

Medical Missionary in Mango

Miriam Tillman's Adventures as a Pharmacist in Rural Togo

God Bless
the Rains
2021

Water once more! - We have survived another hot season and we all breathe a sigh of relief as the rains have started for another year. It is amazing how the heat brings out more stress and dries up your patience as quickly as water evaporates on the floor!

Hot season has been a bit harder this year, the town water pump has broken multiple times, replaced by a larger and "better" pump but then that broke as well 😞. We keep large plastic bins full of water so that we don't run out totally and thankfully live in an area of town where water arrives sometimes... other areas of town have had no running water for more than 3 months! Our fortune has provided us the opportunity to share with others on multiple occasions.

A few weeks ago, I was outside of our compound attempting to dig our ditch a little deeper in preparation for rainy season (there are no gutters or storm water drains in Mango). I had sweated out my body weight in water over 30 minutes and realised I had achieved very little. At that moment one of my Pharmacy Technicians was riding by on his moto with 3 x 25L containers strapped behind him. He pulled over to greet me and I asked if I could fill his water containers for him. He graciously accepted as it would save him the long wait at one of the local water pumps. In the time it took for me to fill the 75L of water he had been busy outside and had dug the ditch 4 times as deep and 5 times as long, for which I was extremely grateful!

The work at the hospital has been able to continue with only a few issues due to lack of water as we trucked in water directly from the water station in town and we have a small well on compound that provides about 1/10th of what we use on a regular basis.

Just as the storms here can be seen rolling in from a distance, providing hope on the horizon for a reprieve from the temperature, God continues to provide encouragement and hope in the work He has called us here to do.



Shade or Sleep? – Our house church has begun to meet again but due to covid restrictions we are now meeting outside in the courtyard. As the year advances the sun starts to hit us before the end of our service and we all end up moving our chairs to inch into the shade that remains. It was suggested that to avoid this problem we should start to meet earlier... Since mornings are not my strong suit, I volunteered to find a solution that would not encroach into my Sleep-in-Sunday! As most Togolese wake up at 5am they did find it hilarious that I didn't want to wake before 8am on my day off. The next time I went to Lomé I found some shade sails that are meant to be able to withstand the 50 degrees and now they are strung across the courtyard each Sunday morning so that I can continue to guard my sleeping hours 😊



Sunday Storm – Every second Sunday night we normally have a missionary church service in English but when a fifth Sunday in the month rolled around, we arranged to have a combined service with the Togolese believers. Due to the large numbers expected it was going to be outside, but 30 minutes before starting the rain began to pour down. We changed the location to inside but as motos are the main form of transportation around here (and when it rains the dirt roads become rivers) many of our Togolese friends were probably not going to make it. I called members of our house church and we took Stephanie's car to collect those who still wanted to come. And that turned into 12 people in the car! This is the photo of us on our way home and there are even 4 more in the back row. It was a great time to be able to get together and worship with our Togolese brothers and sisters in Christ!

Back in business! - Kids Club has also started back up after our covid hiatus. The first few Saturday afternoons saw only a dozen kids turn up but word must have got out this week as we had over 40 kids come to play games, sing songs, colour pictures and listen to a Bible story. We have started to find a translator each week to translate into Anufo so the local kids are able to learn more.



Celebrating Ramadan – For a month my friends in market fasted from sunrise to sunset, so on the last day they invited us over for food, games, and laughter! This year Ramadan was in the middle of hot season, which I know made the fasting even harder as they do not even drink water during the daylight hours. This is one of the five pillars of their faith, which they believe that even if followed exactly does not guarantee them access to heaven. This is a stark difference from

Christianity which offers assured hope. Pray for those who fasted that they would seek out Christians to inquire more about the differences in beliefs.

Miriam Tillman

Prayer Requests

- That water and electricity would be more reliable
- Kids club starting back up
- Rain... not too much, not too little

Miriam is a volunteer Pharmacist at the Hospital of Hope in Mango, Togo, West Africa. Donations for Miriam can be given via the New Zealand Church Missionary Society (NZCMS) Account # 12 3191 0011792 000. Please include your surname and initials under details and write Miriam as the reference. NZ residents can receive a tax deductible receipt by emailing their details to office@nzcms.org.nz

