

# Ministry Updates

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

Stories abound in Paris of athletes who gladly **paid the price** to win an Olympic medal. Léon Marchand wowed French compatriots and the world, winning four gold medals in swimming. (*He trains in Florida with Michael Phelps' renowned coach.*) Another athlete, [Grant Fisher](#), moved to a high-altitude town in Utah to develop his lung capacity and stamina to compete with the East Africans who normally monopolize the victories. (*He is only the second American man to ever medal in the 10,000-meter race.*) Some families live apart for months at a time, so their athletes have the best conditions for training. Others, like Simone Biles and Caeleb Dressel, candidly share personal stories of mental turmoil and years of counseling pursued to persevere as Olympians.

Considering how willingly and to what extent these men and women **paid the price** to compete for earthly prizes gives food for thought. Athletes and their families expected great sacrifice to achieve lofty goals. No wonder Paul used [examples from Olympic and Isthmian games](#) to describe our walk of faith. We run for much greater imperishable crowns to lay at Jesus' feet.

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



*Help at guesthouse who desires a risk/benefit analysis concerning [repair of an adult cleft palate](#).*

Verlin arrived safely in Cote d'Ivoire with all his bags intact. On Thursday, our Ivorian mechanic friend brought him our HiLux. Immediately, he plunged into conversations and meetings with CHE trainers and the university planning team, catalyzing planning and checking alternative lodging possibilities for the CHE trainers who come later this month. In addition, when he visited the university campus, he learned details about why students demonstrated and shut down the campus the prior day. Two students remain arrested from months ago for what Ivorian youth with whom Verlin spoke considered invalid reasons. Demonstrations continue because of those arrests; [unresolved conflicts now serve as fodder](#) to feed an

explanatory void. Verlin plans to head to Bondoukou on Tuesday, where a co-worker says four puppies wait to greet him, in addition to our adult dogs!

## **Prayer and Praise**

☞ Thank the Lord for Verlin's safe arrival in Cote d'Ivoire. He has begun meetings with the CHE university teammates and checks on lodging arrangements for soon-arriving international visitors. Pray the many details left unattended for two months are completed before the sessions begin.

☞ A CHE meeting, which was canceled at the university on Friday because of campus demonstrations, was held by Zoom instead. Students protest the arrest and imprisonment of two university students who may have been wrongly detained. Pray that campus life stabilizes and that protests do not damage people and the property that was refurbished in the last decade.

☞ Pray for the outreach of the university CHE team in villages surrounding Abidjan. Ask the Lord to guide their effective training of village leaders that enable community transformations so they are duplicated, and their models again stimulate copycats while they complete research objectives.

Your partners in the Gospel,  
Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [Run Toward-240803.PDF](#)

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

2023 Q2Report: [Pruning Priorities](#) -  
[2023 Q2 Report 230722 PDF](#)

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

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