



Echos

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News
from Audio Vie

Flash on Togo

NEWS FLASH

RECORDING AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECT IN THE SAVANA REGION

For the coming months, we have decided to concentrate our recording and distribution efforts in the Savana region, in the North of Togo. The main town is Mango, 550 km from Lomé. This region is highly animistic and Muslim. The inhabitants live under the constant fear of the spirits' anger, which they attempt to appease by offering them required sacrifices. Treating with the devil and grounded in the worship of the spirits from ancestral time, these populations are totally closed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, we meet people who desire to be



delivered from the fear and the influence of those evil spirits. Once they are delivered, they really now have peace of heart and joy in Jesus.

WHY CHOSE A REGION SO DIFFICULT TO PENETRATE?

The region is known for being very difficult to evangelize. Some evangelists have attempted to penetrate it, but have had to flee or have even died. There are very few Churches. But the situation is beginning to change and doors are opening. In April 2015, Bikassam, one of our volunteers, was called by the Lord to evangelize in Faré, a village 30 km from Mango. He reported that

“the beginning of the evangelization effort was very difficult for 98% of the population only understand their own languages: gangam and tcho-kossi. GRN had a few messages in the gangam language spoken in Koumondou and Kondo, but not the gangam spoken in Faré (gangam b'ngangam). The recording of this language and other derived languages is our present priority.

Bikassam met a young man in Faré who became his assistant and his interpreter. He told him: *“There are no true Christians here, because the first mission-*

The large tree in the middle is a fetish. It is around this tree that the elders of the village practice their rituals. It is a sanctuary

nary fell ill and then died. His wife took over, she also died, as well as his two children, who had tried to pursue the task. Since that time, the Roman Catholic Church moved into the area, but it does not proclaim Jesus Christ. That's why no one here speaks about Christ.”

Such a sad reality motivates us all the more. Following these repeated deaths, people in the village live under fear, thinking that they might suffer the same spell as those missionaries as soon as they become Christians. After a year of evangelistic effort, hearts, hardened by occult practices, opened up to the gospel and to the light of Christ.



Bikassam is on the far right. His assistant is in the middle. Under his feet some fetishes are buried.

A small church of 50 people, plus the children, has now been set up, even though hardly anyone had heard about Jesus before. The Church is not welcome by the Roman Catholic Church who has lost a few members!

We have also discovered the Baptist Mission who uses the GRN material when meeting with chaplains who minister to the patients in the hospital, «Espérance». This hospital has a very good reputation, welcoming patients from all over, even from neighboring countries. For several patients, it is an unexpected meeting place with Jesus. Having arrived with the hope of being physically healed, they leave having experienced a spiritual healing. Lives are being transformed.

This far away region, where inhabitants are prisoners of the enemy, is especially close to our hearts. We must tell them about the love of God, manifested in Jesus. The Baptist Mission is planning to open a radio station in Mango very soon.

A PROSPECTIVE VISIT

We began our visit in Faré with the evangelist Bikassam,. In this village,

fetishes are buried in the ground or hidden in the bedrooms. No fetishes or idols are visible. We have seen a fetish tree, around which the village elders practice their rituals and ceremonies in order to invoke the spirits, to worship and to pray. Faré is a bastion of the enemy who keeps captive most of the inhabi-



With the workers of the Espérance Radio Station of the Baptist Mission.

tants. Some say that neighboring villages have even signed pacts with the fetishes. We have the desire to change this situation. There is a real interest. These souls are tired and enslaved by a cruel and demanding master. There is a real thirst to be liberated from those occult bonds. Only faith in Jesus Christ can break those bonds.

We later met the people in charge of the Baptist radio. We are now partners. This enables us to broadcast messages free of charge in the native languages on the local radio station. Thus hundreds of thousands of people will be able to hear the gospel in the region and beyond. In order to accomplish such a venture, we need to make new recordings.



PROJECT

The combination of the work of our volunteers (and of Bikassam) on the field and the opportunity to use a radio, to reach a greater number of people has led us to consider the following aspects:

1. The support of the continuous work of volunteer evangelists on the field.
2. The recording of the largest possible number of messages in local languages. These recordings will then be broadcasted by the Baptist Mission radio station, and will be used to evangelize, favoring direct personal contacts.
3. The implementing of follow up visits, to encourage the pastors in the villages where there is a church, to equip them and to train young people to share their faith.

FINALLY, WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH?

It is a legitimate question to ask what impact such a project can have on the lives of people.

We humbly think that the proclamation of the gospel by the regular distribution of messages in the mother tongues of the inhabitants, followed by their broadcasting on the Baptist radio station will inevitably have an impact on the population. What is important is not to quantify, but to rely on the work of the Holy Spirit who convinces men of their sins and brings them to repentance. As for us, our great desire is to proclaim the gospel, and to make known Jesus to the populations of the Savana region in Togo, so that lives may be transformed to the only glory of our Savior God.

We are already grateful for all those that the Lord Himself will raise to accompany us in this beautiful mission. You can support this project by your prayers and your gifts.

Evaluation of a language with the voice giver.

For your information such a project alone represents a budget of 10,000€ (roughly 11,350CHF, 11.400\$, 8830£).

"Not to us, O Lord, not to us but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!"

Psalm 115.1



Crossing the river in order to reach a neighboring village.

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