

# THE LAODIMA FAMILY

## Missionaries to Togo, West Africa



SUMMER 2018

COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE





## A WORD FROM DAVID LAODIMA



Dear Pastor and Brethren,

After my graduation from Landmark Baptist College, Florida with a Ph. D. in Theology, my family and I went on deputation for 18 months and then returned to Togo, our home country in March 2005. After 8 years of work in the field, we returned to the States in 2013 (February –

August) on furlough. Now we have been on the Missions Field for about thirteen (13) years. In the course of these years, we have been the Lord's instruments in saving sinners and turning them into His servants.

We are so thankful to the Lord who has sent us to our own people in order to “*open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is*” in Christ Jesus, as we read in Acts 26: 18. This has been possible because of your unceasing prayerful, financial, material... support. We highly appreciate the part you take in this great work. May this update be an encouragement and a blessing to you!

We believe God's work is to be done by God's people in God's power, with God's provision.

From our experience we concur with Hudson Taylor that: “*There are three stages in every great work of God: first it is impossible, then it is difficult, then it is done*”. Most of the achievements or accomplishments we are presenting to you really seemed impossible at first. For me, this stands as a fulfillment of what is written in Psalms 60: 12: “*Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies*”.

As your missionaries, we are on the field to preach the Gospel, plant the new churches and prompt the saved to serve our Savior. We are determined to save some by all means God has put in our disposal. Thank you very much for being our collaborators in the Lord's work in Togo, West Africa. May the Lord continue to bless both you and us as we serve Him!

## SOME FACTS ABOUT TOGO

**Size:** 56,600 square kilometers

**Location:** West Africa

**Current population:** around 8 million

**Speaking languages:** 40 (Ewe, Kabye, Tem, Moba, Watchi, Akposso, Bassar, Adja, Dagomba...)

**Official and business language:** French

**Main religions:** Animism (traditional religion or idol worship, 50%), Islam (25%), other religions, 25%.

**Main Occupations:** farming, craftsmanship, trading

**Main Towns:** Lomé (the capital city), Kara, Sokodé, Atakpamé, Kpalimé, Dapaong, Notsé, Tsévié, Aného.

**Life expectancy:** 55 years for men and 59 for women.

**Literacy rate:** 66% can read and write  
Generally speaking, people are peaceful, hospitable and friendly.

In Togo, there is a vivid contrast between the poor and the rich, the life in the village and life in the city.





**Lomé, the Capital City (Harbor area)**



**A Northern Typical Village houses**



**Open air fruit market**



**Moto-taxi**



**Open air Muslim prayer**

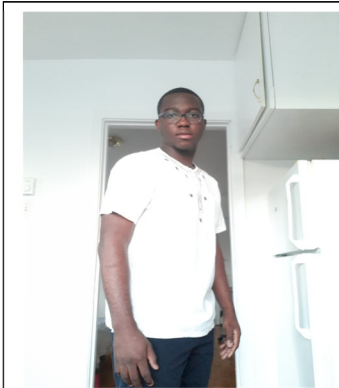


**An example of idol**

## OUR FAMILY

Joash has completed his second College year in Canada. By the means of WathsApp we talk with him on regular basis. Lemuel on his part has completed his junior High School here with the highest grade. He made up his mind that he is going to do medical studies in the States. For him to do so, it is required that he holds a USA High School degree. To this end Justine will be in the States with him from August 8<sup>th</sup> for about six weeks.

We are making arrangement for him to stay with Justine's younger brother and his wife in Minneapolis. It is our prayer that the Lord helps us meet the requirements of the legal guardianship.



