

***Together for West Africa (aka 2gether4westafric, 2g4wa, TFWA)
Advisory Board of Directors FY22Q2: Wednesday, March 16, 2022***

Meeting Minutes:

Members present:

Meeting held virtually via the Internet using online Zoom meeting software platform with the following members in attendance – Mike Hutchinson (Field Personnel), Lynn Hutchinson (Field Personnel), Ric Stewart (Secretary), Laura Clark (member), Allen Clark (member), Cindy Stewart (member).

Cindy Stewart opened the meeting with prayer.

Topics of Business

1. Financial Reports – Ric Stewart, Secretary

- IRS waived the \$1180 penalty for TFWA FY20 990 form “late reporting”
- FY21 IRS 990 form was submitted/accepted before deadline date of 2/15/22
- ‘Last 12 Months’ Donor Report remains strong and on track for a \$35K-\$45K run-rate for annual revenue
- ‘Last 12 Months’ Statement of Activities report shows revenue and expenses in order. Primary expenses were Program expenses for Togo House repairs and improvements. Also, support for Togolese children to pay enrollment fees and have uniforms and supplies for school.
- Current Statement of Financial Position, 3/16/22, \$82K (liquid addets) in the Hancock-Whitney bank checking account. No fixed assets.

2. Togo Program Ministries Update – Mike & Lynn Hutchinson, Field Personnel in Lomé, Togo, West Africa

[The following report is from an email update on March 4, 2022 from Mike and Lynn.]

Update for 2gether4westafrica

March 4, 2022

Togo House has these clubs running at present:

English Club on Tuesday and Thursday

Art Club on Friday

Wood working Club, Kids Club and Film Club on Saturday

Sunday Morning at Togo House, Car Club and Football club on Sunday

This gives me Monday and Wednesdays free to do set up and buy supplies.

We have an adult only session on one Sunday a month. For March it will be Malaria prevention with a free t-shirt for all that participate.

We will also have St. Joseph's Day this month with Scripture about Joseph and 3 tables of cookies.

Off site we are busy also. I am visiting pastors in rural areas and seeing ways to help them personally and also help them form disciples in their churches. One pastor told me in Feb. "My church is completely run down. We just have a bunch of old people who have no money and I don't know how to get the church going again." In response we have scheduled a show and tell with egg incubators and composts for the village. The programs will be secular but held at the church. Hopefully the Pagan chief will embrace this and send someone from his household to attend.

We have also hooked up with an independent conservative missionary who grew up here in Togo. He and his family work here in the South also. We did a pepper preservation presentation with women from 5 churches last month under his blessings. During that program I expressed to his team that we like to see pastors and churches plant fruit trees around their homes and places of worship. They have agreed to let us do this. We always have to respect the turf issue when dealing with other mission groups. I just got back from a long trip to purchase 100 seedlings and we will plant them this month with these pastors.

One negative with our Pastors Up program is that we were connected with a local missionary from ABWE. We have known him for 8 years. We brought chairs to a new church start of his 2 months ago. He requested that we help with hiring a bulldozer type machine to flatten the land around this new church...it is 4 hectares. We did pay one thousand dollars but I am not sure the work was done. Our Togo House team thinks we were scammed but the pastor's response was "Well this is Africa you know". So that is about 10 pastors in that area that were very eager to work with us that we will not have access to because we can not be taken advantage of that way and have any credible ministry in the area.

We are hiring two tutors for boys who are not making it in school. They are smart and can pass but have family issues that keep them from performing well.

Our funds with our CBF account are now low and we will begin using more 2gether funds for our ministry items. This was our goal last year.

We have up-coming travel:

Last year I did not take a vacation. This year our CBF team is having their meeting in Barcelona, Spain. Lynn and I will go to Portugal two weeks early and get in some vacation (Virginia and Johnathan will be there one of those weeks) before team meeting.

We then fly back to Togo to pack our bags to arrive in the States the first week of May. We should be there 3 months. We have 9 months of State Side time banked, so this will just be added into that account. Even these 3 months will be a long time to keep everything at Togo House shut down.

We should be back in Togo in August.

Prayer requests:

Pray for our new assistant named Philippe. He is from the North of Togo and does not speak Ewe. This was a mistake on my part as that is necessary for interacting with elementary kids and women who do not speak French. He is very dedicated but also very rural and not used to things in Lome. He has a big learning curve in front of him. And plus he has to work for me, which can't be easy.

The war in Ukraine is not a concern to most Togolese but it could very well be in the near future. We import almost everything. Rice, wheat and corn meal are our staples and mostly imported. We do not produce enough to feed our population. Medicines are all imported. Fuel, and electricity....imported. World distribution issues could quickly lead to a most difficult time for Togo. We pray for Wisdom in Western Leaders who would understand Putin's concerns and be able to make the deal with him.

Togo still has the best record on getting vaccinations to its population in all of Africa. Of course one party systems have their strengths. You want your students to be vaccinated? Line up all 3 million of them and jab away, no ifs, ands or buts. So where as Nigeria just announced that they destroyed over one million doses because they let them go out of date, I think we have destroyed none. So we praise God that our health care system was able to be trained and carry out this task.

The Bible Alliance has had no New Testaments for 5 months now. They are supposed to be in this month. If so we will be purchasing them as a closing down gift for every participant at Togo House at the end of this month.

Thank you so much for your support and will see you in May.

Allen Clark closed the meeting with prayer.

Submitted by: Ric Stewart, Together for West Africa, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.