

Kristina Premo

ASSISTING CHURCH PLANTERS IN THE IVORY COAST

Dear Friends,

Proverbs 16:9 says, “A man’s heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.” This verse has come to my mind many times in the last two months as I have made plans only to have them changed, as I have expected one thing only to find another, and as I have started down one path only to have it come to an end. I think being on a foreign field gives one a greater realization of how much we have to depend on God to direct our steps because things rarely play out as we expect them to. But isn’t it a comfort to know that God knows? What peace is found in knowing that when nothing makes sense to me, He sees the end from the beginning! Here are some ways He has worked in these last two months.

Praises

First, while the process was sometimes easier than expected and sometimes not so much, I have obtained my residency card and have finished the steps for my driver’s license. I am just waiting for the call to pick it up. While I am legally able to drive, after prayer and consideration, I have decided to put off purchasing a vehicle for now. I use a ride-share service to get around easily, and I have enjoyed being able to talk with the drivers, practice my French, invite them to church, and have opportunities to share the gospel.

Second, I believe my French language skills have continued to progress as God has given me many different opportunities to speak and develop. I also have more opportunities in the coming months that I am already preparing for, encouraging further growth.

Finally, I have a good start on curriculum, and I began looking to connect with local schools to start working with students in preparation for the coming exams. Meetings were delayed, additional steps needed to be taken, and I began to get discouraged that things weren’t going as quickly as I had hoped. I started working on Saturdays with some of the girls from the church who invited some of their friends to join us, and this was a great encouragement as I was doing what I knew God had led me here to do.



Saturday English Club

However, I was praying for more, particularly during the week. Then this past Thursday, we were finally able to meet with the principal of a school just across the main road from the church. We expected to simply drop off a letter of request and then hope to meet with him again to organize passing out flyers. Instead, we presented the letter, and then we were told they would post the flyers around the school and I could start working with students on Monday. After that, we were taken to nine different classrooms (with about 80 students per classroom) where we presented the information for the English clubs. I just kept thinking “the LORD directeth.”

Prayer Requests

I will continue to meet with the girls on Saturday; however, the first official English club starts Monday. We followed up with the director and sent a sign-up sheet, but as of right now, I have no idea how many to expect. Please pray for the logistics, particularly as things unfold in this coming week. I am also praying for wisdom as I work with the students in preparation for their exams.

Above all, I am praying for opportunities to talk with the students and share the gospel. I have different ideas on how this might be accomplished outside of the clubs, but I ultimately need God’s guidance.

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. I continue to pray for you and your churches as we seek to reach the world with the gospel. May the Lord continue to direct our steps and may we follow Him wherever He leads!

Because of Christ,

Kristina Premo

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