**Joash**



**Eliel, David, Justine, Lemuel**

Name and Date of Birth	Contact
David: 12/31/1967 Justine: 11/09/1972 Joash: 12/17/1998 Lemuel: 03/12/2003 Eliel: 05/15/2006 Anniversary: 07/12/1997	David: 00228 90 10 81 24 <a href="mailto:davidlaodima@hotmail.fr">davidlaodima@hotmail.fr</a> Justine: 00228 90 02 20 33 <a href="mailto:justlao@yahoo.fr">justlao@yahoo.fr</a>

## OUR MISSION AGENCY



Harvest Baptist Missions is a local-church based missionary sending agency ministry of Columbia Road Baptist Church. Founded in 1999, we exist primarily to serve missionaries and their sending churches in fulfilling our Lord's command to preach the gospel to every creature. It has always been our desire to assume as many of the administrative functions as practical for our missionaries laboring on the field, enabling to devote their full attention to fulfilling God's call on their lives. Since our beginning, HBM has provided all of our services as a ministry (free of charge) to those families that God has led us to partner with. While we remain small in size, the Lord has grown this ministry to a point where "the sun never sets" on the various missionary endeavors of Harvest Baptist Missions.

Website: [www.harvestbaptistmissions.org](http://www.harvestbaptistmissions.org)

## OUR MISSIONARY TEAM

We staunchly believe in team work. Our missionary Team is made up of nine men serving with us in full time. They got the vision we shared with them; most of them got trained in our Bible School and are truly committed. While we are serving together, each one of us is in charge of a specific Church or area of the work. Supporting us is supporting these men and their families.



These men apart, we have ten (10) committed men helping or assisting our fulltime missionaries. In order for us to be effective, we got organized into a Mission's Association called ARED.

Our mission-based church is Savior Baptist Church, located in the suburb of Lomé, our capital city.



The churches we are planting are autonomous (self-supporting, self-governing and independent) fundamental Bible believing. Our goal is to lead each church to the autonomy.

Our ministry activities include:

- Church planting (9 churches being planted),
- Bible School (FBT),
- Orphanage (Redeemer House),
- Micro-finance/Job and Skill Training



**Annual fellowship with our full time co-workers' and their wives in our house on February 16, 2018**

On such occasion each one gives a report on a yearlong work done on the field he is entrusted with. It's a blessing to Justine and David to work in the Lord's Harvest with these men and their wives. For most of them, we have been together in this endeavor for over 12 years.

# OUR CHURCH PLANTING WORK

## 1. SAVOIR BAPTIST CHURCH

Located in the central suburb of Lomé, our capital, the Savior Baptist Church (SBC) is our Mission based Church.

Average attendance (July 2018): **171 children and 247 adults**

Autonomy due: in November 2018

Missionary in charge: Dr. David Laodima

**Prayer Requests**: (1) Church building completion, (2) numerical and spiritual growth, (3) autonomy.



**Sunday morning church services under a shelter in 2006**



**Church construction progress in August 2018**



**Bro. David preaching in Adults Sunday morning services, August 2018**



**Sunday morning children church services, August 2018**



## 2. CONQUEROR BAPTIST CHURCH

The Conqueror Baptist Church, Avinato, is located at about 20 kilometers down town Lomé.

Average attendance (July 2018): **100 children and 91 adults**

Autonomy due: 2020

Missionary in charge: Bro.SenyoDakévi

Note: The majority of the church members here were voodoo worshippers. Because of that, the illiteracy rate is very high and the poverty very rampant.

Prayer requests: (1) Church building completion, (2) numerical and spiritual growth, (3) autonomy due in 2020, (4) Church members commitment, (5) Job for church members



The church members in front of the shelter (temporary place of worship in 2006)



Church construction progress in August 2018



## The Dakevi Family



**Adults' first church services in the new building in construction, July 8, 2018**



**Children  
Sunday  
Morning  
services**

### **3. GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH:**

The Good Shepherd Baptist Church is located in the western suburb of Lomé.

Average attendance (July): 92 children and 95 adults

Autonomy due: 2020

Missionary in charge: Bro. Raphael Guegue

**Prayer Requests:** (1) Church building work be started by February 2019,  
(2) soul winning efforts be productive, (3) spiritual and numerical growth.



**Adults and Children in front of the shelter in 2006**



**Current Church shelter**



**Adults Sunday Morning services, August 2018**



**Children Sunday Morning services, August 2018**



**The GuegueFamily**



**Bro. Raphael preaching in Adults  
Sunday morning services**



#### **4. GOOD NEWS BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Good News Baptist Church is located at 21kilometers from Lomé.

