

FAR FLUNG AIR

# WEST AFRICA

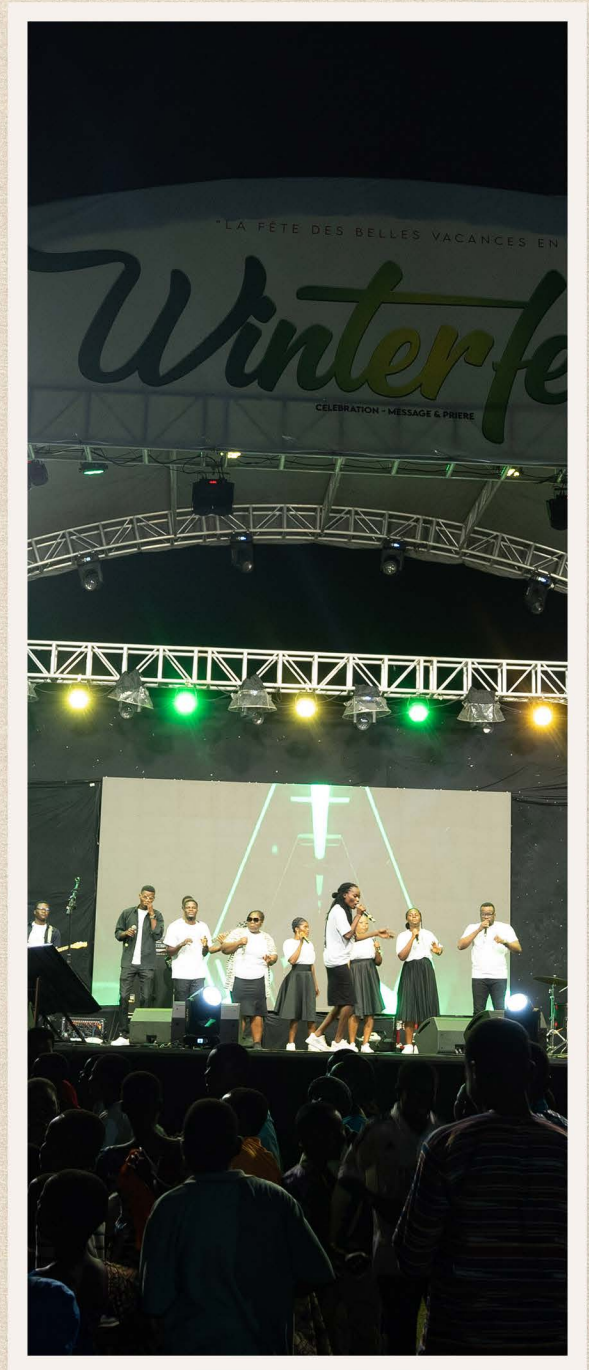


# *Greetings from Tennessee!*

**We are thrilled that you're joining us on this new air mission to West Africa – Togo & Benin! This journey marks an exciting new chapter for Far-Flung Tin Can as we bring the Gospel to the water city of Ganvie, Benin, and lead worship at Winterfest in Lome, Togo.**

**We are expectant for what God will do, both in the lives of those we serve and in your own heart as you step into this cross-cultural adventure. We truly believe that the Lord has brought this team together for a divine purpose, and we can't wait to see how He will use each of you!**

**This packet contains important details to help you prepare, from logistics and ministry context to what to pack and how to care for your health while traveling in West Africa.**



## *Why Togo & Benin?*

Togo and Benin sit in the vibrant heart of West Africa, rich with culture, faith traditions, and deep spiritual need. This trip is unique, as it unites worship, evangelism, and church-planting in a region where partnership, relationship, and presence matter deeply.

In Ganvie, Benin, often called the “Venice of Africa,” communities live atop Lake Nokoue in stilt homes over the water. We have the privilege of planting a church in this historic and strategic cultural center, bringing the life-giving message of Jesus to families and neighbors who may have never before heard it in a personal, local way.

In Lome, Togo, we will join believers for Winterfest, a time of worship, celebration, and proclamation of the Gospel that draws young people from across the region. Your voice, presence, and heart will help create space for God to move powerfully.

This trip is an invitation to step beyond comfort, to embrace cross-cultural ministry, and to follow Jesus into places that matter – physically, spiritually, and permanently.

## *Nuts and Bolts*

With any mission trip, there’s a lot to prepare for. This packet is here to help you get ready! You’ll find everything you need to know about packing, logistics, and what to expect so you can begin preparing your heart and mind for the adventure ahead.



