

March 2001

Aja Harvest Work Report

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Work Activities

Week 1 – March 1-3

- Vehicle Work: Kill switch installed.
- February reports.
- Christine visited/encouraged Christian women from the Avedjin congregation.
- Continued work on the 2000 Church Growth Evaluation and 2001 Planning Reports.
- Evangelistic meeting at Daiyeahoue. The meeting was canceled due to a recent death. We went to the funeral and greeted the family and gave our condolences.

Week 2 – March 4-10

- Worshipped with Djumahoue church. Eight Christians present. I taught a lesson on perseverance through suffering and difficult times.
- Two days language study: Continued work on Luke and John.
- Lesson preparation.
- Evangelistic meeting at Dogbo-Ahome. Twenty-five adults present. We taught a lesson on Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. God is able to save us, but even if He doesn't we won't worship other gods.
- Cotonou Business: banking, vehicle maintenance, internet account setup, etc.
- Two meetings (men's prayer and business).
- Maturation meeting with Kindji congregation. I taught a lesson on God's power and victory over sorcery, witchcraft and evil.

Week 3 – March 11-17

- Worship with Dadahoue. Fifteen adults present. I taught a lesson on pure and holy living in the midst of idolaters and joy in the midst of suffering.
- Two days language study: Recorded 1,2,3 John and 1 Peter onto cassette. Continued work on Gospel of John.
- Lesson preparation for leaders meeting.
- Maturation meeting with Kindji. I taught a lesson on prayer. The village of Houngeme requested that someone come to their village to teach them God's Word.
- Tried to have evangelistic meeting at Dogbo-Ahome, but few showed up so they asked us to return the following week.
- Two meetings (men's prayer and business)
- Leaders meeting Friday night and Saturday morning. Randy and I did took Christians representing ten congregations through the book of 1 John. It was a great time of Bible study, fellowship, praise and prayer. Saturday morning we specifically prayed for everyone who came and the churches and villages they represented.
- Evangelistic meeting at Daiyeahoue. We taught a lesson on faith using the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. A vojushi (a practitioner of one of the gods) also had a meeting adjacent to ours. Unfortunately, the majority of the people who had come to our meeting ended up going to his. Very discouraging. This time of year, as people wait for

the rains to come, the vojushi go around from village to village telling people that they need to give the vojushis money so that they can make the proper sacrifices to bring the rain.

Week 4 – March 18-24

- Worshipped with Mosenhoue congregation. Fifteen teenagers present, no adults. I taught a lesson on the Greatest Commandments.
- Evangelistic meeting with Dogbo-Ahome. Twenty adults present. We taught a lesson on Creation and the Fall of Man.
- Made arrangements to begin teaching in the village of Koffihoue. I helped a new Aja evangelist make arrangements to begin teaching in the village of Houngeme.
- Completed church growth and evaluation reports.
- Three meetings (devotional, men's prayer and business)
- Two days language study. Completed translating the story of Noah's ark.
- Christine visited/encouraged Christian women from the church of Keletume.
- Maturation lesson with the Kindji congregation. Talked about bringing people to Jesus. Two baptisms.

Week 5 – March 25-31

- Worshipped with Kadahoue congregation. Nine adults present. I taught a lesson on the Greatest Commandments and how we can incorporate those into our daily lives. Three baptisms (One from Kaiteme and two from Azove)
- Two days "spiritual renewal" with Ewe missionaries. Visited two churches with Frank and enjoyed a good worship time with their team.
- Vehicle work. Added protective grill to front.
- Made plans for Harding interns coming this summer: arrival, survey trip, disorientation, and missionary retreat.
- Two days relaxation in Lome.

March was a difficult month for me. Due to elections, deaths, and other misc. events numerous meetings were canceled. Two steps forward and one step back as they say. Due to cancellations my two new preaching points are having a rough beginning but still continue.

The new preaching point in the village of Houngeme is exciting. I will begin dropping off Feliciene, a young Christian from Azove, in this village every week on my way to Koffihoue. He's excited to have the opportunity to proclaim the Good News and I'm excited that he's doing it on his own. Four churches have already begun due to Aja evangelists working alone. For the movement to really grow this needs to increase more and more. The prayer continuously our lips is: "Lord, raise up more Aja harvesters to go forth into Your Aja harvest." It's exciting to see God answering that prayer.

The overnight leaders meeting was also a highlight for this month. It was great to see so many faithful men gather together for an intense time of worship, Bible study and prayer. We will continue to have meetings like this every other month. The Avedjin congregation sponsored this meeting and Hunba has already volunteered to sponsor the next one in May.

Our family is doing well. We enjoyed a couple of days with some of our missionary friends in Togo. They were a tremendous encouragement to us. Thank for your prayers and support of our ministry among the Aja. God is indeed at work among the Aja.