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# Watchi Harvest Fields Work Report – April-June 2004

Murphy, Christine, Stephen and Matthew Crowson

## Work Activities

### Week 1 – April 1-10

- Lome trip to take Stephen to the doctor and banking business.
- Two day prayer and fasting retreat with the new Kpeve and Adidokpo elders in Kpalime Togo (a mountain top three hours north of Tabligbo). Frank and I spent this time with the nine new elders from these churches to encourage them in their transition to leadership and service and also as a time to seek the Lord's guidance and blessing for their new ministries.
- Worship at home with family after I returned from the elders retreat.
- Christine taught at the Tabligbo MK school for one day
- Office work: website, Tabligbo Times, etc.
- Lome trip: purchased items for the teacher house. Christine to the doctor
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings
- Train and Multiply meetings in the villages of Sedome, Kptonou, Agbeku, and Kpeve. I talked from 2 Tim 2:14 about holy living so that we can be useful tools for the Lord. We also worked on learning all of the major events of Jesus' life and how to share those using a story-picture book. We also talked about the evangelistic studies that all of the leaders are doing. Hearing their stories gets me excited. These guys are really making a significant effort to share their faith.
- My meeting with the Adidokpo elders was canceled due to a death in the village.

### Week 2 – April 11-17

- Worship with Sedome Cluster. I taught a lesson from 1 Peter 1:3 about what a blessing the resurrection is to those who believe!
- 1 afternoon of language study for Christine and me.
- Christine taught one day in the Tabligbo MK School.
- Office work: Team meeting minutes, Tabligbo Times, prayer warrior correspondence.
- My vehicle had some mechanical problems so I had to cancel my Adidokpo meeting.
- We packed up the Bunnars container for their move back to the States.
- Batoe meeting canceled due to a <heavy> rain.
- Lome trip to put new tires on the truck and purchase Ghana visas.
- Train and Multiply meeting in the villages of Kptonou and Kpeve.
- Christine went to Benin for a "ladies getaway" to give Jenna a good send off before her move back to the States.
- The Bunnars moved to our house for their last few weeks in Togo.

### Week 3 – April 18-24

- Stephen was sick and Christine away with the ladies in Benin, so we had Bible class at home.
- Fun/play day with the Bunnars.
- I taught music in the Tabligbo MK School. Christine also taught one day in the school.
- Language study for Christine and me.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, worked on the Parkers furlough video, printed graduation certificates for school, etc.
- Train and Multiply meetings in the village of Adidokpo.
- The Sedome meeting was canceled early due to a heavy rain. I was able to spend a couple of hours with Denni, a leader from Sedome talking and praying about the Kingdom. Kptonou and Kpeve meetings canceled also.

### Week 4 – April 25-May 1

- Adangbe Cluster worship. This was the last Sunday for the Bunner family. All of the Christians that they've worked with for so many years came to worship with them one last time and to say good-bye. The whole team went too. We had a great day praising the Lord through all that He had done through Frank and Jenna. We are thankful to have had the opportunity to work with such a Godly couple and also sad to lose them as teammates.
- Monday the entire team went to Accra to spend the last week with the Bunnars and to have a special good-bye. As you can imagine there were lots of tears.
- The Parkers and Suzanne (our spring school teacher) also left for the states that week.

## **Week 5 – May 2-8**

- Family worship day.
- Office work: I spent a considerable amount of time learning Macromedia Studio, a new professional web publishing program, Tabligbo Times
- Train and Multiply in the villages of Adidokpo, Sedome, Kptonou and Kpeve. We continued to study book 15 in the series “Jesus calls you” and also book 16 “Jesus defeats our enemy.”
- Men’s/Women’s prayer and business meetings.
- Nazere’s daughter (Nazere is an elder in Adidokpo) was very sick and so we had a special time of prayer for her during our Adidokpo meeting. Also, Abla, the young woman who had tuberculosis came to the Sedome meeting and said that her cough was returning and asked for prayers. I asked her if she wanted me to take her back to the hospital and she said no. I did give her money to go to a local clinic and the men of the church agreed that they would take her by motor bike the next day.
- We had our Kptonou Train and Multiply meeting in a village called Agbeku. This is a small church that has been struggling for the past year that Frank worked with before he left. Now that Frank is gone I’m looking after his work. Anyway, we went to see some of the members of this church and they acting like everything was fine and going well with the church and their faith. Later we found out that they were just telling me what I wanted to hear.

## **Week 6 – May 9-15**

- Worship. Sorry, I forgot to write down where we went and what lesson I taught.
- Benin trip to renew vehicle inspection papers. While I was there I visited a couple of villages that I worked with. It was good to see some of the people that I helped bring to Jesus and to know that they are continuing to grow in their faith.
- Wednesday morning a boy came from Batoe and told me that Abla died in the night (the girl that had tuberculosis that I mentioned previously). Very depressing and very sad. She had just a sad life. Married to a man who didn’t love or take care of her. When she came down with Tuberculosis her family didn’t take care of her to point that she wasn’t even able to feed her newborn baby. As a result her baby starved to death. I found the mother and child the day before the baby died. We tried to save the baby but it was already too late. Abla stayed in the hospital for several months after that taking all of her medicine for tuberculosis and recovered well. The hospital released her to go home but after a month at home the sickness returned and she gave up hope of getting better and wouldn’t let anyone help her anymore. This was very a very hard, emotional experience for us because we had become close to her and her situation. She’s with Jesus now though. Where she was weak, He was strong.
- I made a trip to Sedome to enquire about her funeral. It had rained hard and the road to Batoe where she lived wasn’t passable. The next day we drove as far as we could and then walked the rest of the way through the mud.
- The Train and Multiply meeting in Kptonou was rained out. I was able to meet with the Kpeve elders though. We went over book 17 “John the Baptist.” We talked about our role now to proclaim the Good News as John did.

