

Hi! Our names are Riley and Duncan Murdock, and we're missionaries (with our parents) in a country called Benin in West Africa. Since our parents have a newsletter, we thought we would write one too, so you guys could get an idea of what it's like to be a kid on this mission



field. Being the older one, I (Riley) will do most of the writing. We've lived in Africa most of our lives –

Duncan was even born here! But we've visited the US so we can make some comparisons. There are cool things in the US that we don't have here, like libraries, playgrounds, zoos and big stores. When we were in the US it seemed like we spent a lot of time in cars going places. Here, we're hardly ever in the car. If we go somewhere, it is often on a bike with our parents, or on foot (stroller for Duncan). We don't have too many places to go, really – a few friends' houses or maybe to a small store or the open air market in town. Sometimes I get to go on a "field trip" to the town generator, truck yard, construction sites or the sawmill to see the big machinery and see how things are built. That is really interesting. Recently, my mom took me with her to a girl's house in the countryside to treat a burn on her leg (she is handicapped and does not get around too well). This girl lives in a one room mud hut with her mom and brother. When we got there, she had 2 friends over to help her take dried corn kernels off the cob. Later, they took these kernels to the mill to grind into flour for their food – but we'll tell you about food another time.

I squatted by the basin of corn to help a bit – it hurt my fingers after a while! A few weeks ago we went swimming to a small waterfall at the end of town. The water was pretty cold, so I didn't stay in very long, but it was still fun and really



pretty there. But mostly I stay at home. We have a big compound here, so there are lots of things to explore and do. We have horses and donkeys (both of us are learning to ride!).

There are lots of trees to climb – guava trees are the best, mango and cashew trees are also good, but they often have ants on them. I like to pick fruit too. We have 2 gardens that I like to poke around in and plant seeds in. I like to play with the water in the hoses, but my parents said I have to be really careful not to waste water. There are trucks, tools and buildings to explore, and lots of other people live here, so I always have someone to play with (and to make sure I don't get into too much trouble). They all speak different languages, and I am trying to learn some of them, but mostly I am learning French.



Some days my dad takes me to our farm, which I really like. I get to float on a raft on our "pond," feed the ducks, and I play

with my shovel and bulldozer while Dad works. Once in a while I get to help him with his projects.

If I get up early (which I do most mornings) sometimes I sit on my bed with a cup of juice, look at the pictures in my Bible and think about the stories I have learned. Some of the people in there are kind of like us – they left their homelands for a different place because God called them to do something for him there. We're here because we want people to

know about Jesus and how much he loves them, so their hearts will be free. Next time we'll tell you about what people here believe about God and how it makes their lives really hard, scary and sad.

Please pray for us to be good missionaries!

Love, Riley and Duncan

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### Quiz

Where do we live? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of these things do we do here? (check more than one)

- go to a farm
- go to the video store
- swim at a waterfall
- visit the library
- go to the playground
- visit friends
- ride a horse
- ride in the car a lot
- go to the store
- see a sawmill
- climb trees and pick fruit
- play games

What language am I mostly learning? \_\_\_\_\_

Why are we here? (check more than one)

- it's a fun place to live
- so our dad could get a job
- people need to hear about Jesus
- God called us
- our church sent us