



AWA Ministry Updates

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



Eddie baptizing Cara

Monday would have been Eddie Payne's (Debbie's dad) 87th birthday. Our daughter, Cara, wrote about things she learned concerning personal growth during the season of his passing after observing a 30-foot tree which had pulled up a slate boulder within its root system during a winter storm. We share a portion of her thoughts below, but you can read the entire essay shared on [Debbie's Facebook wall](#).

And even in his dying, Grandpa served to me as a reminder of true life.

You see, life doesn't happen without death. A seed falls to the ground and dies, and as it grows it brings forth fruit. If a seed refuses to "die" it "bears alone"—it just stays a seed—it will never produce the growth and fruit it was meant to.

Life, true life, comes with sacrifice. If there is such a thing as an easy life, it's probably not worth living. If life doesn't cost you something, can you say you really lived? My grandpa was no stranger to sacrifice...Yet that sacrifice wasn't for nothing...

You see, death has no power. It may feel like an intimidating force, but for those who have hope in life, hope in the God who writes growth into the very DNA of creation, we understand His wisdom that death is just the means to life.

Death, even this mortal life we live, it's just a big rock, a hurdle, an obstacle to growth that, if we have the wisdom of that young sapling, will just grow in spite of. There will be death of old lives, of dreams, of relationships, and if we are wise, death of self. But death will be swallowed up in the victory of the power of resurrection life.

Because the power of life that is deep in us may seem quiet, but it is mighty. It is the power of resurrection. Death is just the means to enter true Life. It's just the beginning.

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

Verlin traveled south this week to pick up our truck and two appliances that were in Abidjan for repair. He met or conversed with leaders to arrange for trainers and their lodging for the September 7-11 ty CHE trainings scheduled in September. A record number of university students are enrolled. The vehicle traveled well and will be ready for cross-country travel for on-site visits with far-flung trainers or repair of the leaking pickup-bed cover. He also visited with several local church leaders. Debbie made it safely to Michigan, where she visits with Verlin's family and our ministry partners.

Prayer and Praise

- 🙏 Thank the Lord for safe journeys. Verlin installed the replacement range and repaired freezer on returning home today. He tests the oven today; the freezer Monday after the new compressor's oil settles. It was a warranty-covered expense. Pray for Debbie's travels as she returns to TN midweek.
- 🙏 Preparations for the university CHE training have kicked into high gear. Pray for enough trainers to meet the demand.
- 🙏 Please pray for our dear ministry partner friends, several who are facing life-changing events: death of spouses, parents, and children, onset of dementia, major surgeries, amputation, cancer recovery, and spiritual warfare. They are family to us, and we lift to the Father their special needs, just as they have prayed for us over decades.

Your partners in the Gospel, Verlin & Debbie

Last Week: [A Taste of Hope-260725.PDF](#)

Prior videos: [El Roi - Simple Servants](#)

2024 Q1-A2 Report: [First Resort](#) -

[2024 Q3 Q4 Report 250906 PDF](#)

'23 Budget: [CHSC-0118 ANDERSON-Budget 2023](#)

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AWA stands for [Andersons Witnessing in Africa](#)