

Spring 2023

# THE DRAKE ADVENTURE

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Dear Friends,

Spring should be here right!? We were able to celebrate all the things that make us think of spring, spring break, easter, ... but here in Mango Togo we are in a drought so those "April Showers" seem to be a miss for us. Let me explain to you a few things that we have seen that remind us that we are in a drought and we are not in spring yet.

First of all, you know this from our stories, in Mango we have 6 months of rainy season and 6 months of dry season. Being at the end of the dry season which runs October to April, it makes sense that we are in a physical drought. Mango lies about 50 feet above the Oti river which provides the city and the people around here with water. Well the last two months it has truly been the lifeline for many around here because the Utilities company can't seem to keep their pumps working. Power outages and power dips are frying pumps. Those pumps normally pump water out of the river, and are then



People gathering water from Oti River

treated to supply water to the town of Mango (50,000 people). But no pumps means many people have had to walk or ride down to the river to fill containers to bring home! Needless to say, people have suffered from waterborne diseases these last few months. We have been taking many bucket baths! (Interesting fact, Faith can bathe August and Nico with only 2 Solo cups of water). This drought is a yearly thing that we've seen but because of the population growth and the deforestation we think it is getting worse. And power is worse than we've ever seen it. It's supposed to be at 220v but many days we only get about 130v. Because of this water shortage, many people spend their whole day getting water just to survive and it has become a very big topic of discussion for the



Utilities Pump Room in mango

whole community.

This has been compounded by the fact that these past 30 days has been their holy month of Ramadan, in which they fast during the daylight hours and feast during the nighttime. You would think because they are fasting during the day, they would use less water, but on the contrary, they have told us that they use almost twice as much because of the food they prepare and the washing they have to do for the ablution for their prayers, the clean clothes for the celebrations and the heat makes you have to shower 3 or 4 times a night. Anyway, it has been a true test of perseverance and patience in dealing with this drought. We always say we are going to be better prepared next year but this year has been a struggle like no other.



So not only is there a physical lack of water, there's a spiritual lack of the living water. Ramadan has been a heavy month of prayers and seeking the Lord's Face for our friends and their salvation. During this month of Ramadan our muslim friends are trying to test their dedication, reflection and discipline towards Allah. They believe as one person told me in town that this month "allows us to shield ourselves from sin through fasting". OH MY! We truly are heartbroken for them as only God is our shield and not some works of our own doing. **"He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."** Psalm 91:4. It's HIS Faithfulness and no one else's.



This is the other drought we are feeling. It's a spiritual drought. We have really felt the pushback and the hardened hearts after coming back from furlough. We used to be able to have Bible Studies with our friend Ali's family on Monday nights but since coming back they have come up with an excuse every week. We have also seen so much division and strife around us that make us feel like the drought is never ending but we know as it says in Job **12:15 Drought comes when God withholds rain; floods come when he turns water loose. 16 God is strong and always victorious; both deceived and deceiver are in his power.** We see the tight grip that the Evil one has on our friends lives and families that we pray for Christ to reign victorious in Mango.

We especially want to thank you for your prayers and support of Hope Radio outreach. It has been a great blessing to see God work through the ministry of Hope Radio. We had several visitors and phone calls that remind us that we are the only church some people have. As one of our listeners (Daniel) told us, Hope Radio is his "Constant Companion in Christ"! What an amazing task God has given us and a huge responsibility to be constantly proclaiming truths that will change lives for all eternity. Faith continues to faithfully share the Gospel with friends and workers from the community while she cleans their teeth. She loves how God has used her in this way and it's just one more seed planted in the hearts of our friends.

We also see the same thing through the ministry of Le Bon Berger, Faith is able to teach English at the school and really sees the need for these children to come to know Christ at a young age. We are currently,

Faith teaching a class at Bon Berger retreat

as a board of directors, considering, planning and seeking funding to start the Middle School (6-8th grade) as our students will be finishing 5th grade this year. Would you consider how you could be a part of the middle school building fund. <https://www.abwe.org/work/projects/mango-christian-school-le-bon-berger>.

As we see the drought in front of us today, we are also reminded that there is a great Harvest that our Lord is preparing and we want to be found faithfully working in the Harvest. Please continue to pray and support the Drakes in Mango Togo.

In His Service,  
Adam, Faith, Oceane, Celeste, August, and Nico

Whole Family dressed up for a wedding

