we're ready to unveil to the world: I'm expecting! Yay! We've shared with a handful of friends and family, but we wanted to be discreet this time, especially after the disappointment of our previous two pregnancies/miscarriages. Rejoice with us in the Lord's faithfulness and perfect timing!

Here are some FAQs we've received that we thought we'd answer in case you were wondering:

### How are you feeling?

The first four months were tough for me, with lots of nausea, vomiting, and the other joys associated with pregnancy. My second trimester, I felt a vast improvement. Now that I'm kicking off my third trimester, I'm feeling the tummy aches and back pains (and fatigue!) associated with the last leg of the race.

### Do you know the gender?

It's a girl! Our doc is pretty confident of this, but to err is human, so we're prepared and grateful for either.

### Do you have a name picked out yet?

We've narrowed it down to a couple we like, but we're not telling! We've got to leave something as a surprise now that we know the gender!

### How far along are you/when are you due?

I'm just over six months along. My due date is March 5.

### Is any family coming out for the delivery?

Mom Velasquez is planning to come out for a month around the due date. This will be her second visit, so we're glad we've already shown her around, as we won't be in any condition to tour around Senegal!

### When do we get to meet Little T (our nickname for her till she reaches the surface!)?

We plan to be in North America next summer briefly for a non-emergency medical trip for Dan. We won't be moving around a ton, but do hope to connect with as many friends as possible during our short visit.

### Will you have the baby in Senegal or come home?

We have an excellent ObGyn and access to a great private clinic, so we plan to have the baby here. Medical care here is good, but there are no birth preparation classes, and while my doctor is fantastic, I'm told some nurses/midwives here lack a certain gentleness we're used to in N. America. Yikes!

I am doing my best to read up on breathing and relaxation techniques. I also have some friends who have offered to give advice from their wealth of experience, so that's comforting. We covet your prayers as we face going through labor far from the familiarity of home.

## What's Up with DAT (Dan & Angie Thornton)?! December 2008



In Traditional Attire at Tabaski

### Please pray these four "F"s for us:

- **F**amily - That God, in his mercy, would save Angie's immediate and both of our extended families.
- **F**inances - Praise the Lord for His abundant provision!  
Please pray that the Lord would provide for our team leaders, the Amenudzies.
- **F**rench - Would you please pray for Dan's language skills as he continues to teach Old Testament Introduction in French? Please also pray that Wolo**F** would progress well for us both.
- **F**ruit - That we would walk in close **F**ellowship with the Lord and bear much **F**ruit in ministry.

If you pray for us regularly and haven't already done so, could you please let us know? We'd love to keep track of our prayer support team, and share urgent prayer requests with you as they arise, and have you share your burdens with us as well.



Little T at 6 Months



You wanna see my belly? Here it is! :D



Chillin' with Amy at Tabaski

## A Taste of Senegalese Tradition

On December 8, Muslims throughout the world celebrated Tabaski (also called Eid al-Adha), during which they commemorate Abraham's offering his son as a sacrifice to God - however they believe that the son of promise was not Isaac but Ishmael. Each family who is able to will kill a sheep and feast together. This year, we were invited to our new friend Sidibé's home, where we were able to take part in this tradition firsthand.

We arrived at 12 PM, and were offered a seat in the living room. The adults were busy preparing the meat, so we were attended to until about 2 PM by the children. During that time, we watched TV and ate an appetizer - freshly grilled sheep kidney, liver, and heart! While we were not accustomed to the taste of innerds, we managed to consume a fair amount - thanks to the helping hand of Amy Fu, our dear friend who was visiting us for a couple weeks at just the right time! :)

Our host popped in periodically to introduce us to various members of the family and to show us around his house - where he has lived for the past 50 years! At around 2 PM, he escorted us to a different room, where we were served braised sheep with mustard for dipping. We were once again left alone to eat (as is common with honoured guests), and we did our best to empty our common plate despite the "earthy" taste of sheep which we are not as used to.

At around 3:30 PM, our host joined us and shared stories about his life on a deep sea fishing boat where he had travelled as far as Madagascar. He even showed us pictures of himself as a young boat engine mechanic. It was a sweet time getting to know our new friend. He told us we had good hearts and we would remain friends till the day we die.

Just when we thought things were winding down and we would be excusing ourselves, another dish full of food was brought out - sheep in a green pea sauce with fries and french bread for dipping. This was accompanied by juice, soda, fruit, and tea. We certainly had our fill! We concluded our time together with a family picture, which will help us mark this special occasion. And while we were not able to speak at length about the gospel with Sidibé and his family, we are thankful for the opportunity to deepen a relationship we pray will last not only till death, but beyond death to the life to come.



Sidibé (in white) and his family