

Most times I tell “what is happening” around here, but we try our best not to lose focus on what we are here for. We are not here to “survive” Africa or to live as best we can in difficult circumstances. Fire fighters are to FIGHT FIRES. We are here to pray, witness, and go tell others about Jesus. All the other news is a backdrop for the ministry.

Dan continues to preach here in Lac every Sunday and Wed. He and the family do visitation on Tuesdays; sometimes church people come out, but it has mainly been our own family. We pass out tracts daily and encourage our church people to pass them out as well. (Pray for the tract ministry.)

Dan preaches in the village on Friday evenings and on Sunday afternoons (twice in each spot per week). All of the ministry is done in French which takes a little extra work to supply handouts. On Saturday, Dan has meetings with various men; some he helps prepare their messages, some are to solve problems in the church, and others come for advice and help. We also have a Christian school at the church. Any extra meetings are scheduled for Saturday, as are impromptu visits. Out here, people can drop in at any time. We have 5 men from the village in Bible school; this is encouraging.

As we leave here, Dan is figuring out a rotation system for the preaching. Dan works well with his men. He spends a lot of time with Pastor Konan who is our national missionary friend and co-laborer. Dan helped him get a motorcycle, and together they help the villages in the North. Pastor Konan is energetic to ride his motorcycle out to the villages to preach. These are very bad roads—hard on the vehicles and hard on the body. Pastor Konan is great to plan week-long conferences in the villages or one-day seminars per month (One is even today. These are in Pastor Konan’s town, and the leaders from the village all come in for the seminar). These had been postponed due to the coronavirus. Pastor Konan went anyway during the pandemic on his motorbike. Dan helps him with materials to teach and photocopies. Not counting these 2 churches, there are 17 fellowships Pastor Konan and Dan are helping.

During the lockdown which was not so severe here, Dan wrote out messages and handouts and hand-delivered them along with bread and other foodstuffs to help out. The people seemed to appreciate this and looked forward to Saturday afternoon’s visit from the pastor.

I go along with Dan, teaching the ladies and the kids or playing the piano. Wherever there are ladies there are lots of children; that is challenging and keeps one very flexible. I do indeed envy the men sometimes able to preach and teach in peace and quiet.

We are planning to come to the states the end of September. Please pray for Dan as he finds men to preach for him. Most of these are fresh out of Bible school or indeed still in. Everyone has a preaching ministry of their own in their own village. One of “our” men is supposed to do an internship with a pastor, but he is already the leader of a fellowship across town. How can he leave that group and go work with another pastor, or how can another pastor go work with him? Seth has already moved to his village of Sassandra and is getting settled. We are spread thin. God will provide; it is His work. We can do nothing without the power of prayer!! Please keep praying for the ministry to grow. It seems SO SLOW at times, yet looking back, we can see a lot of progress.

Many blessings on you.

In His grip,

Dan and Joan Cuthbertson