

The January Maybury Monthly

«Les filles de Tselophchad se conformèrent à l'ordre que l'Éternel avait donné à Moïse, »Nombres 36 : 10 (LS)

“Just as the LORD commanded Moses, so did the daughters of Zelophehad; Numbers 36: 10 (NKJV)

In the book of numbers, a small sub-plot revolves around the five daughters of a man of Manasseh, named Zelophehad. According to the law that God gave to Moses, sons would inherit the land that God gave to their fathers. In light of this law, it was unfortunate for Zelophehad that he only had daughters. After the death of their dad, these five young women came to Moses and asked if there would be an exception made for those who only had daughters. Moses asked God about that, and God said that daughters would inherit when a family had no sons.

When God made that decision, it opened up the opportunity for a lady from one tribe to marry a man from another tribe and thereby end up transferring land from one tribe to another – something God specifically did not want to happen. (God wanted every tribe to be able to maintain their allotted land for future generations.) So, in the last chapter of Numbers, some of the leaders of Manasseh asked how one could keep their tribal land intact if the daughters of Zelophehad married outside the tribe. Again, Moses asked God what to say, and God responded that the any daughter who inherited land had to marry someone from their own tribe to maintain the land in that tribe's possession.

Imagine that God would put limits on who one could marry! It appears that He does indeed have the right to tell His children who we can or cannot marry. In the verse quoted above, did you notice the response of these five young women? They all did just as the Lord had commanded. God was pleased with their obedience. We each need to ask if God is pleased with our actions in the domain of dating and marriage. He is our God. He has the right to give us limits. Let's follow the good example of these five young women in Numbers and do what the Lord has commanded us.

We are grateful to God for blessing us through our children. Victoria often helps with the cooking, especially when Janice is busy with school lesson preparation. Ben has taken over a lot of the yard work for Peter and helps with the dishes often as well.

Besides the ways that they help free us for other work, we are also grateful for how God is blessing our children themselves. Victoria continues to prepare and teach lessons on Sunday nights to the three other little girls who gather with us on Sundays. Ben continues to enjoy soccer and is becoming a better player at it. We just measured them again and we found that Ben has grown $3/8^{\text{th}}$ of an inch in the last seven weeks (he is now five feet, two and five eighths inches). Victoria is a little behind that, having only grown $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of an inch in the same time (now five feet, one and five eighths inches). When we left Canada last June, they were both under 5'1". If they keep this up, they will both be passing their mother's height before we return to Canada again in 2015. (They are not allowed to get taller than their father . . . or else!)

School continues to go well. This is Janice's major ministry right now. Trying to find time for school preparation around hosting and other household responsibilities can be taxing. Trying to find the time each week around various meetings can also be tricky. Yet, despite the time related difficulties, we are very thankful for how God is using Janice to train and teach Ben and Victoria. Both of our children are learning what they need to succeed at their current grade levels. Victoria is part-way through grade five. Ben is likewise working through grade seven.

Our Sunday morning Kid's Club continues to be a good challenge. After the time off around Christmas and New Year, we found that our group had picked up some bad habits. In the last few weeks, Peter has had to deal with at least one fight every week. Please pray that these children would settle down. Especially pray for Abdulaye. He has been involved with almost every one of these fights.

Another part of the Kid's Club ministry is the training that we are giving to the three leaders who are helping us. Recently, Peter had to help one of them, a young man named Mumoni. Mumoni was preparing to teach the lesson and he had memorized the whole passage! It was really well done, but he did not understand what he had memorized, so he really could not teach it. Please continue to pray that God would help us as we seek to show and teach our leaders how to be better communicators. Often, we have to start with their becoming better readers or more able to study the Bible. Since we are not sufficient for these things, please ask God to work, even through our attempts to help our friends here.

Currently, we have three different Bible studies that we get to participate in each week. On Monday morning, we have a Bible study with the sewing students of Mr. Nogbedji. In this study, we are now in the New Testament and we just touched on Jesus' nature as God the Son. Please ask God to cause these students to accept the truth that God has revealed in His word. On Wednesday morning, there is another study in Tchanaga, a village north of Mango. In that study, we are looking at some of the stories from Moses' life. We have studied how God saved His people at the Red Sea and this week we will look at God's law, the ten commandments. Knowing these laws helps people to realize how often they break God's holy standards, so that they are able to start seeing how sinful they really are – which also shows how much we all need a Saviour from our sins. On Wednesday afternoon, there is another study in Akposou, also north of Mango. This study is a little earlier in the life of Moses. Last week, we studied how God sent Moses to release the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. This week, we will look at the Passover - a night of judgement and salvation.

You can imagine that these studies can keep us busy. Please pray for the possibility to start three more studies as well. They would all be in Mango, which is a great help. Still, we are not sure that we can find the time to add these and still get everything else done that needs to be done. God knows what we can do, so please ask Him to guide us in these opportunities.

