

Africa Mission 2012



Christian World Missions

He set up a stone...and named it "Ebenezer," saying, "Thus far has the Lord helped us." 1 Sam 7:12

Each of our Africa missions follows a similar schedule. Our staff begins by visiting previously planted churches in Ghana. The following weekend, we are joined by a US team to plant 10 new churches in another area of the country. Our staff then travels to Nigeria along with any of the other team members who are working in both Ghana and Nigeria. Another US team joins us there to plant 10 new churches in Nigeria. We have a wonderful celebration service at the end of the missions and the US team heads back home, tired but full of God's glory. Then the CWM staff visits previously planted churches in Nigeria. It is a wonderful way to see what God has done and be encouraged by all that He is continuing to do.



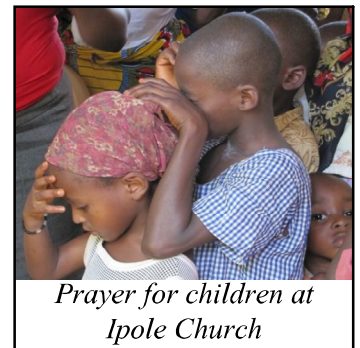
Mission Team - Ghana



Mission Team - Nigeria

This year, in Ghana, we had the opportunity to visit several churches that were planted by CWM 15 years ago. What a blessing! At Ebenezer Methodist Church, the pastor greeted us with these powerful words, "We decided to name the church Ebenezer, which means 'look how far the Lord has brought us.' We named the church in honor of your ministry, because without your ministry, our church would not be what it is today." This kind of encouragement from the Body of Christ certainly helps us to keep planting seeds and growing churches.

We also had the opportunity to worship with a church that is in the middle of a growing Muslim neighborhood. We could hear the Imam calling for evening prayers over a loud speaker before our service started. You could sense that it is difficult for this congregation, but their joy and faith were rich. When we later went to plant two new churches that were also in a Muslim area, children's evangelists, Wesley and Felicia Putnam, were eagerly received by large numbers of children – more than 100 per night! Felicia said she was deeply aware of the fact that this might be the only opportunity many of those children got to hear His name, so she repeated it over and over again, "Jesus said, Jesus loves, Jesus did..."



*Prayer for children at
Ipole Church*



Wesley teaching children at school in Ghana

Although our schedule changed frequently, for the most part, our days included devotion and prayer time with our team, children's ministry in a school or other location, medical clinics, walking through villages meeting people and encouraging them to attend the services that night, preaching the Word, leading people to Christ and praying with them at the evening crusades. Once we arrived back at our hotel, our days ended by sharing with the team our experiences from the day...our struggles with electrical shortages, our joys of seeing people come to Christ, the miracles of healing and other stories of God's amazing power and grace.

At the site of each new church plant, we offered a free medical clinic staffed by indigenous doctors as well as African and US nurses. Mary Rita May, a nurse with our US team, prayed for men, women, and children as she took their blood pressure and pulse. In Ogoja, Nigeria, a man arrived after the medical clinic had closed. He approached Lee Ann and Mary Rita, asking for prayer for a crippled leg. Following a simple prayer, Lee Ann instructed him to take a step, and as the book of Acts says, "He went walking and leaping and praising God!" The smile on his face lit the entire crowd when he gave his testimony later that night. We saw God work in incredible ways from miraculous healings to more simple things like sending a breeze to remove thousands of pesky bugs so people could focus on God's Word.



Mary Rita working at Medical Clinic

In previous years, we have taken notice of all of the children that we come in contact with and decided to add a children's ministry component this year. As mentioned earlier, Wesley and Felicia Putnam led this ministry, but many other team members got involved in teaching, singing with, praying for and just loving the children. Christian Williamson, Lee Ann's son, and Ramzy Smith, Lori's son, helped to draw large crowds of children in both Ghana and Nigeria. Their friendship evangelism opened the door for many to receive the Word of Life.



Christian talking with new friends at Pentresa, Ghana



Worship at new church at Kokoso, Ghana

Each night during the evangelistic crusades, our US team worshipped with the local people, preached the gospel through an interpreter, gave an invitation for salvation (or turned it over to the indigenous pastors for the invitation) and prayed for the sick. The style of the services was usually different from the way we worship at home, but we found great freedom and joy in worshipping the Lord through dance and music unique to the area. The people who came to Christ each night became the congregation for the new church. It gave us great pleasure to see these new Christians unite with their recently commissioned pastor to form this new church that would be a dwelling place for the presence of God and the proclamation of His Word for years to come. Some of the new churches met in school rooms, some under a borrowed or rented pavilion, but all worshipped with enthusiasm, seeking the Lord for strength in their new journey with Him.

We saw lives transformed through salvation, through healing, through God's love in many ways. It is so rewarding to see people come to Christ and watch them begin a new church. And it is so encouraging to visit churches planted in the past and see how far they have come. Glory be to God!

Plans are now being made for our Africa Mission 2013. We will be adding an agricultural program in addition to our children's ministry, medical clinics, construction sites and evangelistic crusades. The focus of our entire mission is to share the Gospel and bring people to Christ. Pray about how you can be a part of this ministry.

JOIN US FOR AFRICA MISSION 2013

Team members needed:
Preachers
Children's Ministry Workers
Agricultural Teachers
Nurses
Prayer Warriors

Intercession for Africa ~ May 19, 2012 ~ 6:00pm ~ CWM Headquarters, Starkville, MS