

A stylized orange map of the Ivory Coast is positioned in the top left corner, partially overlapping a green circular graphic.

# Kristina Premo

ASSISTING CHURCH PLANTERS IN THE IVORY COAST

Dear Pastor,

God has given me a burden to assist church planters in reaching the people of the Ivory Coast, West Africa, with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many years ago, Missionary Bob Mach shared a video about ways that people could use their skills to assist in church planting on the mission field. One of the ways that he shared was English as a Second Language. In his testimony after the video, he said that he is regularly asked by the people of the city when he will start an English school and that the door is wide open for using teaching English to share the gospel and reach more people in the community.

When I knew that God was leading me to go to the mission field, He brought to mind that video. Last summer, I took a survey trip with the purpose of discovering how God might allow me to use my teaching skills to open doors in sharing the gospel.

During that trip, I was able to tutor kids from the local public school, develop a relationship with them, share my beliefs with them, and invite them to church. I was also able to teach in a private school and, in the process, share my own beliefs. If I were to return, I could start a Bible club in that private school and have the opportunity to reach even more students with the gospel.

One of the primary objectives of my trip was to see whether we could start an English club at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny University (the largest university in the Ivory Coast) for the ultimate purpose of sharing the gospel. We were able to meet with the dean of the English department, and he is a Christian! He was ready to set me up right then and there with a classroom.

The door is wide open! While the people see learning English as a means of getting better jobs and improving their quality of life, I know that teaching English allows me the opportunity to show them that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that the best life is a life given to Him!

Would you consider partnering with me in reaching the people of the Ivory Coast? I would love to be able to visit your church and share the vision that God has given me.

Because of Christ,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Kristina Premo".

*Kristina Premo*

## CONTACT INFO

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# The Person

## **Psalm 16:11 begins with, "Thou wilt show me the path of life:"**

I accepted Christ as my Saviour at a very young age. While I don't remember the exact date, I clearly remember my aunt showing me from the Bible that I was a sinner, that the punishment for sin is death, and that Jesus paid that price so that I might have eternal life. Right then and there I kneeled at the end of her bed and accepted His gift of salvation.

When I was in fourth grade, I remember coming home from camp and telling my parents that I was going to be a missionary. I remember them being excited for me, and as the years passed, they would encourage me to grow in my relationship with the Lord and regularly remind me to stay open to whatever God had for me.

Since then, there has always been a desire within me to go to the mission field. We have all heard testimonies from people who when they surrendered to God's will were afraid God would take them to the primitive recesses of Africa. For me, it was the opposite. I wanted to go to Africa, but God wanted me to stay. Ultimately, He led me to Cleveland Baptist Church and Heritage Christian School where I taught English for over 10 years. Looking back, I believe He had me stay so that I might deepen my relationship with Him, develop my skills as a teacher, and grow as a person.

Then about a year and a half ago, the Lord really began working in my heart, showing me that it was time. He was fulfilling the desire of my heart. In March 2021, I met with my pastor, Pete Folger, and shared with him what God was doing in my heart.

I then started praying about exactly where the Lord would have me, and over time I became sure that He was leading me to the Ivory Coast to work alongside veteran missionaries, Bob and Becky Mach. As of right now, I plan to teach English in local schools and the university to open doors to sharing the gospel with people who might otherwise never hear about Christ. I also plan to assist Bro. Mach in teaching in the Fundamental Baptist Bible College.

The rest of Psalm 16:11 says, "in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand are pleasures for evermore."

Truly, the place of greatest peace and joy and satisfaction is found in pursuing the path that God places before us. I look forward to this next step that He has laid before me.



# The Preparation

## **Education:**

West Coast Baptist College (2005-2009)  
Bachelor of Religious Education  
Major in Secondary Education English with a minor in Business

Pensacola Christian College (2014-2016)  
Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction  
Specialization in English

UNI-Prep Institute (2019)  
Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)

## **Ministry Experience:**

Teaching – Elementary, Middle School, High School, Adult Ladies

Outreach – Soul Winning, Discipleship, and Counseling

Other Ministries – Audio/Video, Music, Bus, Nursery, Nursing Homes

## **Work Experience:**

Liberty Baptist Academy, Las Vegas, NV (2009-2010)  
Junior High English Teacher

Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster, CA (2010-2011)  
Great Awakening Coffeeshop and Bookstore

Heritage Christian School, Cleveland, OH (2011-2022)  
Junior High English Teacher

## **Mission Board:**

Baptist International Missions, Inc.  
Approved in December 2021

A stylized map of Côte d'Ivoire in orange, set against a green circular background. The title 'The Place' is written in a green, cursive font to the right of the map.