The construction of the Hospital of Hope continues to go forward. Everyone on the missionary team here is involved in some way to help this huge project go forward. It is too big for just the construction missionaries to handle alone. It has been a very good experience to see how God has gifted and placed different ones on the team to help in areas that none of us were planning to

do. It has been good for our team to pitch in and help the Weinbergs and the Halls as they seek to get this multiple year task finished by around 2014.

Currently, the Halls are back in the states for a short rest and to get some ministry accomplished there. As they left, various ones have picked up the slack that their departure created. We know of two other families preparing to come to Mango to also help with this task. Please ask God to help the Davis and the Remiger families to be able to get to Mango in 2012 so that they can help with the huge project as well. The Davis family has a health problem that they are asking God to take care of. The Remigers are a little short of the funds they need to be released for ministry in Mango. Please ask God to meet both families in their area of need and to show them His glory even in these days of waiting.

The construction has hit a couple of snags. First, we need more water than our well seems to be giving. There is a possibility that there is a leak in one of the pipes, so it looks like we may need to unearth them again to find the leak. We have started construction of the actual hospital, but some recent changes in design have made it difficult to have accurate plans for the whole hospital building. Please ask God to make it possible for us to get the plans needed for the next part of the hospital before we have to put construction on hold for lack of the necessary detailed plans with which to work.

While we are struggling with some construction issues, please praise God with us for a great goal being met. We have heard official word that the money budgeted for the hospital construction has all come in. We are grateful to God and to the many who gave to accomplish this goal. That does not mean that there is no more opportunity to help with the project. We are still looking for construction teams. We are still open to certain kinds of gifts of supplies. And we are aware that our project's budget was made around 2005. Apparently, things are more expensive today. So we often find our buildings are coming in a little over budget. Realistically, if you still want to help financially, there will be a need for more money still. So you can give with a confidence the money will be used for the hospital construction.

We enjoyed the trip by one of our supporting churches – Stoney Creek Baptist in London. Early in January, Peter drove the team back down to Lomé and saw them off at the airport. The team was a delight and they were great ambassadors of what Canadians can do. One of the things that we enjoyed was that this team brought us some late Christmas presents. On Sunday, we used the soccer gear that they brought to make the game at the end of Kid's Club more "official". Each team had their own jersey and the goalies had different coloured jerseys again. The ref even had a special jersey with a red card and a yellow card. Such gear will help keep older children coming to the club.

If there are any other teams coming out from Canada, you are more than welcome to come (after following the proper procedures).

In the middle of the month, we left Mango to drive south for nine hours to Tsiko. All the ABWE missionaries in Togo get together annually for fellowship and reporting. It was great to see friends from our first years in the south of the country. We are always overwhelmed by the amount of ministry and response that God has given in the south of the country. We seem to be in a more resistant area here in the north of Togo. Still, God is working here as He is farther

south. We look forward with joy to that day that God has planned when people from every tribe and nation will gather around the Lamb to bow their knees before Him and confess Him as LORD. Because of your faithfulness, there will be people there from Togo, both from the south and the north. We hope that fills you with joy. God has used your prayers and other gifts to build up His church here in Togo. The job is not finished, but it is well started.

During our time together in Tsiko, the team made a decision to open up a language school in Lomé, Togo's capital, for evaluation. We currently have a couple (Garon & Susan Harris) and a single (Melissa Friesen) who have been given permission to go to the language school to help us evaluate it. Please pray for these three, that God would bring in their remaining support quickly. They all hope to arrive in Togo in mid-late March. Please pray for the housing details that still need to be finalised. Please ask God to make their evaluation of the language school accurate, so that we will know if it could work for others as well.

Please remember to ask God to help us with some of the requests below.

Please ask God to:

- Give each of us a heart to obey God.
- Give Janice the energy needed for teaching school.
- Calm the children at Kid's Club – especially Abdulaye.
- Help us better train our Kid's Club leaders.
- Give us wisdom about starting any new studies.
- Enable the Davis and Remiger families to get out to Mango in 2012.
- Provide the needed plans to continue construction.
- Show us where the water pipes may be leaking.
- Help Garon & Susan, and Melissa with their French studies in Togo.

Please thank God for:

- How Ben and Victoria help in the home.
- The way our children are growing up.
- Three different Bible studies in the area.
- The team work being demonstrated in the hospital construction.
- All the budgeted money being given or pledged – 5.5 million dollars!
- The blessing the Stoney Creek team was to us and the project.
- A great time together with our colleagues down south in Tsiko.
- The team deciding to try out a language school in Togo.

Serving Him together,

Peter & Janice Maybury (Ben & Victoria)

[The Mayburys on Facebook](#)

pjmaybury@abwe.cc
011(228) 445 – 5879
011(228) 853 – 2807
BP 10,
Mango, Togo, West Africa

Sent out by:
[Knollwood Baptist Church](#)
office@knollwood.ca
(519) 455 - 2090
800 Cheapside St.,
London, Ontario,
N5Y 3Y9

Sent out with:
[ABWE Canada](http://ABWE.Canada)
office@abwecanada.org
(519) 690 - 1009
34-980 Adelaide St. S.,
London, Ontario.
N6E 1R3

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