Average attendance (July 2018): 109 children and 141 adults

Autonomy due: 2020

Missionary in charge: Bro. Didier Kougblenou

**Prayer Requests:** (1) Church building completion, (2) numerical and spiritual growth, (3) autonomy due in 2020.



**Adults and Children in front of the shelter in 2006**



**Church Construction progress (for children and Adults)**



**Adults Sunday morning services, August 2018**



**Children after Sunday morning services, August 2018**



**The Kounglenou Family**

## 5. FAITH BAPTIST TEMPLE

The Faith Baptist Temple is located at 90 kilometers from Lomé.

Average attendance (July 2018): **54 children and 66 adults**

Autonomy due: 2020

Missionary in charge: Bro. Kouma TASMARE

**Prayer Requests**: (1) Church building be started by January 2019,  
(2) numerical and spiritual growth, (3) autonomy due in 2020.



**School Building: used for both school and church services**





**Cement blocks ready for the church construction**



**Adults Sunday morning services, August 2018**



**Bro. KoumaTasmare and his wife**



**Children after Sunday morning services, August 2018**

**6.REDEEMER BAPTIST CHURCH**

The Redeemer Baptist Church is located at 30kilometers from Lomé.  
Average attendance (July): 53 children and 45 adults

Autonomy due: 2025

Missionary in charge: Bro. Fofu Nouwossan

**Prayer Requests:** (1) Church building completion, (2) numerical and spiritual growth, (3) autonomy due in 2025.



Inaugural services: Adults,  
October 19, 2014



Inaugural services: Justine with  
Children, October 19, 2014



Sunday morning services, August 2018





**Bro. David baptizing on February 28, 2016**



**The Nouwossanfamily**

## 7. HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

Hope BC, is located in the upper north at 526 kilometers from Lomé, the capital city.

Average attendance (July): **42 children and 27 adults**

Autonomy due: 2030

Missionary in charge: Bro. Emmanuel Bayimban

**Prayer Requests:** (1) Church building completion, (2) numerical and spiritual growth, (3) autonomy due in 2030.



Bro. David, Raphael, Fofo and Emmanuel meeting the new convert under a mango-tree after three days evangelism campaign in 2016



The Church building in February 2017



**The crowd on the Inaugural Sunday, February 12, 2017  
after three days Evangelism campaign.**



**Sunday morning services, August 2018**



**Children Sunday school, August 2018**



**Bro. Raphael baptizing in a stream**



**Bro. Emmanuel Bayimba**



## 8. EMBRYONIC CHURCHES: LASSA AND KÉTAO

### (1) Word of Life Baptist Church, Lassa

Word of Life Baptist Church is located at about 450 kilometers from Lomé.  
Note: The church building work at **Word of Life Baptist Church, Lassa** is progressing slowly as the Lord provides. The next step is to cover the building and make the doors.

Our goal is to complete the construction work by October and then launch an intensive evangelism campaign followed by an inaugural Sunday services. For the meantime the nine (09) adults and ten (10) children continue to meet on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening in a house.

**Prayer Requests**: (1) the Lord's provision to cover the church building, (2) the evangelism campaign in November (3) A good crowd on the inaugural Sunday.



Church building progress, August 2018

### (2) *The Way of Heaven BC, Kéao*

Our second embryonic church is also located in the North, at 492 kilometers. We need the Lord's direction as for when to launch the evangelism activities.

## OUR ORPHANAGE

*“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction...” (James 1: 27).*

No doubt, the best way to minister to the orphans from the churches we are planting is to house them, feed them, *“bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord”* and take care of their schooling.

Our motto, ***“Save the Orphans”*** has a double meaning: (1) saving them from the failure to prepare to face life, (2) saving them from the eternal doom.

We read in Job 31: 16, 17: *“If I have withheld the poor from their desire, or have caused the eyes of the widow to fail; Or have eaten my morsel myself alone, and the fatherless hath not eaten thereof”*.

Love and compassion in Christ constrain us not to eat our *“morsel”* ourselves alone without giving some to the orphans.

Redeemer House has opened its doors to the orphans from our mission churches since September 2015. Currently, its houses three girls and nine boys of seven years to fourteen years old. Justine is the one in charge. She is assisted by Claire and Kodjo.