# The Place

**Capital:** Yamoussoukro

**Population:** 27,053,629

**% Urban:** 52.2 %

**Population Under 15 Yrs:** 41.7 %

**Official Language:** French

**Languages:** 93

**Literacy Rate:** 57 %

**HDI Ranking:** 162/189

**Largest Religion:** Islam (41.8%)

**People Groups:** 108

The country has been essentially divided between Muslim north and multi-faith but predominantly Christian south. Although peace is established and the nation is moving forward, the loss of life, of infrastructure and of confidence in Côte d'Ivoire's fundamental unity will leave scars on the nation's psyche.

Animism is still strong in Côte d'Ivoire, despite apparent numerical decline. Although evangelical congregations outnumber sacred fetish groves for the first time in the nation's history, animism's power remains unbroken and penetrates deep into the worldview and practices of both Christians and Muslims. Many believers are affected by the power of African traditional religion, especially through fetish charms and ancestor worship, compromising both their witness and their own life in Christ.

Islam spread and grew rapidly during the 20th Century, from 5% in 1900 to near 41.8% today. Tribal groups in the north and pockets of tribes all over the country are becoming Muslim. Urban concentrations of Muslims are high as are conversion rates among new immigrants to the cities.

Abidjan's exploding population has doubled in the last 15 years to five million in the metropolitan area, making it the third largest city in the Francophone world. It is the strategic key for evangelization of Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Burkina Faso. All people groups of these latter two lands have a significant community in the city, but most are neglected by the Church. Over 2.5 million Muslims, roughly half of the city, are scarcely touched with the gospel.

Young people are responsive, and wherever churches minister specifically to them, there is fruit. Liberty to teach Scripture in public schools is an exciting but under-used opportunity through lack of qualified personnel.

**Source:** *Operation World*, 2010



# Statement of Faith

## **The Bible**

I believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God. I believe that He used men to pen those words under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I believe that the King James Version is the preserved Word of God for the English-speaking people and is the version that I will use in my ministry. (Psalm 12:6-7; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

## **Jesus Christ**

I believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh and the only Savior of mankind. I believe He came to earth as the son of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and offered Himself on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. I believe that His death on the cross is the only way to an eternal heaven. I believe He resurrected bodily and ascended into Heaven where He now resides until His return. (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 43:11; John 1:1, 3, 14, 18, 29; Romans 3:19-25; Romans 5:6-15; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Timothy 2:5, 3:16; Titus 2:10-15; Hebrews 7:26, 9:24-28; 1 Peter 1:19, 2:2; 1 John 1:3; Revelation 20:1-6)

## **The Holy Spirit**

I believe the Holy Spirit of God is an equal person of the Godhead who is presently indwelling and directing those who are saved along with advancing the gospel in the world. The Holy Spirit is sent to regenerate, sanctify, seal, and indwell all who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:2; Matt. 28:19; John 3:5-6, 14:16; Acts 1:5, 11:15; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12:13)

## **Sin and Salvation**

I believe all men were born with an inherited sin nature received from our common ancestor, Adam. I believe that because of his nature, man is a sinner by choice, and he is totally incapable of reforming himself or ceasing from his sin by his own power. I believe the only hope of deliverance for man is a total change of mind concerning his sinful condition and inability to change it, and a turning to Jesus Christ as the only Savior. I believe that only through the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ on the cross can a man be delivered from his sin. I believe that all those who reject Jesus Christ as their Savior are already condemned to an eternity in the lake of fire. (Genesis 5:1-5; Acts 4:19; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:10-23; Romans 5:6-12; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6; Revelation 20:11-14)



# Statement of Faith Continued

## **The New Testament Church**

I believe the local church is Christ's institution for advancing His gospel and doing His work in the world. The church is made up of those who have been saved and biblically baptized (Acts 2:4; Col. 2:13; Matt. 3:13-17) uniting and faithfully gathering together for the purposes of Bible teaching, worship, prayer, fellowship, service, and observance of baptism and communion. This body is autonomous in nature. (Col. 1:18; 2nd Cor. 8:1-8; Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 1:15, 2:41-43, 11:15, 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15: 51-58; Ephesians 1:12-14, 5:25-30; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Timothy 3:4-15)

## **Separation**

I believe that a Christian should grow in grace, living a life that is becoming of the gospel and honoring to Jesus Christ—properly reflecting His love and holiness. I believe in separating from biblical heresy and from sinful, self-destructive, and immoral behavior. (Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; Leviticus 19:28; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)

## **End Times**

I believe in the literal interpretation of the Scriptures in context and with a dispensational view of prophecy. I believe that following timeline of future events will go as follows: first, the rapture of the church, followed by a seven-year tribulation and the return of Jesus to the earth, followed by His literal rule of one thousand years ending with the Great White Throne Judgment, culminating with the creation of a new Heaven and new earth. (1 Corinthians 15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:1-9; Revelation 19-22)

