

Mongo, 20 December 2006

Dear Friends,

As Christmas is coming, I thought I'd be in touch to wish you all a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year and let you know a bit about what I've been up to these past two months since being back in Mongo.

Preschool Classes 2007

We've been busy finishing off resources, training the teachers and buying materials. Two weeks ago we held a week's teacher training which went very well. It was great to work with such a motivated group of teachers and good fun trying out all sorts of different activities. The 14 classes are on track to start on 3 January in 5 different language areas.

Planning Meetings

I've taken part in planning meetings for 5 language committees to help them plan their activities for the 2007 literacy campaign. Classes generally run from January to June during dry season when people are not busy in their fields. I've really enjoyed visiting the different villages and meeting the people on the ground and helping them think through the challenges they face as they seek to promote effective literacy work among their respective communities.

Transition work

Work on our transition programme for those who have already mastered reading and writing in their own language and who now want to learn French is also progressing, albeit slower than desired.

Christmas

While it will be sad not to be home for Christmas and New Year, it seems like there will be lots to keep me busy here. At church on Sunday they announced the programme for the celebration on 24th Dec which will last 12 hours (4pm-4am!!!!) and will include lots of eating, singing, dancing, sketches etc. I doubt I'll make it all the way till 4 am, but it should be interesting all the same. On the 25th I'll celebrate German Christmas with the Sauer family and on the 26th we'll have a Boxing Day celebration with all the other SIL folks in the region. Over New Year I've been invited to the nearby village of Baro to celebrate with one of my colleagues' families.

Security Update

Over the past few weeks, there has been continued insecurity in Chad, mostly in the East of the country but so far things have not come to a head and we have been able to stay and get on with our work for which we are very thankful. Do remember the people of Chad this Christmas time!

Thanks again for all your support over this past year. It's been a year full of challenges, some expected and others a real surprise, but all in all, it's been a privilege to live and work in Chad this past year.

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2007!

Caroline