



Ministry Updates

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



Our first TN snow

Watching the first beautiful [snow](#) of this wintry **season** brings to mind Biblical principles about dormancy and fruitfulness in the Christian life. In TV or performance land, many mistakenly believe or give others the impression that the Christian walk is a non-stop **season** of harvest and sunshine. Just choosing to follow the Christ requires breaking up fallow and unpliant ground, planting the Gospel seed of Truth, and watering that seed with habit until the fruit of salvation appears. Pulling weeds and roots of sinful habits from our lives that hinder growth takes time, effort, and even struggle; not to mention the added hindrances posed by the tares of false believers that grow in our midst and further impede progress. God works in [every season of life](#), whether we see Him or not.

A most encouraging passage about personal growth as a believer is [Psalm 1](#). It provides a good reminder as we start 2025. If we delight in God's law while we meditate on it day and night, accompanied by obedience, we grow like trees planted by streams of water. We bear fruit in **season**, maintaining nutritious leaves that do not wither. Let that sink in, like melting snow. The mango and avocado trees in our yard in Bondoukou do not yield fruit all year long, nor do apple and peach trees in the US! There are months of pruning, watering, disease treatment, and other steps completed to ensure a bountiful harvest. Other changes happen underground, invisible to the eye. So it is in our walk with Jesus and our efforts to lead others to Him. It is a process requiring many [seasons](#) of change.



Our pruned RCI mango

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

A comfort during Debbie's mother's passing into Eternity was the stories the family heard about how Sandra encouraged people. One friend shared with Debbie a favorite occasion she never forgot when she was a young pastor's wife with little children. Having taught a Sunday School class, she confessed feeling that her devotion time and prayer life were not as strong as needed. After class, Sandra pulled her aside and gently encouraged her to remember that there are **seasons** in a mother's life, some with more free time than others. When the little ones were older, she would have more hours to devote to Bible study and prayer. The advice brought welcome relief to an earnest mother who, as the decades passed, has blessed many people with her part in creating and editing Bible curriculum.

As Verlin works to maintain connection, he uses time here to assist, resupply, reconnect, and catch up. Debbie maintains spending half-weeks with her father, helping handle emergent details from her mother's passing. The present, pressing challenge is to find an appropriate place for her father to live and downsize belongings. It is an exhausting **season**, but it is just that, a **season** that will pass.

Prayer and Praise

- ☞ Thank the Lord for His help during this **season** of grief and change from the Payne side of our family. Pray that Debbie's father and we will soon find an acceptable, near-to-extended family living situation. His now unaffordable apartment lease ends in late February.
- ☞ Continue praying for the final paperwork, team building, and preparations needed for ongoing ministries using CHE. This includes the many **seasons** to develop a CHE (Community Health Evangelism) agricultural outreach near Bondoukou. Verlin connects with fellow servants in Cote d'Ivoire several times a week.
- ☞ Praise God with us for the good end-of-year giving that will allow our ministry to continue demonstrating uses of CHE strategies to build our Lord's Kingdom! We remain constantly aware and blessed by the sacrifices of ministry partners to make that possible. Thank you!

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [Markers-250104.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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