

Mike Squires' Togo Social Ministry June 2009 Newsletter



To Contact Mike Squires:

228-660-0566 (home)
228-932-6186 (mobile)
mike_squires (skype)
mike_squires@sil.org
(email)

or by mail:
SIL, B.P. 57
Kara, Togo

Submitted by:

*your servant &
partner in Africa.*

Mike Squires



Praises:

- Praise God for the June 3-5 Literacy Forum which was held in Kara with 78 participants. Our whole community development extension team participated, the first time we had all been together since August 2008, 10 months ago. The topics included: team building, roles, responsibilities and leadership in literacy programs; problem solving and conflict resolution; and transitioning from local language to French, the official language.
- Praise God for the May 25 workshop in Sokodé training 16 literacy supervisors how to teach the lesson How To Work Together For Problem Solving. Pray that this lesson will enable people to better **work together to solve problems and transform their communities.**
- Praise God for the April 20– 30 **Scripture Use Workshop** held here at the SIL Center in Kara, Togo, to enable us to better communicate the gospel message. I taught two of the lessons: 1) I taught “How to Change One’s Way of Thinking (based on John 5:1-19) as an example of community development methodology showing how the Bible addresses the problems of daily life. 2) The Role of the Church in Preventing AIDS and Helping the Survivors. Other topics included: the importance of teaching the Bible in the local language; leading Bible studies; preparing sermons; Chronological Bible Storying; Engaging People with the Scriptures in Evangelism; Engaging People with the Scriptures in the Arts.



Our community development team participating at the June 2009 Literacy Forum at the SIL Center in Kara, Togo.



Literacy class in Togo.

• Praise God for our developing 3 new lessons: 1) The Role of the Christian Community; 2) The Role of Christian Leaders; and 3) The Role of Christian Meetings.



Practicing community development lessons.



Community development workers in Togo.

Contributions may be given quarterly, monthly, or annually online (www.wycliffe.org), by telephone (1-800-992-5433), or by check (payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators, PO Box 628200, Orlando, Florida 32862-8200). All donations should be designated to *Mike Squires, #283780*. Your financial donation is tax deductible.

Thank you for being my prayer and financial partners. I couldn't do it without you, and feel privileged to be on the same team with you, honoring God by seeing his Message made available to everyone in the language they understand best. "The greatest missionary is the Bible in the mother tongue. It never needs a furlough, and is never considered a foreigner." -- Cameron Townsend, Wycliffe founder

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the **local language literacy classes** currently being taught, that the students would be able to attend and finish the classes, learning how to read, write and count in their own language.
- Pray that all the Literacy Forum participants will put into practice what they learned.
- Pray that the Scripture Use Workshop participants will put into practice in their own congregations what they learned.
- Pray for my extension work with the people of northern and central Togo. Pray for safe travel as I work in a different region each week, and that the people will work together to overcome their problems and will put into practice what they learn from the topics we teach.
- Pray for the April-October 2009 rainy season in West Africa, that the rains will come when needed and will neither be insufficient, nor excessive, as happened during the flooding of 2007. Pray for an abundant grain harvest. An obstacle is poor soil fertility. Chemical fertilizers are quite expensive, and thus are not an option for many people.
- Pray for opportunities to serve God and to encourage and serve other people. Look around you to see who is hurting and needs encouragement. Treat people with respect and **learn to listen carefully to them**. Tell people what God has done in your life. Look at what God is doing, and get involved in helping do it.
- Pray for the building up and strengthening of prayer warriors both in the United States and Togo. Prayer is crucial for protection and encouragement. **Pray daily for missions** in general, and for me specifically. Will you commit to praying for me on a regular basis? I will add you to my prayer calendar and will be praying for you on a regular basis.
- Pray for the Holy Spirit of God to touch the hearts of His people to respond to the financial needs of Christian ministries that face difficult times. Pray for my continued financial support as well, as some of those who have supported me have had to cut back because of their many Christian commitments and the current economy.



The AFASA Kabiye women's community development staff.



Practicing community development lessons in Togo.