

Mango Music  
August 20, 2016

It's a beautiful summer day, with temperatures expected to soar into the 90's. That is unusual for this part of the state, but should help us to acclimate to Togo weather, where we will be traveling next week. We are booked on a flight that is to take us from Seattle to Paris, and then on to Lome. We leave on August 24 (Wednesday) and arrive on Thursday, the 25th. While there, we look forward to being with missionaries as well as many of the Togolese with whom we worked during the nearly forty years of our time in Togo. I've been back several times since we left in 2012, but this will be Esther's first visit since our departure. She has a suitcase full of gifts for pastors' wives and for missionaries. Unfortunately we know we are going to miss some, and hope that doesn't lead to hurt feelings. As we get closer to our departure, we keep coming up with more names, and at our age, there will be faces, but the names have somehow left us.

Please pray for the Mango team, and those working at Hope Hospital. We lost Todd DeKryger to Lassa fever in February, and several months later, Cheryl Cleveland to a respiratory infection. The team is devastated by the death of two close friends. Cheryl came to Togo as a short term pharmacist, to help organize the pharmacy at the hospital. Just days before she was to return to the States, the Lord took her home. We recently spoke with Cindy McFarland, a close colleague during our time in Mango, and she said that this is a reminder that we are in a spiritual battle, and we need to take more seriously the ministry of prayer. Several other team members have had to leave the field for a period of time, due to serious illness. Discouragement is a natural reaction to catastrophic events like this, especially when coupled with the day to day struggles of life in a difficult place, and with the interpersonal conflict that comes with it. "Iron sharpens iron" is easy to say, but not so easy to live. Brethren, join with us in praying for this ministry.

One of the joys we look forward to will be the graduation ceremony for the most recent class of sewing school apprentices. Mr. Nogbedji has scheduled that event during our time in Togo. And we have been informed that he is scheduled to finish the hip surgery that we trust will allow him to walk again. It has been more than a year since they took out the old hip, and they promise that he is on the list for November. We keep that in our prayers.

Anna Chubb continues to send her excellent chaplain reports, informing us that we are indeed in a spiritual battle, but that we are on the winning side (which doesn't mean it's easy). Anna writes about a five year old girl who suffered a stroke, and who consequently was blind and unable to walk. Her case looked hopeless, but one of our doctors told her parents that they should pray to Jesus, and ask Him to help her. A chaplain went each day to pray with the family for this little girl, and today she is walking, and able to see once again. Our doctors call it a miracle that couldn't have happened naturally. The family is in awe of what Jesus has done for them. (as we should all be)

Anna writes of a Gangam family in which God has been working. A year ago they came to the hospital with a sick family member. While there, one of the women in the family bought an SD card, which contained scripture in their language, along with some video material. Her father saw, and heard what she was listening to, and asked if he could take it to the field to listen while doing his field work. In his words, he has more joy in his heart than ever before because he was hearing God's word. In the past year he has been saving up and recently sent someone to the hospital to buy three cards; one for himself, and two for his sons. He also wants to contact his extended family in Nigeria. You might ask how people are able to listen to audio and watch video in a village setting where there is no electricity. It's the ubiquitous cell phone, and just about every Togolese has to have one. They are cheap, and can be charged up with a quick trip to town where one can find electricity. This technology has opened the

door to multiple language groups, as there are ministries working to put the scriptures and appropriate video material (for example, The Jesus Film) into every African language they possibly can. The next time you use your cell phone, take a moment to pray for Togolese who are hearing the gospel in their own language thanks to that technological invention.

Finally, we will surely appreciate it if you remember to pray for us during our trip. We will be in Togo from August 25 to September 8. We pray for traveling mercies (we will be spending some hours in one of the Paris airports where there have been terrorist attacks), and we will be back on Malaria medication starting Tuesday. So we pray for God's protection from the many critters that live in West Africa, especially the ones we can't see. We don't fear the snakes, and as far as we know, there are no lions. But the viruses and bacteria that thrive in the tropics are another matter. And please pray that God would help us to encourage both missionaries, and Togolese Christians.

Thanks for praying,  
Tim & Esther Neufeld