

WALKING WITH JESUS IN EWE

ENCOURAGING A STRONGER FAITH

Jesus Film
Project[®]
A Cru Ministry



Encouraging a Stronger Faith

Walking With Jesus in Ewe



Language Name:
EWE

Recording Dates:
JUNE 16-29, 2017

Target Country:
TOGO

Recording Team:
LIZ*
JULIA
TORRIE (*Author of Report*)

Film Version:
WALKING
WITH JESUS

Needing Peace, Quiet and Prayer

Liz, Julia and I arrived at our destination tired, expecting to get a good night's sleep before beginning the project. But our actors, eager to start, came early the next morning. So much for sleeping in!

We recorded at the local Student-Led Movement (a Cru® ministry) center where a few college students live. Sometimes they came in for meetings or to hang out or study. We often had to ask people in the hallways to keep quiet. Birds outside the windows chirped so loudly we had to scare them away. The roar of motorcycles and the blare of car horns threatened our need for silence. Before meals we could hear people pounding yams. Several times a day trains rumbled past.

The film review posed the greatest challenge. The review committee members spent a lot of time discussing changes that needed to be made. I actually left the room and went on a prayer walk during this process, sending a message to our team back home to pray. When I came back my teammates revealed only six lines needed to be re-recorded! God truly answered.



Our dialogue director always smiled. He loved sharing his favorite local dish, fufu (boiled and ground plantain or cassava), with us.

**Some names and/or locations have been changed for confidentiality.*

CONFIDENTIAL

Prayer Requests

- ➡ **Pray** *Walking With Jesus* encourages and grounds Ewe speakers in their faith.
- ➡ **Pray** as the film series is shown in the villages that more chiefs will find truth and comfort in Christ's teaching and turn from their idolatrous practices.
- ➡ **Pray** for unity among the different church denominations in spreading the gospel and church planting in Togo.



The power of *Walking With Jesus* lies in its ability to show people how to follow Christ. On the screen the Ewe speakers watch scenarios unfold—situations they experience themselves. They closely identify with the characters. Many finally make the connection between how they live their lives and the Word of God.

You are giving the Ewe a tool for transformation. Thank you.

Duplicating, emailing or posting this information on the internet may result in believers being persecuted or even killed. The safety of many depends on your discretion.

"Ewe JSN REC #27199." Published October 2018. Cover Photo: "Girls" by Julien Harneis; CC BY-SA 2.0; via Flickr.

Created Uniquely for Them

Many Ewe profess Christ but need to be more solidly grounded in their faith. *Walking With Jesus* gives ministry workers a unique tool to help do that. Outside of the cities more people practice voodoo. The middle region of the country has a high Muslim population. Nonbelievers are often captivated by the stories in this film series.

Walking With Jesus relates well to the culture in Togo. So many of the issues addressed in the episodes are things Togolese people know firsthand. As they watch the film series, they see how problems are corrected from a biblical perspective. This encourages them to live more fully for Christ.

Pastor Pierre voiced the announcer in the film. He and one of our coordinators, who we called Mama, do film showings all over Togo. One time they showed the French *Walking With Jesus* to 22 chiefs of various villages. Eight became believers! Showing the film to the chiefs before the rest of the villagers honors them. Then they welcome Pastor Pierre and Mama into their villages, whether the chiefs are believers or not. Many chiefs practice forms of voodoo. They think it gives them more power.

Church leaders will let village chiefs know they're coming to show the Ewe *Walking With Jesus*. They want to have each chief's blessing and know it will be safe for them to share this great teaching.



Voice acting is hard work, especially when you are trying to match your words to the lip movements in the film. Our actors found the most unique places to rest during their breaks.

Personal Thoughts

Everyone in Togo's capital speaks French. Our dialogue director became frustrated at times when the younger voice actors had trouble pronouncing Ewe words correctly. *Walking With Jesus* can help preserve the language in the capital city. In the villages the reverse is true. Most only know Ewe and don't speak French at all. Each language is important and part of people's identity and history.

This was my favorite recording trip. I loved working with the Togolese. I felt like we were just hanging out with friends, and now they truly *are* dear friends.