

The Lighthouse

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August-October 2015

MISSION WORK REPORT – BENIN

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

Our last report ended with our graduation ceremony. We also reported on our French West African ministers of the churches of Christ meeting in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast. After all the hectic activities in June and July, August is the time to take a break, and this my family did as we spent all of August in Accra, Ghana. During this period, we received a big blessing that would once again, push our various ministries forward. A new vehicle, much more robust to replace our worn out Toyota.



We thank all churches and individuals who by generous donations made this possible. I have a testimony. **Two things that gave my work a big explosion in 1994 and ever since, was my first vehicle and my first computer. All of a sudden, I could be in several places in a short time and I could produce much more material to share and work with.** This new vehicle is a big asset and blessing to our work. We thank God for it and promise to make the best use of this to expand the frontiers of the KINGDOM.

VISIT TO THE USA IN SEPTEMBER 2015

All of the month of September was spent in the USA and this time, I was accompanied by Joyce. The highlights of the visit was the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Benin Bible

Training School, and our participation in the French World Missions Seminar in Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas.

We had a wonderful time in Benton, KY where I have the feeling that there was a competition to see who can feed us the biggest meal.



Some members of the FACE FOUNDATION

In the lives and actions of these men and women I see some of the most dedicated brethren to whom no sacrifice is too big when it comes to the work in the salvation of souls in our part of the world. Join me pray for these brethren.



Part of members of the FACE FOUNDATION listening to a presentation by David Simmons at the annual board meeting on Saturday September 19, 2015.



At the 2015 French-World Missions Seminar.

Ed Jones and his wife accompanied Joyce and I to Searcy, Arkansas to attend the three day French-World Missions Seminar. It was informative and a time to meet some of the giants in the missions to the French-speaking world.



Joyce helping me cut the birthday cake offered by the Benton Church to celebrate my birthday. In addition to the cake, there was a lot of food. Thanks to you all in Benton. Your love for us had been proved over and over.

TRAVELS WITH DAVID SIMMONS IN THE USA

David Simmons paid me back in full for the attention I gave him when he came to visit us in July. Our time together brought a great amount of bonding. We were in several congregations in Alabama on this trip. His passion and commitment to the cause of seeking funding for the work we do is amazing. We made new friends as David travelled with us to present our exciting story to new partners.

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Joyce and I with the leaders of the Guntersville, AL. Church of Christ posing for picture.



We fellowshiped with the Huntsville, Alabama congregation on a Wednesday night.

BTC ACTIVITIES BACK HOME IN BENIN

While we were away in the USA, the Benin team, led by my assistant Adjayi Inoussa and Koffi Hiheaglo, the Dean of Students were active and were communicating by email. In August when the campus was free of our students, the ladies in the southern part of the nation came to occupy our facilities on campus for their annual ladies meeting. This year there were two ladies seminars. We provided some financial support, our school bus and driver to take the leaders of the ladies from Cotonou and our campus minister Augustine to Parakou where they held the first ladies meeting for the churches in the northern part of the country. Ladies from the various congregations in the north came together in the Parakou Church of Christ building for their three-day meeting. In the course of that meeting, a lady was baptized. The meeting in Cotonou was well attended too and I have heard so many good things as a result of the meeting. ***(We are so glad that our Bible School training facilities, buildings and all, are available for the use of the Benin churches. It holds the annual youth camps and other church wide activities).***

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PREPARATIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS

Our annual interview for new students was held on September 8-10 for candidates from Benin and Togo. The 8 men who took the written tests and oral interviewed impressed the academic committee and were all admitted. Five other candidates from nations outside of Togo and Benin were issued with temporary admission letters which would be confirmed after their own tests in October. In all, 13 students were expected in the first year. Seven students were expected to return for the second year and 11 for the third year.



Third year students displaying their new copies of the French version of the popular Thompson Chain Reference Bibles. One of the requests I brought to the USA was to seek funding to buy these study Bibles for our students. God willing, we received generous donations for this purpose.

BTC CALENDAR FOR THE SEMESTER

- October 5, 2015 – Classes begin
- January 22, 2016 – End of Semester
- December 21, 2015 to January 1st 2016 – Mid Semester break
- January 25-29, 2016 Revision Week
- February 1 to 5, 2016 Examination Week
- February 8 to March 4, 2016 End of Semester break.
- March 7, 2016 – Beginning of Second Semester.

The BTC study plan for the first semester for the three classes is given below for your information and appreciation. We have 6 fulltime teachers and 7 part-time teachers. The electronic and agricultural courses were to equip the men to earn income whiles

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preaching. All the students admitted did not turn up for one reason or the other. We now have 7 in the first year, 6 in the second year and 11 in the third year. We have a total of 24 students in school.

