



Ministry Updates

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

Do you have some Bible characters you want to interview in Heaven? During this Advent season, Debbie has mused about what it would be like to speak with Joseph, Jesus' earthly nonbiological father. While listening to radio shows sharing about [Nashville's Rescue Mission](#), she pondered that Joseph and Mary faced **homelessness** twice in the first year of Jesus' life. First, Joseph had the nerve-wracking stress of finding an acceptable place for his pregnant wife to give birth when they arrived in Bethlehem to pay taxes. Surely, he wanted to provide so much more than he saw.



Our firstborn's first Christmas

Next, how terrifying it must have been to flee in the middle of the night with his wee family so that Jesus would not be murdered with other male babies! Imagine being **homeless** in an African nation where the majority spoke a language you did not know. How many nights did he awaken and cry out to God? Most in our circles enjoy Christmases in warm, decorated homes with abundant food and family we love. There is no shame in a lovely celebration, but the first Christmas and flight to Egypt were not so. Stress, isolation, and dearth only mitigated by a few friends found along the way

were more likely the reality. If we could interview them today, Joseph and Mary might find more in common with the people of Asheville, NC, or other transient homeless than most Americans.

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

The aspect of **homelessness** in the Christmas story struck Debbie hard. She and her sister seek a different home for their parents. The lease ends on the Payne's rented apartment in February. The words "reasonably priced housing" and "Nashville," i.e., "Franklin," do not really mix in the same sentence. Thank you for praying about this time-sensitive need. Moving to places more distant from nuclear and extended family poses other seemingly insurmountable challenges.

Verlin's week included putting out quite a few small ministry fires, renewing health insurance, completing a financial report, and setting up the training of others in CHE agricultural techniques. Training others capable of learning and teaching the multiple skills our Ivorian coworkers have gained over 20 years is important. Multiplying competent and faithful workers in local CHE efforts is essential. Verlin also experienced a "[Blue screen of death](#)" problem with his 6 y.o. laptop during four inconvenient moments after its battery died. Hopefully, software adjustments resuscitated the unit, which seems stable today.

Prayer and Praise

- 🕊 Pray for December outreaches happening in Cote d'Ivoire to help those in need and any special services planned to reach the unreached by those using CHE and those not using it.
- 🕊 Pray for time-sensitive decisions Debbie and her sister need to make with their parents regarding long-term plans for care and living.
- 🕊 Pray that Verlin's computer problems are over until he can repair and/or replace the principal unit. The fatiguing Dell XPS 15 unit's failures or using the backup 11 y.o. unit hinders much, including end-of-the-year accounting and turning in financial reports.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [Compliant-241130.PDF](#)

Prior videos: [Worth](#) - [Simple Servants](#)

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

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