



# Ministry Updates

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

*Prepare, **prepare**, O prepare | The white breeze is invading  
The sun is winning the race | Rain is in coma  
The dust is dancing and ringing its whistling alarm ...- [link](#) Patrick Ituma*

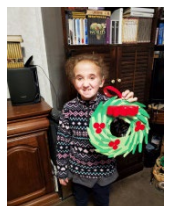
So begins a poem about the advent of dry season dust winds called the Harmattan in West Africa, the closest we come to snow in Cote d'Ivoire. Harmattan descended upon Bondoukou recently, leaving a blanket of dust on everything while stimulating many respiratory allergies and infections. Verlin confirmed the season's arrival when mentioning that our Ivorian helper washed the car, and it was covered by thick dust the next day. He also felt the effects in his sinuses and began to control allergic reactions through masking, diet, and testing temporary interventions with new medications. "*Prepare, **prepare**, O prepare*" preoccupied Tennessee residents, too, as frigid weather hit the state midweek. Frantic shoppers focused not only on Christmas shopping but equally sought supplies for being stuck at home for days in subfreezing conditions. Debbie traveled early to safely make it to the firstborn's and spouse's house before the icy air and snow arrived so she could participate in family celebrations.

Whether adjusting to the arrival of "brown snow" or white snow on separate continents, we remember a phrase from a favorite Christmas carol. "*Let every heart **prepare** Him room, and heaven and nature sing!*" ([Hymn link](#)). Preparations surrounding Christmas can be exhausting and extensive. Sadly, in the self-imposed and socially encouraged hustle and commotion of the season, we challenge ourselves to find moments for reflection upon the One who prepared and fulfilled everything for our salvation. From the foundation of the world, He knew what He must do to offer us a restored relationship with the Father, and **He did it**. Do we, in turn, faithfully set time apart to receive Him and **prepare** our lives and families for humble service? Janet Martin phrased it well in a poem entitled [Preparing for Christmas](#):

*Christmas Eve descending | We brave the cold perhaps  
To find within a chapel | A pew, where we collapse  
My house sure looks amazing | The food, a work of art  
Wouldn't it be something | If this had been my heart?*

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

While Debbie welcomed our granddaughter, Chelsea, in Cookeville for three days, Verlin made a 16-hour trip to and from Abidjan to pick up our 5-year residence cards, processed in record time for us. In addition, he coordinated with Ivorian CHE trainers who anticipate attending the CHE Internship in Ghana in March and followed up with other CHE initiatives. (Some were village teams giving gifts to school children from their own earnings.) Debbie again pursued the doctor's office in Nashville and the medical supply company processing a replacement CPAP for Verlin. Hopefully, she will pick his machine up before returning to Cote d'Ivoire and evade developing a situation like that caused by November's CPAP loss.



*Joyous Christmas  
dear friends!*

## **Prayer & Praise**

- 🕊 Praise God for His perfect preparation for our redemption in sending Jesus! May we each be faithful to purify and prepare our lives for useful service to Him! Have a most blessed Christmas, friends.
- 🕊 Pray for several Ivorian CHE trainers preparing by various means to attend the CHE Internship in March 2023. Verlin assists our two candidates in the process.
- 🕊 Continue to pray that Debbie and Corbin recover full strength after COVID and for Verlin to overcome allergic reactions from the harmattan.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last weekly: [The Exchange - 221217.PDF](#)

Prior videos: [Snapshots](#) [The Great Story](#)

2022 Q2 Report: [Someone Greater](#) -

[2Q 2022 Report 221022 PDF](#)

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

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