



The Ministry of Jesus Togo

Gregg and Jayne Yarian
2017 W. Old Liberty Rd.
Westminster, MD 21157
443-605-4731 011 228 90995132
Facebook: The Ministry of Jesus-Togo

theyarians@yahoo.com

TheMinistryofJesus-Togo.org

The Ministry of Jesus
c/o Oakbrook Church
1700 Reston Pkwy.
Reston, VA 20194
703-437-4900

Dear Friends and Supporters,

On the first Christmas, the angels announced and celebrated the birth of the one who had come to save the world. No life in human history has delivered so many people from bondage to the suffering and pain caused by human rebellion against our Creator-King. **We thank you so much for your part in the work of changing lives with the same Good News the angels announced that first Christmas.**

Complicated to Liberated

When someone in Togo say that a person is “complicated,” it is not a compliment. Complicated means that the person is not easy to understand or to get along with. When Epiphanie came to the university at Kara in 2012, many people used the word complicated to describe her. During the first student meeting, she spoke up to complain about not being allowed to hang her laundry in the courtyard on Sunday morning, expressing her views with great anger. **She was a walking bottle of rage. Jayne and Claire held many a meeting to try and bring peace among the girls living in the student center, and Epiphanie was pretty much always in the center of the conflict.** In many different contexts, we taught on forgiveness over and over again. Gradually, Epiphanie began to change. After two years, the wife of the pastor of her home church told us that Epiphanie had come and held a conversation with her for the first time. **By her third year, Epiphanie was playing the piano for the worship team and was even helping**

Epiphanie leading worship during the 10th Anniversary of the church in Sotouboua.

Augustin receiving an award for his part in leading The team from Kara to victory in a multi-denominational, national Bible quiz competition.



to lead a cell group.

After 5 years with us in Kara, Epiphanie now has her degree and has returned to her home church. She radiates peace and joy and is full of enthusiasm for the work she is doing for God. In her home church, she is now teaching the young people how to play the piano and she has organized a women's choir. She is leading the children's ministry as well as the ministry for the women of the church. She has also started a group for adolescent girls. Usually, university students with their diplomas do not go back to their small towns and villages; people in Sotouboua know that Epiphanie is there only because of her great love for God and her church. **Persistent, loving application of the gospel and gospel inspired love have liberated her from her bondage and transformed her into a beautiful servant of God who is advancing the Kingdom.**

Going on to another level

Augustin came to Kara with a much different background from that of Epiphanie. His father was already one of the village church leaders when we came to Togo in 1995. His father has served in several villages as a "Sector Leader." That doesn't mean that Augustin didn't come with a lot of growing to do. We remember well the night that his disagreement with the pastor's wife was so loud that we had to talk to both of them about the shame it brought on the name of the Lord and on the name of the church.

Augustin's leadership qualities were already recognized by the time he was in high school. That is why he was chosen to attend Calvary Chapel Bible Training Centre in Ghana between high school and starting at the university. The time at Calvary Chapel greatly developed his innate ability to communicate and helped him to become **an excellent Bible study leader.**

During Augustin's time in Kara, he had **opportunities to develop his leadership skills** as a member of the leadership team of the campus InterVarsity group and in serving the church. He served as a cell group leader, Adult Sunday School director, and eventually was chosen as a church elder. The course Nagbandjoa taught on preaching helped Augustin to become one of the most gifted young preachers we have heard. This year Augustin will be studying for a master's degree in English translation in Burkina Faso. **The cost of studying in another country is a large. But, students like Augustin are well worth the investment.** The program in English translation that he will be pursuing doesn't exist in Togo. He should be well positioned for an eventual post as a professor at the university, a post that will give him the opportunity to influence many others for the Kingdom of God. **Would you consider a special gift to help Augustin, or another dynamic leader like him, to be able to do post-graduate studies?**

