



Ministry Updates

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

African and American cultures where we live and minister embrace the concept that "**bigger is better.**" While the idea rings true in certain human and plant development aspects, the mantra is regularly misapplied. For example, **bigger is better** remains typically true for a [9-month](#)-old infant or younger that is small, [lethargic](#), weak, and inactive. (Further detail in William Li [interview at 14'41" mark.](#)) Conversely, childhood obesity developed from [insulin resistance](#) brings many [serious problems](#). For meals, cooks want plump chickens to serve for dinner. But we prefer not to eat such food if growth hormones [and](#) antibiotics cause the extra size without sufficient nutritious feed given to the animal to eliminate the additives' adverse effects.

Similarly, all believers pray for churches and communities packed with vibrant followers of Jesus. At the same time, we must reflect on whether or not the programs and strategies we use to attract and train people generate mature disciples. **Is** the "**bigger**" achieved necessarily "**better**?" (i.e., We are [comparing the strategic 'elephant' and 'rabbit' church-planting decision.](#))

Putting Community Health Evangelism (CHE) into practice requires letting go of the **bigger is better** mentality. CHE trainers who hope to begin with huge numbers or projects regularly fail to see the practical and transformational opportunities immediately before their eyes. We think of one trainer who has awaited outside help for over twenty years to build a medical clinic in his small town. Compare that to the smaller village of [Boutoubre](#) that worked together in their community. Pooling their resources, including ferry fees, they built a small clinic, church, and school in less than two years with no outside funds! For over five years, a different CHE-trained brother has sought to develop a sizeable agricultural farm that requires significant start-up money. With numerous delays, over time, he wisely chose to focus on smaller, collaborative projects that put over 200 people around him. His friends are spiritually impacted by [Discovery Bible Studies](#) (DBS). The dream of the farm remains a motivation and will likely come to fruition one day. However, even if not, he uses the material goods and skills he currently possesses to share the Gospel and care for personal needs.



Beginning small with [Noni](#) fruit like with [Moringa](#) 18 years ago

Ivory Coast [Training of Trainers](#) (TOT) sessions often include a lesson entitled *Step Planning* to introduce participants to using [SMART goals](#). (Cliquer l'image du monde dans l'article pour le lire en [FR.](#)) Even in church planting, grandiose growth ideas can be detached from "**specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-conscious**" (SMART) goals. We teach that Jesus encouraged prayerful planning with His disciples, including counting the costs to follow Him. In addition, we live in a world where much was turned upside down by His investing heavily in just 12 disciples. Jesus certainly did not succumb to the **bigger is better** mantra.

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

Mundane duties like monthly financial reporting and editing CHE lessons filled our week. As a result, we welcomed visits and conversations that interrupted those priorities! Verlin spent a couple of hours counseling our Ivorian CHE friend who faces legal challenges to land ownership. Next week Verlin will likely attend a meeting with government and religious authorities as an encouraging witness for our brother.

Prayer & Praise

- ☞ Pray none of us thoughtlessly fall prey to the **bigger is better** mentality. Zealously doing the work that the Lord has placed in our hands, whether small or great, always yields the more significant, enduring result.
- ☞ Pray for legal and just resolution(s) to the property dispute(s) of our Ivorian brother(s).
- ☞ Ask for Debbie to experience clear thinking in her hours editing CHE lessons for use at the university. She had made a good start this month but expects to expend more than 200 additional work hours on the task. Verlin will then check her compilation of edits from the last 9 expositions, during which we tested the adaptations of the lessons for the university context.

Your partners in the Gospel,
Verlin & Debbie

Last weekly: [Third Son – 230520.PDF](#)
Prior videos: [Snapshots The Great Story](#)
2023 Q1Report: [Go, Stay, Give –
2023 Q1 Report 230513 PDF](#)

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