

# TOUCHSTONE TIMES

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## EXCITING NEWS!

### “HAVE I GOT A DEAL FOR YOU...”

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God’s masterpiece, created to do good works that he prepared beforehand for us to do. Let me tell you a story that fully defines this verse for us.

In the spring of 1995, I (Jerald) decided to go back to college at the University of Idaho and study aquaculture and business. I don’t really know why I chose that degree, but it felt right at the time. After graduation and many years of trying, I never could make a career out of it so I continued as a mechanic and then a science teacher for the last 20 years. While we have always desired to serve in missions, God has been keeping us busy in ministry here at home in the US. However, last fall, our pastor pulled me aside after church one Sunday morning and said: “have I got a deal for you...”

He had just returned from a teaching trip to Togo, West Africa and spent a week at the Village of Light School for the Blind. At this school they have a very nice commercial aquaponics system. But it currently lacks a person who knows aquaponics and has a heart for missions.

After a lot of prayer and discussion, we recently applied with ABWE (Association of Baptists for World Evangelism), and have now been commissioned as missionaries to serve in Togo, managing the aquaponics system at the school.

Lord willing, we would like to be ready to go to Togo as soon as our son Nathan graduates from high school in two years. In the meantime, we are working toward finding people that are interested in partnering with us through prayer and financial support to make this ministry possible.

#### GROW

Fish and vegetables to support the ministry at the Village of Light School for the Blind.

#### EQUIP

Local pastors by training them in small scale hydroponic systems.

#### HELP

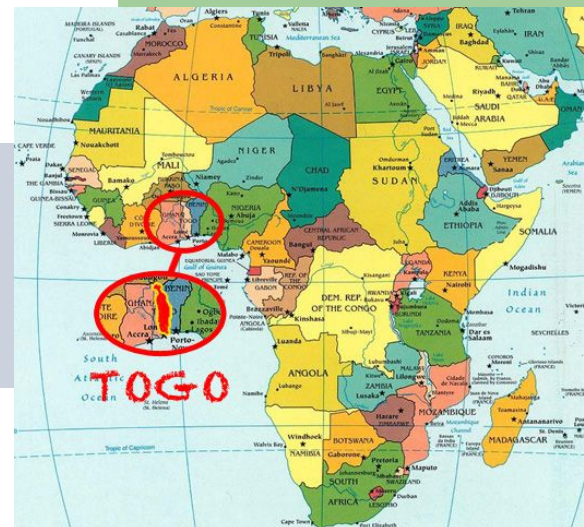
The southern Togo team to fulfill the Great Commission.

## Where are we going?

*Kpalime, Togo*

*Village of Light  
School for the Blind*

Started in 1974 by ABWE missionary Kay Washer, the Village of Light School for the Blind provides a K-6th grade education (in French and Braille) as well as some job skills training to blind students from all over Togo. The school is able to share God’s love with people who are often outcasts in their communities because of their blindness, and give them hope for their future.





# What will we be doing there?

## Aquaponics Ministry

There is a large aquaponics system on the school property which is designed to raise up to 8000 tilapia fish at a time, as well as tons of fresh vegetables to feed the students at the blind school and provide extra income for the school. We will be in charge of the operation, including working with and teaching Togolese workers.

Our secondary goal is to design small scale aquaponics systems that we can teach local Togolese churches to run in order to better support their pastors.

In addition to helping with the aquaponics ministry, Katie will be working with one of the other missionaries to set up an "internet café" where they can teach some computer skills, and host Bible studies and English classes.

We will also enjoy getting involved in ministries in the local church, and Jerald will likely teach a few classes at the Bible institute located on the blind school campus.



## How can you get involved?

We would be honored to have you partner with us in this ministry opportunity. God calls some to be Goers, and others to be Senders. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us as Senders?

If you would like to become one of our monthly supporters, or make a one-time donation, go to:

<http://myaccount.abwe.org/p-2780-touchstone-jerald-catherine.aspx>

Or go to [www.abwe.org](http://www.abwe.org) and search for our Account #0170701. For more information, visit our new website: [www.TouchstonesToTogo.com](http://www.TouchstonesToTogo.com)!

*Thank you!*

## What about the kids?

Alexia is starting her senior year of college, which will be mostly student teaching. She will graduate in May 2019, and then begin adulting as a new elementary teacher!

Nikki just graduated from high school this year, and will be starting at the University of Idaho, studying Interior Design.

Nathan is a junior in high school, and is looking forward to this year's football season. Go Chargers!

While none of our kids will still be living at home and moving overseas with us when we leave in 2 years, we trust the Lord will provide and protect, and we'll see them as often as we can. If any of you want to sign up now to provide them meals on school breaks, I'm sure they'd love it!