



TRUE VINE TOGO

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Assisting orphans and widows in Togo, West Africa

TOGO CHOIR VISIT

The visit and performance by the Togo choir in May was a huge success. They brought attention to our connection in Togo and an enjoyable and lively performance that was full of humor and friendship.

We wish to thank all of those families who welcomed the members of the choir into their home during the visit. I am sure your kindness will be remembered for a long time.

TOGO PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Togo Pancake Breakfast held after service on the Sunday the Togo choir performed was a lot of fun, as usual, with participation of over one hundred diners. The usual menu of fresh fruit, ham, orange juice and pancakes was a huge hit. We are planning another for the fall. We raised over \$560 for the care of the orphans.

ALL BACK TO SCHOOL

“La rentrée Pour Tous” was a project organized by Vrai Cep (our partners “on the ground” in Togo) to ensure that 150 underprivileged children had the chance to go back to school. The project was very successful. Many Togolese donated school supplies and volunteered for the two events held in September and October of 2010. This project helped bring attention to the problem of underprivileged children and our orphans.



FARM UPDATE

The farm in Patatoukou is doing well. There are 14 goats and 47 chickens; 24 died from a disease brought in by a chicken given by a village child, but the remaining chickens are fine. The beans did not do so well during the rainy season. These beans were just enough for the Patatoukou orphanage consumption, but the goal is to produce enough to sell. This is also a potential source of income for the orphanage.



FLOUR MILLS

In an effort to help the orphanages become more self sufficient the Board of Directors has been looking for ways for True Vine Togo to generate income in Togo to supplement the sponsor's support of the children. They have identified an opportunity in the form of Flour mills.



The following are some of the details:

- Cost of the mills – in Lome \$3678, in Patatoukou \$4321. The cost is higher in Patatoukou because a building must be built on the orphanage property to house the mill. Long term it will produce a higher net income because there will be no rent cost. This will also provide some of the necessary infrastructure for the future orphanage.
- It has been determined that there is sufficient demand for at least two mills in Lome and one in Patatoukou.
- Mills will operate pretty much year round while providing an average of \$170/ month each in income.
- Mills will process local grains such as corn and beans.



Grain to be processed



Mill in operation

SPOTLIGHT ON ORPHANS

Joujou Tchokpe

Grade : 12

Age: 17

School : Technical High School

Major : Accounting

Home : Youth house, located in Lome.

He took the state exam and brilliantly passed (June 15 2011) to the twelfth grade. He vows to spend his vacation time studying and getting ready for the next level which is even more difficult.

He would love to become an expert in accounting.

He likes music, soccer and comedy.



Abra Awesso

Grade: 10

Home: She has lived in Sotouboua orphanage since 2007

She has shown year after year dedication and hard work in school.

In 2010, then in 9th grade, she had the highest score in Central county which includes Sotouboua town.



Etienne Jean Peyou

Age : 11

Grade : 3

Home: Lives with his aunt

Behavior: very obedient and calm in school

Health: born HIV positive

He is often sick and misses school a lot which affects his school grades.

He misses school at least one week in each month. We are putting resources together to allow us to inform him of his HIV status. This is going to be very difficult, but we believe he has the right to know.

Dream: He wants to become a police officer and serve his country



Lawali Morou

Age: 10

Grade: 2

Home: He lives with his grandmother

Behavior: He is doing fine, but gets very agitated and loves going out a lot. It is very difficult for him to change his behavior because of his past life on the streets. We hope he will make it to the next level. He is a smart boy.

Dreams: He wants to become a truck driver to travel around the world.



Diane Kpoka

Age : 14

Grade : 8

Home : She lives with her grandmother

Her parents died from AIDS. We had her tested in 2007 after her mother's death. Fortunately she is HIV negative.

School : Her friends testify that she is a good person. She is working hard at school as well. Her two progress cards have mixed results. Her grades are average. We are waiting for the final result which will indicate if she passes or fails.

Behavior : She is very calm, serene and a big believer in Jesus. She goes to church (Assembly of God) on a regular basis.

Dreams : Flight attendant



Odilon Olobi

Age : 17

Grade : 10

Home : He lives with his aunt

School : He started with engineering because he was forced to by his aunt. He made a bold decision with Vrai Cep's support to change his field after one quarter when he realized he didn't understand anything, and that he wouldn't be able to make it.

Now he is majoring in literature.

