

February 19, 2024

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Winter has finally arrived in Minnesota, I can't say the colder temperatures are all that welcomed, especially after the heat of Togo. This last trip to Togo was the first time I've gone in January. Let me give you some observations about January as opposed to May or October (my normal travel times).

The temperature is a bit warmer, usually 100-104 degrees or so. January is right in the middle of the dry season and the air was much drier than I expected. There is a weather phenomenon called Harmattan, which is a wind that blows across the Sahara Desert from the north east. Harmattan brings cooler night time temperatures, by my observation in the 70-75 degree range. It also blows in dust and so there is a lot of particulate matter in the air which does tend to impact the mucus membranes. The other aspect of the dry season is the lack of rain, so the ground is dry and dusty, the water level of the river is lower and there is not as much production from the well that is on the Hope Radio property.

When I arrived, the town of Mango had been without city supplied water for a couple of days due to a faulty pump at the pumping station. After I was there few days, the well on the property also slowed down in its production. [Editor - It should be mentioned that two missionary families live on the north side of the radio property. The lack of water not only impacted the missionaries and the radio station, but the whole of the town of Mango.] Eventually to cope with the water shortage, we had to buy around 50 large plastic containers and then hire a man to get water from the river (probably) and fill the tanks at the radio station. This was quite a long, slow process; however, we eventually had water.



One of the other highlights of the trip was to watch as the Savannah Bible Institute launched their first ever classes. The classroom was bulging as 30 students were registered. I don't have direct involvement in the Bible institute, but it has been the dream of Evan Drake, one of our missionaries at Hope Radio. Please pray that the students will be faithful in

coming to class. The classes meet once a month for five evenings and part of a Saturday. We are very pleased with the number of students who have started the classes. We are praying for future spiritual leaders to come out of the institute. Several nationals who are on staff at Hope Radio are also taking these classes.



Our electrical system is now as stable as we can make it. The solar panels are working properly, we have the batteries we need for either night time or when there are clouds and, drum roll please, we have a new generator. The old one needed a major overhaul, so instead of putting money into that, we sold it and bought a new Kohler generator. It was a pleasure to be at Hope Radio and not have any issues with the electricity.



While I was at Hope Radio, I attended church services at the Bible Baptist Church of Galengashi. This is a church that was started because of the outreach of Hope Radio. It has been exciting to see the changes over the years. I made a video about the church and the progress that has been happening, you can click on the video link below to watch the video. [Editor - Peter told me he put a "gem" in the video. This is something videographers sometimes put in a video to see if the viewers notice. If you find it, send Peter an email and tell him what you think it is.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmgUtlVeg4Y>

As I'm sure you are aware, there are many good ministries which need financial support and perhaps you have had an appeal from several. Hope Radio, like other ministries, is in need of financial help. We have put together an option for people here in the United States to sponsor a day of programming at Hope Radio. That is something that is quite familiar to folks who listen to Christian radio here in America. Sponsoring a day of broadcasting for Hope Radio is one way to help the outreach of the gospel into an area that is heavily Muslim and animistic. The cost to sponsor a day of broadcasting is \$150. The staff at Hope Radio will put together a special announcement that will be played over the air on the day you choose. They will also send you a copy of the Day Sponsor announcement so you can hear what was said. I should mention however that the announcement will be in French, but I'm sure if you listen carefully you'll be able to hear your name.

If you would like to be a Day Sponsor for Hope Radio, please click the link and fill in the form and "viola" your Day Sponsorship will be in place. <https://support.hoperadiotogo.com/>

I also have a piece of late breaking news. I received a message from Evan Drake, one of our missionaries at the radio station. He said, "This week's emergencies went in several directions. Our temperature sensor in the battery room keeps shutting down the power whenever we reach 100 degrees in the room. Since we hit 110+ several afternoons this week, we've battled shutdowns for 3 afternoons. Also, the city water company worked for almost a week but water is out again for the past 3 days. Come to find out, our Hope Radio well pump burned up in the process so we have to buy a new pump." The unfortunate thing right now is that Hope Radio is not financially able to buy that pump, therefore the missionaries have bought it so the well can start producing water again. The total cost of the pump and wiring is \$500. If you would like to help with this need, you can contribute at this link, <https://missioservealliance.givingfuel.com/hope-radio-projects>. There is a section where you can leave a note, I would suggest the following: "for Hope Radio operations." Thank you.

That's it for now, be sure to let me know if you find the "gem" in the video. As always, we appreciate your prayers.

In Christ,
The Silseths

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