

Richardson Mission to Togo



Ryan, Beth, Katie, Jonah, and Aaron Richardson

1192 Mary Jane Cove, Memphis, TN, 38116

901-486-6558

rdrmemphis@gmail.com

fivefortogo.com

Introduction to Church Partnerships

We are searching for churches to partner with in God's mission. The following activities describe what we would like to do in conjunction with your church.

1. Partner in prayer. We are a prayerful family and would love to share our passion for prayer with your church. This would be accomplished by spending time with your church family before, during, and after we go to Togo. We also would start a prayer ministry online to share requests and take requests from people in your congregation.
2. Educate in missions. North America is a mission field in itself. We will work to share with your church strategies to expand God's kingdom around the world. Through teaching, newsletters, and the internet, we will share our strategies in Togo, and also how they can be used in the United States.
3. Build the church of Acts. The church spread spontaneously in Acts as people learned to share their possessions with each other. Taking on support of a missionary family requires the use of not just money, but sometimes of homes, vehicles, and other possessions. This sharing teaches people to see their possessions as God's possessions, and helps the church become God's church, and not a place to meet "my needs."
4. Involve the church in holistic outreach. Ryan is working on an idea to send out self-supporting Togolese missionaries and ministers in a bi-vocational manner. The mission team has already had some success in giving loans to Christians for small businesses to combat poverty and have discussed expanding this idea as a part of their outreach. Church members can help develop this idea and be involved in its implementation.

We welcome partnerships with churches of all sizes, whether it be financial or in prayer.

Prayerfully in Partnership,

The Richardson Family

Ryan Richardson

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OBJECTIVE To lead a church planting movement among the people of Togo.

RECENT EMPLOYMENT **Associate Minister for Holmes Road Church of Christ** November 2003-Present

Memphis, TN

- Launched weekly small group ministry.
- Preached monthly using Powerpoint and note sheets.
- Coordinated evangelism and outreach for church, including monthly visitation program.
- Contact Glenn Hawley, pulpit minister, at 901.496.2537, or glenn.hawley@holmesroadchurch.com.

Associate Director, Operation French World June 2002-July 2003

Frederick, MD

- Promoted interest in Church of Christ missions in the French speaking world.
- Spoke at evangelistic campaign in St. Martin.
- Contact Bren White, director of OFW, at 301.676.5420, or ofwmissions@comcast.net.

Campus Minister, Elmwood Church of Christ July 1997-May 2002

Lafayette, IN

- Served as director of the Christian Student Center at Purdue University.
- Planned activities and budgeted for ministry involving fifty students per year.
- Preached and taught classes at Elmwood Church of Christ.
- Contact Dr. Gayle Crowe, currently at World Christian Broadcasting, former pulpit minister at Elmwood Church of Christ, at 615.354.4956, or gcrowe@worldchristian.org.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Ministry student, Harding Graduate School of Religion, 2005-present

Master of Divinity, Harding Graduate School of Religion, 1997

B.A., Mathematics, Harding University, 1993

Mission to the Kabiye: A Summary of our Strategy

I. Introduction

God is moving throughout the world to call people to Himself, and honors us by using us as his instruments of communication to the world. God empowers his people to fulfill the tasks which he gives us, so in all things his name will be glorified.

History of the Work Among the Kabiye

The Kabiye team, comprised of the Kennell, Miller, Neal, Reeves, and Ries families, moved to Kara, Togo in August 2000 to begin a work among the Kabiye people. The Kabiye are the second largest people group in Togo, numbering over 800,000. They are an animistic people group with an estimated less than 5% of the population claiming any type of Christian affiliation. Several groups of interns and missionaries made survey trips to the Kabiye in the 1990's and highly recommended they be targeted for evangelistic outreach. The Kabiye team moved to Kara, the principal city of the Kabiye and second largest city in Togo, to begin a church planting movement among the Kabiye people.

In January, 2003, the Kennell family moved back to the States. Brett and April Emerson, who were interns during the summer of 2003, arrived on the field in January of 2007 and departed in March of 2010. The Neal, Reeves, and Miller families have all since left the field. The Kennell family returned to the field in January of 2008, and the Hangen and Stoff families soon followed as new team members. The Richardson and Head families are seeking support to join the team in the near future.

Church Planting Methodology

The Kabiye team has the vision of beginning a church planting movement among the Kabiye people that will allow every Kabiye person to have the opportunity to hear the Gospel proclaimed in their own language and have a church near-by where they can worship. To fulfill this goal, the team has adopted a strategy designed to plant and mature Kabiye churches that will then reach out to neighboring villages and, eventually, other people groups in Togo and West Africa.

