

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

We rarely mention Ivorian politics, but some recent news should spur us on to continually pray for lasting peace in Cote d'Ivoire.

This week the former First Lady of Cote d'Ivoire, Simone Gbagbo, was sentenced to 20 years in prison for "undermining state security" during post-election violence. Her husband, Laurent Gbagbo, still awaits the completion of his trial in The Hague in Europe. This decision to single out Mrs. Gbagbo for punishment does not bode well for future peace. Many people remember the rapes, beatings, burnings, and blocked voting sites perpetrated by the other side that prevented them from expressing their democratic right to vote. One Christian lawyer friend in Abidjan that we know watched her husband murdered before her own eyes (their children were also present) by those who forcibly brought the current president into power. Atrocities were committed by both sides over the years, as BBC news reported, and power struggles are on-going.

All of this hinders the spread of the gospel, thwarts the progress of the country, and motivates future retaliation. Only people submissive to the lordship of Christ can bring true reconciliation and peace to any situation.

It was a pleasure to see friends at the Wolverine District meeting today here in Michigan, and to continue in the area for the next ten days in meetings and services.

Co-laboring with you in His Kingdom, Verlin and Debbie Anderson

The Christian Health Service Corps (CHSC) is a mission of dedicated medical professional who participate in the CHE Global Network. Together, in a loose affiliation of individuals, churches, denominational and nondenominational agencies, we share God's Light and Truth through Community Health Evangelism (CHE). Unless rescinded, the network includes FWBIM. See http://wholisticmissions.com/workshops.php for timely and timeless missional topics to be addressed at the next interagency conference in the U.S. If you attend, you may find that God has ways that you can do similar good works contextualized for the U.S.