

A Fractured Body in Need of Healing – BelzGlobal Newsletter June 2021

As you may have read in a recent blog post on our website, Holly slipped and fell while mowing a steep slope of our lawn a couple weeks ago, severely fracturing her ankle in several places. Surgery a few days later began the healing process, but it will take months and much work for her to walk normally again. We have been blessed with prayers, gestures of kindness, and meals from our church family, all of which help the healing process. For more on Holly's situation, [CLICK HERE](#).



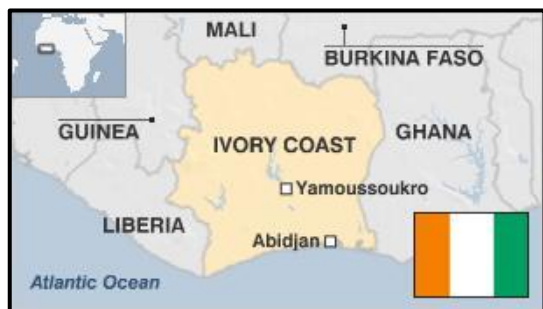
It did not take long for my thinking to turn to the body of Christ. In some ways, we have fallen on a slippery slope of the past 15 months, and many churches are experiencing severe fracturing, desperately in need of healing. These are troubling days in the church as I hear from pastors all over the world that shepherding their fractured flock has never been more difficult.

Yet God's Word is clear. Unity is to characterize Christ's church. God's Word urges us to walk *"with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* Unity was a central desire of Jesus for believers, demonstrated in his prayer in John 17. He prays *"that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* Unity of Christ's followers with God and with each other becomes a witness to Jesus' person and work. Wow! Please join me in **praying for and working toward unity!**

Togo Success – Thank you for your prayers. Despite numerous and stringent travel obstacles, my training partner Al and I were able to offer much needed and deeply appreciated refreshing of Pathways principles for the network of pastors in Togo. For more details, [CLICK HERE](#).



Greetings from a church in Togo



Anticipating Ivory Coast – On Friday, June 11, I return to West Africa, this time to our network in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Again, travel protocol is challenging, yet my motivation to be with these beloved brothers and sisters makes difficulties seem trifling. **Please pray** for Daniel and Ann, the Abidjan Pathways coordinators, for the network of pastors, and for a sweet time of training in healthy Bible study principles. And please pray that Holly and Alyssa will sense God's good care while I am away.

Graduation – This month, Adam is graduating from Western WA University with a degree in communications. He plans to enter Southern Seminary in Aug, beginning his MDiv. We are proud of his decisions, and even more thankful for his character, as demonstrated from a note written by the pastor of the church where he attends in Bellingham: "He (Adam) was such a joy to have around the church for the time we had with him. Always willing to serve and care for other people. And did it with joy." Please join us in praying that God will continue His good work in Adam's life.



Thank you again, dear friends, for your faithful partnership with us in the Lord's service. We are blessed beyond measure, and it is our joy to be channels for God's blessing to many, locally and globally. With love, gratitude, and prayers, *Eric and Holly*

June 11-18 – Ivory Coast
July – Training and Preaching in WA
July 22-Aug 3 – Zambia