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Email received by Randy Ehlers, MBC Elder

Report from Peter Silseth on his trip to Mango, Togo, West Africa



HOPE Radio Progress Update

Greetings from seat 50 B on Delta flight 0199 from Paris to Minneapolis. I've been reflecting back on what God accomplished at Hope Radio during my time there. I want to start by laying out the goals we had: launching a complete remake of the automation system (using the new computers), finishing the remodel of the recording studio, the "Green Room", which is a production studio and the "Blue Room" production studio.

Those were ambitious goals and there were days during my first week there that I didn't think we would get any of them done. Then there were days when it seemed we might even get more than that done. It was a bit of a roller coaster, (figuratively), of banging our heads against the wall and running with the wind in our hair *{Editor: Peter really doesn't know what that feels like any more}*. However, throughout the whole time we continually submitted our day, problem or goal to God's hands. To say He showed up mightily would be classic British understatement.

We finished the Recording Studio first as that gets used four evenings a week for locally produced teaching programs which are followed by listeners calling in with questions or comments. As it was coming close to the time for my departure, the Green Room was almost done but the Blue Room hadn't been started. The new automation system was ready, I thought, but I was going to have to leave before it launched.

Four days before my flight while Sandi and I were talking, she strongly suggested I extend my stay so all the goals could be finished. I was able to extend my ticket for another six days without any extra cost. Those extra days allowed the staff and I to finish all the projects we had started. The remodeling of the three studios was completed and the updated automation system was also launched. Here is a video of the launching of the new automation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmfcbP238S8>

It is hard to share everything that happened while I was at Hope Radio, but these videos will help you get the picture. This next video will show you what the studio remodeling looked like:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUwXVTz8INM>

One of my trip highlights was attending Hope Church of Galangashi. Last year when I visited the people met in a thatched building, this year it was a new cement building. The roof is being added right now, but what a blessing to see a solid permanent structure declaring that the gospel is being proclaimed in Galangashi. Here is a video of my visit to the church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3By1GGHrweC>

One of the low points of my trip was the station going off the air after an incredible wind storm. Andy, the technical director, and I climbed the 190 foot tower in 100 degrees not once, but twice, to diagnose the problem. I called a supporter friend who is a radio engineer for assistance with the diagnosing. Paul steered us in the right direction and the station was finally able to be up and running again.

This trip to Hope Radio was significant because one of our main goals is to have more live programming, specifically in the various languages in which we broadcast. In order to accomplish that goal we had to remodel the studios so each of them was more flexible in its operation. The next step will be to change the Brown Room from a Production Studio to an On Air studio. This is going to be a big job and we hope to tackle it on my next trip.

Our main broadcast language is French, but there are also five other languages we have identified as being important in that region. We have the New Testament recorded in each of the six languages and we are using that as our first step to create various blocks of language programming on Hope Radio. We have started broadcasting Bible reading at the same time the local Muslims have their call to prayer. Eventually we will also have a prayer time after the Bible reading and hopefully develop a block of language programming around the Bible reading and prayer time.

There are many stories I could tell you about the impact of Hope Radio, but for now I'll tell just one. A Fulanie, (one of our target languages), listener heard his language on our station, accepted Christ and wanted to find other Christians who spoke his language. He walked 20 kilometers (just over 12 miles) to come to the station to find out more about our broadcasting and to find others who knew Jesus Christ. That sort of story is what excites me about Hope Radio. The gospel is being proclaimed, people are coming to Christ and churches are being started.

We don't know how long the window of ministry will remain open in Togo. While I was there, Jihadists tried to cross the northern border of Togo but were repelled by soldiers from the Togo army. It seems Togo is very serious about protecting their borders from incursions by Jihadists, which is good news. However, we at Hope Radio want to make good use of the time we are given to share the gospel in any way possible.

Thanks so much for your prayers, this was a most fruitful trip. Here are some prayer requests going forward: planning for the remodeling of the Brown Room into the On Air studio {Editor: up to this point there has been no On Air studio, so this will be a very important change for Hope Radio}, people to come to Christ, finances for my traveling (*Editor: those who are interested in financially helping with travel needs, please click this link: <https://missioserve.org/globalbroadcast/>*) and my recovery from this trip. Please pray also for the safety of Hope Radio (staff, equipment, property, electrical system). As we continue to assault the Darkness, the Darkness will no doubt fire back.

These trips are demanding both physically (change in climate, sleep struggles, dealing with the heat, 100 degrees while I was there, and time zone changes) and financially. When I got home I was seriously sleep deprived, I slept 15 hours after getting home and then took a nap after that. My energy is slowly returning. Finances; I thought about that a lot when I was over there, asking myself if the time, effort and finances was worth it. As you've probably gathered, it's not cheap to fly to Togo. However even before I returned home, I was convinced it was worthwhile. There are people in northern Togo who have never heard the name of Jesus...that is sobering. I've heard the name of Jesus since I was a baby. How do we put a value of time, effort and money on a human soul? The gospel being proclaimed via Hope Radio is changing lives. I'm thrilled to be a part of this ministry. I have no idea how long I'll be doing this. Perhaps some day God will provide a station manager who can live on site. Until that day we are willing to do whatever God lays before us to work with Hope Radio. Is it worth it? Ya sure you betcha!

We will have more to tell you about the happenings at Hope Radio in the upcoming months. Now though, I need to hit the sack.

In Christ,
The Silseths

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