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Taste and See (Psalm 34:8)

A profound truth meriting reflection during the Christmas Season is learning to see Jesus' life as the "great exchange." For our salvation, He exchanged royal robes for strips of cloth; paeons of praise for hurled insults; kingly authority for earthly servanthood, and His undiluted righteousness for our ugly sins. Don Strand, in his blog of May of 2022, explained it this way: "Because Christ Jesus lived a perfectly obedient life, God the Father imputes (that is, credits) Christ's perfect righteousness to his people by faith in Christ alone. Martin Luther called this "the great exchange" where our sin is credited to Jesus and the earned righteousness of Jesus is credited to all who call upon the name of the Lord...). A more undeserved, unmerited exchange in this world has never happened! May we and those given us not lose the wonder while living this glorious truth!

Come and See (Psalm 66:5)

We experienced more mundane versions of **exchange** this week. Debbie's proposed week of activities ground to a halt when she tested positive for COVID as she felt her energy waning. Thankfully, medical and nutritional intervention worked quickly, and she left quarantine though struggling with fatigue and cough. Corbin has developed similar symptoms. He will hopefully exit isolation in time for Christmas.

Verlin hosted some and invited others to coordinate in **exchange** between denominational and non-denominational CHE ministries. Guests from Abidjan and Bondoukou participated in an aviculture training led by a younger man out of Tanda and Agnibilekro, someone he baptized in 2004. The new potential partners met with others over a meal of Verlin's 'stone soup' six days in the making, served over yellow ginger rice Saturday evening. (Verlin let the occasion make update editing late.) The training session provided the initial meeting point, which about thirty adults attended. The objective of the initiator was to create new cooperatives for affordably and profitably rearing



The 17 Dec 2022 Stone Soup meeting

chickens. The couple from Abidjan who came at our invitation provided information about how to do the poultry business organically, as they had learned from CHE partners we introduced years ago. Verlin provided the trainers with connection info to get Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) resources. One of the great strengths of CHE is in the **exchange** of ideas to improve best practices in every venue of life. Table talk also touched upon CHE strategies and understandings for use in uniting a community where many churches, having competed for decades, seem to have caused more rejection than acceptance of Jesus' **exchange**. The possibility of uniting for common interests by using Community Health Evangelism has been demonstrated as realistic elsewhere in Cote d'Ivoire. One knowing such firsthand

joins people living here. During this time, CHE strategies grow more widely applied nearer home to us.

Prayer & Praise

- Pray the chicken farming workshop meeting(s) develop(es) new, additional CHE initiatives amidst churches and cooperatives in northeast Cote d'Ivoire.
- The positive COVID test quickly revised Debbie's activities for the week. Pray for her speedy, uncomplicated recovery. She rejoices that several symptoms abate. Corbin, too, became ill and quietly recovers from the symptoms at home. He likely caught the bug due to receiving the International traveler, his mom!
- The young Ivorian woman with kidney problems is not doing well. Her family sent her further south in one last effort to seek improved medical help, but, more likely, for to die, per Verlin's perception. Pray she makes peace with God.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

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Prior videos: Snapshots The Great Story
2022 Q2 Report: Someone Greater 20 2022 Report 221022 PDF

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