

October 2001

Aja Harvest Work Report

Murphy, Christine, Stephen & Matthew Crowson

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Work Activities

Week 1 – October 1-6

- Cotonou trip for shopping, business, etc.
- Office work. Finished translating James into Aja and worked on revisions.
- Evangelistic lesson in the village of Koffihoue. I taught a lesson on repentance and baptism.
- Two days language study. Joseph and I continued translating Luke into Aja.
- Christine held a meeting with Christian women from Kindji and Dodohoue. She taught a lesson on "Hanah."
- Spent one day preparing for Homewood visitors.
- Tried to have an evangelistic meeting in the village of Ekpoji. I visited with those where there. Most were still at the farm.

Week 2 – October 7-13

- Worshipped with Azove church. I taught a lesson on "Jesus: Full of Grace and Truth."
- Traveled to Lome to pick up Homewood visitors.
- Errands in Lome and lunch with Parkers, Koonces and Howards.
- 1/2 day traveling to Tabligbo. Went with Anthony and Bill to "Water" office to make final arrangements for the Parkers' water.
- 1 day traveling to Kara and spent three days with Millers, Presleys, Hills, Howards. Also visited with Kara team and had lots of good food and beautiful road trips. Matt took us to one village where he hopes to begin teaching soon.
- 1 day traveling to Azove.
- 1 morning in language study with the Howards. Evangelistic meeting in the village of Ekpoji. I taught a lesson on repentance and baptism. I took the Howards and Rick.

Week 3 – October 14-20

- Worshipped with Kindji, Djoumahou, Hounkemey, Avedjin, Dadahoue, and Ainahoue churches during a special "area-wide." Bill and I taught a lesson on church leadership and responsibilities. I also taught a lesson on "Jesus: Full of Grace and Truth." After church we had a big, "spicy" meal and then we went to the river where seven people were baptized.
- Took video for missions committee. Two interviews with Christians.
- Met with Rick for one afternoon.
- Visited market with the Howards and interviewed another Christian.
- Visited and prayed with Christians in Avedjin and did a walk through video in the village of Kindji.
- Lunch with Chownings, Hills and Howards.
- Took the Hills and Howards to the Abomey museum.
- Christine took Judy and Elaine to a women's meeting in Kindji. She taught another lesson on Hanah.

- 1/2 day traveling to Tabligbo. We showed the Hills and Howards the Parker's house and had a meal with the Watchi team that night.
- Traveled to Lome Saturday morning. Ran errands, shopping, airport check-in, etc. Lunch with everyone. Said goodbye to the Homewood group.

Week 4 – October 21-31

- Returned to Azove.
- Joseph and I continued our work on translating Luke into Aja. We finished chapters 6 and 7.
- Visited Christian leader from Ainahoue. He was very sick and having a hard time because his uncle is very ill and still recovering from a recent operation.
- Visited Koku from Kindji and made plans to return to Sendomey village.
- Tried to have an evangelistic meeting in the village of Koffihoue. The storm clouds moved in just after I arrived so I returned home in the rain.
- Visited the village of Kansouhoue where there was supposed to be a funeral. One of the Christian leaders came by late Wednesday night needing money to help buy a casket for a Christian who had died. After he left my house he went to the village where the woman had died and tried to obtain the body to bring it back to Kansouhoue. The family up there refused though because they didn't want her to be buried in "Jesus." Therefore he wasn't able to return with the body and the funeral was canceled. Of course, I didn't find out the funeral was cancelled until after I arrived at the village.
- Christine had a women's meeting in the village of Kindji. She taught a lesson on "OT prophesies of Jesus' coming."
- We found out that Joseph Latte was released from prison and sent home. This was a "great" source of joy and praise for us. Praise God, He still works to release the oppressed from captivity. I visited Joseph twice encouraging him and praying with him.
- Tried to have an evangelistic meeting in the village of Koffihoue. They forgot I was coming so they were still at the farm.
- Tried to have an evangelistic meeting in the village of Ekpoji. This was a very difficult day. After we arrived the contact person for that village sat down with us (myself and the two Aja evangelists) and told us that the village leaders had decided that they would all repent if I (me) built them a church building. If I didn't build them a building, then they wouldn't repent. As you can imagine, we had a very interesting and difficult discussion. No meeting due to market day.
- Worshipped with Avedjin church. I taught a lesson from John 21 on following Jesus no matter what others are doing.
- Cotonou trip: Banking, shopping, 70000km car maintenance, etc.

Thank you for your encouragement and prayers for our ministry among the Aja. We love you and ask God's blessings upon you.

Murphy, Christine, Stephen and Matthew