

March 20, 2023

Dear Friends,

Greetings and happy thoughts *[Editor: please excuse the trite introduction]*. This should be a relatively concise email update, but I'm just getting started and who knows if there are some rabbit trails ahead.

I am happy to report that good progress is being made in getting the solar panels installed at Hope Radio. I'm not entirely sure of the procedure for this installation, but I know it involves standing out under a hot African sun (100-105 degrees F) and producing a fair amount of sweat. By all accounts, the panels should be all installed and ready to go by the time I get to Hope Radio *[Editor: more on that in just a bit]*. The batteries have been purchased and should be at the station by now. There was a bit of a delay as it seems Hope Radio is not the only entity in Togo wanting to purchase batteries for a solar system.

Over the last two years, a number of "electrical band-aids" have been deployed to try to protect the electrical system from the power coming from the city of Mango or to try to balance the electrical load. As various measures were added in the electrical room, the situation there has come to the point of needing an electrical engineer to get the system properly organized. During the month of April, my friend and former co-worker from Roatan, Jerry Petersen, will be traveling to Hope Radio to whip the electrical room back into shape *[Editor: what the writer means is bring the room back up to electrical code]*.

Jerry and I will cross paths in Lome as he will be departing as I will be coming to Togo. I will arrive in Lome May 7th and then return home by May 24th. Please pray for Jerry's travel and work as well as my travel.

On this trip we hope to be able to accomplish several things. First we will turn our attention to the music library. One of the issues is duplicate songs and some of the titles need to be checked for accuracy of information.

Several young Togolese nationals have been identified as having the skill set required to be live on the air. While I am there we are going to set up their training. I'm getting quite excited about this next step because I think it will make the Hope Radio even more appealing to the listeners.

I have one other prayer request. We are planning to launch a new program this summer that will be very different from anything we have on the air. The gospel is clearly proclaimed on Hope Radio, but this new program is going to sharpen the delivery of the gospel. A temporary title is: "2 Questions Muslims Ask of Christians." You may remember the city of Mango, Togo, has a population that is 95% Muslim. This program has the potential of bringing many sons and daughters to glory...or it has the potential to blow up in our faces.

Here is how you can pray:

1. Wisdom in producing the program so the wording is precise and Spirit filled.
2. Wisdom as to which staff members should be a part of the program. We definitely need an African voice for the part of the program that asks the question. However, if the wrong person is chosen, it could be disastrous for them in their community. We need someone who can handle whatever pressure comes from this choice, but is also respected in the community.
3. Please pray that God will pour out the Holy Spirit all over northern Togo so that when this program hits the airwaves, our listeners will have open hearts and respond to the gospel call.
4. Please pray that as many people choose to follow Christ we will be able to disciple them and integrate them into a good church.

Please watch this video as Evan Drake and I share the goals of this new radio program.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb8YpuwFvTY>

This new program is very important, but I also feel we will face spiritual attacks over this. However, we are at the point when we need to (figuratively) look our listeners in the eye and give them the gospel. This will be by far our most direct program and the evil one is not going to like it.

Thanks for your prayers. As we at Hope Radio seek to take on the darkness in northern Togo, we need your prayers for protection: physically, mentally, spiritually, emotionally and relationally. The Holy Spirit has prepared northern Togo for the ministry of Hope Radio, now our prayers are that there will be an explosion of people coming to Christ.

In Christ,

The Silseths

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