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The Mihsills

Bobby, Jenny, Moore
& Rease Mihsill:
*Missionaries to
Côte d'Ivoire,
West Africa*

Jesus Is with You

“Jesus is with you,” I (Jenny) said to the young girl as tears ran down her cheeks. She has been sponsored with Children of Promise since the program began seven and a half years ago. Her mom passed away when she was around four years old and her dad has had mental health problems since. She went to live with her grandparents, but around Christmas time, her grandfather said she couldn’t attend church anymore. So when a team of five came from the U.S. in February to carry out sponsorship visits with the 61 children in the program in Côte d'Ivoire, she did not show up at the church the day of the interviews. That evening, we visited her at her home and told her grandfather that we’d like her to come back to church. He said that she needed to study on Sundays instead and that her behavior was a shame to the family when she went out in public. I prayed silently for the Lord to work as we sat and talked with him, and little by little, he began to soften. Finally, he said he’d let her come back to church with the hope that the local Children of Promise volunteers could have a positive impact on her. As we got up to leave the house, I quietly took her aside and encouraged her that Jesus is with her even when we can’t be there and that God loves her. We got back in the car to leave and our area lead program volunteer then shared that some time ago, her father had come to collect the monthly dist-



tribution of food and goods with her, but after leaving the church that day, he took her and left her and the items at a far distance from the church where she knew no one. The C of P volunteer had happened to put his phone number inside the bag of food. Someone found her and the phone number late that night. The volunteer answered and went to pick her up and take her home. Through the trauma and the loneliness, it is a joy to be able to share the hope with this young girl that Jesus is with her and that she is a Child of Promise.

This is just one child’s story among the many we visited when the team of five came a few weeks ago. Leading the team was Mike Webb and with him were Pastor Steve Kufeldt (*pictured above with his sponsored child, Emmanuel*), Amy Adwalparker (*pictured left, drawing in the kids with a rousing game of UNO*), Greg Smith, and

(cont. from page 1) Sheila Jackson (pictured right, interviewing Suzanne, who is sponsored by Sheila's home church, South Meridian Church of God). We visited all three sites where the program exists in Côte d'Ivoire. We are thankful to the Lord for these children and that the Lord has provided sponsors for them. If you are interested in sponsoring a child through Children of Promise in Côte d'Ivoire, email the international office at info@childrenofpromise.global.



Update on the Road to Sustainability!



The first phase of the Yamoussoukro Events Place (YEP) project is underway! The goal of the project is to lead the national church to self-sustainability. The first phase of YEP includes purchasing two 3-wheelers (example pictured right) that will be rented out to haul items with the income being split towards continuing the project and funding national church ministries. Construction on the shed (pictured left) is underway and we hope that a 3-wheeler will soon be purchased. To partner with us in this project, go to <https://chogglobal.org/region-africa/> (click "Projects in this Region") or call Global Strategy at 800-848-2464 and reference project #42.30181.



Developing Leaders



In mid-March, Bobby helped our colleagues, the Sellerses, in teaching at a leadership seminar in Yamoussoukro for Church of God pastors.

During the 2023 General Assembly, a survey revealed that leadership was one of the topics about which pastors hoped to receive more training. Thus, IBAO communicated with the national executive committee and scheduled this IBAO-led, five-day seminar to help the pastors develop their leadership skills. The four-day seminar included a footwashing service in which the idea of servant leadership was reinforced. Join us in praying for these pastors to be the leaders God has called them to be!



Find Your STRIDE

Would you consider partnering with us or increasing your regular giving amount? June 1-7, 2024, would be a great time to start a new monthly, automated, recurring gift or increase the amount you already give. The Find Your Stride campaign will allow for new or increased gifts to be matched when received during the week of June 1-7. Look for more info on our Facebook, Instagram and future updates in the weeks to come!



Church of God Ministries
PO Box 2420
Anderson, IN 46018
800-848-2464
<https://chogglobal.org>



For a monthly calendar of prayer requests for Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso, visit www.cichog.org and click on "Prayer Calendar."

Bobby & Jenny Mihsill
c/o Global Strategy

4326 S. Scatterfield Rd. #315
Anderson, IN 46013
Project #42.10027

Contact us: bobbymihsill@chog.org OR jennymihsill@chog.org