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A question we are frequently asked in churches about life in Africa is if we eat "American" or "African" food. The answer is yes! We enjoy many African dishes, and about 90% of what we eat is available from the local market or stores. Most holidays, such as Christmas and Easter, we celebrate in African style while trying to influence with biblical principles. However, two holidays that we like to celebrate with Americans each year are Thanksgiving and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Those days we go the extra mile to have traditional American fare, and to take time counting our plentiful blessings with others. The gourd pictured here, purchased at our local market, is the closest we come to pumpkin! It will be peeled,

boiled, mashed, and used to bake pie, bread, and a dish that tastes much like sweet potato casserole. This upcoming week we will be in Abidjan on business, and we have been invited to share Thanksgiving dinner with dear missionary friends. Even the hot weather will not dampen our spirits!

Friday and Saturday Verlin participated in the 2018 Global Leadership Summit (GLS) in Abengourou as planned. One of the extra blessings that he enjoyed was briefly catching up with someone whom he encouraged to be trained in leading Disciple-Making Movement (DMM) Bible studies. We were thrilled to learn that the pastor is in a second generation of training others to lead DMM Bible studies. He shared that these will soon begin third generation efforts and he is encouraged by how the Discovery Studies are helping the church mature spiritually and grow in number. Conference events like these help us follow-up and connect like this, as well as coordinate planning to launch new efforts. This time, multiple conversations were held with separate groups of decision-makers about beginning Community Health Evangelism (CHE) ministries in three separate communities.

## Prayer and Praise

- Pray that our Ivorian brothers and sisters who lead DMM Bible studies will be effective ambassadors for Christ, leading many people to Him. Debbie led her last planned study of the year for the first group of ladies being encouraged to lead studies in Bondoukou on Thursday. She has asked them to consider in prayer with whom they will meet in the New Year. Verlin continues to follow-up with the guys who have been active previously, either regularly or irregularly.
- Follow-up on Million Village Challenge commitments is ongoing by phone, email, and visit. On Wednesday we travel to Abidjan to begin the process of renewing our residency papers and check with some of whom we've trained. Ask the Lord to help all go smoothly.
- I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. (Ps. 34:1-3). May our mouths always be full of His praise, even more than the delicious food we will eat this week! Have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin and Debbie Anderson

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