## **Week 7 – May 16-22**

- Worship with Sedome church. I taught a lesson on being ready when Jesus calls us home. In light of Abla’s death, it was the lesson closest to my heart.
- Train and Multiply with the Adidokpo and Sedome elders/leaders. The Kpeve and Kptonou meetings were canceled due to rain. In all of the meetings we finished talking about John the Baptist and continued talking about book 16 “Jesus defeats our enemy.”
- Men’s/Women’s prayer and business meetings. We met with a young university graduate named Late who is interested in working with our churches to help them learn better farming techniques and economic principles.

## **Week 8 – May 23-29**

- Worship with Sedome church cluster in the village of Batoe.
- Adidokpo meeting rained out again. I took the opportunity to continue learning Macromedia studio.\
- Women’s prayer and business meetings. Men’s meeting canceled due to Jeff’s sickness.
- Train and Multiply meetings with Sedome, Kptonou and Kpeve. This weeks topic was witnessing the Good News to friends and family. The idea is that people need to learn how to witness to those close to them, not just villages far away.
- Christine went to the monthly Wathci women’s meeting in Dagbati.

## **Week 9 – May 30-June 5**

- Worship with Kptonou. I taught a lesson on obeying Jesus and remaining faithful to the Lord to the end.
- Kpeve and Adidokpo Train and Multiply meetings cancelled due to Nazere’s daughter’s death. I went to the funeral in Adangbe and did my best to encourage the Christians there. I was impressed by Nazere’s mature attitude. He said, “We all have to die and sickness is the path that leads us there. We shouldn’t be surprised by sickness and death. I’m just glad that my daughter is in heaven now.”

- I picked up Randy and Tori Vaughn at the Mono River that separates Benin and Togo and brought them to Tabligbo for Stephen's 6<sup>th</sup> birthday party. We had a great party! It's hard to believe my little boy is growing up so fast.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, spiritual renewal times with prayer and devotionals.
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.
- Matthew was sick with malaria this week.
- Train and Multiply in Sedome and Kptonou. The Sedome guys had been kind-of lazy with their studies the past few weeks. We went over the book "How to pray."
- I also had a Christian come to me from Benin asking, no begging, for me to save him from a dire financial need. A very discouraging day for me!
- Christine taught at the monthly women's cluster meeting in Batoe.

### **Week 10 – June 6-12**

- Worshipped with the Dagbati cluster for the ordination of four new elders. A great day to see Godly men appointed to lead His church. We praise God for continuing to raise up strong elders.
- Train and Multiply meetings with Kpeve, Adidokpo and Kptonou. I either continued to teach or introduced the book on "How to Pray." I taught about intercession using examples from Abraham and Moses' lives.
- The Sedome meeting was cancelled because I had to spend a day and night in Lome picking up our summer interns.
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings. We decided to begin working with Late, the university graduate in agricultural studies. We're excited about the great blessing that he is going to be to our churches!
- I came down with a pretty nasty cold this week but unfortunately didn't get time to rest because of such a busy schedule! I pray each day before I go out to my meetings that God would sustain me. This week He really blessed me with just enough energy to make it! By Saturday though I was worn out!

### **Week 11 – June 13-19**

- Worshipped with Sedome church. I taught a lesson from John 1, confessing our sins. I also used King David's sin as an example of sin and its consequences.
- Took interns to Lome for shopping and banking.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times. My phone was dead all week, very frustrating! Had some good reading and devotional times though.
- Train and Multiply meetings with Kpeve and Sedome. Continued our discussion on prayer and how God listens and answers us when we seek Him. We also spent a good amount of time interceding for friends, family and the lost in their villages.
- The Adidokpo meeting was cancelled due to rain. On the way home the road was blocked by a van carrying corn to the market. He was stuck in a huge mud pit. To get him out of the mud we had to help him unload all of this corn, get the van out and then reload the corn. Took over an hour but was a great time for the interns!
- The Kptonou meeting was cancelled because the guys didn't show up!
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.
- I went and visited Kodzo, a man from the Koleve church. He had a huge tropical ulcer on his foot. We gave him some medicine and bandages and promised to come back the next week with more medicine and instructions. When I showed him a digital picture of his foot he began weeping and said over and over "Oh Kodzo, what has happened to your foot."
- Christine taught Jesus' lesson on the sower at the monthly women's meeting in Atitogon.

### **Week 12 – June 20-30**

- Worshipped with Sedome cluster in the village of Sedome. I taught a lesson from Matthew 18 and Luke 15. The lost sheep and the lost coin. We need to continue our efforts to find the lost sheep and bring them to their Shepherd!
- Office work: Tabligbo Times (I mention the Times each week because it takes me 3 hours+ to put it together)
- Train and Multiply meetings in Kpeve, Adidokpo, Sedome and Kptonou. I continued our discussions on prayer and intercession. I answered a <ton> of questions on prayer, especially fasting and its role when combined with prayer.
- Before my meeting with Kptonou, I revisited Kodzo and took him fresh bandages and antibiotic.
- One day in Lome getting the 145000 kilometer maintenance work done our vehicle.
- Worshipped with Adidokpo. I translated for Joseph and Eric as they taught lessons on faith in the midst of suffering and God's great love for us.
- Christine went with the other ladies on the team for a week in Benin at the "Come Before Winter" missionary women's retreat. I stayed home and worked in the office all week and took care of the boys while she was gone. I also continued to work on learning Macromedia Dreamweaver.
- I took Eric, one of our summer interns to Batoe for three days of bonding in the village.