
Watchi Harvest Fields Work Report – July-September 2004

Murphy, Christine, Stephen and Matthew Crowson

Work Activities

Week 1 – July 1-10

- Christine went to Benin for the “Come Before Winter” missionary women’s conference. I took Eric, one of our summer interns, to Batoe for his three days of “bonding” in the village. I picked him up on Friday. Christine came home from Benin on Friday too.
- Christine’s women’s meeting in Batoe was cancelled. She was just too tired after the travel and retreat and needed to rest.
- Worshipped with Adangbe church cluster. I taught a lesson not being tossed back and forth by every wind of teaching and used several examples of Biblical characters who were deceived by the cunning of the evil one.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, lesson preparation for men’s meeting @ the All-Church Conference.
- Thursday – Sunday: All-Church Conference in Vogon.
- Thursday afternoon through Friday morning the missionaries taught the leaders from all the churches. I taught on the “One Cup Church of Christ” issue. This year the “One Cup Church of Christ” has been working hard to steal as many of our churches and leaders as possible. They believe that we can only use one cup in the Lord’s Supper. Any church or Christian that does otherwise is a heretic and not a true Christian. Along with this “new teaching” they offer the leaders and churches money☺ So the message is, come over to our church, which is the true church, and by the way, you’ll be financially blessed if you do so. They stole two of the churches that I have worked with in the past two years and one of the five Tabligbo elders. It’s a problem so we thought it needed to be addressed at the leader’s meeting.
- I also taught on the growth and history of the Watchi movement and our vision for the future. We also started the process of organizing the churches in regions and helped them choose a movement-wide committee to plan the men’s, women’s and all church conferences for the next year.
- Friday afternoon and all day Saturday the Watchi led the conference. The topic was Matthew 28:18-20. The Great Commission. It was an exciting time of worship, praise and inspiration to obey all that Jesus commanded. There were about 600 in attendance.

Week 2 – July 11-17

- The All-Church Conference ended on Sunday with worship and fellowship and 10 baptisms.
- Lome trip to monthly shopping. Changing of interns and preparation for my parents visit.
- Trip to Accra, Ghana and back to pick up my parents.

Week 3 – July 18-24

- We took my parents to Sedome for worship. I translated a lesson for my dad from 1 Cor. 13 on love and how we can make that a reality in our day to day relationships.
- Train & Multiply meetings with the Kpeve and Adidokpo elders, and the Batoe and Kptonou leaders. My dad taught the lesson and I translated it into Eve. We spent the entire teaching time with all of the leaders on having a vision for the future, making a plan, setting realistic and achievable goals and dividing up the work and setting a time-line so that things get done. The leaders loved it! In fact, I think that it was big break-through for the Kpeve eldership. It helped them break out of a rut that they’d been in and gave them some tools to move forward with their dreams and plans for their church. Praise God!
- Men’s/Women’s prayer and business meetings.
- Christine took my mother to the monthly woman’s meeting in Atitogon. Christine translated a lesson that my mother taught on “Training up a child.” How we need to be proactive in raising our children so that we pass our faith onto the next generation. She also talked about being wise in how we spend our time because we can’t give get back the days that we spend.

Week 4 – July 25-31

- Cluster worship with Sedome in the village of Batoe. I helped my dad teach a lesson on working together as a body from Eph. 4.
- Train & Multiply meetings with the Kpeve and Adidokpo elders, and the Batoe and Kptonou leaders. This week I helped my dad teach a lesson on the different personality/leadership styles that God created. We used the examples

of Abraham, Paul, Moses and Peter to look at the different personality styles in Biblical characters. We also focused on how God worked with each of those men according to their own style. His patience with Abraham, his directness with Paul, his resoluteness and specific instructions with Moses and his rebuke and affirmation of Peter.

- Again, this was another break-through for these leaders as they work with each other. It was exciting to see lights come on in their minds and they learned more about themselves and how they can better work with others.
- Christine took my mother to the monthly women's meeting in Batoe with the Sedome cluster Christians. Mom re-taught (with Christine translating) the week's previous lesson from Atitogon.
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.

Week 5 – August 1-7

- Cluster worship with the Adangbe cluster churches in the village of Kpeve. I translated a lesson from Eph. 4 on working together to build up the body of Christ for my dad.
- Lome trip, saying goodbye to the summer interns.
- Office work: Spent a significant amount of time learning Macromedia Studio, the new web authoring software that Steve Castleman bought for the mission. Thank you Steve!
- Trip to Accra to drop off my parents at the airport for their return trip to the States and to pick up Rae Holderfield, our new school teacher for this fall.

