



Newsletter for  
Oct - Nov 2022



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# The Mihsills

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

## IBAO Interns Shine



We recently had the privilege of visiting two IBAO interns at the churches where they have been serving. Pastor Intern Mayala (*pictured left*) completed his internship at the Niangon Church of God, a congregation in an urban area in Abidjan, at the beginning of November. We enjoyed visiting and hearing him preach on his last Sunday with the congregation. He spoke on evangelism and how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit go with us every time we spread the good news. He shared that there will be trials and challenges, but we are never alone. What struck us as we listened is how his message has been played out in his own life as Mayala has been faithful to complete IBAO classes, coming to Yamoussoukro even as he was facing the challenge of finding a good school close to his

home for his daughter to attend; even as he cared for his family from a distance, he remained faithful to God's call on his life — and he did it with joy! Mayala is a person who rarely complains. He is always quick to give a smile and hello. Surely the Lord will continue to walk with him as he shares the good news!

In a very different context, in a remote village in the west of the country near the Liberian border, Pastor Intern Gossé (*pictured right greeting others after the church service*) has embraced serving in a church plant started by an IBAO graduate. He has been willing to serve in whatever capacity he is needed — preaching, leading the service, playing the drums, and encouraging those in the village of Trokpadrou. He preached about courage the morning of the visit, and it is the courage of the Lord that Gossé has shown as he has served during these past six months. Join us in **thanking the Lord** for fruitful internships for IBAO students!



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# Christmas Tree for C of P!

This Christmas season, Children of Promise has a fun way to approach gift-giving to sponsored children. Cover a Christmas tree with branded Children of Promise ornaments and make it possible for local C of P leaders to choose a gift for a C of P child! This allows local C of P leaders to “shop glocal,” which means they choose a gift that works best for the children in their context. The benefit is that sponsored children not only receive culturally relevant and appropriate gifts, but money is saved on shipping, AND it stimulates the local economy by helping shopkeepers in the community where the children live.



Here in Côte d'Ivoire, we ask the local C of P leaders to choose gifts for the children. They often choose a new outfit, made with local material and sewn by a tailor in the community. Since the same pattern or material is used for each outfit, there's a sense of unity and connectedness each time our C of P kids wear their outfits. This allows our C of P kids to not only have a new outfit they are proud to wear, but it also gifts them with a sense of belonging. For Christmas 2021, the children in the village of Plateforme proudly wore their new matching



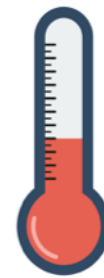
outfits (pictured above right)! For more information and downloadable materials that can help you create your own Christmas tree for C of P, visit <http://www.childrenofpromise.global/giftbox/>

## Accepting the Challenges

Our updates are often full of all of the positive things that are happening in ministry, and there are many. But we don't want to deny that there are also many challenges. One of these challenges is helping a young national church invest their time volunteering in ministry activities. Volunteerism is not a culturally ingrained practice as we often find in the U.S. Many look to the literate and educated few in their families to be the breadwinners, and those few work long hours to provide. Finding volunteers has been a challenge for us when it comes to Children of Promise. We have been blessed with 16 volunteers who have been faithful to carry out purchasing food, visiting families, and buying medications, and we are so grateful to God for them! One of the parameters we set when we launched C of P here was that we would only have four children sponsored for each volunteer. This allows for the necessary care and follow-up to be given to each sponsored child. However, this means that we need more dedicated volunteers in order for the program to grow.

If you have wondered why our program has been a bit slow to grow, it is because we are waiting for the Lord to provide more volunteers. We set a goal at the end of 2021 to see 30 additional children sponsored by the end of 2022. To date, we have seen 10 new children sponsored. We are thankful for those 10! While the growth of the program has been slower than we would have chosen, the Lord has been growing our patience as we wait on His timing. I (Jenny) have been going through a Bible study by Jennifer Rothschild on the book of Haggai which tells of the prophet Haggai's call to the Jewish people to rebuild the temple. It would have been more convenient for the Jewish people to accept the help of their neighbors, the Samaritans, in rebuilding the temple. Yet, accepting their help would also have invited the influence of the Samaritans who were not faithful to Yahweh. It was a good reminder to read what Rothschild wrote, “[M]ay we never compromise what matters most for greater convenience to us.” We pray that patiently waiting will build the foundation for a program that will be long-lasting with local volunteers who will carry on the program for decades beyond our leadership as directors. Waiting can be an inconvenience. For sponsors who have waited to sponsor a child from Côte d'Ivoire, we thank you for your patience. Please join us in praying for the Lord to provide volunteers **in abundance** so C of P can grow in the Lord's time in Côte d'Ivoire!

Goal: 30



Current Total:  
10

Children of Promise as a global program turns 30 years old in 2022! To celebrate, our goal here in Côte d'Ivoire is to see 30 more children sponsored between November 2021 and December 2022! We're at 10 of 30!



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](http://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](mailto:bobbymihsill@chog.org) OR [jennymihsill@chog.org](mailto:jennymihsill@chog.org)