
Togo Harvest Work Report – March 2002

Murphy, Christine, Stephen and Matthew Crowson

Work Activities

Week 1 – March 1-9

- Three days language study with Emile.
- Christine came down with the same virus I had a couple of weeks ago. It put her in bed for four days.
- Continued development of watchiharvest.com; set up email addresses for team, etc.
- Went to two villages that might be interested in hearing God's word; Kodohoue and Toji. Toji is a Watchi village in the northern part of watchiland and Kodohoue is a village close to Sendome . The chief of Kodohoue wasn't there but we were able to talk with one of the village leaders in in Toji. He wanted us to return and talk some more.
- Tried to have a meeting in the village of Sendome but the village leaders had all gone to a 'judgement' or some sort of trial in a nearby village.
- Worshipped with Tabligbo church. I greeted the church in Eve and did my best to say their closing prayer.
- I went to a Bible study at Papa Koffi's house. He's one of the leaders in the Tabligbo church and has a Bible study in his home every Tuesday. Again, I did my best to pray in Eve and follow the lesson.
- Went out with Jeff for a full day in the village(s). We dropped evangelists at two preaching points and then went to a monthly cluster leadership meeting.
- Men's/women's prayer and business meetings.
- Spent an afternoon out with Marty. Visited a small church north of Tabligbo and visited several surrounding villages that could be potential preaching points. It rained <really> hard so we had to cut the day short.
- Christine went to the weekly women's cluster meeting.
- Made a trip to Lome to meet with the Parkers and Jana as they returned from the States.

Week 2 – March 10-16

- Spent the morning with the Parkers and then worshipped with the team that night. We also had a good visit with the Miller's, who spent the night in our home on their way to Lome.
- Two days language study with Emile.
- continued development of watchiharvest.com
- Lome trip to run errands; banking; submitted Christine's passport for renewal; signed up for internet account.
- Office work; expense reports, email, prayer warrior correspondence.
- 6 month team planning and evaluation meeting. Went over goals and accomplishments for the past six months and looked ahead to the coming six months.
- Met with S.I.L. translation/research team. They had asked to meet with our team to discuss their upcoming research project among the Watchi concerning the possible need for a Bible translation in the Watchi language.
- Christine went to the weekly women't cluster meeting.
- I went to the first evangelistic meeting in the village of Sendome. I helped Felicien teach a lesson on Creation and the fall of man. It was a good meeting with about 12 adults + kids there.

Week 3 – March 17-23

- Worship with Ahepe church. 12+adults there. I did a better job of greeting the church this time in Eve and could follow the lesson a little better.
- Two days language study with Emile.
- Vehicle maintenance.
- Spent a significant amount of time on development of watchiharvest.com
- Men's/women's prayer and business meetings.
- Felicien went to the preaching point without me due to a previous appointment that I had. He taught a lesson on Noah and the great flood and the judgement that is to come. God will ask for an accounting of our lives, what have we done with the life He has given us?
- Christine went to the weekly ladies cluster meeting.

Week 4 – March 24-31

- Worship with Kaiteme church in Benin. I made a trip across the river to encourage the Christians. I taught a lesson on love and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.
- Two days language study with Emile.
- Office work: Continued website development; prayer warrior correspondence.
- Spent one day with Marty going to maturation meetings with churches he works with. At the end of one of the meetings they asked me if I had anything to say. I wasn't expecting that but did my best to talk. I shared with them how important prayer was and how God wants us to go to Him for our needs. I stumbled over some of it but Marty jumped in and helped me with new vocabulary.
- Christine went to the weekly ladies cluster meeting. This week she taught her first Eve lesson. She spent all month working on a short 20 minute lesson on nutrition and the importance of eating healthy foods. At these women's meetings, one missionary always gives a Bible lesson and then another usually gives a health-care or development type lesson. Christine was nervous but they all said she did a great job.
- Attempted to have an evangelistic meeting in the village of Sendome but most of the villagers had gone to a funeral. We waited an hour and then decided to return home. We were prepared to give a lesson on 'Trusting in God.'
- I worshipped with the Adidokpo church. Stephen was sick, so I went by myself. It was Easter Sunday. We had a good worship time. Before church started they asked me to teach so I taught a lesson on the resurrection and how Jesus conquered death on the cross. It was my first lesson in Eve and I was nervous, but it went pretty well. I used a lesson from one of the lesson books the team developed on the Gospel of John as a springboard for my talk. The church was very patient with me and helped me through the new vocabulary. It was a good day.
- We celebrated Easter at home with an Easter egg hunt complete with Flopsy and Mopsy, our two bunny rabbits. The kids really enjoyed finding candy in their plastic eggs.

Comments

Christine and I dove into language study this month. Language study is a humbling experience for me. I'm almost 32 years old but when I'm out in the village any three year old can speak better than me, at least for now. We are progressing well though and enjoying the process. I'm really proud of Christine for giving her lesson so quickly. At first I was skeptical that she couldn't do it and thought it was too difficult, but she worked really hard and did a great job. It was fun for her to be able to use her nutrition expertise to help the Christian women here.

It was also really good to go out with Marty and Jeff. I'm learning a lot just by listening to them speak and interact with Christians. It's also giving me a chance to get to know the churches and leaders from different clusters. It is evident that the Lord is indeed working in the hearts of the Watchi to bring them to faith and use them to shine His light in the darkness.

I was also excited to be able to teach my first lesson in Eve. It was very simple, but it was a start. My goal is to be at the beginning of the advanced level in Eve before we come home on furlough in late August.

Stephen and Matthew are doing well and right now we're all enjoying good health, for which we are very thankful. We are also thankful for your support, encouragement, love and prayers. Thank you for empowering us to minister to the lost and for sending us to shine the light in the darkness. God is working, and the light is shining.

May God continue to bless the Homewood church as you seek to advance His Kingdom.

For the King,

Murphy, Christine, Stephen and Matthew