Week 6 – August 8-14

- West African Missionary Retreat (W.A.M.R.) in Ghana. Spent a week with missionaries from all over West Africa.

Week 7 – August 15-21

- Worshipped with Gbagu Kope church, a new church plant last year from the Adidokpo church. I taught a lesson from James 1, 4, and 5 on prayer. Effective Prayer requires faith, good motives and righteous living. This was Rae's first village experience in Africa. They greeted her with a fellowship meal after church of beans and gali. Yummmm. Stephen's favorite☺
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, clean up/purging office junk and old papers.
- Train & Multiply meetings with the Kpeve and Adidokpo elders, and the Batoe and Kptonou leaders. This week I taught from the T&M book "Great events of the Bible." We learned all of the great events in Scripture from the Creation to the growth of the church and even studied some church history up to present day.
- In Adidokpo, we spent a significant amount of time talking about Kossi, one of the new elders there who recently decided to go into debt to purchase a motorcycle. It's fine to buy a moto but unfortunately he had to work 80 hours each week to make the payments which wasn't allowing him to do the work of a shepherd. We talked and prayed about how we could encourage him and put the matter in God's hands. (1 month later he gave the moto back and stopped working so much).
- This was also an exciting week for Denni, a leader from the Sedome church. Earlier in the spring he had talked about moving to Nigeria to try and earn some money to support his family. I encouraged him to seek the Kingdom first and trust that God would provide for him. He did that and now, at the end of the first harvest season, he is rejoicing because God has abundantly blessed him with his best crop ever! Praise God, for He truly keeps His promises to His children!
- Spent an entire day putting three computers together for the school. I thank God for Steve Castleman and Jeff Taylor who made this possible by donating the computers and shipping them over!
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings. It's great to have Anthony back!

Week 8 – August 22-28

- Worshipped with the Adidokpo church. I taught a lesson on God's Word: Jesus who came in the flesh and the Bible.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, finished setting up computers for the school, re-organized the closets and answering a backload of email!
- Trip to Accra, Ghana to pick up Josh and Kyleen Bontrager. Kyleen is going to teach in the Tabligbo MK School for the 2004/2005 school year and Josh is going to apprentice with our teach for that time. It's exciting to have another couple with the team and also to be around their freshness and enthusiasm!
- Helped Sassou set up the Jesus film in the village of Sedome.

Week 9 – August 29-September 4

- Worshipped with Sedome church cluster in the village of Sedome. We took Josh and Kyleen for their first church experience. I translated a lesson for Josh on "Trusting God in difficult times." I also brought all of the film equipment back to Tabligbo.
- School started this week for Stephen. We praise God for providing two teachers for this fall.
- Had a difficult morning with a lady who used to work for us so I missed my morning meeting with Kpeve.

- Train & Multiply meetings with the Adidokpo elders, and the Batoe and Kptonou leaders. Our topic this week as how to study the Bible. We used these new study principles to study 3rd John in depth. It was fun to help these leaders discover how to better understand and apply scripture in their context. In Kptonou, I finished up the "Great Events" lesson.
- This week was also the first meeting the Watchi committee for the men's, women's, and all-church conferences.
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, website work.

Week 10 – September 5-11

- Worshipped with the Ahepe church. I taught my lesson on prayer from James. Effective prayer requires faith, good motives and righteous living.
- Office work: Tabligbo Times, website, planned Train & Multiple lessons for the next three months.
- Had to repair the front grill and luggage rack on my vehicle.
- Train & Multiply meetings with the Kpeve and Adidokpo elders, and the Batoe and Kptonou leaders. I took Late, a Christian who is working with the churches to help develop their agricultural skills, to Kpeve and Adidokpo. He spent the whole day planning and discussing their upcoming work together.
- I couldn't get to Batoe on Thursday because a huge semi truck was stuck in the mud on the road there and I couldn't get around it. I waited for about an hour hoping they would get it out but then gave up and returned home.
- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.

