



CA Young Adults  
Global Mission

# Young Adults In Global Mission

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**“I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.”** -Psalm 13:6

## I am here! Mexe Meen!

First of all, I want to say thanks - thanks for your support and prayers and thoughts and good vibes! I am in Fatick, and have been here for almost two weeks.

There are some things that I want to tell you about what has been going on with me.

**This newsletter's contents** (So you can look at the parts you are interested in):

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- **Welcoming in Fatick**
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### Leaving Dakar

Leaving Dakar was a little nerve-wracking, because our YAGM group had been there for 3 weeks and had grown used to life there. Now we had to go to a new place that we didn't really know anything about, and speak the local languages we had been learning in class. For Erik, the other YAGM in Fatick, and me, the local language is Seereer.

### Seereer Class

Seereer class was always very fun because of our wonderful teacher, Thomas, who would have us

practice our Seereer with Ibou, our school's Seereer-speaking guard, and sometimes buy us peanuts or bread with spicy lentils to share during class breaks.



### Goodbye to other YAGMs

We YAGMs said goodbye to each other and hello to our new sites on Sunday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of September.



Here we are at our last Dakar church service. The church had a nice good-bye for us complete with a favorite food; Ceebu Jen. We shared the food around the bowl with our new host families before departing.

### Welcoming in Fatick

After a snug taxi ride to Fatick with my host father, Latyr, one of my supervisors/Erik's host mom, Mame Coumba, Erik, a mother and her baby, and

some other people (Using all the space we could get in that taxi!), we made it to Fatick! ☺

## Family

I was nervous to meet my host family, but they were very welcoming to me right away. My host mom and dad, Bousso and Latyr, showed me around the apartment compound that we all live in. They introduced me to the other families that live there with us (There are lots of kids, yay!), showed me to my room, how to use the shower, and let me watch some TV with them. Finally, we all ate couscous and beans around the bowl. My host family is Christian, so we always sing this prayer. The words of our prayer are as follows (Excuse my English translation. It is as good as I could get it):

*In gon Yeesu in we ñaamaa (In Jesus' name we eat)*  
*Barke' I xaye ñaamel in (Sanctify today our food)*  
*Saytooxi fo bay ole wo (make peace with your hand)*  
*pasil in fop fo saate in (for all our family and for our country)*  
*Aamiin (Amen)*

## Placements and Activities

I have had the great opportunity to be welcomed here by not only my host family, but also by people at my assigned site placements.

My site placements are the ELS (Evangelical Lutheran church of Senegal) Youth Information Technology Center and La Foyer des Femmes (Women's House).

So far, work has been somewhat slow because in a farming community, people are still busy with crops at this time of year. More of the meat of my work will start in October.

However, I am spending time by continuing to learn Seereer and trying to do what I can to help around at my site placements.

In this picture, I am learning to make a tart-tasting sauce called fassap at the



Women's house. The leaves for the sauce are grown right there, in the garden. We were cooking for a pastors' conference that was being held there that day.

## Communication

Pastor Jean-Noel is my supervisor at the technology center. He has shown me a lot of things around town. The other day, he took me to the internet café. I didn't know what we were going to do there, but he ended up having me introduce myself and ask all the people there for their names. They asked me some questions in Seereer that I didn't understand, and Pastor Jean-Noel just looked at me with an encouraging smile. After some struggling, we got through it.

I have wanted to say, "I am trying!" but there literally is no word for "try" in Seereer. At least, not in my Seereer book. I have just been "doing"! I definitely have a long way to go, but people have been helpful.

## Reformation Song (Freed by God's Love)

The other day, I was sitting in Pastor Jean Noel's office, sending out some emails. Using Google Translate, "La deuxieme tête," Jean-Noel told me that there was a music practice going on and would I like to join? Of course I said yes!

It turned out to be a practice for a recording of a song by one of the musicians here, Simon (In the white shirt). The song is called, "Freed by God's Love" and is for upcoming 500<sup>th</sup>



anniversary of the reformation of the church. I was able to sing the English part for the recording.

As we practiced, I was thinking of how amazing it is that I am here in Senegal, singing a song for the Reformation with other Lutherans. I really did feel like we were all together in God's love. Even though it can be difficult for us to communicate and there are some cultural differences, we're all together as people, and we are all held together in love.

**Thanks for reading! Hope you're doing well!**