



Ministry Updates

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

Last week, the Michigan Wolverines won the National College Football Championship, and the National Football League (NFL) playoffs began. This week, five to six time zones to our east, the Ivorian football team has a **“golden opportunity”** in their backyard. Starting today, January 13, and continuing through February 11, the Cote d’Ivoire (CI) hosts the [Africa Cup of Nations](#). The Cup is the premier soccer event on the continent. The nation invested millions (*1,850M in new loan IBRD/IDA commitments for 2023 compared to 550M, 850M, 680M for 2020-22, and 500M for 2024*) with massive aid from partners like China to build three new [stadiums](#) and renovate two others. Road crews expanded many routes to get to the stadiums, too! Anyone who has lived in Africa knows that the continent is “fou” (French for “crazy”) for “le football,” the French word for soccer. Huge sports events like this provide a **golden opportunity** for believers to share the Gospel with tourists and sports fiends. Pray that thousands hear the good news of Jesus and respond. Click [here](#) for an AfricaOnMission prayer guide prepared to guide prayer during the Cup.



Sadly, what is a **golden opportunity** for sharing the Truth with people enjoying wholesome entertainment can also serve up evil. As Americans know, [human trafficking](#) remains a sordid reality during sporting events like the [Superbowl](#) or the Africa Cup of Nations. We rejoiced to learn that January 11 is perennially designated the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Hopefully, the work of films like “[Sound of Freedom](#)” that we recently viewed and nationwide efforts to expose and prevent trafficking [such as CHE develops](#) with others will help stomp it out. May each of us encourage our spheres of influence by word or deed to end this worldwide evil trade. (The [image](#) used is by [rawpixel.com](#) on [Freepix](#)).

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

Debbie took a time of **golden opportunity** with her parents this week, although all three suffered together with respiratory viruses. One enjoyable way they caught up and invested in the future was learning how to use a small Sony recorder our kids purchased so their maternal grandparents could share stories from their childhoods and ministry in Africa. Meanwhile, Verlin completed a MRI brain scan and responded to nearly two years of non-urgent mail neglected until now. He also cleared the living room of sorted possessions to sort some others accumulated at our place from clearing a couple of households. We both recognize the **golden opportunities** our Lord provides, even in medical settings visited in the week, to speak a word about Him and His faithfulness.

Prayer & Praise

🙏 Please pray that we will be able to get in contact soon with the Ivorian brother who watches our home and cares for our dogs. The primary cell phone we provided to make communication easy is not connecting us.

🙏 Thank the Lord for an answer to prayer. We scheduled for January 25 one of Verlin’s neuro exams that we thought would take weeks! We rejoice at the opportunity to get faster results.

🙏 Pray for individuals, churches, and groups reaching out with the Gospel to those attending the Africa Cup of Nations in Cote d’Ivoire. Pray that [human trafficking in the RCI](#) gets vanquished.

Your partners in the Gospel,
Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [Neck up-240106.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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