



Ministry Updates

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Taste and See ([Psalm 34:8](#))

A favored and favorite car mechanic in Tennessee died last weekend. Don Sivyer of Brown's Automotive in Hermitage excellently modeled being a member of a missionary's **hidden team**—the hundreds of people [in various roles](#) who work quietly and competently in the background in practical ways to ease a workload. Don saved us thousands of dollars in car repairs in the past decade, often charging nothing or nominal fees. He sought no public recognition. ([Lk 17:10](#)) As a Christ-follower with origins in Michigan, he and Verlin talked about Detroit, cars, theology, politics, and other topics to witness in the waiting area of his garage. We will greatly miss his competence, kindness, and generosity. Our prayers go out to his family and workers.



Some parts of an engine rebuild, CV axles x2 replaced, master brake cylinder, rear springs, front struts, water pump done by Don's shop. He charged us no in-shop labor. The repair cost us < half the vehicle's replacement cost.

A **hidden team** sustains any effective endeavor. We frequently mention donors and prayer partners with thanksgiving—how could we not!? ([Ro 13:7](#); [Ph 1:3](#)). Besides a faithful core of 200 individuals or churches who give and pray regularly, many others join them in using God-given skills and talents to advance the Lord's work. Such servants of God enable us and others to cut costs, save time, provide needed items, assist families, and improve communication. For more than 24 years, family, friends, and helpers have helped us by providing the following non-exhaustive list of services for which we regularly [give thanks](#) to God:

- completed all manner of household chores,
- babysat,
- repaired cars,
- mowed lawns,
- picked up the mail,
- cut hair,
- quilted bedspreads,
- crocheted covers,
- sewn clothes and linens,
- mailed packages to/for us,
- delivered products,
- purchased medicines, vitamins, household goods, & given a car,
- loaned a car,
- repaired washers and dryers,
- provided lodging,
- offered countless meals,
- addressed Christmas cards,
- scanned documents,
- sent quarterly reports,
- designed a web page,
- searched products online,
- provided ministry computers,
- surprised us with gifts and cards, given gas money and restaurant cards,
- offered soccer uniforms,
- paid towing charges,
- provided seeds,
- driven us to airports and homes and physical therapy,
- offered tickets to sports events, music outings, and mission banquets,
- helped us shop,
- informed us of homeschooling laws,
- advised about estate planning,
- telephoned ministry partners,

and brought our ministry to the attention of their churches and communities, once even in a town's parade!

A **hidden team** ministers behind the scene as "good stewards of the manifold grace of God" ([I Pt 4:10](#)). They "outdo one another in showing honor" ([Rom. 12:10](#)), not competing but simply serving Jesus with us.

Come and See ([Psalm 66:5](#))

Thank you for offering your gifts and services to extend God's Kingdom! While our needs in rural Africa differ from some in a megacity like Tokyo, God's servants in all places need a **hidden team**, including the pastor of your home church. In a more urgent sense, Floridians need an enormous **hidden team** to recover from Hurricane Ian's devastations. Acts of service in Jesus' name to strangers, or perhaps perceived political enemies, speak much louder than proselytizing words of witness.

Our week was replete with mundane work. One or the other of us prepared for multiple financial reports, recovered from asthma, visited a potential CHE partner, discussed MK ministries, met with CHE university staff, and planned for upcoming training. We expect to return to Bondoukou around October 6.

Prayer & Praise

🙏 Praise God with us for our ministry partners. You! Our **hidden team**, you equip, help, encourage, fund, and intercede for Cote d'Ivoire. So little would get accomplished here without your faithfulness. Thank you!

🙏 Thanks for your continued prayers for our health. Debbie's asthma is better but not completely healed.

🙏 We join our prayers for dear friends and ministry partners in Florida, horribly affected by the hurricane.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last weekly: [Blessings, not Bothers – 220924.PDF](#)
Prior videos: [Snapshots The Great Story](#)
2021 Q4 Report: [The Persevering –
1Q 2025 Report 220521 PDF](#)

2022 Budget: [CHSC-0118 ANDERSON-Budget 2022](#)
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