



The Akakpo's



Reaching the Unreached - Making Disciples - Planting Biblical Churches



KOKU & AKPENE AKAKPO

Misahome-Togo, December 3rd, 2023

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits" (Psalm 103:1-2 [KJV])

"Fix your eyes on Jesus (Hebrew 12:1-2). Find your answer, your direction, your hope, your strategy, your identity, your everything in Jesus"

Dear partner and beloved family in Christ,

Grace and peace to you!

We are filled with gratitude as the year 2023 comes to an end, reflecting on the incredible accomplishments that God has brought about through your prayers and faithful financial support in Misahomé - Togo. May our Lord be magnified forever and ever! This past year has been filled with abundant spiritual and material blessings, demonstrating God's faithfulness in all we do. He has strengthened our hearts, guided our paths, directed us, and protected us, remaining true to His promises. Our faith is anchored in His words, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the

end of the world" (Matthew 28:20b). In the face of trials and tribulations, we find comfort in Christ's assurance, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 [KJV]). Despite oppositions and persecutions, we experience constantly God's grace and mercy upon us. We humbly acknowledge our weaknesses, failures, and moments of discouragement, yet we are ever grateful to be vessels in His hands, bringing the lost sheep to Him. What a wonderful Savior we have!



BABY BOY DEDICATION - HIS NAME "BENI"

Ministry

As we approach the end of the year, we would like to share three significant ministry activities that God has accomplished in 2023, for which our hearts overflow with praises.

The Church of Misahomé has experienced remarkable growth both spiritually and numerically. From a humble attendance of eight individuals, comprising two women and six men, back in 2021, the church has now a congregation of Forty to forty-five members attending our service every Sunday morning.

On November 26, 2023, thirteen new believers professing their faith in Christ received water baptism. Praise God!

- Please pray for their spiritual growth in Christ



A BABY BOY DEDICATION



NOVEMBER 26, THIRTEEN NEW BELIEVERS IN CHRIST EXPRESSED THEIR COMMITMENT TO HIM THROUGH THE WATER BAPTISM

In July 2023, we organized an impactful VBS program, where we had the privilege to share the boundless love of Christ with approximately three hundred children. The program was filled with engaging activities and valuable Bible teachings. This year, the Vacation Bible School (VBS) program has been instrumental in reaching children in the village and the surrounding areas. Presently, we have an average of 50 to 70 children attending the church services every Sunday, many of whom come to the church without their parents.

- Your prayers are welcome for these precious children. Please remember these children with your Christmas gifts.

Some of these youths came to me a couple of months ago and said, "We would like to learn musical instruments and use them in our church services and for other church activities such as evangelism programs." Their desire to serve Christ in that way was very interesting and exciting. But the challenge is this; first, the instruments, and second, the person who has musical skills to be the teacher. Not me :), and nobody in the village has that kind of skill. Back in Lome, we did research from our sister churches. We finally had a young man who left Lome every Sunday afternoon to get into Misahome to help these children. It costs \$170 for us monthly for transportation and other charge. Currently, they are learning how to blow trumpets and trombones. We bought three trumpets for \$200 a piece and one trombone for \$250 here in Lome -Togo. We brought one trombone with us from the US. But it is not sufficient for a group of 10 to 15 people. Please pray for them for steadfastness. It will have a tremendous impact on our ministry in the village.



Discipleship Endeavor - Matthew 28:18-20

Furthermore, we are also excited to announce that we have embarked on a discipleship journey with six new believers in a village called PATAPAKONDZI, located about a 45-minute drive from Misahomé. We meet with them Sunday afternoon at 3 pm for Bible study and prayers. They will probably join us in Misahomé on Sunday, Christmas Eve.

- Pray for these disciples for more commitment.

In addition, we give thanks to God for His provision in meeting the needs of our church. Through the work of your faith, our building projects have continued to progress steadily. We currently have a building with three Sunday school classrooms on the first floor and on the second floor, the guest rooms. Also, we are so excited about the public restrooms in the church compound for our believers, and a storage room to keep the church's stuff. We are grateful for your investments in this ministry projects.



The Church Storage building



Our vision is to establish an internship ministry for English as Second Language (ESL) schools. This initiative will serve as strategic approach to reach out to young students in the area with the message of salvation in Christ.

Currently, we still needs your financial assistance to finish well. We need water in the rooms and restrooms, we needs toilets in all the bathrooms, Also, we need light (Solar Power), and last need the building be painted. Those needs are vital for the church building to function properly. \$15000 is needed.

- Pray for God provision.

Thank you!

One challenge that remains unchanged is the lack of workers in our ministries. This issue affects us in many ways and has been a recurring topic in our previous letters. Recently, our mission board's Executive Director, Stephen Simpson, and I have discussed it at length. He also expressed his concerns and made some suggestions to consider. It always reminds me of the grief Jesus felt when he saw the people, distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Matthew 9:36-37 [NASB]). The context in which we are ministering to the people in the village is critical. We are in need of believers who can read and understand the Scriptures clearly and who are also willing to be trained and serve the Lord. Unfortunately, we do not have anybody with those skills yet. In my contacts with friends - Pastors, they all told me, "It will be difficult to find today "a bound servant of Christ " for pastoral ministry in the villages." But we do not despair, for God is in control and is capable of stirring up workers. For this reason, Jesus asked His Disciples to pray for workers; "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:38 [NASB]).

- Please continue to pray for this issue

It is hard to leave immature church behind without a shepherd. I know Paul left immature believers in Thessalonica during his second missionary voyage. But it was against Paul's will. The situation in Misahomé is fundamental for two reasons: first, we will be freed to move on and start a new ministry. But we have no workers available yet. We go to PATAPAKONDZI every Sunday afternoon for discipleship, and sometimes I can't go because I have to teach a baptism class in Misahomé. The second reason concerns our furlough. We are planning to travel to the States by the end of 2024, meaning by September or October 2024. More details will be given shortly in January 2024.

- Pray incessantly with us for a Pastor in Misahomé.

In our context, leaving immature church behind without a leader for furlough would be unreasonable or even unacceptable. Thank you!

Once again, we are profoundly grateful for your unwavering support and steadfast prayers. Your commitment to the ministry has been instrumental in its growth and impact. As we step into the coming year, we humbly ask for your continued support, both in prayer and in financial contributions, as we strive to bring the good news of Christ's love to even more individuals in Misahomé and its surrounding areas.

We are relying on your prayers, sacrificial giving, and generosity to help us complete the unfinished projects. As mentioned in our recent newsletter, these projects are crucial to furthering our ministry's mission and impact. Your continued support will make a significant difference in bringing these projects to fruition. An estimation of \$70000 for both the church building and pastoral housing is needed to raise the wall and the roofs.

- Please pray with us for God's provision

May God continue to bless you abundantly, and may His grace and peace be with you always.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2024

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We share,
We serve!

Koku & Akpene Akakpo
Church Planters (Togo-West Africa)