
Watchi Harvest Fields Work Report – October/November 2003

Murphy, Christine, Stephen and Matthew Crowson

Work Activities

Week 1 – October 1-4

- Finished editing the team video presentation for the Together for Togo conference.
- Return from USA to Togo. Air France had a strike which caused me to miss my connecting flight. I had to stay an extra night in Paris. My bags stayed an extra night in Paris and two nights in Cotonou, Benin.
- I had a good time with my family in the States and was able to help them through a tough time emotionally as they all recovered from Dad's heart surgery. God watched over my family in Togo and kept them safe. Praise Him! God also provided the funds for my trip!

Week 2 – October 5-11

- After picking my bags up at the airport on Sunday afternoon we finally were able to return to Tabligbo that evening.
- Made arrangements to continue language studies with a new teacher from Tsevie.
- Visited Todzi and Tetekpo churches to encourage them and begin the weekly maturation meetings again.
- Office work: Tabligbo times, mission reports, MK School Year Book, worked on Castleman's itinerary for their trip in March, Train and Multiple lesson book printing, work fund report, etc.
- Visited Sendome church to encourage them. I learned that one of the preaching points that we had begun the previous year had finally come to an end. We tried everything we knew to evangelize the village of Kendenyohoue, but the people there are too scared of the Voodoo gods to repent. It broke our hearts, but we finally had to give the village up so that we could focus our efforts on more receptive areas.
- Men's/Women's Prayer/Business meetings.
- Christine went to a ladies cluster meeting in Sedome church cluster. She's teaching through the Gospel of Luke. Today's lesson was on the announcement of Jesus' birth to Mary.
- I had a meeting with the Tetekpo church. We began to move them along in terms of their relationship as a cluster of churches; Todzi, Agodome, and Tetekpo. I met with the leaders from all three churches and we discussed how they can work together to help each other be strong and grow.

Week 3 – October 12-18

- Worshipped with Batoe church. I taught a lesson from Luke. The Rich Man and Lazarus. Spent a time in prayer for the sick there and they had a special offering to send one of them to the hospital. One of the young women in the church has a skin disease that looks like leprosy. I prayed for God's healing. I also was able to catch up with the church leaders and discuss how they were doing.
- One day in Lome doing vehicle maintenance and picking up Stephen's renewed passport at the U.S. embassy.
- Office work: I put the MK School Year Book on the website, Tabligbo Times, lesson plan preparation, worked on school computers, continued working on Castleman's flight itinerary, etc.
- Murphy and Christine both had language lessons.
- Maturation meeting with the Todzi church. I taught a lesson from 1 Cor. and Colossians about Jesus being the head of the body.
- Maturation meeting with Tetekpo. I taught a lesson on desiring and seeking spiritual food and drink that will nourish their souls.
- Men's/Women's prayer/business meetings.
- Maturation meeting with Sedome church. I taught a lesson from James 1, perseverance through suffering which produces Godly character.
- All day men's meeting with the Sedome cluster. We spent the entire day talking about spiritual worship and God's desire for his followers. It was an awesome day as men gathered from both the Sedome and Batoe churches to study God's word, grow in their faith and sharpen their leadership skills. A great day, but it wore me out!

Week 4 – October 19-25

- Worshipped with Todzi Christians. I taught a lesson from Romans 12 on “True, spiritual worship.”
- Two day trip to Tsiko hospital to have blood work done on Stephen. He had pneumonia in July and the doctor wanted us to come back to make sure that the pneumonia was completely gone. Praise God, Stephen got a clean bill of health!
- Christine went to Tsevie for one morning of language study.
- Maturation meeting with the Todzi church. I taught a lesson from Luke and John on “Being a Servant.”
- Maturation meeting with Tetekpo church. I taught a lesson from 1 Peter on their new identity in Christ. “What is the church of Christ?”
- Edited the team video for Anthony.
- Men’s/Women’s prayer and business meetings.
- Tried to have a maturation meeting with the Batoe church but on the way to the village the car overheated. It took me an hour to find some water to put in the radiator. By the time I found enough water it was getting dark so I turned around and went home.
- We hosted Edwin and Patty slack this week. They worked with the Watchi from 1994-2000 and returned this year to visit the Watchi churches and Christians.
- Christine went to a 3-day women’s meeting in the village of Tsadome. Over 150 women representing all of the churches for three days of worship, praise, prayer and Bible study. The theme this year was “Love.” It was planned, taught, lead and paid for by the Watchi churches. We praise God for their maturity and ability to carry on these meetings. This is a sign that the movement will continue to grow and thrive after the missionaries leave.

