

West
Africa

The Whites

Jim, Adie, Cybie, Mac, & Millie

Dear Pastor Schaffer:

Adie and I would like to share some news of what God is doing in our lives. We have been in Togo, Africa for three terms working in two different church plants. However, during our last term, God began working in our hearts about our next step in ministry. After much prayer, searching the Scriptures, and consulting with godly pastors and our mission board, we concluded that God was redirecting us to the French-speaking island of Martinique.

For us, this move is about one thing; following God's calling as He redirects us, like He did with Paul, to another work in another place. Our hearts are saddened to leave Togo where we have had a very fruitful ministry and have many dear friends we leave behind. We have never seen more exciting and fulfilling days in the ministry than what we are witnessing today. However, we know God is moving us and we want to be obedient.

The island of Martinique is a French Department (State) located in the French Antilles. From interviews I have conducted, we have discovered there are only 15 Baptist Churches for nearly 400,000 people. The majority of the islanders claim to be Catholic (95%) with only 5% being evangelical. Sadly, no new church has been established in over 10 years.

We will not be going alone. God has brought Jeremy Benbrooks, a 10-year veteran missionary serving with BMI to team up with us to plant our first church in Martinique. We have spent the last eight years working closely together in ministry in Togo. We have both pastored, trained nationals, and planted churches. I believe we are uniquely qualified for this transition and are excited about the prospects of starting a new church in Martinique.

Martinique will be a different type of ministry due to the culture and Catholicism. Having already visited the island and seen the need, we have a better understanding of the task that awaits us. Despite the differences, our goals remain the same—we are church planters with a focus on evangelism. The only thing changing is our location. Our call, desire, and burden for the lost are completely the same.

We will be home for a furlough in mid 2018 and prayerfully will be ready to leave for Martinique in late fall of 2019. In order to see these goals achieved, we will need to raise additional support due to the high cost of living on an island. Another hurdle to overcome is securing immigration documents for France. Please pray that God will expedite this for us.

I have set up a page on our website (<http://wordpress.missionaryjimwhite.com/> password transition2018) that should provide you with more information and help to answer any questions you might have. However, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have.

Your prayer and financial support are very important to us. Thank you for joining with us for over 15 years as we have served the Lord in Togo. We are looking forward to the future and pray that God will do great things in Martinique.

In His service,

Jim & Adie White

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February-April 2018

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We have really enjoyed the past several months! During Easter break we hosted a VBS and were so encouraged by the great turn out each day. The Sunday afternoon before it started, I sat down with some young leaders in our church and taught them how to lead a child to Christ, which is a concept that's often missed here. With the introduction of the wordless

book, the guys quickly caught on to using it as an illustrative tool, combined with Scripture to lead kids to the Lord. We had VBS for three days and we ended with almost 100 in attendance! Each day we sang, did Scripture memorization, had game time with a big-ball and of course taught salvation based messages. We're so thankful for all those that made decisions to follow Christ throughout the week. One morning, a teenaged girl who had come to help with the kids, raised her hand wanting to be saved. That morning she accepted Christ as her Savior! Please pray that Prenom, and the other children who placed their faith in Jesus, will grow in their newly found faith!

We celebrated Easter with a special baptism service and had four people unashamedly profess Christ as their Savior. In their testimonies, they shared with everyone that they've decided to follow Jesus and want to take that first step of obedience through baptism. One urged everyone to abandon their idols and follow Jesus. That is such a powerful testimony for our church as many people still struggle with relinquishing idols.



I'm looking forward to seeing many of you as I travel to visit churches this fall or in the spring of next year. I always enjoy giving a report of all that God is doing and thanking everyone for their prayers and support. It's our prayer that the time

will be productive and

we can get back to church planting once more.

We are grateful for the protection that God gives us daily and while terrorist attacks have been taking place almost daily just north of us in Burkina Faso, we are thankful it has yet to spill over into Togo. The political crisis in Togo has been rocky with the opposition party still demanding the resignation of the President and organizing national protests. Please continue to pray for peace and stability!



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Dec. '17—Jan. '18

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December was an exciting month for our church! We held our first baptism at the new site and had seven baptized! They all arrived on Christmas Eve morning with guests and stood, giving their testimonies of how God has worked in their lives and saved them. It was an awesome way to spend Christmas Eve!



One precious and faithful elderly woman, Ramadam, was among the ones being baptized on Christmas Eve. In keeping with tradition she talked to the elders of her family about the decision. This is a common and expected practice in the villages. They gave their consent but said she needed her older brother's permission too. Sadly, he practices in fetish and refused to give his approval. Despite this, she showed up on Christmas Eve morning ready to be baptized. Later, she told me that she wasn't able to settle things with her brother but decided to obey God despite his opposition. In this culture, where so much influence and even security comes from family, I was really encouraged that she showed such obedience to the Lord. Please pray for Ramadam's family that they might see Christ through her example and be saved!

We have made more progress on our church construction project in January. We were able to build about 200 yards of wall that stands about three feet high around most of the property. We are praying that God will provide the funds to complete this project. We would like to extend the wall three more feet, add two gates, and an outhouse for our members.

Our family is doing well. We are so thankful that we've remained healthy except for a cold we all shared recently. The dirty air blowing down from the Sahara desert can wreak havoc on everyone's health and we don't take good health for granted! The political climate seems to be stable for the moment. We've been told that the opposition party and the government are in talks. Please pray those talks are productive and help keep the country stable.

Adie and I want to thank all those who sent personal notes, cards, and gifts for Christmas. It was so thoughtful and we were touched to be remembered! We truly appreciate you all and are thankful for your partnership as we work in Togo!





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Oct. & Nov. 2017

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We've been back in Togo about two months now and we're so thankful to see how God has taken care of our church in our absence. There are even a few more adults coming since we left in late spring. We jumped in right away and have started a baptism class, which extensively explains salvation and baptism. It is something we've found to be extremely helpful before baptizing since there is so much confusion on doctrine. Our church will hold their first baptism on the new property this Christmas Eve. It will be a very exciting time!

One of the ladies going through the baptism class is in her 70's. She was asking for prayer the other night saying she will soon be speaking with the elders in her family to tell them she no longer wants to participate in anything involving fetish or voodoo. She asked for strength and wisdom as she tells them that she has become a follower of Christ and wants to completely abandon all other gods and idols for Him. I was truly amazed at the work God has done in her heart that she would have the boldness at her age to break away from traditions that are extremely important to so many people here. She may be ostracized from her family and even suffer persecution but she believes it's necessary to take a stand for Jesus. What a

great testimony!

This month we have started preparations to do more construction on the church property. We are in the final stage of construction and we're so thankful for all God has allowed to be done. We hope to finish a perimeter wall, hang the doors on the parsonage, install windows, and pour sidewalks. I believe we have everything we need to do this but there still is a need for funding to put in a latrine for a future pastor and the church. Please pray with us that God will provide this much needed facility.

Also, please continue to pray for the political unrest in many parts of the country. We arrived in mid-October to find that there were riots and violent protests taking place in several cities. This is always concerning, especially having a young family here. There are more protests scheduled for this week. Please pray that God will calm the country and bring peace to the region.

Finally, please pray for our church; that God will provide future leadership, that the construction projects will be completed, and most importantly that people will continue to be saved! Thank you for your faithfulness and gifts. We wish you a very Merry Christmas celebrating the miraculous birth of Jesus!