# *Packing Guidelines*

West Africa in August is hot, humid, and often rainy, so lightweight, breathable, modest clothing and good planning are essential. Here's what we recommend:

## **Clothing**

- Lightweight, breathable shirts and pants (cotton or quick-dry fabrics) essential for tropical heat and humidity.
- Modest attire for village ministry and cultural respect – avoid sleeveless tops or shorts above the knee in public/rural areas.
- Long-sleeved shirts and pants for evenings to reduce mosquito exposure.
- A rain jacket or compact poncho. August falls within the rainy season, so quick downpours are common.

## **Footwear**

- Comfortable walking shoes or sturdy sandals for ministry sites, village paths, and city streets.
- Flip-flops or shower shoes for accommodations and downtime.

## **Sun & Insect Protection**

- Sunscreen (SPF 30+) & sunglasses – the sun is strong near the equator.
- High-strength insect repellent (DEET or Picaridin) as mosquitoes are prevalent in tropical climates.
- Insect-repellent clothing or permethrin treatment for gear/clothes (optional but helpful).

## **Toiletries & Personal Care**

- Basic hygiene items (toothpaste, shampoo, etc.).
- Microfiber towel – lightweight and quick to dry.
- Hand sanitizer & wet wipes – useful for travel days.

## **Health & Safety**

- Personal medications in original containers with your name on them.
- A small travel first aid kit (band-aids, pain relievers, blister care).
- Water bottle with filter or purification tablets. Bottled water is safest for drinking.

## **Ministry Essentials**

- Bible & Journal – expect God to speak deeply on this trip!
- Portable charger/power bank – power may be inconsistent.

## **Travel Documents & Money**

- Passport with at least 6-month validity beyond travel dates.
- Printed copies of your itinerary, passport ID page, and emergency contacts.
- Cash for souvenirs and personal expenses; most places won't accept U.S. debit cards reliably.
- Proof of yellow fever vaccine.



# *Suggested Shots & Health Precautions*

Before traveling to Togo & Benin, we strongly recommend you consult a travel clinic or your physician 4–8 weeks before departure. Suggested vaccinations for U.S. travelers typically include:

## **VACCINES**

- **Yellow Fever:** required for entry into both Togo and Benin. Proof of vaccination may be required upon arrival.
- **Hepatitis A & B:** recommended due to risk from food and water exposure.
- **Typhoid:** recommended for most travelers in West Africa.
- **Polio:** booster recommended for adults if not up to date.
- **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap):** make sure routine immunizations are current.
- **Rabies:** recommended if you'll be outdoors frequently or around animals.
- **Meningococcal Meningitis:** often recommended for travel in parts of West Africa; discuss with your clinic.

## **Malaria Prophylaxis**

Malaria is present in Togo and Benin year-round. A medical provider can prescribe appropriate antimalarial medication (such as Malarone or similar) to take before, during, and after your trip.

## **Additional Recommendations**

- Pack insect repellent with at least 20% DEET or Picaridin.
- Use mosquito repellent bracelets and treated mosquito nets when available.
- Avoid swimming in untreated freshwater (rivers, lakes) to reduce risk of schistosomiasis.

## *Allergies*

If you have any food or environmental allergies, PLEASE let us know ASAP. This helps us plan meals, groceries, and accommodations safely. If you carry medication for allergic reactions, ensure it's clearly labeled and kept with you.

## *a Note from Kyle*

We are honored that you're part of this first West Africa air mission! Togo and Benin each carry rich spiritual histories and great opportunities for the Gospel. From the floating water villages of Ganvie to the vibrant worship settings in Lome, we believe God is already preparing hearts, both yours and those you'll meet.



Come ready to listen, to serve, and to be changed. This trip will stretch you, surprise you, and connect you with the global family of believers in ways that stay with you long after you return home. We can't wait to see what God does in and through you!



# *Tentative Schedule*

• Please note that the itinerary for this trip is subject to change due to weather conditions, the evolving needs of the people we serve, unforeseen circumstances, or the guidance of the Lord.

**Day 1** Start travel to Togo

**Day 2** Arrive in Togo, soundcheck for Togo Winterfest

**Day 3** Explore Togo, rehearsals, Winterfest evening service

**Day 4** Winterfest all day

**Day 5** Winterfest all day

**Day 6** Minister in local village churches, travel to Benin

**Day 7** Full day of ministry in Ganvie, evening downtime

**Day 8** Full day of house-to-house ministry in Ganvie, return to Togo

**Day 9** Rest day at AirBnB

**Day 10&11** Travel home

