

January 2001

Aja Harvest Work Report

Murphy, Christine, Stephen & Matthew Crowson

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Work Activities

Week 1 – January 1-6

- Three days language study (Murphy). Two days language study (Christine).
- Continued work on translation of the Gospel of Luke into Aja.
- Aja Prayer Warrior correspondence.
- Meetings with Ainahoue, Hunba, Avedjin, Dodohoue and Dadahoue congregations.
- I met with the people from the village of Kindji. We began teaching in this village before I left on furlough. They said that they want to continue to study so we made arrangements for weekly meetings to begin again.
- Christine went to visit Christian women from the village of Kaiteme.

Week 2 – January 7-13

- Worshipped with the Ainahoue congregation. 35 people present. I taught a lesson on the Temptation of Jesus.
- Entertained numerous visitors asking for money.
- Two days language study (Murphy). One day language study (Christine).
- Continued translation work on the Gospel of Luke.
- Two meetings (1 business and 1 for prayer).
- Christine spent one evening taking a woman to the hospital.
- Two days at annual all church meeting hosted by the Danjihoue congregation. 300-400 people in attendance coming from all 30 churches. A wonderful time of praise, worship, prayer and study of God's Word. The meeting was completely planned and carried out by Aja Christians.

Week 3 – January 14-20

- Worshipped (all day) with all of the churches at the annual meeting. 14 people were baptized after the meeting ended.
- One day language study (Murphy and Christine)
- Christine spent one afternoon visiting a woman in the hospital.
- Evangelistic meeting in the village of Kindji. 11 baptisms. (Kindji-5, Ainahoue-5 and Dodohoue-1).
- Church growth studies in Ainahoue, Hunba, Avedjin and Eglime.
- Continued work on translation of the Gospel of Luke.

Week 4 – January 21-27

- Worshipped with the new church in the village of Kindji. They were so excited!!! People from three nearby churches came to help them get started. I taught a lesson on making our faith strong. 14 baptisms. (Kindji-4, Ainahoue-9, Avedjin-1) afterward.
- 1 day trip to Cotonou for shots.

- Two days language study (Murphy). One day language study (Christine).
- Continued work on translation of the Gospel of Luke.
- Christine visited Christian women from the village of Dadahoue.
- Maturation lesson with the Kindji church. I taught a lesson on worship.
- Met with people from the Dogbo-at-home village to set up a new preaching point. They've been asking for over one year for someone to come but we haven't had time until now.

Week 5 – January 28-31

- Worshipped with Christians from the village of Deve. 40 present. This is a church/preaching point still. Five people were converted in a nearby village but they want to begin a new congregation in their own village so they've begun to meet on Sundays to teach their neighbors. We had a good crowd and many who seemed eager to hear God's Word. Two more people were baptized from Kindji. Five were baptized from one of David's preaching points.
- Annual Evaluation/Planning Retreat.
- Spent one morning doing vehicle paper work.
- Aja Prayer Warrior correspondence and Work Fund/Monthly Word Reports.

We finished our annual church growth study for the year 2000. We will have a more formal, detailed report finished this month but here are the initial results:

15 new churches were planted (The total is now 30)
 516 new baptisms in preexisting and new churches.
 Overall faithful membership is currently 784.

We are very excited about all that we see God doing in among the Aja. Last year we set a goal of 700 for total faithful membership with 16 new churches. We didn't know how that was going to be accomplished but we put that vision before God in prayer and we were amazed with how His Mighty Hand moved in so many ways to bring the movement to where it is today.

Thank you for your prayers for our work and our family. God is richly blessing our ministry among the Aja. Christine, Stephen and Matthew are doing well. The boys are growing up so fast. It's so fun to watch them learn and grow. Stephen has been playing more and more with the neighborhood kids. We're hoping that he will begin to pick up more and more Aja.

I'm beginning two new preaching points in February in the villages of Fanahenhoue and Dogbo-at-home. There are many signs of Satan's strongholds in these villages but we are hopeful that the Lord will demolish them with His Power and win many souls. Pray for us, that we may proclaim the Word boldly and fearlessly as we should.

Until next month, may the Lord bless and keep you. The Crowsons