

Summer 2024

# THE DRAKE ADVENTURE

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Dear Friends,



Yes, this is our Summer prayer letter, our summer feels extra long here in Togo! We think the rains are done (we had a lot this season) and we are going into 6 months of dry. But as we step out of the warmth and humidity of summer, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for the journey God has laid before us this fall. We wanted to share with you, our faithful supporters and friends, the recent happenings and upcoming ministry opportunities in our family's lives. Your prayers and support mean the world to us, and we trust you will join us in lifting these requests to God.

As some may have known, OC and Celeste had an opportunity to go back to the states for the summer. We rejoice in the opportunities that our daughters have had this summer and it brought a little bit of independence to them and grew them in the Lord. OC was able to serve at

our church's Christian camp back in NC. She made a lot of new friends and the experience taught her a lot about herself and how to minister to others in a team environment. At the same time, Celeste was able to gain some valuable work experience at a local restaurant (Dario) in NC and was able to hang out with Adam's side of the family a lot as she lived with one of his brothers. We missed them greatly but we prayed for safety, growth, and ministry opportunities for both of them. And God answered.



Adam, OC and Celeste in Morocco

Adam, was able to go back to the states with the girls to renew his drivers license, and on the way over they had a 3 day layover in Morocco where they back-packed through the country sleeping on overnight trains. They made some great memories and it will be something they will never forget. He also travelled to Ivory Coast to help teach and translate for a workshop. This was a unique opportunity for him to work with local believers and serve God's mission with a different group of believers from



another nation. Adam made some great connections, partnerships, and had an impactful ministry in the lives of 34 national leaders.

In service to the community, Faith was able to assist Dr. Danielsson again over a 12 day period. Together, they had over 200 appointments, providing essential care and relief through dentistry. Faith triaged through potential patients throughout Mango in the different neighborhoods the week before. What a blessing it is to use her skills in service of others, and we were able to hire a local Anufo Christian translator to help translate but also share the Gospel with patients that were waiting



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and even while they were worked on. It was amazing to know that over 200 people were hearing the Gospel, many for the first time. Faith has also been training a fellow missionary who will potentially take over doing cleanings when we leave.

In another exciting update, we were able to take a survey trip to... Lomé! You heard that right! You might remember that back in March we had gone to Ivory Coast to see about potentially starting something there with ABWE. This survey trip was right after the 50th anniversary of ABWE in Togo. After realizing that we were not well equipped to serve in such an urban area, like Abidjan, while coming from rural Africa, we knew we needed to seek out a place that would give us urban experiences and grow our knowledge of ministry. During the summer, we were approached to consider assisting the Bureau of Mission ABWE Togo with government relations and the development of ABWE's diplomatic presence in Togo for the benefit of the ministries and missionaries. We really enjoyed seeing all the ABWE churches coming together and can see in this opportunity, the multiplication of churches and mission movements within Togo and out of Togo to the nations. We listened to Godly counsel, prayed fervently, and felt a stirring in our hearts. This is where and what God was calling us to next. What a wonderful gift from our Father that the place He is leading us to still allows us to maintain friendships and connections we have built over the last 13 years here! We value your prayers for discernment and guidance as we explore this new path that God has for us. We know

Deacon and family in ABWE church in Lomé



Adam Preaching at new Church in Lomé



we are going to have to raise over \$2000 more per month to make this move so please consider joining our support team. We would not be making this move most likely until 2027, after Faith finishes Dental Hygiene school, which she fully intends to incorporate into our Lome ministry.

Lastly, we celebrate the recording of "I Married You" in French at Hope Radio. We had a team of 7 in the studio at Hope Radio for the recordings this whole week.

Team recording I married you in French in 4 days!



This project allows us to reach more individuals and families with a message that is dear to us. We hope these recordings will touch hearts and strengthen marriages through God's Word. Please join us in praying that these messages resonate and make a profound difference. We felt the spiritual attacks this week as we started the recording which gave us even more confidence this was so important to God.

As we navigate through these opportunities and challenges, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and your strong support. We cannot express enough how grateful we are for each of you, standing by us in prayer and encouragement. Please let us know if there are specific ways we can return the favor by praying for you and your families.

Thank you once again for being such an integral part of our Adventure. May God bless you abundantly in all that you do.

In His Service Together,

The Drakes