Kristina Casalis

ASSISTING CHURCH PLANTERS IN THE IVORY COAST

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe how quickly the year is passing! With another school year underway and schedules growing busier by the day, we are reminded just how precious our time truly is. Colossians 4:5 says, "*Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.*" As we juggle the many responsibilities that come with everyday life, our prayer is that we would never become so busy with the things of this world that we lose sight of what matters most—serving the Lord and making Him known. We are grateful for another season of opportunities to share the gospel and see God at work.

Praises and Prayer Requests

In September, my Saturday English clubs with the teens started again. We have struggled to find a consistent location and time that works for the majority; but I have been able to work off and on with four students. One of those students is not a Christian, and after one of our sessions, I invited her to come to church. When I got to church the next morning, she was already there! **Please pray that she will continue to come, and, in hearing the gospel, come to know Christ as her Lord and Savior. Please also pray with me that I will be able to find a time and location that allows more students to take part in the English club.**

Also in September, both Rémi and I started teaching in the evenings at the literacy center, an outreach ministry of our church. This literacy center not only helps adults learn to read and write, but also provides evening courses in all subjects at varying levels for teens and adults that did not finish their education. This helps them prepare to take the exams that would allow them to further their education and give them more job opportunities. In addition and more importantly, every student who takes part in this program also takes a Bible class. It is a wonderful way to reach the community with the gospel. I am teaching English, and Rémi is teaching French. We are gaining a better understanding of the educational system and the strengths and weaknesses of the curriculum in the Ivory Coast, and we believe the Lord might be using this to prepare us for something in the future. **Please pray that we will continue to learn and grow as educators, that we will develop relationships with students that allow us to personally share the gospel, and that through the Bible classes, students will come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior.**

At the end of October, we were also able to participate in another medical missions program. This once took place in a predominantly Muslim community. In fact, the campaign was even announced at the mosque! We once again served as translators, but I also got to take blood pressures and temperatures, and Rémi directed the flow and gave out absurd amounts of lollipops and stickers. In three days, we saw 1,420 patients, and every single one of those patients heard the gospel. Of those patients, 179 made salvation decisions! (At the end of this letter, I have included some of the testimonies from the evangelism team.) **The prayers of God's people were so evident during this trip and we give Him all the glory! Please pray for the local church as they begin to disciple new Christians and follow up on those who have not yet made a decision.**

During these last few months I have tried to reconnect with the English club at the university. Unfortunately, I have not heard from the leader. After prayer and counsel, I began pursuing the opportunity to start my own program at the university. We have sent a letter of request to the dean of the English department, and we are awaiting his response. Meanwhile, I have been able to meet with students online and communicate with them regularly through WhatsApp. **Please pray that we will hear back from the dean soon, and that I will be able to start my own program and continue my work with the university students.**

Finally, through a series of circumstances and conversations, I believe that the Lord has recently put it on my heart to pursue some kind of certified Biblical counseling training. I have started looking into this process as I truly believe there is a need, and that it is a wonderful way to share the hope of the gospel and disciple believers who are struggling. **Please pray for me as I begin this process.**

As always, thank you for your faithful prayers and support. We are also praying for you and appreciate when you share prayer requests with us! May the Lord continue to use each of us to reach our communities and beyond with the gospel.

Because of Christ,

Kristina Casalis

Testimonies from the evangelism team:

1. "Massandje is a Muslim lady, but she does not practice her religion. After receiving information about Jesus Christ, she accepted Him as her Savior. She says that she would like to be discipled."
2. "Mariam, the neighborhood chief's wife, would like to accept Jesus, but she is blocked by her husband's position as a Muslim."
3. "Brigite goes to our church [host church] regularly, but she had never made the decision to accept Christ as her Savior. She decided to accept Him today. Joy was evident on her face. Praise the Lord!"
4. "Assiata is Muslim. She believed in the power of her good works. We presented her with God's mercy, and she believed that only God is capable of saving. We shared that God sent His Son as our ultimate sacrifice. She decided to believe in Christ."
5. "Ramatou is a Muslim student. I presented her with the Gospel. She believed that only God's sacrifice by His Son brings salvation."
6. "Madame Attié attends an evangelical church, but she didn't have assurance of her salvation. We opened the Bible and explained how we can have this assurance. She listened well, and she understood this doctrinal point."
7. "Nadège is Catholic. She thought that she could achieve Heaven by being kind toward her neighbors. After listening to the Gospel, she accepted Christ as her Savior."
8. "Nelly, an 11-year-old girl, decided to follow Christ. She prayed and made peace with Him today."
9. "Angel decided to accept the Lord Jesus Christ today."
10. "Pray for Baralissa who wants to accept Jesus Christ, but she fears her Muslim parents' reaction if she does so."
11. "Rachel accepted the Lord this morning. Before, she attended the Christian Celeste church. She has now understood the gospel and decided to follow Christ."
12. "Kimberly recognized the Lord Jesus Christ as her Savior and accepted Him."
13. "Esther went to church but had never trusted Christ as her Savior. She accepted Him today."
14. "Ines had never put her foot into a church, and she wasn't interested in God. After listening to the gospel, she decided to accept Jesus Christ. Joy was clearly on her face, and she said that she would come back for church."
15. "I specifically asked Bintou how many good works are necessary for salvation. She couldn't answer this. We talked about the imperfect sacrifices of lambs and cows. I told her that there is a perfect sacrifice. It's Jesus. I asked her to make a choice. She said that she would like to choose Jesus as her perfect sacrifice."



Jessica's first time at our church!



Taking a patient's blood pressure



Rémi distributing stickers to the kids

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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!