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REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D' IVOIRE Union-Discipline-Travail



18 November 2013

Update from the letter distributed to supporting participants at the November 11-13 meeting of the . . . **Tennessee Association of Free Will** 

**Baptists** Meeting in Pigeon Forge, Nov 11-13, 2013

## RE : CHANGE OF ANDERSONS FROM MISSIONARY SERVICE WITH FWBIM

Dear Friends of Faith,

Your faithful support and stewardship kept our family serving in Cote d'Ivoire with Free Will Baptist International Missions for over 16 years. Thank you for standing with us faithfully and willingly through many hardships and three civil conflicts. The investment we made together now begins to bear fruit beyond what our previous relationship through FWBIM can maintain and grow. As we age and see the direction God moves across W. Africa, we desire to be more useful to Him by concentrating our entire efforts on training Africans in Community Health Evangelism (CHE) with Free Will Baptists and others.

Not only are three FWB churches quietly using this approach to enter unreached villages and begin establishing churches, but two larger and two smaller Protestant denominations in Cote d'Ivoire have asked us to help them regularly train CHE teams. Recently your support facilitated the training of faculty for the premier secular university in Ivory Coast to use CHE in public health work for the nation. It is now likely that there will soon be more churches being planted by those using Community Health Evangelism strategies than by those dedicating themselves to only church planting, as is already true in Cambodia. Also, a new West African CHE internship in Ghana desires that we help them in training and project development.

The workload entailed to serve in these capacities is full-time and beyond. It simply is not possible for us to continue with FWBIM and do what we are certain the Lord has called to be done in Cote d'Ivoire. Debbie and I are currently in candidate process with two mission agencies that use Community Health Evangelism to win and disciple new converts to Christ. One group's focus is medical intervention; the other is a mission dedicated to stimulating Church Planting Movements (CPM). Our activity when we return to Cote d'Ivoire will not change with either agency, just the address of overseers to whom supporters of this ministry send contributions. The medical-based ministry could begin to receive funds for us to continue in December 2013; the CPM mission could not facilitate this until May 2014.

Please join us in prayer as we discover and walk together along the path the Lord has opened for us. Multiple denominations, clinics, Ivorian government officials, and university leaders coordinate to continue programs and plan for our return. We foresee being in the U.S. and making multiple shortterm trips during this time as our financial support structure changes and our youngest son completes high school to begin his first year of college.

In the meantime, we invite you to listen to Brian Fikkert, Stan Rowland, Greg Seager, Stephen Merry and other speakers of the 2013 Global Medical Health Conference (<u>www.medicalmissions</u>). Download podcasts or listen online to find how God is multiplying the church's witness effectively and efficiently.

Blessed to be a blessing, in no small part through you, Verlin & Debbie Anderson