

# THE PATE FAMILY

CHURCH-PLANTING MISSIONARIES IN THE IVORY COAST (CÔTE D'IVOIRE)



Dear Prayer Supporters,

July-August, 2023

**TRANSITION TO THE IVORY COAST:** We praise the Lord that we safely arrived in Bingerville, Ivory Coast on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Within two days of our arrival, all of our luggage arrived as well. Allison and Maddie have been adjusting remarkably well and are enjoying meeting new friends and learning about life in Africa. We're very grateful for the peace the Lord has given us through this transition, knowing with full confidence that this is where the Lord desires for us to be. Katie is also doing well with the pregnancy and we're looking forward to settling into our new home before the baby arrives at the end of year. Thank you so much for praying for our family throughout the past month as we made the transition here.

We've been able to make good progress so far with the government paperwork needed to apply for our residency. The Lord has also provided a vehicle for us and we've been able to confirm a house for us to rent, which should be available for us by the middle of September. In the meantime, we are very grateful for the kindness and hospitality of BIM! missionaries Josh and Alyssa Clay in opening their home to us.

Coupled with the logistical details of our transition here, we're also enjoying easing into ministry involvement. It's been a blessing to already make several trips to the nearby villages for evangelism and visitation. This is the region where we believe the Lord is leading us to plant a church. On our first Saturday here in the Ivory Coast, I had the opportunity to go to the property of the future church in the village of Anan with fellow believers from both Bingerville and Anan. What a joy this was to join them in praising the Lord for His provision of this land and to pray for His wisdom for each step of the church planting process. We look forward to seeing how Christ will build His church in this spiritually ripe harvest field. In the meantime, we look forward to being as involved as possible in the ongoing ministries in these villages and in the church here in Bingerville, pastored by veteran missionary Bob Mach.

For many years, we've been working towards the goal of arriving in the Ivory Coast. We're finally here. We now desire to take the needed time to settle our family well, to advance in language proficiency, to grow in our understanding of the culture, and to adapt to a new way of living. We've been told by many missionaries that our first term will primarily involve these goals; therefore, it is our goal to heed their advice to prepare ourselves for ministry longevity. Thank you for continuing to pray for us in each step!

**LITERATURE CONTAINER SHIPMENT:** In our last update, we made mention of our shipping container of Gospel literature. We praise the Lord that this container was successfully loaded and sent from our sending church in NC on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The paperwork process was certainly more complicated than we anticipated, but we are thankful for those who have helped to coordinate the efforts both in the States and here in the Ivory Coast. The paperwork appears to be in order and we anticipate receiving the container in the middle of September. Thank you for your continued prayer for a smooth completion of this project.

**NEW CONTACT INFORMATION:** As we have transitioned to the Ivory Coast, we have some updated contact information to share:

1. Regular Texting and Phone Calls: 803-351-9360 (Josh); 828-829-1952 (Katie)
2. WhatsApp: 225-07-87-26-76-69 (Josh); 225-07-00-74-20-42 (Katie)
3. Postal Mail: B.P. 95 Bingerville, Côte d'Ivoire – West Africa (*Only for flat envelopes/letters*)

If you decide to send a box or package to us, please notify me first so that I can send you specific instructions for the shipment. Thank you for your continued prayer for us and partnership with our family. It's a privilege to represent you here in the Ivory Coast!

In Christ,

Josh, Katie, Allison, and Madelyn Pate

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