



# Kristina Casalis

## ASSISTING CHURCH PLANTERS IN THE IVORY COAST

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to be sending you this update from the Ivory Coast! Rémi and I arrived a week ago, and we are settling in nicely. We were excited to celebrate Easter with the Fundamental Baptist Church of Bingerville and enjoyed a warm welcome from the church family. We are so blessed by all that God has done in our lives these last three months and are excited for what God has in store for us as we seek to serve and share the gospel here.

### Praises

Although the enthusiasm to meet online seems to have dwindled, I was able to meet with a few students throughout the last three months, and one student asked me to bring him an English Bible. I am excited to continue working with this student and appreciate his desire to learn more English through the Word of God.

We were also able to visit a couple of our supporting churches, and I was excited for them to meet Rémi and learn how they can better pray for him and for us as a couple. I cannot express how grateful I am for the individuals and churches who support us through faithful prayer.

On February 28, Rémi and I were married at Cleveland Baptist Church. It was a special time of celebration with our friends, family, and church family. After our honeymoon, we returned to Cleveland for two days, and then we flew to France. On March 21, we were able to celebrate our marriage with our friends, family, and church family from France who were unable to come to the states.

After our French celebration, we had one week during which Rémi needed to obtain his visa and sort and pack up his belongings. It was a tight schedule, and we even considered delaying his flight, but we prayed and decided to put it in God's hands. His meeting with the Ivorian consulate was Tuesday and while the lady indicated that getting approval before Friday would be difficult, she would see what she could do. On Friday, the day before our flight, Rémi took a train to Paris and, in response to many prayers, his passport was ready with an approved visa. We flew out the next day, and we praise the Lord that the flight and trip to our house with our luggage went very smoothly.

### Prayer Requests

While we are grateful that Rémi's visa was approved without any delay, it is only good for three months. Therefore, we will begin right away on the work for him to obtain a residency card. **Please pray that this process goes smoothly and that Rémi receives his residency card within the next three months.**

I am grateful that the infrastructure in Ivory Coast is advanced enough that we can buy groceries and most necessities by credit or debit card. However, getting around by taxis, paying rent and utilities, and paying for cell service all require withdrawing cash. While I was in the states, my bank switched to Discover, and I didn't realize that would be an issue until I couldn't make a withdrawal here. For now, thanks to another missionary, we are making things work, and I believe I have found a solution which does not require me to change banks. I will know by the end of the month. **Please pray that this debit card issue will be resolved without any significant financial charges or changes.**

As we finish settling into our new home and find our rhythm, I will begin reconnecting with the various groups I worked with last year. I will start with the English club at the university, then with the teen girls who will be taking their exams in May and June, and then the evening English courses at the church. **Please pray that these doors have remained open, that I will be able to pick up where I left off last year, and that God will continue to use me and these ministries as a way to invite people to church, share the gospel, and disciple young Christians.**

Rémi is finishing up a program which will allow him to work as an editor. This will allow him to do freelance work until he finds something permanent. At this time, we do not know what God has for him concerning work. Ideally, he would love to continue his work in teaching non-French speakers French. It could be that he works with other missionaries who are in this area or even with the increasing number of foreigners here for work. He also has a desire to serve in the church and perhaps in one of the several outreach programs of the church. **Please pray with us as we seek God's direction concerning Rémi's work and ministry here in the Ivory Coast.**

Above all, we want to grow and serve and encourage and be a light to the people here. We want to know Christ more and make Him known. Thank you for your prayers and support as we seek to fulfill the calling of God on our lives. We are praying for you as well, that God uses you in your city and around the world to reach the gospel!

Because of Christ,

*Kristina Casalis*

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

While my letterhead and signature will say Kristina Casalis, my legal name remains Kristina Premo. With our limited time in the states and with all my accounts and official documents being in that name, we felt it best to wait until the next furlough to proceed with a legal name change. Therefore, to all donors, **please continue to make any checks out to Kristina Premo.** Thank you for your understanding!



February 28  
Wedding Day



March 21  
French Celebration



March 28  
Moving Day

#### **CONTACT INFO**

Kristina Premo  
661.350.4512  
kristina.premo@gmail.com  
kristinapremo.com

#### **SENT BY**

Cleveland Baptist Church  
4431 Tiedeman Rd.  
Brooklyn, OH 44144  
clevelandbaptist.org