Dreams: To become a border patrol officer.



Sylvie Bomboma

Age: 15

Grade: 10

Home: She lives with her mother

School: She is average in school. Her school is the only public school in her area and it is 15 km from her house. Transportation is huge problem. This coming academic year 2011-2012 we need to move her closer to a private school. We hope she passes to the eleventh grade.

Dreams: become a physician to heal the sick



Modest Boko

He is one of the two boys at the University.

His five year plan is to get his Masters degree in Mathematics and teach students in high school. His long term goal is to get his PhD.

He hopes to be able to create a foundation that will provide funds to organizations like True Vine, and build hospitals for the less fortunate.



EDUCATION

True Vine's children did a wonderful job in the 2009-2010 academic year. The school system in Togo requires students in 5th, 9th, 11th and 12th grade to pass state exams before moving on to the next level. It does not matter whether they have good report cards or not; they must pass the exams. Therefore, students see these grades as the most difficult and where, unfortunately, some give up after a few tries. The exam is given once a year between May and July. This means if they fail this year in July, for instance, they will have to start that same grade over and take the exam again the following July.

At True Vine we strive to help the children by providing tutors after school. 100% of our children in the 5th grade, 82% in 9th grade, 100% in the 12th grade passed the exam. We did not have any children in the 11th grade in the 2009-2010 school year. We praise God and will continue to support these children in their academic achievement.

A LETTER FROM TRUE VINE TOGO'S FOUNDER

Dear friends,

On the behalf of True Vine's board of Directors, I would like to extend my thanks and gratitude for your support to underprivileged children at True Vine Togo. Your generous donations go a long way toward providing food, education, health care, and shelter to orphans and abandoned children.

It has been seven years since we began the sponsorship program, and we are happy to say so far 152 children have benefited from this program. In kind donations from occasional donors from Togo have helped provide education for 102 children, and some may receive food and clothing assistance on an emergency basis.

Fifty children were sponsored by individuals from North Creek Presbyterian Church, and friends from other churches, and consequently they receive full support in education, health care, food, and shelter. Unfortunately, we have lost a significant number of sponsors (24) over the past two years due to the financial crisis.

To tackle this problem, we have put in place the following:

- A small farm project in Patatoukou on 2 acres to help feed children in the orphanage. Our goal is to expand the farm to 100 acres to help sustain the organization.
- At this moment we are gathering support to start a mill project that could in the long run pay for overhead. (see details below)
- Developing a plan to increase sponsorships
- A one (1) year mission to Togo to create a partnership with the Togolese government, and to look for long term partners in Africa and Europe. We will also revive our evangelism and HIV programs. Keisha, my 6 year old daughter and I will be leaving for Togo on August 21, 2011 and will return in August 2012. If you are interested in supporting this mission in any way please send me an email at info@truevinetogo.org or bodj_meyita@hotmail.com or call Henriette Bodjolle at 425-218-6858.

Again thank you for your ongoing support. Looking after the poor and orphans by investing in their future is the "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless."

I'm looking forward to speaking with you.

God bless you!

Henriette

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Pray for the funding and operation of True Vine Togo.
2. Sponsor a child.
3. Donate to the Education Fund.
4. Make a one-time donation to cover operational expenses. Any amount is much appreciated.
5. Give a matching donation to purchase flour mills to help True Vine become self supporting. (see details below)
6. Join the team to help support the orphans. Contact Jim Armstrong at (425) 478-7010
7. Tell your friends, relatives, or neighbors about the great work being done to improve the lives of these orphans. Encourage them to join us in helping take care of the children at True Vine Togo.

GOOD NEWS

An anonymous donor has pledged to match all donations for the purpose of building and operating the three flour mills that will make True Vine Togo more self sufficient. If all mills are built, it will provide about \$500/ month in support to cover auto, office, and employee costs. Here is a perfect time to make your donation count even if you can no longer afford to sponsor an orphan. Please contact Jim Armstrong at (425) 478-7010 or Jimtac22@live.com

FUNDRAISING

Corrina Larson, would really like to support True Vine Togo by doing a fundraiser.

If you purchase Norwex products with Corrina, 25% will go to True Vine. By purchasing these chemical free products you help save poor children and the environment. Go to [Norwex Ripple Effect](#) to view the catalogue, and then send email to Corrina at corrina.norwex@gmail.com to credit 25% to True Vine.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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