

THE PATE FAMILY

CHURCH-PLANTING MISSIONARIES IN THE IVORY COAST (CÔTE D'IVOIRE)

November-December, 2023 | Prayer Update

We hope that each of you have enjoyed a meaningful Christmas season and are anticipating a wonderful beginning to 2024. Thank you for your generosity towards our family to help us enjoy a special Christmas here in the Ivory Coast. We were blessed with a very special Christmas gift this year with the arrival of our third child, Bethanie Grace! She was born at 5:04 AM (GMT) on December 21, 2023, weighed 7.5 pounds, and was 21.5 inches long at birth. We praise the Lord for a very smooth and healthy delivery. The Lord graciously answered so many specific prayers in the details surrounding her birth and we want to thank you for your prayer for us.



2023 REVIEW: As we conclude 2023, we want to draw our attention to God's faithfulness in our lives throughout the year. The first half of the year was spent in Québec, Canada as we concluded our official French language studies. We saw God orchestrate many details in the month of July for our transition to the Ivory Coast, the sending of our shipping container, and the commissioning service at our sending church. Throughout the fall months we settled our family in the Ivory Coast, found a vehicle and a house, completed initial paperwork, and began to ease into the ministry. In September, we witnessed our daughter Allison accept Christ as her Savior and in December we welcomed the birth of Bethanie. In September, we also saw the arrival of our shipping container full of Gospel literature for the ministry. Already, thousands of pieces of literature have been distributed throughout the country and God is using His Word in remarkable ways. Throughout the month of December, we were also able to see 1,000 Christmas-themed tracts distributed primarily in the town of Bingerville and the surrounding villages. Just last week, I heard a testimony from a man in the church here in Bingerville who had shared the Gospel with a Muslim man. The man in our church recounted to me how the Lord used both his witness and the *Déjà Fait/Done* booklet to see this Muslim man accept Christ as his Savior. We praise the Lord for the seed of His Word being sown in the hearts of individuals here in the Ivory Coast. Thank you for your partnership with our family and ministry throughout 2023.

2024 PRAYER REQUESTS: Since our arrival in the country in August, we've been able to work towards more involvement in the ongoing ministries in the nearby villages, particularly through regular visitation and evangelism as a family. We are thankful for the foundation the Lord has laid in our ministry participation and in our relationships with individuals and we desire to continue this ministry progress in 2024. As we anticipate the new year, you can specifically pray with us that the Lord would work mightily for the preparation of a church plant in the village of Anan. We anticipate starting a weekly Bible study in the village in the coming months as we work towards the subsequent launch of the church plant. We hope to share more details with you in our coming prayer letters as we sense a clear timeframe for this church planting endeavor. We look forward to a wonderful new year as we continue to partner together with you for the cause of Christ here in the Ivory Coast and in your part of God's harvest field.

In Christ,

Josh, Katie, Allison, Madelyn, and Bethanie Pate

pates2africa@gmail.com

803.351.9360

PO Box 1353 Columbus, NC 28722

www.pates2africa.com

Crossroads Baptist Church

Interim Pastor: Dr. Gary Ledbetter

PO Box 624 Columbus, NC 28722

www.CrossroadsBaptistNC.com

Baptist International Missions Inc.

423.344.5050

PO Box 9 Harrison, TN 37341

www.bimi.org | Account #1629