## **Giving**

I believe that every Christian is a steward of the material gifts of God entrusted to him. This generosity should be driven by grace (not obligation), empowered by gratitude, and should flow from a willing and cheerful heart for the development of the church and advancement of the gospel. I believe that God did however institute a giving requirement of ten percent of the firstfruits He gives us. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)



# Prayer Card Front



**Kristina**  
**PREMO**

*Missionary to Cote d'Ivoire*



# Prayer Card Back



## Psalm 66:16

Come *and* hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

### Assisting local churches in declaring the gospel:

- Establish an English training school
- Start an English club at the university
- Launch English clubs in local private and public schools

### Equipping national pastors with tools to enhance their ministries:

- Teach English in the Fundamental Baptist Bible College

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### Sending Church:

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# *The Mach Family*

*Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), W. Africa*

July 19, 2021

Dear Prospective Supporting Pastor,

It is with much confidence that I recommend Kristina Premo to you for consideration as an addition to your missions program. We have been blessed to know Kristina since 2010 at which time she joined our home church, the Cleveland Baptist Church. She came to Cleveland upon completing her college degree program to teach English in our Christian school. As three of our children attended this school at various times on three furloughs, Kristina has had tremendous influence on them through her excellent Christian service.

Kristina has sensed the Lord directing her to use her English and video production skills for His work in the Ivory Coast of West Africa. She has spoken with us extensively concerning this decision and has sought our advice on several occasions. After eight and a half years' experience teaching English at our home church's Christian school, she came to the Ivory Coast on a survey trip to see the potential for this ministry and to prepare for deputation.

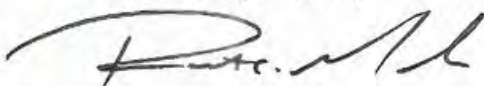
While in the Ivory Coast, Kristina met with the Dean of the English program at the University of Cocody, Abidjan, where he invited her to participate in specific English program activities. He was thrilled to learn of Kristina's desire to come to the Ivory Coast and assured her of ministry opportunities on the campus. Kristina taught English in nearby private schools and tutored students studying for exams. The opportunities that this ministry provides are innumerable.

In the 26 years that my family has ministered in the Ivory Coast, the people of the Ivory Coast have requested this ministry more than any other. Our City Hall, our City Council, and our city educational director have all requested that we open an English training school. College students, high school students, and other educational employees, professors, and teachers have asked us to do the same as well. It is now that the Lord is answering this prayer.

Kristina's ministry will entail opening a school to teach English to interested individuals. This will be a ministry of our local church in Bingerville. This school will attract hundreds of college and high school students who recognize that success in this world requires use of the English language. Kristina will also be able to enter the University Campus and other schools to establish English clubs. In all of these contexts, Kristina will have the opportunity to evangelize the lost. Homework assignments, tests, and personal conversations will all center around Gospel passages from the Scriptures. Hundreds will come to Christ and be added to our church.

In addition, Kristina will teach English in our Bible Institute so that our pastoral candidates will be able to study and research in English as well as French. Kristina will also help us considerably in our audio and video work for the Bingerville church as well as participate fully in the activities of that church. **Again, it is with great confidence that we recommend Kristina Premo to you. She will accomplish a substantial work here in Ivory Coast in local church evangelism and the assistance to pastors in their English skills. We ask that you prayerfully consider her for your missions program.**

Most sincerely in Christ,



Robert C. Mach

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Dear Friend,

I am honored to be asked to write a letter of recommendation for Kristina Premo, sent out of the Cleveland Baptist Church as a missionary to the Ivory Coast of West Africa. Kristina moved here after graduating from West Coast Baptist College in Lancaster, California. Kristina has served faithfully at Heritage Christian School as an English teacher in our Jr. High and High School for more than a decade. In addition, Kristina has served as bus captain, Sunday school teacher, and in our music ministry during this time.

Due to Kristina's education and experience, doors are opening wide for her in the Ivory Coast. She plans to use her proficiency in English to educate the Ivoirians, but more importantly, to give them the Gospel. She will be working with Cleveland Baptist Church veteran missionaries, Bob and Becky Mach. Kristina has prayed about this decision, has taken a survey trip, and believes firmly that this is God's calling on her life. We are sad to see her go, but anxious to partner with her in this endeavor.

Would you consider supporting her financially? I am fully persuaded that this will be a great investment of your missionary dollars as I have personally observed Kristina to be faithfully dedicated to the Lord and His Word these years she has served here in this ministry. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Pastor Peter Folger  
Cleveland Baptist Church