

November 25, 2021



Greetings from...home and Happy Thanksgiving. I'm back home again. Sandi and I are grateful for today's technology which allowed us to stay connected while I was in Togo. During one of our conversations, Sandi informed me that our grandson Jameson said to her, "I can't wait for Papi to get home so I can punch him." Which is exactly what he did. His love language is physical contact, specifically punching and wrestling.

I think it's interesting how God works despite us having our own plans. My original plan for this trip was shelved several weeks before the trip, so I went to Plan B. However, as the staff and I had several meetings to talk about the needs at Hope Radio, we came down to the realization that we needed to do a better job of defining our goals as a radio ministry. That discussion spanned several days, and it derailed Plan B. However, as we formulated Plan C I realized that this was a better plan for the future. (*Editor: Plan C is open ended and no doubt will be amended as we move to implement it.*)

Here's the highaltitude overview. We are targeting six language groups in our broadcast day: French, Moba, Gangam, Hausa, Fulfulde and Anufo. That in itself is a bit overwhelming. One of the first things we decided was that we would have a time of prayer and Bible reading in the various languages and match them with the local Muslim "call to prayer" times. We will then develop a block of time for each language and use our various translators live on the air to fill that block of time. The hope is that with a block of programming in each language at a specific time we will be able to develop a following by people in that language group.

One of the translation projects is the Old Testament. Recently the book of Genesis was completed in one of the dialects and then put on the air. A listener contacted the station to say thank you for the broadcast in his language. His statement was something like this, "I didn't know God spoke my language." What a powerful impact.

Another part of Plan C is a reorganizing of the studios so their use is more flexible. That will also involve the purchase of equipment as the studios are in need of more microphones and some other pieces of equipment that will help us do a better job of broadcasting. (*Editor: Right now, there are two studios that are unusable because there are no microphones.*) I hope to let you know more specifically what needs to be done in that regard.

There are many other things I could tell you about Plan C, but I want to make sure I tell you about the highlight of the trip. My first Sunday in Togo I went with Evan Drake (*Editor: Evan is one of the missionaries at the radio station, he used to be the president of our mission organization, but several years ago he stepped down so he could work at Hope Radio.*) to a village church that was started because of the outreach of the radio station.

Several years ago, Evan and Joy Drake helped to start a church in the village of Galengashi. Sometime later, people from another village came to Evan and told a story. They said something like this, "many, many years ago someone came to our village and said there was a Savior. Can you come and tell us more about this Savior?" I should mention that this village is animistic, so there is a lot of spirit worship. To shorten a long story, Evan met with the village leaders and then came to show the Jesus Film. That night around 250 people came to watch them film and 30 received Christ. Many said they had never heard the name of "Jesus" before.

I was privileged to worship at that church while I was in Togo. The entire service was in the local dialect, so I had no idea what was being sung or said. However, I was in the presence of other believers and it was wonderful. Evan told me that there are many villages within 10-20 miles of that church who have no church, no gospel witness.

Here is a picture of the congregation as well as a video about that Sunday. Please take a few minutes to watch the video and as you do ask God send harvesters into the fields of Togo.

Prayer requests: Please pray as we implement Plan C that God would provide the financial resources needed for some new pieces of equipment and software we need at Hope Radio. One other item, which I'll tell you more about later, but it looks like someone is going to donate 400 high quality solar panels to Hope Radio. We have had a real hard time with the electricity being stable and consistent. It's a longer story and I'll tell you about it in the next Update. Please pray that God would supply the traveling needs I have for getting back and forth to Togo.

Thanks for your prayers, we are comforted to know you are praying with us.

In Christ,
The Silseths

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