

January 2000

Aja Harvest Work Report

Murphy, Christine and Stephen Crowson

Aja Harvest Work Report – January - 2000

Work Activities

Week 1 – January 1 - 8

- Aja Prayer Warrior and Your Aja Harvest Newsletters
- Sunday morning worship with Eglime church. 18 present.. Taught a lesson on the Fruit of the Spirit. There were 8 baptisms the following Thursday.
- Preaching Point lesson at Dadahoue village. Took Avedjin Christian woman to hospital. Talked with Aja evangelist about the importance of proclamation of message combined with service.
- Worked on Aja Harvest Goals for 2000 and finished 1999 Work Report.
- One Sick Day
- Two Hunba baptisms. This marked the beginning of the church in the village of Hunba.
- Collected gifts from churches for 2nd annual Aja-wide church meeting.
- Devotional with Fon team.
- 2 days of language study.
- Etakpekpe – 2nd annual Aja-wide church meeting. Friday and Saturday. 400 present.

Week 2 – January 9 - 15

- Etakpekpe continued until Sunday afternoon. 18 baptisms after meeting.
- 3 days of language study.
- Worked on Old Testament story book.
- Worked on translation of 1st John.
- Outlined culture studies.
- Car maintenance and banking.
- Business errands in Cotonou and Dr.'s visit
- Outlined language study lesson plans for this year.
- Wrote lesson on Mark 2
- Discussions on Language study, church maturation, and sponsoring congregation retreat with teammates.
- Carte de Sejour (Card of stay) paper work. Residency card necessary for working permit.

Week 3 – January 16 - 22

- 1999 Church Growth Study research with Eglime congregation.
- Worshiped with Eglime. 40 present.
- Dadahoue church was born with 9 baptisms. 3 additional baptisms from Avedjin church.
- Visited potential new preaching point.
- 4 days of language study.
- Continued work on Old Testament Story book.
- Worked on Aja Harvest goals for 2000.
- 1 day in Cotonou completing Carte de Sejour requirements.
- Prayer meeting with teammates.
- Worked on Team Decision Making Model.
- Lesson preparation for Sunday

Week 4 – January 23 - 29

- Worship with Avedjin and Hunba churches. 7 baptized. Spoke on worship.
- Worship with Hunba church. 3 baptized.
- 2 day Team Planning and Evaluation Retreat. We evaluated results from 1999 and set new goals for 2000.
- 4 days of language study.
- Worked on Team Newsletter.
- Worked on Evangelistic Lessons Book.
- Lesson preparation for Sunday.
- Maturation Meeting with Gbakonu congregation. 35 present. Taught lesson on the Greatest Commandment.
- 1 day Evangelists Meeting. Discussed ways to mature new Christians.

Week 5 – January 30 - 31

- Worship with Eglime. 37 present. Taught lessons on Lord's Supper and Giving
- Worship with Dadahoue. 35 present. Taught brief lesson on Lord's Supper.

Culture Studies completed

- Tools and receptacles for food and drink
- Clothing
- Gestures and personal distance
- Pets and domestic animals

Scriptures Translated (rough drafts)

- Judges 6-7 – Gideon
- 1 Samuel 3 – God calls Samuel

Level I Language Assignments Completed

- Comparative and superlative degrees; “which” and “tag” questions
- Amounts
- Negative commands and prohibitions

It was a busy and productive month. The most exciting event was the Aja church-wide meeting. At least 400 people gathered for three days of worship and proclamation of God's Word. It was very exciting and completely sponsored and carried out by Aja Christians. There have been many baptisms this month. 32 just from the churches that I'm working with (this does not include the 18 from the Etakpekpe). Two new churches began in villages I have been working in (Hunba and Dadahoue). God is working and the movement has begun.

My proficiency in Aja is allowing me teach on a wider range of topics. I still have a long way to go before I'm “fluent,” but progress is being made. This next month I hope to begin my first preaching point with a potential Aja evangelist. Three villages near the new congregation of Hunba have requested that someone come to their village to teach God's Word.

Christine and Stephen are doing well. We had a very positive Dr.'s visit today and baby Crowson is also doing well. We are all enjoying reasonably good health and feel more at home here as time passes and we get more into the rhythm of the work. Thank you for your prayers and encouragement. We love you!