



October—November 2023 Newsletter

Dear Family, Friends, Churches, and Supporters,

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Happy New Year to you all! Though a Merry Christmas is in order as well, I thought I would start with the more popular holiday here, New Years. Though you see much more Christmas celebration here as time goes on, New Year's Day is the bigger holiday. We welcomed the new year with a Watchnight service at the church at Djable. It was an evening with songs, testimony, a film about the gospel, and prayer.

THE KPOGNO WEDDING

We have had the privilege to witness the marriage process of my friend, Pastor Yaovi, and his new bride, Gentile. To see all three parts of the marriage process here in Togo was quite interesting and good for us to learn about the culture. The process involved a Dowry Ceremony with the two families, a Civil Ceremony in the eyes of the government, and finally, a Church ceremony before God and others. We are so happy for them. Their friendship has been a grace from God in our first months here. Many times they have dropped everything to meet our needs. We are thankful to God for them. Please keep them in your prayers as well! We know God will continue to use them for His glory.

LEARNING TO COOK AFRICAN CUISINE

Annaleise has been learning how to make all sorts of different African sauces and meals. She is doing great, and we thoroughly enjoy a mix of African and American dishes!

TRIP TO THE NORTH OF TOGO

Using our Christmas break from language classes, we journeyed up to the north of Togo to the city of Kara. On my previous trips to Togo, I was able to spend a couple of weeks up in this area with a veteran missionary. Though the same country, there is quite the difference between the north and south as the culture and languages are different throughout. (For all of those on deputation that I told I didn't think there were lions where I was going, I stand corrected! We have them (in the north!) And if you have never been this close to a lion...It is an experience!)

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

The Gospel Light Baptist Church here at Djagble has been a blessing to us and it has been a joy to attend and minister here since we have been back from the states. As the language knowledge increases, the relationships do as well. We praise God for the fruit that these connections with God's people will bear in the future. We are learning so much about the culture present where we now call home. As with every new endeavor with God, we need wisdom to walk before the people around us as we ultimately live for God. By God's grace, the preaching in French is becoming more and more comfortable! Thank you for your prayers for our language learning! Please keep it up.

YOUNG PEOPLE OUTING AT THE LAKE

Pastor Yaovi has invested much time and energy into the training and teaching of this group of young people. This is an outing we took to Lake Togo. It was similar to going to camp. We sang, quoted memory verses, played games, prayed, and ate (each young person made a meal, and everyone shared a little of it)!



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