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Subject: Fwd: Snook Prayer letter Spring/Summer '24
Date: September 16, 2024 at 9:13 AM
To: Anita Eis a.eis@monclovabaptist.org

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----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Brandon** <brandon.snook@abwe.cc>
Date: Sun, Sep 15, 2024 at 6:40 PM
Subject: Snook Prayer letter Spring/Summer '24
To: <a.larose@monclovabaptist.org>

Journey in Toao: Spring/ Summer

2024





Jesus answered and said unto her, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" John 4:13-14

The above picture conveys a daily occurrence in Togo: going to the well to retrieve water. There are no "days off" because of the lack of running water inside most houses. It is an exhausting chore, but necessary for survival. Imagine how much work and effort is involved in fetching water and carrying the heavy pot home...every single day! In this context, the Togolese can well understand the words of Christ in John 4:13-14. Their "daily water" efforts stand in stark contrast to the "living water" Christ offers. His water always satisfies, is available to everyone, and, most importantly, promises eternal rest. They understand that this "chore" has been accomplished for them, permanently. They do not have to tirelessly work to acquire it...but it has been given to all who accept it, and it cannot be lost. God's Word is clear that salvation is a gift, not given to us because of our good works and tireless efforts. As a result, they well understand what an enormous gift living water is.



Caydon and Dieudonné

Our son, Caydon, has been gifted with the ability to befriend just about anyone. He has several buddies who work at the compound, the hospital, or live out in town. It seems that everyone "knows" Caydon. A few months ago, he was approached by one the hospital security

guards. The guard asked Caydon if he would take a young man named Dieudonné, age 16, under his wing. This particular boy did not have any friends and was a bit of an outcast at school. Although Donn  is very bright, particularly talented in math, he does not relate well to other people. So, Caydon and our family have "adopted" him for a while. We have taken him to church with us in Patatouku, Caydon has introduced him to his favorite meat guy, Ishmael, and they have gone several times to market together. We also have helped Donn  apply for his national Carte d'Identifi  so he can go further in school. Caydon took him to Kids Club in one of the worst parts of town once. Dieudonn  asked Caydon why he would ever consider associating with the people there. Caydon had the opportunity to share the Gospel and God's love with him.

Our family goal was to be a blessing to him. However, upon contemplation, we realize that Donn  was "placed in our laps" as a blessing to us. We have seen Caydon become occasionally weary of Donn 's constant demands as well as his need for attention. And yet, we have watched Caydon's compassion and patience for others grow substantially. By the same token, we have realized how blessed we have been to have Donn  with us at church. He knows French and Kabiye, and has stood in as a translator in a pinch during church services. He has become part of our "church team" that travels up to Patatouku every Sunday. We smile a little at the irony of it all, especially when we realize that "Dieudonn " means "God-given".



Mensa and Caydon singing a duet "special" in church





Before we even knew what was happening, we had a team of helpers accompanying us to the little Kabiye-speaking church in Patatouku. We had been praying for ways to encourage and serve in the church, as God supplied that need in a way we could not have predicted. Every week we arrive with a truck-load of people ready to help and serve in the church. Mensa, who works with us at the missionary compound, is very musical. He has taken it upon himself to teach a new hymn every month to the church. Given that many cannot read the hymnal, there is a lot of repetition... even our kids now know some songs in Ewe! Dieudonné, as aforementioned, helps us with some translation. Kossi and his family help with music, worship, and fellowship. We are thankful, too, to be able to give out solar-powered audio Bibles to some families. Some, who are illiterate, have never read the entire Bible. Now, they have the occasion to hear all of it, and in their native tongue too! It seemed like such a small thing to give out these little pocket-sized devices. In reality, it was a huge blessing to many people. We hope to give out more in the future and are thankful to have acquired them.

For his last Sunday in Togo, Caydon and Mensa sang a duet together. As he said his goodbyes to the church, for now, we were overwhelmed by God's goodness in allowing Caydon to spend an extra year with us on the field. To see the Lord work in our children's hearts is one of the biggest blessings anyone could hope for.





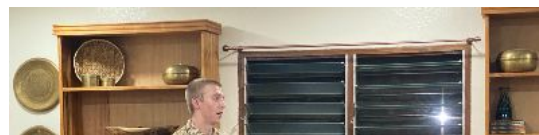
Church members learning how to use their audio Bibles.

The Ladies Bible study behind the compound has been going well. Kate was able to share audio Bibles in Kabiye with many of the women. They were very thankful, some even tearful. The word got out that the Bibles were given out at Bible study. Suddenly, it seemed as if there were five or six new ladies who attended, along with their children. Each time, Kate took the opportunity to share the Gospel with them. It was a sweet day when one of the long-time attendees told her she had accepted Christ as her Saviour. Now, she is praying for her family. It was such an encouragement to Kate to see God work in this small group of Togolese women.



Kate and the Bible study group, with Pastor Yaowvi.

We had a small high school graduation party for Caydon along with three other missionary kids. It was nice to celebrate this milestone, despite not walking down the aisle with his class from the States. We are thankful that he is ready to go to college but will miss him tremendously. Our prayer is that he continues to grow spiritually in wisdom and understanding.





Our family had the privilege of attending the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA) medical conference in Kos, Greece, in late April, with many of our medical teammates. It is a way for missionary medical professionals to keep their licensure up to date and remain abreast of the latest medical research and practices. The meeting caters to medical missionaries worldwide in addition to their families. Our children had a wonderful time with their friends and met some new ones along the way. It was a nice break for us, and we were able to spend some quiet family time exploring parts of Greece together. We visited the Parthenon, and took pictures of it from Mars Hill, where Paul had given his sermon to Greek philosophers about the unknown God in Acts 17. Being able to visit Biblical locations is a blessing and gives us a new perspective as we study His Word. We are very thankful to have gone there.



At the end of August, Caydon will start at Maranatha Baptist University in Wisconsin. Brandon is taking him to school, so the rest of the family said their goodbyes in Togo. This is a strange time for all of us, as many can attest to. There is an acute change in the family dynamic, and a feeling of loss. While we are overjoyed that Caydon is pursuing a Christian education, we cannot help but be a little sad that he will not be around all the time. He is interested in pursuing a degree in Digital Marketing and Business. Please pray for him (and us) as he transitions to a major change in life.

Prayer Requests:

1. For the development of relationships with individual Togolese, including Mensa, the OR techs, Filo, and the ladies from the Bible study.
2. For language acquisition: Ewe ("Evay"), further improving in French
3. For the Lord to continue to guide us in serving at church; For a good "grand opening" of the new church building, with community outreach in two villages.
4. For a head pastor to become permanent at the church in Patatouku.
5. For our teammates, many of whom deal with challenging situations on a daily basis.
6. For spiritual protection, growth, and encouragement in our family.
7. For wisdom and fruit in ministry: the Patatouku church, the hospital, the women's Bible study, the PAACS program, and kids club
8. For the upcoming start of construction on the hospital expansion and renovation project.
9. For Caydon's success in college, as well as three of our teammates' daughters.



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