

December 2013

Dear Praying Friends,

Several months ago, through trying to assist a young woman in one of our churches with a medical problem we entered into a situation we have never been in during these 24 years here in Togo. At a clinic where my wife had taken her, she was found to be pregnant. She was raped in a horrible situation, and held this pain within for 7 long months until the pregnancy was discovered. It was imperative that we get her to a safe situation and help her through those first few days when she was broken, suicidal and frantic to be rid of the baby and the emotional pain. There are no safe houses, crisis pregnancy centers, or counselors here in Togo. Our daughter Erin who has a degree in counseling and crisis management helped guide us through this difficult time. Our young friend delivered a healthy baby and is moving in the direction towards emotional healing, although not there yet. She is spending much time in God's Word and prayer, witnessing for Christ, and bringing her unsaved school mates to church. We are increasingly encouraged at what God is doing in her young life. God dropped this challenge directly into our lives and is guiding us as we pass these uncharted waters. It is keeping us on our knees, and stretching us a bit as well since we have not had a 17 year old under our care for a long time!

We recently asked prayer for the village of Pagouda, and since that time, have been very aware of God's hand on this church. We knew that the devil would not take this movement of God without protest. We were alarmed when Pastor Koffi, showed up at our house one Monday unable to use his legs and speaking haltingly. Jeanette examined him, but could not get to the foundational problem. We put him in the hospital, started praying earnestly, and requested other pastors to join us in asking God to heal him. By Wednesday he had full movement of the legs, and left the hospital Thursday evening. He was treated for malaria, but we do not really know what was wrong with him. We are convinced however, that Satan's plan to stop what God is doing in Pagouda has been thwarted.

Jeanette recently invited 23 unmarried girls to our home for an encouraging day of teaching and discussion on the needy topic of purity. Keeping one's self pure until marriage is a rare practice here in Togo. We are doing what we can to teach the young people of our churches to break away from the "old ways", and instead follow God's standards. This month we are taking the same teaching to the far north where we work with 6 churches. Our desire is to strengthen young people of these remote congregations so that they determine to hold a standard of purity, even when it is so unpopular.

God is abundantly blessing in the church at Lome II where we recently baptized a good number, and already have another class in session for the next candidates for baptism. Bienvenue, a young man from that church also feels God is calling him into the ministry, and is ready to start Bible Institute.

In our last prayer letter we asked that you pray for the Tchaloude church. Pastor Henoc was leaving it to take the pastorate of the Lassa church, leaving a great void. God has answered prayer and called a faithful member of the Tchaloude church into the ministry. Abalo has enthusiastically started Bible Institute, coming to Kara, a 4-hour ride by taxi Monday through Wednesday, and returning to his village Thursday through Sunday to lead the church.

We are already approaching the door to 2014. This year we have seen some fall on stony ground, some who have fallen by the wayside, but praise God, we have also seen some who have embraced the gospel and are growing in Christ. TO GOD WE GIVE ALL OF THE GLORY AND PRAISE!

Your Missionaries in Togo,

Randy and Jeanette Alderman