Sad news, Good news

Epiphanie and Augustin share something in common besides being good leaders; **they both have hepatitis B.** Almost 10 years ago, a young man named Bodjana got very sick just before his final high school exam. The way he was cared for by his leaders and fellow students forever marked his life. The other students even picked him up and carried him to school. He was finally diagnosed with hepatitis. At that time, the treatments for hepatitis in Togo were limited to strictly controlling your diet and to using traditional remedies. Over the years, Bodjana became a solid leader. He was a key person in the church plant in the village of Landa. But **Bodjana always stood out the most when someone was in the hospital. No one had more compassion.** Late this summer, after an InterVarsity camp, Bodjana had another crisis. This time we were told that his liver was pretty much not functioning. **Please pray for Nagbandjoa and for Pastor Nakordja's family, who are caring for him, in what, barring a miracle, will be his final days.**

Encouraged by Jacques, a student leader who is in medical school, **we decided to test everyone who lives in any of our student centers and to vaccinate all those who are negative.** The results were: 5 people tested positive in Kara, 6 in Lome and 2 in Dapaong. **The good news is that we found out that there are now medicines available in Togo that can pretty much eliminate hepatitis B.** But, before taking these medications, the patient must undergo an extensive series of tests, one of which involves sending blood to France to be tested. **The total cost to test and treat all of our students is estimated to be around \$8,000. Because of the life-threatening**

nature of the disease, we have gone ahead and started vaccinating and testing. Would you consider contributing to this special need?

Political update

The political unrest we asked you to pray about in our last newsletter is worsening. The opposition is now organizing weekly protests. **Some on both sides have been killed and the many burned buildings in the city of Sokode make it look like a war zone.** One scary factor is that the major opposition leader is Muslim and the violence has mostly been concentrated in Muslim dominated cities. Recently, a mosque was burned in Kara. Humanly, there is no apparent solution. **Please pray against our enemy who seeks to kill, steal and destroy. Please pray for a solution that will bring both peace and justice.**

Personal update

Jayne and I now have a young boy living with us. On the first day of school, Jayne ran into a boy on the street and asked him why he wasn't in school. He said that he had nothing. We investigated and found out that he was an orphan who was living on the streets because he could not get along with his uncles. **Pray for wisdom and patience as we care for a very loveable but very challenging Essodesam.**

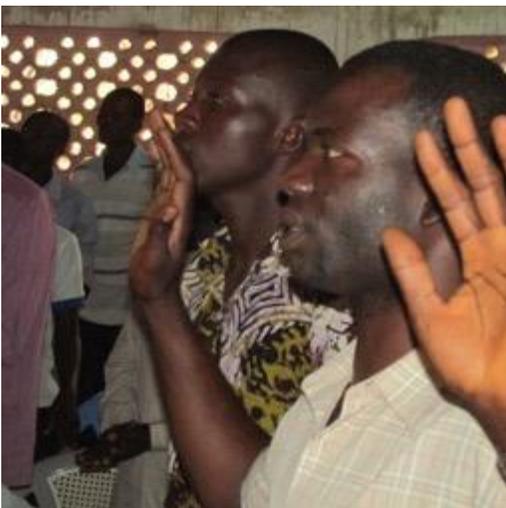
Finances

Ironically, as our goal of planting an African church able to support itself has led us to cut back on giving to day-to-day budget items, it has led to many significantly more expensive projects which will leave a solid foundation. **Would you consider a special end-of-year gift?**

Prayer

- **Pray** for an outpouring of God's grace on Bodjana and on Pastor Nakordja's family as they care for him.
- **Pray** for continued academic success for Augustin, Jacques, Dale, and others who are pursuing advanced degrees so that they can be in key positions to advance God's Kingdom.
- **Pray** that the Togolese church would stand united and faithful in the current political crisis.
- **Praise God** that there are now medicines available to treat our many student leaders who have hepatitis B and **pray** that we will have the means to do it.
- **Praise God** for answering our prayers to bring more girls to our student centers.
- **Praise God** for answering our prayers for Claire's leg. Despite predictions by the doctor, she is now pain-free! **Pray** that she and Nagbandjoa will have a baby.

Bodjana worshipping during a seminar.



"Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. 'Don't be afraid!' he said. 'I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior --- yes, the Messiah, the Lord has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David.'"
Luke 2:9-11

Thank you for helping us to bring to Togo the good news that will bring great joy to all peoples.

In the joyful service of the King,

Gregg and Jayne