



# NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 2018

### Battleground Togo

In Ephesians 6:12, we are told “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” This is especially true in Togo and is why people in that region need our help. The church is in a battle against the forces of evil, traditional religions such as VooDoo and the spread of Islam from the countries to the north. This war is crucial for the Kingdom of Heaven to win, as we don’t know how much time we have to spread the message of the cross around the globe. The church is expanding at an amazing rate but they are limited by the resources they have. They have spread as far as they can on their own and now need resources to help continue planting churches with trained pastors in as many villages and towns as possible.

One church leader we spoke with told us that they have 1300 churches in the country but only 800 pastors. They are in need of help to get pastors trained to fill these churches. He also mentioned that if the church is able to beat Islam to a specific village or neighborhood their success rate of conversions is almost 100%, but if Islam gets there first it is almost impossible to get a church plant-

ed in that area. Islam is filtering into this country at an alarming rate and we need to do everything possible to help our brothers and sisters who are on the front lines of this war.

Why is Islam spreading so quickly? It is because they are using local converts to spread their message and are supporting those efforts through resources from established Islamic countries. The Bible tells us that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. What we saw in Togo, however, is that the workers are available and willing but need to be equipped so they can be effective in spreading the gospel to their people and beyond. During each church service we attended while in Togo, they spent time praying for America. At first, I thought this was because we were in attendance but that was not the case. They said they pray for America during every service because they know how crucial America is when it comes to spreading the gospel. If we lose America we will lose the world, is what they told us. It doesn’t always mean we need to send missionaries around the world but instead we strongly believe that we need to partner with the local churches to help them spread the gospel to their people.

Our goal is to help churches in this re-

gion gain the resources and assistance needed to help them as they fight the battle against the forces of darkness. A pastor can receive the training they need at places like WAAST (West African Advanced School of Theology) in two years for around \$1000 per year. Churches can also be planted for a minimal amount of money and this church can then be fully supported for about \$125 per month until they are able to be fully self-sufficient. The problem many churches in this region face is that their congregation is made up of some of the poorest people in the world and they are unable to give the money need to fully support the church. What a great opportunity for churches in America to partner with a church in Africa and help them gain the resources needed to continue advancing God’s Kingdom. Maybe some churches in our region may not have the ability to grow like they want to, but they can help a church around the globe grow and influence hundreds and maybe even thousands of people. Not everyone may be called to go to the front lines of this battle but we are all called to do our part in spreading the gospel because we do know that the harvest is ripe. How can you help expand the Kingdom of God before the return of Christ?

### Building Project in Kpalime – Perimeter Wall Pictures



## Kpalime Church Building Project

The first stage of the church building is to get the exterior wall around the church property finished. This is something that was started previously but was never finished. This guarantees a certain level of security to ensure that once a new church building is started that no one can interfere with the project. We have partnered with the local church to accomplish this by tripling whatever they can contribute to the project. The local pastor, Roger Abaya, split the church into groups based on the day they were born. He

challenged each group to raise 30,000 CFA each even though many of the people said they had nothing they could give. They collected their offering at the end of February and they were able to bring in over 300,000 CFA which is about \$600 US. Pastor Abaya said, "It is amazing to see the joy in the faces of the people. Everyone wanted to give even the last thing they have. I was so touched and glad to reach that amount of money. You can see people's situations and wonder if they can give but they all do their

best. Glory be to God." Through the efforts of the people in Kpalime and those supporting WAKE Ministries we were able to raise over 1,200,000 CFA which will build over 40 meters of the wall or about 135 ft of 8 ft high cement wall. That will leave about 35 meters left to build. We will continue to partner with the local church in Kpalime to accomplish this first stage. To stay up to date on the progress of the wall check out our website and the Kpalime Building Project post.



## 2018 Togo Trip

We feel God calling us back to Togo this summer and are currently planning a trip for the middle of July. We are excited about the opportunities that God is providing for this trip that will be made but just Jeff and Michele this time. We are still planning all the fine details of the trip but will be working with different organizations while in Togo. We will be working with Pastor Roger and Happy in Kpalime to help plant a new church in a village around Kpalime. We will be doing evangelism and sponsor local events to promote the gospel in the village leading up to the church plant. We will also sponsor a short pastor's retreat for all the pastors at the different Evangelical Mission for the Restoration of the Nations churches in Togo. We will be conducting this retreat in Kpalime for the pastors and their wives and know this will be a great time of refreshing and renewal for these full time ministers and their wives. Michele is working with the Queen to provide leadership training for women in her village and will spend a day or two working with the Queen and these women at her village. We will also spend a couple days at the West African Advanced School of Theology with Mary Balenger and her staff. We are planning some staff development for these peo-

ple to encourage them in their work as they train pastors and missionaries to go minister in 16 different countries in Africa. We are excited about the upcoming trip and will share more details as they are finalized. We know that these trips and these ministry opportunities are only made possible through the great partnerships we have with individuals and churches. WAKE Ministries is so blessed to have great support from a variety of ministry partners and we know God will provide for this ministry opportunity as well as those to come. We ask that you would please keep this upcoming trip in your prayers, for safety and that God's word would be spread through this region and that many would come to know the saving grace of Jesus Christ. If you would like to partner with us financially please see the included sheet to make a contribution. Thank you for your prayers and supports.

### 2018 Togo Trip Budget

Airline Tickets	\$3,500
Lodging	\$750
Food	\$500
Transportation	\$400
Church planting	\$500
Pastor's Retreat	\$500
Women's Training	\$250
WAAST Staff Dev.	\$200
Visas	\$300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,900</b>

Please see Faith Promise Pledge Form included to make a donation

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