BTC STUDY PLAN FOR THE FIRST SEMESTER

1ST YEAR	2ND YEAR	3RD YEAR
Gospel of John	1&2 Samuel, 1&2 Kings	1&2 Timothy
The Pentateuch	Synoptic Gospels	Poetic books of the OT
God's Plan of Salvation	Homiletics #2	Ezekiel and Daniel
Old & New Testament Survey	Computer servicing and repairs	Introduction to Biblical Counseling
Acts of the Apostles	The book of Revelations	Congregational Development
French Grammar	Christian Evidences #1	Bible Geography and History
The work of a Preacher	Introduction to Principles of Management	Cell phone servicing and Repairs
Computer servicing and repairs	Hermeneutics #2	Training in Evangelism & Making Disciples
Horticulture	Agricultural Training	Raising Animals
	Bible Doctrines	Computer servicing and repairs

MISSION TRIP REPORT FROM BOHICON AND SAVE ON THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Four of us including Adjayi Inoussa, (Assitant Director at BTC) Amour-Marc Kagbanon, (Evangelist and part-time teacher at BTC) Marc Agassoussi (BTC graduate and staff of BTC) and I made the four day trip. We drove off from Zinvie at 8.00 am with Marc Agassoussi on the wheels of the new vehicle. The Cotonou-Bohicon road is under construction, almost 80% completed but the remaining 20% is where the traffic had been diverted. These portions had been jammed with 18 wheelers and it was by the grace of God that we went through.

Friday - October 30. Our first stop is the city of in Bohicon. We met with Paul Tohionon in

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his house. He gave a brief report on his radio ministry. But the exciting news was that he told us he discovered a new congregation of the Lord's Church in Bohicon. This is the story; Joseph A. is a graduate of the BTC Annex in Tchaada. About a year ago, Brother Joseph told me that he had been invited by a denominational preacher to come work with congregations in Bohicon. He left and ever since I had received no news about his work. Paul was riding in town and came to a meeting place that has the Church of Christ sign board. He decided to go worship with them. To his amazement, the services were in all aspects based on the scriptures. After worship, he began to ask questions and when Joseph begun to mention our names, Paul jumped and embraced him. As soon as we arrived, he called Joseph and we spend more than 30 minutes listening to him. He has two other similar congregations in the Bohicon area that he is working with. We quickly drove to go and see their meeting place. We were so grateful to God for this discovery.



Posing with Joseph, second from left.

Another Bohicon story is that three weeks ago, I received a call from Bohicon. The caller by name Eugene, claimed to know me and asked for a meeting. He is a member of the Church is working with a congregation that he wants me to come meet. I gave him Paul's cell phone number and asked him to contact Paul. He did that. While in Bohicon I called him and we fixed an appointment to meet on our return journey on Monday. We did that and met with Eugene. He had also started a congregation in his village, some 10 miles east of Bohicon city. Paul had been to see this congregation too. The point is, there are probably several congregations of the Lord's Church established

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by brethren in this country that we are not aware of.

From Bohicon, our next stop is Dassa-Zounme where Pascal is the Minister. We went to his home and spent some time discussing the work. He told us he has 10 souls to baptize the next day. He invited us to be present to witness the baptisms. We gladly promised to be there, and of course with our cameras.



Pascal about to immerse a new disciple



Pascal, far right with the new Christians in Dassa.

From Dassa-Zounme, we drove to Savalou where Gabin is the minister. Gabin met us and joined us to another village called Bante where BTC graduate Bienvenu from Save is located. Bienvenu is yet to establish a congregation, we met by the roadside and discussed his work in Bante. We all came to the conclusion that his one year stay in Bante has not produced any meaningful result (1 baptism) and further stay in Bante does not look promising. I asked that he return to Save and work with the preachers there. We returned to Savalou where Gabin took us to the meeting place. The last time I visited their meeting place was in the company

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of DC Brown. The room was so tiny. They have moved out and are in a bigger place. By then, it was around 8.00 pm and we did not even know where we would spend the night. We decided to push on to Save, by then it was in pouring rain and total darkness. We made it to a motel in Save in just two hours' time. By 11.00 pm, none of us was awake.

Saturday, October 31.

After breakfast we travelled 15 miles north of Save to Kaboua where Boniface is the minister. We have been informed that the church in Kaboua no longer meets so we went there with some anger. Boniface informed us that he had been out of town for several weeks. He went to his hometown further north of Natitingou to visit his family. He claimed God worked out a miracle in bringing so many people his way. According to Boniface, there is no church in the village. He baptized 8 souls. He wanted to go back to the village of Coby and minister there.