Week 11 – September 12-18

- Worshipped with the Adakonu Kope church in the Atitogon area. I again taught a lesson on prayer from James. Effective Prayer requires faith, good motives and righteous living.
- Train & Multiply meetings with the Kpeve and Adidokpo elders, and the Batoe and Kptonou leaders. I continued the lesson on how to study the Bible in the Kpeve, Adidokpo and Kptonou areas. Wednesday was one of my best days so far in the Adangbe area. I praise God for these leaders and how He's using them to accomplish His purposes.
- I couldn't hold the Batoe meeting because there were some people that wanted to be baptized. I can't think of a better reason to cancel a meeting☺ This was an incredible week! There were five baptisms in the Sedome cluster; three new Christians in the Sedome church and two new Christians in the Batoe church. The angels have been rejoicing all night because these lost souls have been found. Of the three in Sedome who were baptized, one was a Huno, a voodoo priestess, who discovered that God is the one true God. She had an illness and spent almost three year's worth of wages on sacrifices to the voodoo gods to find healing but found none. She finally went to some Christians. They prayed for her and God healed her. For the last month she's been studying with Denni, the leader from the Sedome church, and yesterday she gave her life completely to Jesus!
- Antoine, another person added to the Kingdom from Sedome, was a "wife" of a god. I know it's hard to imagine a man being a "wife" of a god. I'm still confused about that. But we are the bride of Christ, so I guess that a man can be a "wife" of a voodoo god. Anyway, he had dedicated his life to serving a particular god. But about a month ago he showed up at church and said he was fed up with worshipping the idols who have no power and he wanted to worship the living God. Again, he studied with Denni and yesterday gave his life to Jesus.
- Ton, another man from Sedome, has been studying with Denni for almost six months. He and his wife have suffered tragedy after tragedy as several of their children have died after childbirth. This past spring his wife became a Christian while she was expecting another child. We prayed fervently for her, that the Lord would bless this child with life. Sadly, this child also died shortly after childbirth. Obviously this was discouraging to her and to her husband who was studying about God with Denni. Ton also struggles with alcoholism. But in spite of their hardships, yesterday he put his faith in Jesus and became a "new man" in Christ.
- The two people from Batoe were both in Komlavi's family. One was his son, Elom, and the other his sister-in-law, Tanti. We praise God for He is certainly working to seek and save the lost! Keep on praying for God's Word to spread, He is listening and He is answering!
- We also celebrated Matthew's 4th birthday this week!

Week 12 – September 19-25

- Worshipped with the Batoe church. Christine was sick, so the boys and I went. I taught a lesson from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus tells us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.
- Train and Multiply meetings in Kpeve, Adidokpo, Sedome and Kptonou. This week's lesson in Kpeve and Adidokpo was on giving. How are lives are to be filled with joyful service and giving. Freely we have received, freely we give. We also talked about the church collection, how to keep good records and also how to be accountable to the church.
- The Batoe meeting was rained out and the Kptonou meeting didn't go because no all of the leaders came.
- I also visited with a man named Michelle who I hadn't seen in six months. His wife went to stay with her deathly ill father six months ago. Thanks be to God, her father recovered and is now doing well. However, his wife never came home and all of his attempts to go and bring her home have failed. They have seven children and she left him with

six and took one. His heart is breaking and he doesn't know what to do. I prayed with him and we made a plan together that he would take a Christian brother with him this next week to see her again and try find out what is going on in her mind, why she hasn't returned and what they can do to reconcile their marriage.

- Men's/Women's prayer and business meetings.
- Office work: I reformatted the Tabligbo Times and also began sending out the Times in plain text format for those without html email. I also spent a significant amount of time learning Macromedia Flash for website development.
- Christine taught a lesson on "Loving your enemies" to the Atitogon Christian women at their monthly women's meeting.

Week 13 – September 26-30

- Worshipped with the Kptonou church. I taught a lesson sexual purity and living righteous lives so that we can be useful tools in the Kingdom for the Lord. I was encouraged by this church. Although they're remotely isolated, they continue on in their faith and have several strong families who desire to serve the Lord with all of their hearts.
- Train and Multiply meetings in Kpeve, Adidokpo, Sedome and Kptonou. In Kpeve and Adidokpo I taught a lesson on "Organizing the Body of Christ." The five steps of a church. Beginning conversions, choosing leaders, working together to grow in Christ and evangelize, good discipline and recognizing and using God's gifts of each Christian to build up the body of Christ. I finished teaching on the first two steps and will finish the last three next week.
- Batoe meetings were rained out. We had a lot of rain this week and the road was simply impassable!
- I also met with Michelle, a Christian man from the Kpeve area again to hear a report about his recent efforts to bring his wife home. She refused to come home and it looks like she has permanently left him.
- I also heard word that the Koleve and Agbeku churches are going to start up again. These churches had a hard time during the rainy season and stopped meeting. But there are still some faithful Christians who have realized their lack of faith and want to continue on worshipping the Lord. I pray that this will happen.