

First Learners

Vickie Reynen ICCM Africa Regional Coordinator

While meeting with a group of ICCM sponsored secondary students in the very rural village of Tchore, a question popped into my mind which I immediately relayed to Rev. Dosseh, the National Leader of the FMC in Togo. He chuckled at me, before turning to the students and asking, in Ewe, "How many of you have parents who went to school?"

No hands were raised. It was a small group – less



than 10 students, so, I asked Dosseh, of all the children attending the ICCM primary school, (118 children on that day) ... how many have parents who received formal education?"

I'm not sure why his reply, "Very few, if any" caught me by surprise, but it did! I know there are no other schools in this village. Not private, not government.

But subconsciously, I thought some parents must have received some formal education. Wrong.

It's entirely possible the majority of the children attending our Tchore FM ICCM school, are the first of their families to have the opportunity to learn in a school setting. Perhaps an older sibling may have been sent to live with relatives in the bigger cities for a chance at education, but for many parents, their children, at this school, are setting a new course for their families.

I looked with new eyes at the students lining up for porridge during break time, or standing at attention around the flag pole during assembly. The shy first graders, still in their first few days as a "student", a bit unsure of the class routines. They will have challenges for sure, as they continue on this path ... but oh what joy and a sense of accomplishment await them, and their parents, when they finish their studies.



There are many children eligible for sponsorship in Togo. If you'd like to help by sponsoring a Togo child check out childcareministries.org or call 1-800-342-5531 ext. 502



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Meet Our Togo Team!

Bonjour! Comment ça va? If you're thinking of coming to visit our ICCM Team in Togo, you'll want to



learn at least a few words of French! But even if you don't, you'll be warmly greeted, in English, by our ICCM staff!

Recently, Pastor Assah Prosper, joined our ICCM team as the National Coordinator. Having experience in both pastoral ministry and education, Pastor Assah is ready to help take the next steps in developing the hearts and minds of our sponsored children. Togo is not a big country — and ICCM is a small pro-

gram — but there is room for growth. Pastor Assah desires to help our children in ways that will benefit and sustain them far beyond their childhood. We're thankful for Pastor Assah's willingness to take on this role. Pray for him as he leads the way forward.

Assah will be assisted by Mrs. Mazama. Mazama has worked for ICCM for several years already. She knows the ropes. Between the two of them, and with the Lord's help, you're sure to hear great reports about the impact of ICCM on the lives of children in Togo.



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How I Was Impacted by ICCM Sponsorship



Ephaste, Niyigena, ICCM National Coordinator Rwanda

Alice Bland is one of the people who influenced my life. She made an incredible investment in my childhood through ICCM sponsorship. I am who I am today or will be in the future because of sponsorship.

How splendid to have received my sponsor's first photo together with her husband Charles! Our relationship was founded on encouraging words and praying for one another.



In this photo I am holding the rabbit we purchased with a gift of money she sent. This photo of my family includes my father, Elie, my mother, Therese and my siblings, Bernardin and Alvera.

I remember how Alice was saddened by the death of my brother. Later we, as a family, mourned hearing in her letter of family deaths. I treasure these letters and photos received from Alice. My dad kept them safe and transferred them to me after my wedding. I, too, will transfer them with

clear explanations to my children as a precious inheritance. May our Lord's blessings be upon the next generations of Alice Blands who are influencing children and changing the world through sponsorship.