



Update from Tom Johnson June 2021

Dear Friends,

So much has changed since my last letter to you this spring. At that time, we were just getting re-adjusted to having Aïchatou in our home again, after mental illness kept her away from us. Since then, she has made remarkable progress and is participating in family life, work, church, and recreation (having taken up pickleball!). Also, she has returned to taking daily pills instead of twice-monthly injections to manage her condition, which reduced some undesirable side effects and has given her more energy. It's miraculous to see the differences!



You might also be aware that my posting to Many Hands for Haiti as their Spiritual Development Manager has come to an end, as my RCA supervisor, Rev. Luis Ruiz, notified supporting churches of this in April. This means I'll no longer be traveling to Haiti for training. During my time with MH4H, I helped establish the ongoing training (continuing education) of their chaplains and I introduced digital recording, audio, and video resources for non-literate outreach. I also trained on topics such as understanding voodoo practices and spiritual warfare, recognizing and relying on the Holy Spirit, and a variety of missiological and cultural factors and approaches for ministry. If you have any additional questions on this transition, please contact Rev. Ruiz at lruiz@rca.org.

Currently, I'm on sabbatical, which is provided to RCA missionaries after approximately every seven years of service (my previous sabbatical was in 2013). I'm catching up with my reading and taking some online courses from The Christian Leaders Institute (<https://www.christianleadersinstitute.org/>). My employment status with RCA Global Missions has not changed and we're now in discussions with another Christian training organization for me to launch and direct their French-language leadership certification track. It is too early, though, to say any more, but we hope to announce something definitive in the near future.

On the family front, Marie and Laurey are working with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) again this summer in south-central Iowa to conduct five-day clubs and similar outreach activities for children 4-12 years of age. Last year, they had several weeks where they held three clubs per day. Throughout the summer, they shared the gospel with hundreds of kids. As a four-year veteran of CEF, Marie has additional supervisory responsibilities, as well. Ellie is playing middle-school softball and will attend a church camp during her school vacation. Thekla will participate in her first VBS at our home church in Leighton, IA.

PRAYERS AND PRAISES

1. We're thankful that Aïchatou is doing so well now that she is back with us and taking her medicine. Continue to pray for her restoration and God to clearly guide her.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

2. Give thanks for the end of my ministry with Many Hands for Haiti and pray that God will open the right doors for the next placement where I can apply my cross-cultural skills for His glory.
3. Pray that God will equip and refresh me during my sabbatical for my next ministry role.
4. Pray for the girls' summer CEF experience and that God will draw many children to hear the Gospel message through 5-Day Clubs and other outreach activities.

In Christ,

Tom and family