



# Ministry Updates

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

Families rely on breaks and holidays like the upcoming Thanksgiving to pass along family heritage and practice. Recent conversations with CHE leaders reminded us of an amusing example shared in Verlin's family about being a **copycat**. His father liked to share a *Reader's Digest* story about a family of mothers and how they prepared the family ham each Thanksgiving or Christmas. (*For a training source, click [here](#).)* The method was passed from great-grandmother to grandmother, mother, and child. One day, the child asked the mother why they cut off the end of the ham instead of leaving it whole to bake. The mother replied that it was a family method she learned from her mother and was the best way to prepare the meat. Curious herself, the mother then asked her mother why they did it that way. Not knowing, together they asked the great-grandmother about the family tradition. Everyone was surprised when Great-grandma said, "Well, our baking pan was not big enough to leave the ham whole, so I lopped off the end for it to fit the pan!" 😊

While it is expressly human to **copycat**, the story and some [studies](#) behoove us to ask some "Why?" questions when we pass along family, government, and church traditions. If not, we unwittingly convey useless rituals and [wives' tales](#) that benefit no one and persecute some. Conversely, understanding why our forefathers made confident choices has eternal consequences and carries blessings across generations. For example, besides [honoring veterans](#), this weekend's holiday permits families to share their part in the [national story](#) of [living in covenant](#), permitting hearers to become wiser **copycats**.

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

The idea of **copycats** came to mind for another reason this week. Traveling to Abidjan on Wednesday, we stopped and left the puppies at their new homes. We also met with a champion medical CHE trainer. During the week, he and two other trainers detailed fantastic numbers we had been picking up through others. People were trained all over Cote d'Ivoire last year in times and places where we could not participate due to time restraints. Essentially, Ivorian CHE trainers experience regular '**copycatting**.' The outlook is good that much more multiplication happens because of *how* it happens here. As a result of *how* they train others to train others what they do, our CHE report for the fiscal year shared how five CHE teammates account for training over 4,000 people who minister or work using CHE's wholistic approaches. (*Verlin reduced the reported numbers significantly since some estimates were supplied without his being able to confirm numbers by second or third parties. And yes, churches have been started or reinforced within those numbers. We train missionaries.*)



*A date at a 'never-seen-before-here' restaurant that serves only salads.*

Our CHE champion friend then discussed how a weakness of the Ivorian mentality about starting new ventures can become a strength when convinced of a good approach. This nation is known to **copycat** exceptionally well in West Africa, but the people are not eager to innovate or be original or firsts in work or ministry. In his view, an Ivorian only studies methods or processes that others do successfully and then copies them with excellence if convinced it is THE best. He posits that CHE workers must observe and participate in work that shows progress. Eureka! He's got it! Now that CHE endeavors occur nationwide, with a particular verve on the western side, the multiplication process happens more quickly! Praise God for what will later be measured as remarkable progress as time and interest allow us to inspect, evaluate, and retool without losing momentum.

## **Prayer & Praise**

🙏 Thank the Lord that our Ivorian co-worker recovered quickly from malaria because he has seen how to treat himself quickly when first symptomatic. Our earthly belongings and adult dogs here are in his care.

🙏 Pray that God enables an Ivorian friend who reportedly battles an addiction to identify better defense mechanisms in Christ. He needs to address the unhealed parts of his inner life stimulating the addiction.

🙏 We depart Tuesday night to arrive in Dallas on Wednesday evening. After meeting with CHSC principals, we will continue to Nashville on Saturday afternoon. Ask that we enjoy uncomplicated travels and opportunities to promote faith and ministry.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie



*HiLux maintenance supplies & parts for service while in US until Feb. 6*

Last weekly: [Time Out – 231104.PDF](#)  
Prior videos: [Simple Servants - Reflect & Rejoice](#)  
2023 Q2Report: [Pruning Priorities –  
2023 Q2 Report 230722 PDF](#)

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