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Taste and See (Psalm 34:8)

Just **under the wire.** Like us, has your faith in God grown as you observe the myriad of times He responds and provides at the last earthly minute? We definitely felt **under the wire** when we arrived to check in at the Nashville airport Tuesday morning. Someone informed us of an embargo on passenger luggage for the first time in over 22 years of traveling to Cote d'Ivoire. That required us to get rid of one bag, adding pounds here and there to our other bags. Nothing like scattering your belongings for the whole world to see! Thankfully, the rest of the trip was mostly uneventful, except for one passenger who took offense at Verlin greeting him at the beginning of a flight. Verlin does not think he was sober.



Our feeling of being **under the wire** was nothing compared to our Ivoirian friends we mentioned a few weeks ago. As you may recall, <u>flooding</u> caused them to move from the initial location of their marriage restoration ministry abruptly. The Lord provided a new site to serve Abidjan in July, but it requires much work before being ready. They aim to prepare the three-story building to receive the Community Health Evangelism and Community Health Engagement (CHE) by September 2nd. Talk about **under the wire**, especially with inevitable delays during African building renovations! Nevertheless, we rejoiced to see the newly procured property yesterday renamed the Gilgal Center. It will be a miracle of the Lord's grace and favor to have everything ready. Such grace is something their team has experienced many times in past years and counts on again.

Come and See (Psalm 66:5)

After we arrived in Cote d'Ivoire late Wednesday night, we stayed in Abidjan for two and a half days to meet with people and run errands. Sunday, we hope to arrive home in Bondoukou. Pray for us as we quickly check on people, property, and pets. Immediately, we must unpack, regroup, and repack for a stay in Abidjan longer than a month—all in less than a week. Arriving on African soil not long before the September CHE university training is problematic, even though the time in the States was necessary for surgical and dental recoveries. **Under the wire** does not even begin to communicate how pressed we feel. Pray for calm hearts, clear thinking, and concrete progress.

Prayer & Praise

- Rejoice with us for safe travels back to Cote d'Ivoire! Despite hiccups along the way, the Lord graciously allowed us and our luggage to arrive intact.
- Praise the Lord for providing a new location for our friends' marriage restoration ministry! Pray they can accomplish repairs and set up their new location in the next three weeks. Strength and resources will be taxed to the limit, but their trust in the Lord is strong. Lodging and feeding the CHE trainers in early September will be their first event at the new location.
- This week, the second Ivoirian CHE training occurred, dedicated to equipping communities to recognize and treat lepers. Teams at a total of 60 locations will be trained to use CHE. Pray that experienced trainers make themselves available to help encourage the newer trainers to undertake this enormous and excellent task over the next year.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

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Prior videos: **The Great Story** Lasting Footprints

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