

# THE PATE FAMILY

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

## January-February, 2024 | Prayer Update

**NEW BELIEVER:** At the beginning of the new year, the Lord greatly encouraged us by allowing us to see a young man trust Christ as His Savior. Prince attends a local university and lives in our neighborhood. During a family walk one evening, we saw some Mormon missionaries engaging Prince and his friends in conversation. After the Mormons left, we capitalized on the opportunity to introduce ourselves to the young men and to share the Gospel very briefly with them. A few days later, during another family walk, as a follow-up to our initial conversation, Prince stopped us in the street and asked us how he could know Jesus. We had the privilege to discuss the Gospel with him in-depth and to see him accept Jesus Christ as His personal Savior. It has been a joy to watch him take initial steps of spiritual growth. He faithfully attends services at the church in Bingerville and participates in the new believer's class for Sunday School. I'm grateful for the privilege to disciple this young man and I look forward to what the Lord has in store for him in the future. (See first picture below)



**OVERVIEW OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY:** We were blessed to have Katie's parents and two sisters visit us for a few weeks in January and February. (See second photo below) We were grateful for the opportunity to show them the ministry here and to have their help in many aspects. In fact, the Ivory Coast hosted the Africa Cup of Nations biennial soccer tournament during their visit and it was a blessing for Katie's two sisters to participate in evangelization at one of the local matches. Of course, it was an added bonus to see the Ivory Coast win the championship game for the tournament. The combination of patriotism and hype for each Ivorian game was unparalleled to anything we've experienced and certainly was a wonderful cultural experience. Following the birth of baby Bethanie, we were able to make great progress on her paperwork to obtain her birth certificate and passport. Although paperwork always seems to be a laborious process, we thank the Lord for helping us through each step. On February 14<sup>th</sup>, the church here in Bingerville was kind enough to allow me to preach. As my first full-length French message [here](#), I thank the Lord for how He guided in both the preparation and delivery. I look forward to many more years of preaching His Word here in French.



**PLANNING FOR THE MINISTRY IN ANAN:** We are continuing ministry in the nearby villages and are in a position to begin planning for the next step in the village of Anan. Although we still desire to be involved in evangelism, Bible clubs, etc. in other villages, we will begin

to channel our efforts towards the village of Anan where we believe the Lord is leading us to plant a church. You may remember that the Lord provided for land to be purchased last year for future ministry in this village. We will move towards construction on this property as the Lord leads but there are several necessary steps prior to that time. In the meantime, perhaps even in the next two months, we desire to begin with a midweek Bible study in the village where we will gather all the believers. This will, Lord willing, develop into Sunday services and the eventual chartering of the church. We are praying for the Lord's wisdom to guide us in the following areas for this church plant: the nature of the initial Bible study, the growth of believers through foundational teaching, the salvation of unbelievers, the proper timing to begin services, the location for the church prior to building on the property, and the eventual construction on the church property. Would you join us in prayer for this future ministry? We look forward to watching Christ build His church in the village of Anan, in which you will have a role as you hold the ropes of prayer for us in your continued partnership with our ministry.

In Christ,  
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