Week 5 – October 26 – November 1

- Cluster worship with the Dagbati cluster. Sunday, the final day of the women’s conference, the Tsadome church hosted the monthly cluster worship. A great time of worship as over 200 gathered to praise the Lord.
- Christine: two morning of language study. Murphy: one afternoon of language study.
- Meeting with Todzi church. Due to illness and financial challenges, none of the women from this church were able to come to the women’s meeting. Todzi was the only church not represented at the conference. We spent a long time talking about the importance of these meetings and I worked with them to begin preparing for the men’s meeting in February.
- Maturation meeting with the Tetekpo church. I taught a lesson from Acts on examples of the early church in their faith and worship.
- Men’s/Women’s prayer and business meetings.
- Maturation meeting with the Batoe church. I taught a lesson from James 5 on the Power of God to heal through prayer and faith.
- One day in Lome for shopping and errands.
- I had planned to have a men’s meeting with the Agodome men but it was canceled.

Week 6 – November 2-8

- Went to the cluster worship Sunday @ the Tetekpo church. This was the first Sunday that Tetekpo held a worship service in their village. It was an exciting day as Christians from the Sedome, Batoe, Todzi and Agodome churches all came to encourage their new brothers and sisters in the faith @ Tetekpo. I taught a lesson from John “They will know you are my disciples if you love one another.”
- Christine: two mornings of language study. Murphy: one afternoon language study.
- This week was a hard week for me. On Wednesday I went to Kedenyohoue, the village that we had to give up, and met with one of the village leaders there. It broke my heart to see the faces of those who had come to hear God’s Word but wouldn’t step out in faith to receive Jesus. Our hope is that the seeds of the Gospel that were planted in this village will someday grow into faith.
- I also found out some discouraging information about one of the evangelists that I’ve worked with over the past 2 years. It looked as though he had been working behind my back to turn three of the churches in that area against me. I stopped by his house on the way home that evening but he wasn’t there. So we put the matter to prayer and went home.
- Men’s/Women’s prayer and business meetings.
- Maturation meeting with Sedome church. I taught a lesson from 1 Cor. “I planted the seed, Apollos watered, but God made it grow.” Putting our faith in the Creator and not in man.

- Office day: I worked on creating a weblog for <http://harvestfields.net> and for Tabligbo Times. I'm learning how to use a new software program that will enable me to post and archive newsletters and prayer letters on the web.
- Christine went to the Sedome women's cluster meeting. She helped them teach a lesson on the birth of Jesus.

Week 7 – November 9-15

- Worshipped with the Sedome church. I taught a lesson on "Fixing our eyes and faith on Jesus" using the story of Jesus walking on the water.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, I set up a website for the Kabiye team to use, continuing learning how to use the new weblogging software.
- Murphy: one afternoon of language study.
- Wednesday morning I spent a good amount of time in prayer and Bible study in preparation for me meeting with Kossivi, the evangelist that I talked about last week. I asked the Lord to give a "word" on the subject and I received three. "Wait, Be Patient." So, with this word, I left to go and confront Kossivi about the news that I had heard.
- God really blessed me that afternoon. On my way out to the village I saw Kossivi on the side of the road and was able to pick him up. We went straight to Sedome and sat down with another church leader. We prayed and then I confronted him with everything that I heard that he had done and said. The things that were hidden in the dark were brought to light. Thank you Lord for hearing and answering prayer. This meeting enabled us to begin building the trust that had been broken.
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.
- Maturation meeting with the Batoe church. I taught a lesson from 1 John on walking in the light. I also introduced the Train and Multiply leadership training and explained how they were going to be incorporated into it.
- Edwin, Marty and I built a tree house in our back yard in preparation for the Thanksgiving celebration.
- Christine went to a women's cluster meeting with the Atitogon church cluster.

