



BENIN TRIP REPORT

by Gary G. Hoag and Samson Adoungbe



TRIP AIMS

1. Come to Cotonou, Benin, on first visit with biblical teaching on stewardship and pointing ministries to AfCAA (African Council for Accreditation and Accountability) standards.
2. Collaborate to spread Stations of Generosity training with the regional facilitator to equip and activate trainers.
3. Cultivate relationships in Benin with key people at meetings and meals and through prayer, fasting, and confession together.

TRIP VERSE *Acts 20:18, 35*

When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia... In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Act 20:18, 35

Gary Hoag (GTP President & CEO) traveled to Cotonou, Benin, and met up with Samson Adoungbe (GTP Regional Facilitator for Francophone Africa) from 4-9 March 2023 with 3 aims in view (listed at left). The picture above features the 35 Christian workers who convened for the onsite biblical teaching on "Stewardship and Standards – Two Keys to Strengthen Sustainable Ministries." This report shares the fruits of this first-ever GTP trip to Benin.

AIM #1 – COME TO COTONOU, BENIN, ON FIRST VISIT WITH BIBLICAL TEACHING ON STEWARDSHIP AND POINTING MINISTRIES TO AFCAA STANDARDS

We report 4 fruits. **Fruit #1 – Learn.** Participants appreciated getting "new" and "relevant" biblical teaching to grow a culture of transparency and to encourage Christian generosity. **Fruit #2 – List.** Samson, Pastor Roguy Barboza (our French translator), and Sylvie Bekoun (GTP Country Coordinator) also spoke and listed the benefits of the GTP Diagnostic Tool and Templates in French. **Fruit #3 – Love.** We concluded with an activity. We read the AfCAA standards in groups and had people share why God's workers should follow them in Benin. In so doing, they grew to love the AfCAA standards! **Fruit #4 – Lead.** Praise God, Every Home for Christ, Foundation Adonai-Yireeh House, Ministère de Réveil Retour à la Parole (MRRP), and Eglise Baptiste Evangélique Missionnaire want to lead the way for Francophone Africa and get accredited with AfCAA. Samson will help them do this!



It was really good teaching we received this afternoon in Cotonou, Benin, from the Bible. We gained principles about the management of God's work and how to grow people of honesty and good character who people can trust with finances. We need to follow the AfCAA standards and be accredited because this way is according to the will of God. Doing this will help to correct misbehavior in society and the mismanagement of money in the church. Paul gave us the instructions in his letters to the churches in Corinth and Rome. We need to follow them. Often the person in charge of money is just a pastor out of Bible school. We need to engage skilled people. If we follow standards together we will bring blessing to our people like Abraham. God told Him, 'I will bless you and make you a fount of blessing to others.' May He do this for us in Benin for the glory of His name.

*– Dr. Afolabi Ghislain Agbede
Senior Pastor of Baptist Community of
Siloé Porto-Novo
Professor of Systematic Theology, and
Founder and President of Foundation
Adonai-Yireeh House*

AIM #2 – COLLABORATE TO SPREAD STATIONS OF GENEROSITY ("STATIONS") TRAINING WITH THE REGIONAL FACILITATOR TO EQUIP AND ACTIVATE TRAINERS

We report 5 fruits. **Fruit #1 – Receptive.** Some key influencers who attended the teaching day also asked to be trained along with trainers for growing generosity in Benin, so we had 40 people go through Stations and get certificates.

Fruit #2 – Repent. After watching the Palmful of Maize video in Session #2, many expressed that God's people in Benin need to repent, change directions, and have the mindset change with God's help. **Fruit #3 – Response.** The check-out words in response to the Stations of Generosity training were: perfect, beautiful, transforming, impactful, excellent, powerful, generosity, confidence, awesome, and multiplication. **Fruit #4 – Remember.** Gary and Samson were deeply touched when the group who acted out the Good Samaritan had the Samaritan character carry the GTP banner (pictured at bottom). He said, "You are a foreigner who has come with love to help us get on our feet." **Fruit #5 – Rate.** In looking at the surveys, the average participant rated their heart at 4.8 before Stations and at 9.3 after. God grew generosity in their hearts.



I have more confidence in the values of generosity after the GTP visit. I can be the person who is blessed and a blessing. Having been in ministry for 24 years I have lived my life for others since I was 20. I am 44 years old with a family and I am pastor of a church. Now I am confident God has called me for this. I have found here in Benin, that it is difficult for people to understand generosity because most Africans think we should be receivers. This was the mindset in the Palmful of Maize video from Malawi. People think we should just receive and not give. We need the mindset change. Not only do I plan to live out my generosity values, I think of replication in terms of helping those around me and everyone in my church. They look at me and say, Pastor Roguy you just live for others. But now with the training tool, Stations of Generosity, I can explain to them why. I believe they will all understand it and train their families.

*– Pastor Roguy Barboza
Back to the Word Revival Ministries
GTP French Translator for Benin*

AIM #3 – CULTIVATE RELATIONSHIPS IN BENIN WITH PEOPLE AT MEETINGS AND MEALS AND THROUGH PRAYER, FASTING, AND CONFESSION TOGETHER

We report 3 fruits. **Fruit #1 – Sister Sylvie Bekoun** – She has agreed to stand with Samson as GTP Country Coordinator for Benin (pictured at far left next to Gary when we gathered for prayer for Benin at the famous Amazone statue in Cotonou). Look for her to collaborate with Samson to replicate the teaching and training we delivered. She's already asked if she and Samson can replicate the two events we did with more groups. **Fruit #2 – Pastor Roguy Barboza**. He served as the translator at our teaching and training events (pictured at far right next to Samson at right). He will be a significant encourager to Samson and Sylvie as the accountability and generosity movement grows in Benin. **Fruit #3 – Sunday Alva**. Sunday heads up the World Missionary Press and the Revival Movement Association in Benin (he is pictured at the bottom with Samson). We talked about translating and publishing 30-day devotionals in French for growing generous stewards and resourcing the movement in Francophone Africa.



I am so happy to serve with Samson Adoungbe as the Country Coordinator for Benin. I am excited for all that has happened in my country this week. The biblical teaching coupled with the training and executed with teamwork and practical tools will help us so much. This has been the realization of a dream, a vision, that we have been praying for and working toward for a long time. It has become a reality. It's like a woman who has carried a baby for a long time. She waits and finally the baby has come. And the name of the baby is "Hope" for the future of God's Church in Benin.

*– Mrs. Sylvie Bekoun
Head of Women's Organization of Benin
and GTP Country Coordinator for Benin*