

## Ministry Updates

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## Taste and See (Psalm 34:8)

Have you ever spent days, weeks, months, or years completing a task, only to learn that you were sincerely **compliant** in effort but wrong in the way you executed it? In rehab, Debbie's mother learned that a foot exercise that she had faithfully performed for months was useless to help her lymphedema in the way she did it. Now she "pumps" correctly!

It reminded Debbie of a salesperson with whom she worked in the 1990s, a single mother of one young child, earnestly trying to be a great mother, friend, and co-worker. She called her moral guide "The Gospel according to \*," using her first name. She chose ideas from various religions, including Bible thoughts, and lumped them together in her "feel good" code. She was sincerely **compliant** with her own ethics but sadly missed the necessity of the Gospel and obedience to God's ENTIRE design in community. This mentality permeates the Church, too, and sometimes ourselves, until God brings it to mind for confession and repentance. Abundant life and blessings are our inheritance if we accept the whole counsel of God, not just the precepts that "feel right" to us individually. Lord, help us not lean on our understanding but trust Your ways fully.

## Come and See (Psalm 66:5)



Guests this week

Verlin enjoyed a busy week welcoming guests and conversing with ministry partners. One night, he housed and dined beef heart soup and greens with three FWB Ivorian pastors who began their Bible Institute classes in our first years in Cote d'Ivoire. They traveled together to attend a conference and learn about AI (Artificial Intelligence), for good or bad. For two nights, he's hosted an evangelist we've equipped in partnership with others. We influence them with counsel, care, and fellowship, for which all still express desire and appreciation. Their world is complicated like ours as we evade the dangers of modern technology

yet seek to use it advantageously. We hope the developments help rural African pastors and the believers they teach concerning disease prevention, self-provision of clean water, improving agricultural methods, and sharing God's full gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, as do we.

Our Ivorian colleague laboring to fund and increase ministries using CHE settled a land dispute with villagers, receiving the paperwork to make his sole ownership **compliant** with Ivorian law. The matriarchal side of his family finger-printed a document that cedes him the land free and clear. He, in turn, publicly dedicates it to CHE agricultural endeavors. The papers go to tribal superiors for signature, stamping, and registration. This is an answer to prayer on the way to have governmental authorities using patriarchal structures to not allow land ownership contestation!

## **Prayer and Praise**

- Pray Ivorian pastors seek the Lord's wisdom in balancing rural life with new realities of our world, like AI. Hard physical fieldwork mixes with cell phone scammers—truly, two worlds collide!
- Praise the Lord for tangible paperwork progress related to the local agricultural project. The matriarchal side of the family signed an agreement allowing the land to be solely owned!
- Rejoice that Debbie's mom returned home from rehab the day before Thanksgiving! Doctors and family still have significant medical concerns, but she is resting better at home.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: A Thousand Choices - 241123.PDF

Prior videos: <u>Worth</u> - <u>Simple Servants</u> 2023 Q2Report: <u>Pruning Priorities</u> -

2023 Q2 Report 230722 PDF

'22 Budget: CHSC-0118 ANDERSON-Budget 2022
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