Boniface, with open Bible posing in picture with new congregation in his hometown of Coby in northern Benin.

Dassa-Zounme. We got to Pascal's place an hour late (which is no big deal in Dassa, none of the people to be baptized wore a time piece). Of the 10 candidates, 6 were present, the other 4 were hindered and it is expected they would be baptized on Sunday. We followed a convoy of three motorbikes to a very dirty creek (almost dried-up). The surface had to be cleared for us to see the water.

We witnessed and took pictures of six happy souls who were born again. Marc Agassoussi have a powerful exhortation to the new converts.

Sunday November 1st.

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Since we were 4 preachers traveling together, we agreed each person was to worship with a different congregation. Amour-Marc went to Bessee, I went to Kaboua, Adjayi went to Save Central and Marc went to Okeo for the morning service 9.00 to 11.30 am. After this, we all met at the meeting place of the Save Central church to go to the next worship service at 1.00 pm at the Kobogou congregation and closed at 3.30 pm. We had a late lunch and just have enough time to pass by the motel and go to the village Gobe at 4.30 pm for another worship service.



Dirt road leading to Kobogou village



Andre, teaching Bible at Kobogou where worship is in the open air

Our last meeting was with a new preaching point where Andre is working in Gobe, close to Save. Among a group of 20, only two took the Lord's Supper.

We returned to Cotonou late on Monday and when I look at the speedometer on the vehicle, we covered 600 miles. We plan to repeat these visits at least once a month to the other regions where we have a cluster of congregations.



The ladies who met in our school in August for their women's seminar



These women lovingly "invaded" our campus and had a great time singing and studying the Word.

REPORT FROM BTC GRADUATE HENRI PATALLEH WORKING IN CHAD

We often ask for reports from our graduates but those do not come often. This week I had one by snail mail from Henri working in Chad. His report covers 3 congregations that he is working with.

EGLISE DE CHRIST DE BISSO

Number of persons baptized is 30, with 5 new converts. 8 members moved away to other regions. Average attendance is 50, including children.

Worship is from 8 to 11 am.

Men's meeting is on Monday from 5 to 6 pm.

Women's meetings Monday 3 to 4 pm.

Midweek Bible classes 5 to 6 on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

EGLISE DE CHRIST DE MOISALE

This is led by brother Sobdibe Silas. They average 20 in worship with 10 of them

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baptized. Henri goes there twice a week to help Silas in preaching and teaching.

EGLISE DE CHRIST DE MALAODIM

Henri reports that this is a denomination group converted into the Lord's Church on 28 June 2014. They have 20 members of which 12 had been baptized.



Members of the Agla Church of Christ in Worship in Cotonou.

THE DALE BROWN RADIO MINISTRY

We have added two new radio stations to the Dale Brown Radio and TV Ministry network. Preaching has resumed on the University campus FM radio station with Leonel Zotomey while Christian Todego is on Gerde FM in Porto Novo. Preaching in the Goun language of Porto Novo is particularly important as we now target that language group. A new motorbike would also be presented to Akalo Komlan who preaches on TV in Tsevie, Togo.



Four boxes of the Thompson Chain Reference Bibles for distribution to present and future students



**3rd year BTC Students in class
APPEAL FOR NEW MOTORBIKES**



On my trip to the USA, I made appeals to some of the congregations we visited and to individuals for donations to buy motorbikes for our preachers. On our trips to the villages, we took these pictures. These are the actual motorbikes that they use. These are worn out but this is what they have. Please contact David Simmons 270-540-1942 or frenchafricanmission@gmail.com for details on how to help us get 10 motorbikes to share among our men with beautiful feet.



This is a worn out motorbike being used by Clement, a Gospel Preacher. Please help

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This is the meeting place of the Allada Church. We are helping to have it redone.



The Glazoue Church is doing this project for a meeting place with assistance from our funds.

As usual, we ask that you pray for us after reading this report. Without God's favor the challenges cannot be met.

PUBLISHED BY

GEORGE AKPABLI

**Missionary and Director of the Benin Bible
Training Center**

EGLISE DU CHRIST AU BENIN
B. P. 01-3268 R. P. COTONOU, BENIN.
WEST AFRICA

E-mail: akpabli@yahoo.com

F.A.C.E. FOUNDATION

P. O. Box 454
Benton, KY 42025
270-540-1942

-Visit our Webb site www.frenchafricanmissions.com