

The Lighthouse

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MISSION WORK REPORT – BENIN



The new Graduates 10 July 2011

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES

VISIT OF THE AMERICAN BROTHERS

We have been privileged once again to receive 15 visitors from the Churches of Christ in the United States into our country. They arrived on Saturday July 2nd. They are Ed Jones, Scott Phillips, Travis Terrell, Jason Jones, Jeff Jones, Aaron Lyles and Jared Morgan, all from the Benton Church of Christ, Sam Jones, FHU, Brandon Morgan from ?Church in Padouka, Wendell and Rochelle from Cokeville Church of Christ, Il and Leonard Feuerhelm and Kevin Lewelling from Oklahoma.

TWO DAY LECTURES IN ZINVIE

Prior to the graduation ceremony, we organized a two day lectureship for the youth of the various congregations on the Zinvié campus. The following spoke on the theme, let us rise up and build the kingdom, based on the book of Nehemiah. 250 young people attended the lectureship. Here is a list of the speakers and their various subjects.

Dr. Sam Jones	By the divine standard
Travis Terrell	Through knowing Jesus
Ed Jones	Through Church leadership

Scott Phillips	Through prayer
Jeff Jones	By winning over opposition
Aaron Lyles	Through Strong families
Brandon Morgan	Financial participation
Bob Williams	Through Evangelism
Jason Jones	Through conflict resolution
Jared Morgan	Through perseverance

ACTIVITIES OF THE VISITORS

Sunday 3rd July: We divided the group into five and took them to various congregations in Cotonou for services. They took the Sunday morning Bible Class and presented the sermons. Right after that we came back to Zinvie and herded ourselves into the Yellow Bus for Togo. We took five hours to get there. We stayed in a small motel and on Monday morning, 250 brethren gathered in the meeting place of the Nukafu congregation for a short lectureship. Sam Jones, Ed Jones, Jeff Jones and Wendell Wardell spoke from 9.00 am to 1.30 pm. They had several questions. After this Wendell bought lunch for the preachers and we the visitors. We left Lome in very heavy traffic and got back to Zinvie at 11.00 pm. We left behind in Lome, Togo Wendell and Rochelle Wardell, Leonard Feuerhelm and Kevin lewellin who continued their mission in Togo.



Wendell speaking at Lome meeting



BTC graduates from Togo and their families and I pose in this picture

I had a sort of family reunion with all the BTC graduates preaching in Togo at the meeting. Through BTC, not only the church is growing but strong preacher families too.

VISITORS TOUR BENIN

Early morning on Tuesday we boarded the bus with Honore on the driving wheel and headed on to Parakou. We stopped in Bohicon to meet briefly with Paul. We also stopped in Dassa and in Save to meet with three of the preachers who live in these town. We met Pascal working on building his new residence on the church lot. We got to Parakou after 8 hours on the bus. Early morning we went to the new building of the Parakou church. Several members were waiting for us including Daniel, the Preacher. The visitors inspected the building and took lots of pictures. Ed gave a short exhortation and we got back on the bus for the 7 hour ride back to the Zinvie campus.

Thursday was rest day but Ed, Brandon and Jeff and I went to visit our very good friend Michel Alokpo who is a member of Cabinet for our Ministry of Interior (Home Affairs). He took us to see a government Minister, the Minister for Administrative and Institutional Reforms Mr. SOUNTON Martial. We had earlier sent him a letter of invitation to our graduation ceremony. The Minister attended the graduation ceremony accompanied by Michel and a Senator by name David. The Minister spoke during the ceremony. We invited the ORTB-TV, which is the

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national TV station to do a news cover our ceremony.

Friday and Saturday July 8-9 were for the Youth Lectures. Three men spoke on Friday morning and three in the evening. We had four lectures on Saturday morning. All the sessions ended with several questions from the audience.



Sunday morning worship service on July 10 prior to the graduation ceremony

PREPARATIONS FOR THE LECTURES AND GRADUATION

Many meetings, planning and prayer sessions went into the preparations for the mission of our visitors and the graduation ceremony. The students cleaned up the compound, trimmed the trees on the compound. Washed floors in all the rooms. The women on the compound were mobilized and they cooked several meals during the lectureship. All the lectureship participants stayed on the campus. Some slept in the classrooms. On the day of the graduation ceremony 800 meals had been served but some could not get a meal. On Saturday June 11th we had our quarterly Preachers meeting and we requested all who have skills to respond to our call. We had Sister Marina who worships in the Vedoko congregation to prepare refreshment for our invited guests during the ceremony. She did a marvelous job. The women did so much work, working so far into the night trying to feed the never ceasing stream of visitors.

One person who distinguished himself during the occasion is Honore, our driver. He drove the big Yellow American school bus on our terrible roads. The road from the main highway to BTC is washed off due to heavy rains and he maneuvers the bus somehow through to always get us home safely.



Worship under the big tent prior to the graduation ceremony



Sharing a meal with the students



Dr. Sam Jones giving out a diploma



Travis speaking at Lectureship in Zinvie



A little break time



Emmanuel Sanogo in this picture is our oldest graduate. He is almost 70 years old, retired from the army as Sergeant Major, came to BTC and graduated. He received the book price for Most Motivated Student.

PRAYERS NEEDED

Once again we pray and thank God for His guidance. For the safe travels, and health of my visitors, a dry Sunday morning on July 10th, for the 15 new graduates, successful lectureship and for peace.

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