



Kristina Casalis

ASSISTING CHURCH PLANTERS IN THE IVORY COAST

Dear Friends,

Not a day goes by in which I do not find myself praising the Lord as the psalmist did in Psalm 40:5. *“Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”* Life is not perfect, sometimes we lose power or water or both at the same time, sometimes we are clearly reminded that we are living in a different culture with people who think and act differently. However, more often, the Lord provides exactly what we need, when we need it; He surrounds us with people who love and accept us despite cultural differences and are there to help us navigate those differences. No matter the circumstances, we always recognize the presence and goodness of God. I do not have enough time nor paper space to share all the different ways that we have seen God work over these past few months, but I’ll share the highlights.

Praises

We see God’s hand at work in our day to day lives. After arriving, there were several maintenance projects that needed to be done on our house. With the help of an Ivorian friend who acted as a liaison, we were able to hire the people needed to finish those projects in a reasonable amount of time. One of those projects included repairing a leak in our roof. We praise the Lord that we recognized this problem before rainy season and were able to have it repaired just in time.

As mentioned in the last prayer letter, we immediately began the process for Rémi to obtain his residency card since his visa was only good for three months. Once again with the help of another Ivorian friend, this process went very smoothly and he received his residency card in May. He will also have his driver’s license by the end of June.

I also mentioned problems concerning my debit card. After much research, I found a solution that did not require me to change banks, which could have required a return to the states. Thankfully, another missionary was arriving in May and he was able to bring what I needed to make this transition. We are now able to make transactions easily and without any exorbitant fees.

In addition to God working in our daily lives, we see Him clearly working in ministry opportunities. I was able to meet several times with the teen girls before they took their exams. Also, one of the girls who is also a member of our church had a birthday in May. We decided to invite her and a few friends to our home to celebrate her birthday. She ended up bringing over fourteen teenagers, several of whom were not Christians. Rémi and I were able to share our testimonies, then we sang songs and had a time of prayer together. We knew beforehand that there would at least be one or two of her friends there that were not Christians, and our prayer was that they would not leave our home without hearing the gospel. Thankfully, God answered that prayer above and beyond what we expected, and we will continue to pray for these teenagers.

I was also able to reconnect with the English club at the university in April and having been meeting with them every Thursday. Of course, as you know, my prayer is that this will allow me to connect with the students and create opportunities to share the gospel. One day, after the club, one of the young men asked if he could speak with me.

He told me he had a lot of questions about the Bible and asked if we could meet one afternoon to discuss them. I asked him if he would be comfortable meeting with both Rémi and me. He responded enthusiastically and then asked if he could invite some of his friends as well. I said, "Of course!" while thinking "This is the reason that I'm here!" These last few weeks have been exam weeks, so we have not yet been able to meet. My prayer is that he still has a hunger to know more about God's Word and that we will be able to meet soon.

In addition to the English club, the Lord opened up another door to begin working with a completely different group of students in a program called "English Marathon." This has allowed me to connect with different students and share my testimony. Furthermore, I will begin teaching English courses in the evenings in Bingerville later this month, and I have invited the church family as well as the students from the university to participate. Many have expressed the desire to take these courses. This will open up another opportunity for the church members to connect with these students and share their own salvation testimonies. I praise the Lord for these open doors!

Rémi is adjusting well to life in the Ivory Coast. We have been praying that we would integrate well into the life of the church and that we would begin to develop real relationships with the people here. God has answered that prayer in many different ways. We welcomed several men into our home for a men's meeting and another time for a soccer game between Ivory Coast and France. Rémi also continues to advance in his course to become an editor, and he will finish this program in July. As I mentioned in the last prayer letter, we are praying that God would give clear direction on his work here in the Ivory Coast. We believe that God is answering that prayer; however, we are still praying for God's clear direction.

Prayer Requests

- for the teenagers who heard the gospel while they were in our home
- for the university students and more opportunities to share the gospel
- that the evening English courses create more opportunities for evangelization
- that we would continue to integrate into the church family and create genuine relationships
- for Rémi's editing course and future work
- for a medical missions trip in July that we will be taking part in
- that God would continue to lead us toward the ministries in which he would have us serve

Thank you for your prayers and support. May we all continue to shine the light of Christ wherever we are!

Because of Christ,

Kristina Casalis



Welcoming teens for a birthday party



Saturday English Club with teen girls



Thursday English Club at the university



English Marathon at the university

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SENT BY

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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!