

The Lighthouse

Volume 2 – Issue 4

July 2010

MISSION WORK REPORT – BENIN

7TH BTC GRADUATION CEREMONY

The highlight of this month is our 7th graduation ceremony which took place on Sunday 4th July 2010.

A good crowd of over 600 brethren and friends of the graduants gathered under our large tent for the morning service followed by the graduation ceremony.

The top three students received book prizes.

Seven men received their diplomas. This is the smallest number of graduates we ever had. The class begun with 11 men but some withdrew for various reasons and we have to suspend two students for disciplinary reasons. This brings to a total of 90 men who had gone through our training programme and are spread all over French-speaking Africa, preaching the gospel.

During the worship services, the graduants led the services and one of them preached the sermon. We did not invite any member of the Benin government to this year's ceremony but our good friend and Brother Samuel Ayim, from Lome Togo accepted to be our keynote speaker.



The big tent for our graduation

During the graduation week, and as part of the celebrations, we normally had three meals together. First the students make sure the compound is clean. On Wednesday the Students Association cooked a meal which they shared with all on campus. Then on

Thursday, the graduating class cooked the meal and invited the teachers to eat. Since the students work raising rabbits, they were given 16 rabbits for this meal. There was more than enough rabbit meat for those invited. On Friday, the school administration also cooked a meal for the graduants and their families. We normally do this at every graduation and it sets us into the joyful mood.



Worshippers under the big tent

SEMINAR FOR PREACHERS IN FRENCH-SPEAKING WEST AFRICA

Right after the graduation ceremony, the preachers responded to our annual preacher's meeting which is held in Lome, Togo from July 6th to the 8th. Preachers from Benin, Togo, Mali, Senegal and the Ivory Coast gathered for the three day meeting.

In all 47 brethren attended this spiritual feast. The theme was: "What is our contribution as gospel preachers in "the new Africa"?"

I spoke on two subjects:

- The state of the church in French-speaking Africa and
- Ethics for gospel preachers for the new Africa.

Other subjects developed by other speakers were:

- God, our ideal partner for the new Africa
- Change of mentality regarding evangelism
- Unity of purpose among gospel preachers, a strong tool for a new Africa.
- The ideal vision for the new Africa
- Are we prepared for the new Africa?

The theme, "a new Africa" was chosen to highlight the fact that 17 French-speaking

nations of Africa are celebrating in 2010 their 50 years of independence from France.

The ladies of the churches in Lome came together to cook and serve food. We had each country present a report on the state of the church in their country and also held round table discussions on the practical ways of implementing the ideas suggested by the various speakers on taking French-speaking Africa for Christ. The next meeting would be in Benin.

After the preacher's seminar, I went to Accra, Ghana for a three weeks holiday.



The graduating class in front row



Congratulations

REPORT FROM TOHIONON PAUL IN BOHICON

Paul Tohion wrote:

I left Save on 2nd January 2010 and on Sunday 3rd January I begun work in Bohicon. By the grace of God things are going well so far. As news to share with you, we baptized 8 souls in the month of March and in July we baptized 4. A total of 12 since I came to Bohicon. I ask that you continue to support me in your prayers so that the work here would continue to prosper.

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Pray especially for me and my family for good health.

Regarding attendance we keep praising God because we keep feeling His presence among us. Our average attendance is now 50 every Sunday. We go out two times a month on every other Saturday for door knocking and evangelism.

Brother George, it seems you have forgotten all that we have discussed in your office before I left Save for Bohicon. As you know yourself, Bohicon is a bigger city I therefore plead that you help me extend the work not only in Bohicon but also in the towns around us. A hot fire is burning in us and we are afraid that it might burn out if help did not come soon. We have spoken about Public Address systems for open air evangelism, even one that we can use during services to enable our immediate neighbors listen to our sermons. I spoke to you about my great desire to preach on one of the local FM radio stations in the city. Un till now no reply. I want to come down and have a face to face discussion with you concerning these issues.

I also need the following books, a French language dictionary, a Bible dictionary and other study materials that you think necessary for me to use in my ministry here. The cost of living is three times higher than Save so please help me so that my children's school fee can be paid when they go back to school in September. The back tire of my motorcycle is completely worn out.

This is the substance of my report that I humbly submit to you for your consideration.

PUBLISHED BY

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WEST AFRICA

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