**Please, consider sponsoring or supporting one of these orphans.  
Feel free to send any gift to help. Support can be received  
through our sending agency, Harvest Baptist Missions**

We would like you to ponder over these passages:

*“And said unto them, Whosoever shall receive this child in my name receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me receiveth him that sent me: for he that is least among you all, the same shall be great.” (Luke 9: 48)*

*“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.” (Proverbs 19: 17)*

*“He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.” (Proverbs 22: 9)*



**The Redeemer House kids (3 girls and 9 boys, 7 to 14 years old)**



**Sister Claire, the RH assistant**



**Sport activities**



**Bro. Kodjo, the RH assistant**

## OUR MICRO-FINANCE MINISTRY

The Bible says: *“But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel”* (1 Timothy 5: 8).

The sad truth is that many brethren in our Missions Churches have hard time providing for their own houses because they have no job. Illiteracy and joblessness are the key reasons why poverty is so rampant in Togo. Sometimes the brethren though well qualified cannot get job they deserve because the secret part of the requirement is to join a cult. On top of that, the government offers no assistance to those in the joblessness situation.

As we got to think about the following Bible passages, we are convinced that something must be done to help our brethren in need:

(1) *“But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but indeed and in truth.”* (1 John 3: 17, 18).

(2) *“Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do.”* (Galatians 2: 10).

(3) *“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.”* (Galatians 6: 10).

No doubt, the best way to help the jobless brethren to provide for their own is to help them start their own job or business.

We believe in the command for us to labor (Gen. 3: 19; 1 Thes. 4: 11; 2 Thes. 3: 10). We believe in what is written in Proverbs 14: 23: *“In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury”*. We have no doubt that God blesses His children by the means of their labor (Deut. 2: 7).

It takes \$300 to \$1,000 to finance a “Micro-Project”. We have a Board of Monitors helping in the elaboration of projects as well as in the following up. We finance the project in form of loan to be reimbursed. Sister Mawugno for instance, starts her own store with \$2,000 loan she got.



**Mawugno, selling soap ingredients, boxes and bottles**



**Junior, scrap dealer**

Presently, we have many on our waiting list.

Prayerfully, we would like you to consider helping in our Micro-Finance.



## OUR BIBLE SCHOOL

In order to give an adequate Bible training to men called into the ministry, we joined with other missionaries to establish a Bible School called in French “*Faculté Biblique du Togo*” (F.B.T.). Our new curriculum provides two levels of degree: Bible Diploma and Bachelor degree. The Bible Diploma curriculum includes:

Evangelism and Discipleship, Hermeneutics, Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, French, Epistle of Romans, Homiletics, Church History and Baptist Distinctive, Spiritual Discipline, Systematic Theology I, Systematic Theology II, Systematic Theology III, Applied Demonology, Teaching Methods, Cults and World Religions, Bible Counseling, Church Administration, Mission and Church Planting, Marriage and Family.

The Bachelor degree curriculum includes:

Gospel and Evangelism, Spiritual Discipline, New Testament Survey, Old Testament Survey, Bible World View, Survey of the Life of Jesus Christ, Christian Family, The Church History and Baptist Distinctive, Speech, Discipleship, Pentateuch, Missiology, Hermeneutics, Christian Leadership, The Apostles' Acts Survey, Systematic Theology I, Systematic Theology II, Systematic Theology III, Teaching Methods, Church Finances, Homiletics, Expository Preaching I, General Epistles, Romans, Theology applied to African Contexts, Cults and World Religions, Daniel, Revelation, Minor Prophets, Apologetics, Bible Counseling, Pastoral Epistles, Applied Demonology.

We offer additional subjects for those majoring in Pastoring, Mission, Music, Women ministry, Children ministry, and Young men ministry.

We pray and expect that God would call and burden a missionary to take in hand this ministry.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### 1. Book Writing

One of the things I believe the Lord would like me to do is to write books, of course in French. The first book, *“The Path to God’s Blessing and Prosperity”* highlights the biblical way to God’s blessing and prosperity. The three others: *“The Disciple of Christ”*, *“Answers to Fundamental Questions”* and *“In Christ”* are primarily designed for Sunday School classes. My next one entitled *“The Disciples Maker”* is almost ready to be published. It is my prayer that the Lord gives me insight and wisdom in this endeavor. Be in prayer with me for the Lord’s provision for publication.



