

Ministry Updates

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

*Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I will spend the first four **sharpening the axe**.*

—Abraham Lincoln

Abe Lincoln's quote relates to anyone preparing and planning a Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training or ministry. "**Sharpening the axe**" requires dedication and much time before the week-long sessions of over 35 hours each begin, especially when the experience involves more than one classroom. Every year, more than ten people each spend hundreds of hours organizing the week-long CHE efforts at the university over months, not to mention the 75+ individuals who support the effort during the training. Together, each learns to model key CHE principles, such as how to best **sharpen the axe** to overcome the "[problem tree](#)" in their workplace, communities, and spheres of influence.

This "**sharpening the axe**" principle applies to all domains of life, like sermon preparation, teaching, and even good play! It is not unusual for pastors to study and pray 15-30, even 60+ hours or more over months to prep Sunday morning sermons. They, as all believers, are learners. The Holy Spirit transforms His own. The Lord Jesus prayed all night before choosing the disciples or going to the cross. He prepared His disciples with clear instructions before sending them out. Learning to [bear a cross](#) coincides with '**sharpening the axe**' for every believer as the Lord transforms us.

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



Packing for the university

Verlin remained in the throes of **sharpening the axe** for the CHE university exposition all week. One detail among the many taking an unexpected chunk of time for him and two others involves ensuring that trainers receive(d) invitation letters to show their bosses or to obtain travel visas. He prepped equipment for the training and dealt with some lost time when local Internet service was interrupted for a day. He leaves for Abidjan on Sunday after joining in a local worship service. Once there, he will begin many more hours of preparation and training for others on-site, dropping off foodstuffs, papers, and other materials besides those in the image. On Friday, he also popped in for a few hours at the Ivorian National Association of FWB meeting. There, he witnessed the finish of an ordination service for a minister who developed skills alongside us between 2000 and 2009.

Debbie also lives through a period of intense information-gathering and improving skills to help the family. Assisting her parents at this juncture includes acquiring some "axes" she has never picked up before, besides learning how to wield them properly! We both need wisdom and stamina on separate continents as we flex and hold individual crosses while supporting one another from afar during this age of marvelous electronic communication.

Prayer and Praise

🕊️ Pray that the legalized invitation and the subsequent visa application are submitted and completed in time for an international CHE trainer to arrive in Cote d'Ivoire on August 29th.

🕊️ Continue to pray for university preparations. Verlin connects with people to help organize the CHE trainer resource room before, during, and after the training. Debbie, almost alone, has managed this task for the last few years. It requires effort when 4 or 5 trainings co-occur with 20 trainers.

🕊️ Ask for an excellent location in Abidjan to host the CHE regional meeting scheduled for September 11-12 after the university training.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [Break Bread-240810.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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