

**December 1, 2022**

**Randy Ehlers and Prayer Partners of MBC:**

I want to say thank you for your prayers while I was in Togo last month. The trip was excellent and I'd like to fill you in on what happened.

The travel part was okay in that it was without incident and all my luggage arrived with me in Togo and here in Minneapolis. On the way over I had breakfast in London's Heathrow Airport, that was a first. I also tried Yorkshire Tea for the first time. Not being a tea person, I wasn't overly impressed.

My "to do list" was purposely shorter on this trip than it was for my trip back in May. The biggest goal was to remodel the "Brown Studio" and set it up as a live On Air studio. Since we are doing more digital editing of audio programs, we also needed to identify a space to add a fourth editing computer. Before I arrived the staff had already removed everything from the "Brown Studio", so we were able to jump right in and start working.

One of the challenging aspects of remodeling a building made entirely out of cement and cinder block is that sometimes we had to think creatively to accomplish the remold. The project went very smoothly and several days before I had to leave, the On Air studio was up and running. I have to say I was very pleased we were able to accomplish that. Your prayers were significant for that accomplishment. Thank you.

A verbal description is one thing, but let me take you to Hope Radio and show you how the project all came together. This video will allow you to see everything that was accomplished.

Radio

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Z2bmAu24xo>

As you can see from the video we were also able to set up a small editing desk in the corner of the On Air studio.

One afternoon our team of local announcers, led by missionary Evan Drake came into the recording studio to record a program called "Parlons En" which loosely translated means, "Let's Talk About It." Normally Koami or Andy would be the engineer to record that program, however they were both gone, so I stepped into the breach and worked the mixer and operated the controls. I've done this sort of work many times before, but this time was interesting because I'd never worked with these folks. It took a little while for me to understand their delivery patterns, but in the end the program was recorded. After that I explained some finer points which would improve their delivery and microphone technique.

As I've mentioned before, there are a number of churches that have been started in northern Togo due to the outreach of the radio station, and that is one of our main goals. Last November I attended Hope Church of Galengashi and worshiped with my Togolese brothers and sisters. The church building was framed with tree limbs, while the walls and roof were covered with thatch. If you remember from my video back in May, the Hope Church had built a cinder block shell but there were no windows, doors or roof. I was quite excited to see what progress had been made since last May. This video will show you what has happened at the Hope Church of Galengashi.

Roof

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

What a blessing! Another blessing was to be able to attend a baptismal service at Hope Church. Their baptismal tank is actually a stream that is about a mile and a half from church. Timing is crucial for baptisms in Togo. During the rainy season, the stream is too high and too fast to safely conduct a baptism. It was determined that October 29th was the best day for the service. Any earlier and the water was too high and fast, any later and the water would be too low. I should also mention that there was a certain amount of trepidation in the hearts of your brothers and sisters who were going to be baptized. You see none of them knows how to swim and even though the water was about three and a half feet deep, they were scared. On top of that, only one of the 22 baptism candidates had ever put their head completely under water. That may sound strange to us here in the USA, however that is typical in Togo.

We had a beautiful day and I enjoyed watching a large group of my brothers and sisters be obedient to Christ. Here are a few pictures from that day. The first picture is some of the candidates and church members, the next is one person being baptized and the third is Evan Drake and the pastor of Hope Church.



In conclusion, I'd like to thank you again for your prayers. I was very pleased with what was accomplished on this trip and with what God is doing in northern Togo. Here are some other prayer requests:

1. Spiritual growth in the churches that have been planted.
2. More churches planted.
3. As the pastors are trained that they would in turn be able to teach their people more effectively.
4. We need more church planters.
5. Mystery request. I will unveil more about this in a week or so...stay tuned.

In Christ,  
The Silseths

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