
Watchi Harvest Update June - 2006

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News, Events and Updates from the work among the Watchi people of Togo

What's New

- The biggest events of the last few months were the departures of the Parker and Holland families from Togo. We have spent a significant amount of emotional energy saying goodbye and closing out their ministries among the Watchi these past five months.
- Three churches (two rural and one urban) have begun this year by national leaders.
- Four regional committees and one organization committee are currently coordinating Watchi-area-wide meetings and evangelism efforts.
- Six regional libraries have been established among the four regions of Watchi-land to help facilitate and promote training and Bible study materials. A central library has been established to continue to produce literature as well as restock the regional libraries. A library committee, under the oversight of the Tabligbo eldership, is in place to keep the library running smoothly.
- An audio-visual committee is working to provide all of the Watchi churches with a generator, sound and video equipment for meetings and special events. This committee is under the oversight of the Vogan eldership.
- I have just completed the first level (out of three) of the Train and Multiply series with the four leaders groups that I'm working with. We have already begun the second level.

Quick Stats

- There are 37 churches of Christ among the Watchi with a faithful membership of 1000 and a weekly worship attendance of 2000.
- There are over 50 men in Watchi-land being mentored and trained through "Train and Multiply."
- Second generation training and mentoring is into its second year (Leaders trained by the missionaries have been training other nationals for over a year now.).
- Among the 37 churches, six have ordained elderships in place that are successfully maturing and growing their churches. We anticipate at least four more elderships to be in place in the next two years.
- There are two missionary families left among the Watchi (Crowsons and Koonces).

What's Ahead

- In the next two years the Crowsons and Koonces will continue to mentor and train nationals to carry on every aspect of the Watchi movement.
- Church planting will enter its third generation. (Churches planted by churches that the missionaries planted will begin to plant churches.)
- Leadership training will enter its third generation. (Leaders trained by leaders who were trained by the missionaries will begin to train new leaders in new churches).
- Plans are in place to produce 300 complete sets of the Train and Multiple materials (over 16000 books).

Tentative Timeline for Crowsons

- The Crowsons are in the process of adopting a precious little girl from China. We anticipate receiving our referral from China in the early summer of 2007. Two months after we receive our referral we will travel to China to pick up our daughter, finalize the adoption, and then return to the States to process her U.S. citizenship. We are hoping to combine this trip with our furlough in 2007.
- Sometime in mid to late 2008 the Crowsons and Koonces will leave Togo.
- Many answered prayers have led us to believe that God is calling us to minister in Rwanda after Togo.
- After we leave Togo in 2008 we plan to spend some time in the States for furlough and retooling/preparation for our ministry in Rwanda. We will also need time to bond with our sponsoring congregation and raise start-up funds for our move to Rwanda. I will make a more formal and more detailed proposal for our new work in Rwanda when we visit Homewood on our furlough in 2007.
- We would like to relocate to central Africa to begin a new work in Rwanda sometime in 2009.