

***Together for West Africa (aka 2gether4westafric, 2g4wa, TFWA)  
Advisory Board of Directors FY22Q3: Wednesday, June 9, 2022***

***Meeting Minutes:***

**Members present:**

Meeting held in-person at home of Ric and Cindy Stewart, 2509 South Shore Drive, Biloxi, MS 30532. The following board members were in attendance: Mike Hutchinson (Field Personnel), Lynn Hutchinson (Field Personnel), Ric Stewart (Secretary), Laura Clark (member), Allen Clark (member), Cindy Stewart (member).

**Mike Hutchinson opened the meeting with prayer.**

**Topics of Business**

***1. Financial Reports – Ric Stewart, Secretary***

- FY21 IRS 990 form was submitted/accepted before deadline date of 2/15/22
- FY22 YTD reported on June 8, 2022, Statement of Activities shows revenue and expenses in order.
- Current Statement of Financial Position, 6/9/22, \$87.64K USD liquid assets in the Hancock-Whitney bank (Gulfport, MS) checking account. No fixed assets.

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

***Received by board members June 4, 2022***

Dear Team,

Some things for us to think about for our upcoming meeting.

I am looking ahead to a time when we are not in Togo. I never imagined leaving behind a program or ongoing ministry. To me everything is focused on developing the individuals that God sends our way. Through them Togo House lives on for generations to come. We continually see people that have gone through our ministry become a developing factor in their community.

That being said, there may be some continual ministry after we leave Togo. The problem always in West Africa is that if you fund something and you are not present to see those funds disturbed then the best of saints will fall to the peer pressure of using those funds for other, justified reasons.

Several things have come together these past three months that may provide a wise use of 2gether funds and creating a platform for continuing ministry after we no longer live in Togo full time.

1. Fafa, Bruno's widow, is not making it on her own financially. She is a very hard worker and uses every opportunity to advance her security, but Togo is not conducive to making a go of any business for long. She has three children under the age of 8. She can remarry or leave the country or find a place she can work out of her home. At present she runs a small hair salon for women. Recent installation of Government taxes make it impossible for most small businesses now in Togo to be successful, especially single women.
2. Daniel is a young man, married, three small children same ages as Fafa's. He was our third assistant at Togo House and since has used his understanding of capacity building to be a successful entrepreneur. He has a family to back him up and help him. Where Daniel lives (he rents, a walled compound of 65 feet x 100 feet with three one room rentals) is now up for sale. Price is 40 thousand dollars. Daniel has recently received our training on egg incubators and has been very successful.
3. For any ongoing ministry we would like to do in Togo after we retire would require a permanent contact in Togo. Daniel and Fafa are reliable good choices.

All three come together with a direction I am considering. 2gether purchase the site where Daniel's family is renting.

Move Fafa and her family there. They already know each other and get along well. Fafa works for Daniel and also does her hair business on site (avoiding a business tax from the government). Third room could be rented out for income for the two families.

This would give housing security to both families. It would provide enough land to run the poultry business and for Fafa to do women's hair.

If I could come back to Togo once or twice a year for 5 years after retirement we would focus on scholarships for kids to be able to stay in school. Daniel and Fafa would be responsible to choose candidates for us that we could filter. We could continue to share ideas with people there through them about development ideas.

So these are just some ideas about long term presence for a Togo House presence.

Another interesting factor is that West Africa has been thrown into turmoil these last two years.

Many coups' d'états. Russian military in Mali. French withdrawal after America's recent withdrawal...leaving door wide open for Russia to aide Islamic terrorists to over throw

governments. Up to now Togo has been safe. This is changing. Last three months we have seen two serious attacks on military bases in the north of Togo. Islamists in Burkina Faso to our north have created a coup d'état there and created over 1.5 million internal refugees. IMB has pulled their missionaries from Burkina. Westerners are encouraged not to travel outside of the capitol due to many kidnappings. The last attack in Togo was by 60 armed terrorists. 8 Togolese were killed, 15 terrorists. Then this week 2 police were attacked in Lomé in an open market.

Russia would love to have access to our port, which is the largest in West Africa.

And a final issue. I can retire in March 2023. Lynn likes her new role as team leader and would like to stay on until Dec. 2023. This is when our present visas run out. Also, would give her another year for her social security. CBF will most probably be changing their leadership model soon after we get a new Missions director around October 22. If I stayed past March 23 can 2gether pay my salary? Don't know if we can or want to.

See you the 9th.

Mike

***Received by board members on June 6, 2022***

2gether Team,

Here is a work update on our ministry.

1. We are in the states from April to August. Lynn flies back the first of August and me closer to the end.
2. We are busy visiting supporters of 2gether4westafrica in Miss. Alabama, TN, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas and South Carolina. Macedonia Call has been gracious to lease us a car for under \$300. a month while we are state side.
3. Also part of our stateside experience will involve medical appointments and visiting family and friends.
4. Togo House programs are suspended while we are not there to supervise.
5. Some programs like Pastor Up continue on a limited basis as funds were left behind to be distributed. Medical expenses and Rice distribution continue on a limited basis.

January - March 2022 in Togo.

Lynn was promoted to ACMT within the CBF organization.

Togo House's new location was updated and we added 24 hour security as crime increases.

At the new location we continued clubs for Middle school children. over 200 kids come each week to our various programs. These have included: Wood working, Art, English, Kids Club, Movie Club, Homework club, and Sunday Morning worship.

Outside the location we have instituted two main programs.

1, Pastors Up. We visit pastors in rural areas. We seek to find out their family needs and find ways we can support them as a family. This has included training in agricultural techniques, nutrition, poultry, food and school assistance.

2. Village up. This is an attempt to find the needs of one small rural village that is not usually in line for expat projects and assist them in a way that does not create dependency.

3. Partners. We continue to partner with others involved in ministry in the area. Southern Baptists, ABWE, Vogan Medical, and independent missionaries have benefited from 2gether's help this year.

Some odd stats:

We have distributed over 300 kilos of rice this year.

Prepared over 3,000 muffins and 1,560 cups of hot chocolate.

purchased over 3,500 eggs

Sunday Lunches: over 1,000 served.

Spent 1,800 dollars on truck repairs and shocks still don't work well.

In last three months have given out 200 Bibles.

We continue to be thankful for all of the help we receive from our supporters to keep this ministry going.

Submitted by Mike and Lynn Hutchinson

Togo, West Africa.

***Lynn Hutchinson closed the meeting with prayer.***

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ric Stewart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ric" and last name "Stewart" clearly distinguishable.