Week 8 – November 16-22

- Worshipped with the Agodome church. This Sunday was graduation day for their children. 30 boys and girls had worked hard on memorizing scripture, singing songs and telling Bible stories. They custom made outfits for all of the kids and then presented what they had learning learned to the church. Afterwards everyone had a great meal together of rice, sauce and fish. They made a special meal of beans and gali for Stephen because they know that this is his favorite! They asked our family to sing everyone a song, so we sang "A Wise Man Built His House Upon A Rock" and I translated it's meaning into Aja and then used that to teach a mini lesson on hearing the Word and obeying the Word.
- Murphy: One day language study.
- Office Work: Harvest Fields.net weblog setup. I also set up a weblog for Cry Rwanda! a news and prayer discussion group for people praying for the nation of Rwanda; printed Train and Multiply French originals for later reproduction.
- Met with Agodome cluster leaders and talked about how they can work together as a cluster, the new leadership training that will begin next year.
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.
- Went to the village of Gbagame with leaders from the Sedome and Batoe churches to talk to some families that had asked them to come and teach them about Jesus. We had a good time in the village with these families and greeted the village leaders. While we were sitting I asked the Lord to bless me with the ability to speak really clear Aja on this day so that I could communicate well. Later, the Batoe guys said that that day I spoke the best Aja that I've ever spoken! Praise Him for He is faithful.
- Spent all day Saturday with the men from the Sedome cluster. We talked about the new Train and Multiply leadership training coming, the changes that would be made in my time with them and spent the afternoon talking about the 7 Basic Commands of Jesus. A great day! I returned home very tired!

Week 9 – November 23-30

- Worshipped with the Tetekpo church. I taught a lesson on God's basic desire for their lives: Repent and believe, Love Him with everything that we are, Love others with the same love that He has given us. On the way home one of my shock absorbers broke due to the terrible road!
- Monday was spent repairing the shocks.
- Office work: Harvest Fields.net weblog work; Tabligbo times; website updates and learning the weblog software; airline tickets for Suzanne Diaz and Heather Golightly, our teachers for next spring; finished printing the French originals of the Train and Multiply series for reproduction; worked on school computers.
- Murphy: one day of language study.

- Helped Frank teach lesson on the character of an Elder with the Adidokpo church. The Bunners are returning to the States next spring. Due to this Frank will be able to begin the train and multiply training with the new elders in the Kpeve and Adidokpo churches, but he won't be able to finish it since it's a two year process. So I'm stepping in during the elder selection process in order to begin the series with them and then continue training the new elders after Frank leaves. Pray for God to enable me to train these new elders!
- Meeting with all of the Togo church of Christ missionaries about some Togo business.
- Hosted missionaries from Kara, Tabligbo and Benin @ our home for thanksgiving and also Tori Vaughn's birthday party. We had a great time together!
- Our meeting in the village of Kpeve was cancelled due to a funeral.
- Tried to have a maturation meeting with the Tetekpo church but everyone was in the fields due to a nice rain the day before and the main leader there, Yao, was sick with malaria. We prayed for him, I gave him some medicine to help with his fever and then we returned home.
- Sunday morning, on the way to church, I was overcome with nausea and a bad headache. It was so bad that we had to turn around and go home. Christine had Children's Bible class with the boys while I slept!

Comments

It's been a great two months. I helped the Sedome cluster begin a new preaching point. God blessed me and I was able to work through some issues with one of our evangelists. The family had some sickness, but nothing serious and God has restored our health.

The biggest thing going on right now is the implementation of the Train and Multiply Training Series. I spent a lot of time in preparation and introduction this month getting our leaders ready to begin the training in January. I also began participating with Frank in the Elder selection process in the Adidokpo and Kpeve churches. I'm excited to work with the churches and they select faithful men to shepherd them and also excited to work with the men over the next few years as they grow in their faith and ability to lead others in their walk with Jesus.

Thanksgiving was a lot of fun. We had over 40 people in our home for the day. 23 of those were kids! The tree house that the guys help me build was a big hit as was all of the fun food!

Thank you for your faithfulness in prayer for our family and the growth of the Kingdom in southern Togo. I am continually thankful for God's hand moving in so many lives to bring them to faith and then show them His power for those who believe.

Our blessings to you in your service to the King,

Murphy, Christine, Stephen and Matthew