



# Ministry Updates

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## Taste and See ([Psalm 34:8](#))

*O Jesus, Lord, Thou stoodest **in my stead**:*

*God's holy wrath was poured upon Thy head;*

*For me Thou once wast numbered with the dead—*

*For me, O Lord, for me.*

(from the hymn [O, Jesus, Lord](#) by A.J.H. Brown, 1944)

Recently, we attended a Philippians 2 Bible study led by our firstborn, Cason, at church in Nashville. Beyond the text illuminating Paul's incredible capacity to rejoice *vis-à-vis* his reality in a Roman jail, the discussion focused on the passage describing those lesser-seen but faithful helpers like Timothy and Epaphroditus. The apostle regularly sent beloved co-workers **in his stead** to church plants needing correction or encouragement, often at the cost of Paul's comfort and needs.

Several persons illustrated the need to act **in the stead** of others during last Saturday's attempt to kill a former president ([video of witnesses](#)). The event showcased valiant men and women willing to take bullets **in the stead** of a political candidate or when shielding a wife and daughters. Secret Service agents and [Corey Comperatore](#) give inspiring examples of disciplining ourselves to react instinctively due to training in duty, respect, and love. Much more remarkable is the [condescension](#) of Jesus, who willed Himself to die **in our stead**--even for betrayers and enemies. Communion commemorates His act for our repetition. It recalls that our bodies are set aside for inglorious voluntary sacrificing of solitary self-interests when occasion demands, even to death, so God's will be done in our lives with others to find peace and goodwill on earth. Jesus' path to the cross was no spontaneous self-mutilation for vain glory nor an intuitive thought to save close family. His decision was made in prior millennia. His crucifixion on that day did not surprise Him. Imagine having earthly years to contemplate and dread our end! He died **in our stead** so that we might live **in His stead** by the Holy Spirit's power so the Creator's will is done. Jesus remains the ultimate example to inspire lives well lived!

## Come and See ([Psalm 66:5](#))

Verlin invested hours this week interacting with CHE colleagues mutually committed to helping at the university training in September. A West African trainer from Togo agreed to participate for the first time in ten years. He will teach lessons **in Debbie's stead** since she will stay in the States to continue handling some matters for our parents. Verlin continues to consider who can assist in tackling the 100+ hours of secretarial duties surrounding the week-long training under Debbie's increasing purview since 2016. We submitted three financial reports to our mission during the week, with a fourth readied for Verlin to review and dispatch after he finishes two more. All transpired in the context of Verlin's taking a break from walking, which contributed to an apparent gout flare-up in his left foot. Yesterday, walking became so painful that travel plans to attend the NAFWB are threatened!

## Prayer and Praise

🕊 Verlin intended to attend part of the national convention in Tampa this upcoming week, but his participation is uncertain because of his foot pain. Pray that his efforts for quickened healing work.

🕊 Pray for continued progress on financial reports and preparations for Verlin to leave for Cote d'Ivoire on July 30. As always, there's more in vision to do than can be done, so we must choose priorities and trust the Lord's guidance that we complete what is necessary.

🕊 Ask the Lord to continue providing all the volunteers necessary for the CHE university training and CHE conference scheduled right after the university. Give thanks to God for the two experienced international workers who participate for the first time and the return of numerous experienced Ivorian trainers and a French trainer. Pray for people to tackle the secretarial duties Debbie typically handles.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [Ears to Hear-240713.PDF](#)

[2023 Q2 Report 230722 PDF](#)

Prior videos: [Simple Servants](#) - [Reflect & Rejoice](#)

2023 Q2Report: [Pruning Priorities](#) -

2022 Budget: [CHSC-0118 ANDERSON-  
Budget 2022](#)

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