

Together for West Africa (TGFWA)

Advisory Board of Directors FY21Q4 meeting: Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Meeting Minutes:

Members present:

Meeting held virtually via the Internet using online Zoom meeting application 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)

Topics of Business

Cindy Stewart opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Financial Reports – Ric Stewart, Secretary

- ***Fiscal Year 2021, YTD as of 8/17/2021*** – *Statement of Activity* and *Statement of Financial Position* were reviewed. Both reports indicated Together for West Africa is in very good financial standing.
- Fiscal YTD Giving Record for all Donors was reviewed with Mike & Lynn. This helps them determine which donors need a follow-up letter from them.

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

[The following report is from an email update in August from Mike and Lynn. It reflects the essence of the oral report given in the Advisory Board meeting by Mike and Lynn.]

- Where we have done Togo House Ministries for 4+ years has finally become walled in with new construction. This creates safety issues for us and for those attending our programs on site. The rent on this house is very good and has never been raised. But we can no longer do any outside activities and even access to the front door for our truck has been blocked. God gave us another small house and these are hard to find as people here that build usually build 7-10 bedrooms, multistory houses. One story, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths and the street out front is triple wide. Easy to play games out front. There is also an empty lot next door that we may also be able to rent to do all of our games on our own property. Rent will go from around the current price of 300 a month to 500 a month. The extra lot may be 100 a month more. We think we can work this into our budget. We are pleased that a house with a good landlord was found in the same neighborhood so we can continue ministry with so many of the same people.
- We have always hired our own night and day guards for our home. CBF has been generous in not only paying our house rent but also paying for guards. So, we have always tried to go the cheapest route possible. This doesn't seem possible anymore in finding honest people who will not steal. So we are going to the solution that all other expats and many Togolese use and that is an agency that hires the guards for

you. They are trained and uniformed. The agency takes care of all the legal issues dealing with Social Security, vacations, hours, etcetera. We are looking for an agency at present and see if it will fall into our budget allowed us by CBF for housing.

- Our summer educational program for the Togo House Program for our primary school kids was a big success. We had new parents coming by every day to bring their kids. It also provided a good training for our middle school students who developed the programs we used each day.

I use a new counter app on my phone to track statistics about the weekly supplies/food for Togo House activities: number of attendees, food items served to attendees, and activities' supplies.

Statistics

119 kids at clubs

70 meals served

40 One-on-one visits

35 Sunday morning worship

12 dozen cupcakes made

6 dozen eggs bought

30 eggs laid by Togo House chickens.

20 trees planted

- Our search for a piece of land that we could purchase using our TGFWA fund has come to an end. We did not find a piece of property that we could legally buy that we could have access to. This is one of the reasons you have not seen much movement in that fund. We have been holding back using it for other things hoping a hectare of land would become open for us to do permaculture farming. You should now begin to see movement in this account and we will seek partners for it when we come back to the USA in May 2022.
- Alabama CBF sent our CBF Program (2g4wa) account \$1,000. CBF foundation gave us a \$1,000 grant to do a feeding and education program in a rural area that borders Benin.
- We hope to purchase our moto-tri cycle to help with our garden projects this quarter. Also, Togo House needs a freezer. We have a small French style frigo but when we have events it is impossible to have the cold drinks or other items we need.
- Lynn is enjoying her new role as the ACMT for the Africa-Middle East team.
- The boy we have been helping go to tech school to become a car mechanic is staying at Togo House for the Summer and he has found a non-paying summer job at a garage just behind our house! He has to have two jobs completed before he can graduate next year. Normally the student has to pay the garage to work there. Yes. But this man has been nice to fill in the boy's papers for free.
- Togo land borders still remain closed to non-West Africans. Covid testing does not exist. School will start back end of Sept.

- After years of successful bunt cake making now all three of my pans are beginning to stick. That is a pain in the bunt for sure.
- I have a monkey now named Bama Boy and my crocodile is finally too large to keep. I see some Cajun cooking in my near future.

3. Open Discussion: TGFWA Programs' Direction – All, led by Mike and Lynn Hutchinson

Brainstorming session with various suggestions that might continue to improve and expand the program services of the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach of Together for West Africa. At this point, all of the Togo House Program activities have been adjusted to the new location, so for this coming year, there will be no major changes to the delivery of direct services to the Togolese.

Mike Hutchinson 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 style with a large, looped initial "R".