

For the Love of Africa and its People

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Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Dear Friends in Christ,

September 30, 2011

It is with prayers and thanksgiving that I am writing to you once again from Togo. I am very thankful for your prayers and support which have allowed me to be here these past three months and more. I have experienced so many different emotions since my return, from overwhelming joy at returning home, to great discouragement in facing overwhelming challenges. But it is only necessary to remember -

The Lord is my light and my salvation -- whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life -- of whom shall I be afraid?

....For in the day of trouble, He will keep me safe in His dwelling;

He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.



Psalm 27:1,5

Église Luthérienne du Togo

Since my return, I have been working with the Église Luthérienne du Togo - ELT (the Lutheran Church of Togo) and the Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques - CLET (Lutheran Theological Seminary) in various ways. The ELT has asked that I advise and guide the national church in developing projects which will aid the national church to become a growing and self-sustaining church body. This is an enormous task, considering the poverty level of Togo, and the economic situation in the USA and worldwide. I must remind myself often that the church is the Lord's and we must turn to Him for guidance and direction. Once public school begins again (opening date is now October 3) I will also be working with high school students in English as a foreign language (EFL) classes. I am eagerly awaiting this time, as I enjoy working with these students so much. Some of my moments of joy since returning have been the visits from past students who now may be at the university level, or searching for some type of employment. A number of these students have telephoned me, or come to visit me at home. The ELT leaders are discussing ways in which English classes can be held also for the church leaders and pastors who are now serving in their villages. We will possibly organize short seminars or workshops in village locations for those who wish to attend. Much of the work with the National Church is scheduled around the growing season, as all pastors must also farm their land, raising the food needed by their families for the coming year.

Le Centre Luthérien d' Études Théologiques

I returned to Dapaong, Togo as the school year came to a close at the CLET (Lutheran Theological Seminary) and was able to participate in the year end ceremonies on June 18, 2011. During the summer vacation months, I worked with a pastoral student from Ivory Coast in conversational English. ATTITSO was unable to return to the Ivory Coast because of financial restraints, and wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to speak English. His desire is to continue his studies after completing his courses at the CLET, and perhaps someday return as theological educator. The school year resumed at the CLET on August 22 with students from Togo, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Congo Brazzaville. I am now working with all twelve students in English. The students are at various levels; for some, it is their first opportunity to participate in an English class. For others, we are building on a foundation that may have come from living close to the border of Ghana or Liberia, or previous English classes at school. I enjoy working with these men a great deal, and am encouraged by their dedication.



Pastoral 2 Students



The Women's School of the CLET

The Women's School at the CLET

I also teach one class at the Women's School - the school for the wives of the students. Pastor Dongo, the director of the CLET, and his wife Henriette understand the need for these men to have support and understanding from their wives once they return to their home churches and begin service as ordained pastors. At the school, the wives who are unable to read and write are taught basic French literacy and math skills. All of the women are instructed in Luther's Small Catechism. Those who are able to read have classes in the Old and New Testament. I have the responsibility of teaching the Old Testament class. This is a great challenge for my

French skills, but an opportunity to grow along with the women in the class. We are studying the book of Exodus, and I told the

ladies I felt like Moses telling the Lord, "I am slow of speech and tongue" . . . the Lord's response. "Now, go!" The ladies are helping me, and we are moving ahead. The women are given instruction in health and nutrition, as well as skills in embroidery and sewing. They are trained to be leaders among the women of their churches once they return to their homes. This is known as "Le Movement de Femmes" or the Movement of Women.

At home

The remainder of my time has been filled with making my house a home, adjusting to 'going out' to find water. . . . and being very thankful when I am able to catch abundant rainwater; low electrical voltage, and frequent power cuts - resulting in no refrigerator. Being the only white missionary in the area, I don't have anyone to whom I can complain, and find the adjusting comes quickly. I often reflect on how early missionaries, or even Jesus, managed in their daily lives. I have had a battle with intestinal parasites, and came out on top. I am now dealing with some type of fungal or bacterial infection on my feet. I often have to walk in areas where there is garbage and raw sewage and any little scrape easily becomes infected. Thanks to Kougbaengbene, one of my first English students who is now a medical assistant - and my personal doctor, I can find medical help that I trust-- for which I am so thankful

Prayer and Praise

Praise for safe return travels from California to Togo, via Ethiopia. No missed flights and no lost bags!
Praise for the opportunity to once again serve the Lord through the Église Luthérienne du Togo (Lutheran Church of Togo) and the Centre Luthérien d'Études Théologiques (CLET).
Praise and thanksgiving for the many prayers and willing support of friends in the USA, who are a part of God's Mission in Togo!
Prayer for wisdom and discernment as I consider the many needs and situations which are brought to me. Pray that the Lord would guide me in all things, and that His will be done.
Prayer for the good health and physical strength needed to serve the Lord with gladness!
Prayer for the leaders of the Église Luthérienne du Togo as we seek ways to strengthen the Lutheran Church body here in Togo. May we look to the Lord for guidance.
Prayer for the staff and students of the CLET. Pray that strong church leaders, based on God's Holy Word, be trained and sent forth.

May the Lord bless you!
Valerie Stonebreaker

Thank you for your prayers and support. To give financially to the work of the Togo Lutheran Mission, please make checks payable to: Mountain Movers International. Send to: **Mountain Movers International**

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If you have questions or would like more information concerning the Togo Lutheran Mission and Valerie's work, please contact:
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or visit the mission link on the website of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at: <http://www.gsclct.org/missions>