## 2. Testimonies

### A drinker saved

My name is Kpatcha Bokona and I am a retired firefighter. I began to drink alcohol since I was an adolescent. I so loved alcohol that I preferred it to anything else. I was well known as a drinker and no need to tell you the amount of trouble and shame this brought on me and my family. In 2013 the team from Savior Baptist Church came to my house and prayed for my wife who had a difficult pregnancy. On that very night my wife delivered easily.

From that day on, the Lord began to deal with me until my conversion. I got baptized on November 2014. The Lord not only saved me from eternal doom, but also from alcohol. I do not drink alcohol anymore and my neighborhood wonder what happened. I tell people the Lord saved me and changed my life. He gave me peace, joy and rest. I believe if the Lord can save someone like me and change his life, He can save and change the life of anyone. What those who are enslaved need is the true Gospel, true prayer and true faith and true repentance.



### A witch saved



I am Bella. I used to be a witch. Initiated into witchcraft by a schoolmate at the age of nine, I belonged to the spirits' kingdom called "Lion". We used our supernatural power to do a lot of harm to people. For us the evil things we were doing were good things because we were told so and we believe so. It is painful for me to confess that I killed ten persons by the means of witchcraft power. I had power to get out of my body and travel. I could turn myself into a bird or an animal. In 2014 I began to attend Savior Baptist Church because my family lives just two houses away.

My spirits kingdom asked me to seize the opportunity to kill Pastor David Laodima by causing him an accident. With all the power they gave me I tried in vain. One day as he and his men were praying with me, I confessed (there was an overwhelming power I could not resist) that I was a witch. They began helping me to get saved. I made many false professions of faith because I had hard time having a true faith. Finally, in October 2017, I made a genuine profession of faith – true faith and true repentance. Now Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. He saved me from the powers of darkness. In Him, my horrible sins are forgiven and now I have peace and joy. In Him, my life is changed tremendously. Now Jesus Christ is all for me. I am so thankful to the Lord for saving someone like. I am grateful to Pastor David and his men for their persisting discipleship work that resulting in my salvation.

## A word from our mission's Director



Dear Pastor,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing you this letter of recommendation for the David Laodima family, missionaries to Togo, West Africa.

I have known Bro. David for more almost two decades. I have visited with him on the field and have seen first-hand the work that the Lord has led him to devote his life to. I came away both humbled and excited to see how this man of God was being used to advance the cause of Christ in Togo. Without a doubt, Bro. David and Justine are making a huge difference in this small African country. In spite of severe spiritual warfare, they press forward carrying the Light of Jesus Christ. While speaking in churches, I have said on numerous occasions that there is no better investment in the Great Commission than the Laodima family. I stand by that statement and give them my whole-hearted recommendation.

As I have grown to know and love this man, I have been most impressed by his deep faith. He is a man that has learned to walk with God and depend on Him daily for His provision. I have watched the Lord answer many very specific prayers over the years and can clearly see that God's hand is on him. Both he and his wife have powerful testimonies and are excellent soul-winners. God has given him a vision for reaching the people of his country and he is getting the job done! Over the past two years since David's last comprehensive update, they have made great inroads in planting churches in the far northern part of the country. I am excited to see these works firsthand as my wife and I plan to visit Togo in [mid-November](#) of this year.

If you have been supporting this fine family, I sincerely thank you for your investment in them. I know you are not disappointed. If you are considering supporting the Laodimas, I pray that the Lord will use your church to further their ministry efforts in Togo. Should you have any questions or concerns, I would be happy to discuss them with you. I can be reached at 440/777-7539, ext. 222.

Steve Williams, PhD., DMin.

- **Battling powers of darkness**
- **Bringing people to Jesus Christ**
- **Baptizing them**
- **Building them up**
- **Building the Church building**



The harvest is truly plenteous today than never before and the laborers are few today than ever before.

**Is God calling you?**

Surrender and He will use you for His kingdom's sake.