Each stage of this strategy is designed to be reproducible and culturally relevant, so that it can be used by Kabiye Christians to continue and expand the work of God. The ultimate goal is for Kabiye Christians to plant and mature Kabiye churches independent of the missionaries.

All the men of a congregation are encouraged to participate in the planning and leading of worship and mid-week meetings, and are mentored to this end informally as the missionary meets weekly with the church. Christians are also encouraged to share what they have learned in the evangelistic lessons with others in their families and neighborhoods. This year several churches have begun a systematic process of teaching from house to house the basic lessons of evangelism they have learned, with great results both in the lives of those who are teaching and in those receiving the message. Within the first year that a church is established, they are usually challenged to target a near-by village for evangelism which is done in partnership with either the missionaries or other more mature Christians.

In 2004 the team began implementing a formal leadership training program called Train and Multiply, which consists of a series of training booklets and practical tasks that lead Christian leaders through the process of establishing and maturing their churches. Each church that participates in the program chooses leaders to be trained, and these leaders then share with the rest of the congregation what they have learned during the week. The leaders are trained in how to plant new churches and will eventually train new leaders in these churches themselves using the Train and Multiply materials.

The team recently developed a new five year strategy based on training they received from Mission Resource Network. The following statements summarize what we hope to accomplish.

Togo 5 Year Strategy Planning

Vision Statement

A community of Jesus in every village/neighborhood proclaiming Jesus, not sacrifices, as the way to enter God's Kingdom, leading people to obey all the commandments of God, and bringing heart-peace to the Kabiye people and to all the nations of Togo and beyond.

Mission Statement

In order to fulfill the above vision, we will:

- *Speak to people in their own language--We will learn the language of our target group and ensure that people are taught in their heart language.*
- *Proclaim the Word of Peace in every village/neighborhood beginning with our families, then those near us, then those far away.*

When we proclaim the word of peace, we will:

- *Pray--Reciprocal communication to God through speaking, reading of scripture, meditation, and listening will be the foundation of everything we do personally, as a team, and in ministry, petitioning others to join us in a network of prayer beginning in Togo and expanding all over the world for the work God will do to bring his kingdom into fullness in this land.*
- *Minister to people in ways that bless them and create opportunities to find people of peace. (See Luke 10:1-10) This ministry will be the beginning of the transformation process that will lead to heart-peace in Togo, defined as love, understanding between people, good character, health, and reconciliation with God and man.*
- *Teach people of peace and their families how to study the Bible and help them begin communities of Jesus, defined as a group of people who love one another, who meet regularly to help one another follow Jesus, and who work to bless others.*
- *Equip these communities to observe all that Jesus commanded and teach others to do the same, from generation to generation and village to village, until every village in Togo has a community of Jesus and experiences heart-peace.*

Core Values

- *Humility/Submission*
- *Love*
- *Compassion*
- *Cooperation (helping one another)*
- *Self-control*
- *Respect*

- *Gentleness of spirit*
- *Speaking in people's heart language*
- *Hard work*
- *Sustainability*

Timeline and Financial Needs

We are thankful that Central Church of Christ in Little Rock has agreed to pay our salary. Holmes Road Church of Christ has agreed to pay part of our work fund. We still hope to raise about \$500 per month to pay for our furlough trip home every two years. If you or your church is interested in hearing about our work, please call Ryan at 901-486-6558

Salary for Togo: \$3000 per month, costs gathered from current missionaries

Rent	\$400
Water	\$80
Electricity	\$400
Propane	\$20
Internet	\$100
Health Insurance	\$150
Medical Expenses	\$100
Food	\$710
Children's Education	\$200
Life Insurance	\$30
Household Help	\$310
Taxes	\$300
Savings(Retirement)	\$200

Work Fund:	\$1500 per month
Furlough Savings:	\$500 (U.S. visit every two years, monthly support can add up to pay for this)
Area Benevolence	\$150
Language Learning	\$70
Leader Training	\$100
Visas	\$40
Work Travel	\$400 (expensive gas, travel up to 100 miles daily most days per week)
Education	\$100
Office/Phone	\$140

Start-up expenses are negotiable, partially raised, and may be secured from several churches, individuals, and grants.

French language learning	\$7,000 (already raised)
Container Shipping	\$15,000
Vehicle	\$45,000 (Used vehicles cannot be trusted due to wear and tear of bad roads)
Flight, Shots, and Visas to Togo	\$7,000 (\$3000 raised)