

# For the Love of Togo and her People

Valerie Stonebreaker serving the Lord and His Church in Togo, West Africa

Trust in the Lord with all your heart Proverbs 3:5

October 2015



## Visitors come to Togo!

One of the most exciting events of my entire time here in Togo. . .and I've been here since January 1998, was welcoming three very special visitors from my home church in California. From July 1 to July 9, Rev. Ron Youngdale, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Dave Wallace, president of the congregation, and Doug Kirkpatrick, chair of the Togo Mission Board, spent time with the pastors, evangelists and members of the Lutheran Church of Togo, and experiencing life in Togo. The three men presented a two day seminar for all Lutheran pastors and evangelists in the village of Nano. Pastor Ron taught on the book of Titus and God's Grace; Dave presented practical information on clean drinking water, hand washing and latrines; and Doug guided lessons in Conflict Resolution. Following the two day seminar, we spent four days visiting village churches, spending time with

pastors and church members. It was a blessing for me, to share my love for Togo and the people here with my visitors. It was a blessing for the Lutheran Church of Togo, her leaders and members, to open their hearts and lives to these men. . .and it was a blessing for Pastor Ron, Dave and Doug to share God's love and receive it in return from the Togolese Lutheran Church.

I served as chauffeur, translator and guide, trusting always in the Lord, and knowing He would make our paths straight. . .even here on the Togo roads!

I returned to California with Pastor Ron, Dave and Doug to visit family and friends. And to deal with things such as driver's license and Medicare. During this visit, I also completed the transition to serving once again as an LCMS OIM missionary. Lord, lead me in your straight path, I pray!

**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding,**

**In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6**

## Prayer and Praise

- † Give thanks for the visit of Pastor Ron, Doug and Dave to Togo and the blessings received by all persons touched.
- † Give thanks for a wonderful two months I spent in California. Thanks that I was able to sign up for Medicare and renew my drivers' license while there.
- † Thanksgiving that I am able to continue to serve the Lord and His church in Togo, now with LCMS-OIM. I am glad to be home in Togo.
- † Pray for continued efforts/good results in the CCCS/Leadachild project and the Moba Women's Literacy Project. Educating youth and women builds a strong foundation for the Lord's church!
- † Please pray for my continued work with young people and students as I teach English and form and strengthen lasting relationships with them.
- † Please pray for the Lutheran Church of Togo, her pastors, vicars and members. Pray that they remain strong in their faith while struggling through much sickness and poverty



Moba Women hard at work . . . learning!

## Back Home in Togo. . . .

I returned to Togo on September 16th, eager to see my Togolese family and friends and catch up on things. My first priority on arriving in Lomé was to finish the final report for our CCCS/LeadaChild Project, in collaboration with the Project Director Azouma YEMBORE. Though the school year 2014-2015 was a bit troubled by teachers' strikes and school closings due to the election, the Project funds encouraged many students and the Lutheran congregations in Lokpano and Mire. Our project works with CEG Lokpano (a junior high school) but we continue to aid and encourage many of the students on into high school and higher education.



### Lokpano Lutheran Youth Choral

After spending a few days in Lomé, I took the bus back home to Dapaong. A long ride, but thankfully NO problems. It was good to be home! After getting settled, I met with Rev. LARE K. Lamboni, ELT President; Vicar LAMBONI Remi, and DARPOKLE Lari, who together co-ordinate the Moba Women's Literacy Program. As it is rainy season now, and the women are generally busy in

the fields or at home, classes are not being held. However these three men have been making visits to village churches, promoting and encouraging participation in the classes during the coming 'literacy season'. Already several more classes have been lined up. Several of the students are now able to read the scripture verses in Mual during the Sunday morning worship services in their village churches. I am praying that though the project funds will be finished this year, the village women and church leaders will be

motivated to continue their learning. What a blessing to be able to read God's Word !

## Picture Gallery - back home in Togo



Jean, Emmanuel and Lassa off to school!



Musical Instruments for the church in Sankpong



New Primary School Classrooms in Lokpano!



Djalil working in English on my veranda

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If you would like to contact me directly, please write to me at:  
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