

March 2000

Aja Harvest Work Report

Murphy, Christine and Stephen Crowson

Aja Harvest Work Report – March 2000

Work Activities

Week 1 – March 1 - 4

- One day of language study.
- Lesson preparation for preaching point.
- First Evangelistic meeting in the village of Ainahoue. 40 adults present. I taught a lesson on Trusting in God using the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den.
- Banking and Residence Card errands, and work reports in Cotonou.
- Picked up my Aunt from the airport.

Week 2 – March 5 - 11

- Worship with Avedjin congregation. 37 people present.
- Worship with Dadahoue congregation. 31 people present. I taught a lesson on trusting that the Lord will hear our prayers. We can trust Him. We don't need to fear the gods, witchcraft, or sorcery. There were three baptisms.
- 1999 Church Growth Report.
- Translation Meeting.
- Two days of language study.
- Evangelistic meeting in the village of Ainahoue. 25 adults present. I taught a lesson on worshipping God only using the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.
- Vehicle maintenance.
- Meeting with Hunba Christians.
- Evangelistic meeting in the village of Ainahoue. 35 adults present. I taught a lesson on worshipping God only using the story of Elijah and the prophets of Bail.
- Returned my aunt to the airport.

Week 3 – March 12 - 18

- Worship with Hunba congregation. 6 Hunba Christians and 20 Avedjin Christians present. I taught a lesson on God's Word as Truth and on the resurrection of the dead.
- Worship with Dadahoue congregation. 15 present. I taught a lesson on the Greatest Commandment.
- Attended an Aja funeral.
- Five days of language study.
- Continued working on translation of 1, 2, and 3rd John into Aja.
- Lesson preparation.
- Spent some time in the village of Ainahoue greeting people in their homes and developing relationships.
- Attended a baby dedication with the Eglime congregation. I spoke on training a child up in the Lord and shared some practical ways to teach one's children about the Lord.
- Evangelistic meeting in the village of Ainahoue. 20 adults present. I taught a lesson on the Creation and Fall of Man. On the way to this meeting I found out that one of the people (Da Gualle) we baptized into Christ was burned to death. He had been in prison for several months under the charge of being a thief. He had returned to his village to prepare some magical charms to heal one of his guard's children. Devi (the thief burning sorcerer) and his people found out about it. On their return to the prison, Devi's people blocked the road, took out the prisoner,

interrogated him and then killed him. I sent a more thorough, detailed report to Bob, Tod, and Bill if you would like more details. Needless to say, it was a terrible tragedy and a devastating blow to all of us.

Week 4 – March 19 - 25

- Three days language study.
- Continued work on 1st John translation.
- Four team meetings (Translation, Prayer, Devotional, and Business)
- Newsletter preparation.
- Christine visited, encouraged and prayed with several Christian women from the Eglime congregation.
- Visited, comforted Christians from Avedjin, where Da Gualle was from.
- Lesson preparation.
- Evangelistic meeting in the village of Ainahoue. 35 adults present. I taught a lesson on sin and it's consequences.

Week 5 – March 26 - 31

- Worship with Eglime congregation. 52 present. I taught a lesson on 1st Peter 3:6. Do not return evil for evil, insult for insult, etc.
- ½ sick day
- Two days language study.
- Team Meeting.
- Lesson preparation.
- Continued work on Old Testament Story book.

This month was full of ups and downs. The new evangelistic effort in the village of Ainahoue has been very exciting. I'm excited that my language abilities are allowing me to communicate the gospel in a culturally relevant manner. And I'm excited that we have the opportunity to work with people who are hungry for the Truth.

At the same time, the crisis/tragedy concerning Da Gualle was very difficult. Since our arrival almost two years ago we have faced many difficulties which we were unprepared for. But the Lord has carried us through them all and given us strength in our time of need.

Two new congregations began recently in the villages of Mosenhoue and Kansouhoue. There are now 18 churches of Christ among the Aja. We praise God for the continued growth.

We enjoyed a week long visit with my Aunt Rosanne. She enjoyed seeing our work first hand. She also gave us a lot of encouraging counsel regarding our team dynamic. Her visit was breathe of fresh air.

We also found out that the Baileys will be returning to the States for several months. I will be taking over Greg's responsibilities in his absence. There are two recently planted churches that need close attention as well as a new preaching point. I'm a little overwhelmed right now, but I know that the Lord will give me strength to face all of the challenges He puts before me.

Christine, Stephen and 'Baby Crowson' are doing well. Stephen has Malaria right now, but he's recovering. Christine has had some major headaches this month due either to pregnancy or another round of Malaria. We're doing our best to take good care of her. For now, her headaches are gone. We thank the Lord for that.

Thank you again for making our ministry among the Aja possible. May the Lord bless you richly as you seek to advance His Kingdom on earth.