



West Africa Mission Happenings

**“... Go you into all the world and preach the Gospel ...”
Mark 16:15**

Greetings from West Africa to all the saints partnering in this work throughout the world. We would like to spend a short time updating you on our efforts for our Lord in West Africa. We thank God for His guidance and protection as we labor together for His glory.

A Ten-Year Plan for the Work!

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7). Those are the words that we need to say to Jesus when we see him. About twenty years ago, I became a disciple of Christ and began my own race. As some of you know, it was a radical change in my life when God delivered me from the domain of darkness and transferred me into the kingdom of His beloved son (Col 1:13). I began to take up my cross daily and follow Christ (Luke 9:23). Many influential and faithful Christians have directed and influenced my journey (2 Tim 2:2). And the work of our Lord in West Africa has flourished through your love, encouragement, prayers and financial support.

Working together over the last fifteen years, we have brought thousands to Christ, planted hundreds of congregations of our Lord’s church and trained hundreds of men to edify those assemblies. We now have an army of trained evangelists all over West Africa who are working with us to build up the church. This part of the world is one of the poorest places on earth, and these evangelists are already struggling to support themselves and their families. They have very little left over to finance the evangelistic work they must do. With just a little more help, they can bring even more souls to Christ, and plant even more congregations. They are trained and working and we in America have the means to push that work along!

Here is a list of some of their needs:

- **Evangelistic Campaigns** - \$700 each for 20 or more Campaigns per year.
- **Motorbikes** for evangelistic teams and follow up workers - \$1,500 each for 20 Motorbikes (For evangelism and follow up on new congregations)
- **Roofs for Buildings** of newly established congregations - \$1,500 each (New congregations can worship during rainy season – They provide the building)
- **Evangelism Equipment** - \$1,200 for every evangelistic team in Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Togo and Ghana. (Projector, generator and PA system).

We need to be able to say that we “**have fought the good fight**” when that day comes that we must stand before our God. Jesus said to **work while it is day** for the night comes when no man can work (John 9:4). The doors are now open to proclaim the Gospel in many difficult places in the world. We do not know when these doors will close. Working together we can create an evangelistic explosion throughout West Africa. If you have the ability to make a special contribution or increase your support, then please contact me to see how you can have even a greater influence on this wonderful work! We plan to do even more in the future than we have in the past. You can make a difference!

Financial Support

We want to thank all of our supporters for their contributions to this exciting work in West Africa. Without you, this effort would not be possible.

Contributions by check need to be **made payable to:**

Mountain Home church of Christ
For: West Africa Mission

Mailed to:

Mountain Home church of Christ
380 North College Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653

You can direct any questions to the church office at **870-425-4330**.

You can contact Steven at:

Email: samtnhome@yahoo.com
USA Phone: **971-270-8535**

Please email us to receive this newsletter by email.

*Thanks, So Much,
With Christian Love*

*Steven and Karen
Ashcraft*

New Christians

The Great Commission began in Jerusalem two thousand years ago with the establishment of the Lord's church. Jesus commanded His apostles to go to Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the world. With your help, we are continually bringing the Gospel message to the people of West Africa. Here are a few of the many new born-again Christians. Jesus told Nicodemus in John chapter 3 that "unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Have you been "born of water and the spirit"? Have you obeyed the Gospel of Christ by being buried with Him in baptism (Rom 6:3-4; 2 Thes 1:5-9)? Why not today?



**[Click Link for more News:
Tamale, Ghana](#)**

The work of our Lord continues to flourish in Tamale with many significant happenings over the period. The students are working in the classroom, working on the school farm, and working in the mission field. More can be seen in the photos below.



The Tamale school director, brother Adjei Mensah, is in the classroom teaching our students.



The school premises sits on four acres of land and we utilize much of this for growing crops. Healing Hands International has been helping us with irrigation.



The students are loading up for a recent evangelistic campaign at a village in northern Ghana. They pack their evangelistic supplies, mattresses, cooking supplies, and of course their cook. Then, they are ready to go proclaim the Gospel.



The students not only study in the classroom but also in the mission field. Much of their training is focused on sharing the Gospel with others.



With your help, the school was able to purchase new speakers, horns, and microphones so that their public evangelism will be more effective. Many will hear the Gospel by your sacrifice.

The objective of our teaching in the Mission Field is to bring lost souls to Christ. It is a great joy when the lost have the chance to hear the Good News of Jesus and make the decision to turn their lives over to Him.



During the week-long campaign, a total of twenty-one souls were baptized into Christ and another eight were restored. A couple of students were left behind to strengthen the church and they baptized an additional twenty souls.



The church building in Kpalsi, Tamale is nearing completion and is now being used. We thank God and you for your help.

Click Link for more News
[Accra, Ghana](#)

We continue to train evangelists, preachers, and church leaders all around the Accra area. The work continues to grow significantly. We now have over 250 BV students in the country of Ghana with many of them situated within a few hours of Accra.



Here are the graduates from our recent program in Accra.



The new students at the various locations were all matriculated into the Bear Valley program at the graduation ceremony.



The building project in Accra is moving forward slowly. We have now finished the foundation and raised three large rooms to the lintel level.



We are continually looking at new areas where we can train strong church leaders. Here is a photo of some of our students at the new Cape Coast location. Koja Acquah Beenyi (kneeling) and I help to coordinate all of these locations through the full-time program in Accra.



Kojo and I have regular meetings with the directors and staff at all of the schools to discuss their progress and how each program can be improved.



The work begins in the classroom for all of these students. These full-time students live on campus and spend two full years studying God's word.

This work requires all of us to work together. We have men who are ready to teach, and students who are ready to learn, but we need you to help us bring them together and make the programs successful.



With your help, we were able to buy mattresses, chairs, and printers for many of our programs in southern Ghana.



All of these resources, help us to train faithful Christians who can teach others the Gospel of Christ.



Through your sacrifice, many more will be together with us in heaven for eternity!

**[Click Link for more News
Takoradi, Ghana](#)**

The West Coast School of Preaching continues to hold fast to the truth as a strong member of the Bear Valley family. With the help of their sponsoring congregation, the final touches were made on their new dormitory, wall, and road to the Takoradi campus.



Here the workers are putting the final touches on the new dormitory.



Here the students are resting in the dormitory break room before the graduation.



As we do with all of the schools, we meet with the administrative staff to ensure that all of the Bear Valley academic requirements are being met, and to discuss any other issues the school may be experiencing.

The highlight of the period for the Bear Valley school in Takoradi was their graduation ceremony. Because of COVID, this event had been postponed numerous times, but we finally had the opportunity to move forward.



Here we see the graduands marching to their seats. Twenty-three students received their Bear Valley Diplomas.



At every graduation, the student representative gives a speech.



Steven Ashcraft is presenting the Bear Valley Diplomas.



This is a group photo of all of the graduates and the local teaching and administrative staff.



The West Coast School of Preaching has always been very evangelistic. Their teaching is not only focused on sound doctrine but also on bringing the Gospel to the world.



Jesus commands us in the Great Commission to teach, baptize and then continue to teach those new Christians to observe the doctrine of Christ. This is the model we use at all of our schools.



[Click Link for more News Ganta, Liberia](#)

The school in Liberia continues their labor of love as they train preachers and plant churches throughout Nimba county. The successful evangelistic efforts of this program are an example for all of us throughout the world.



Brother Alex Waie was one of our first graduates in 2018. After school, he went back home and planted a new congregation. He is also helping two other congregations that do not have teachers. He has appealed for a motorbike to help him move among these three congregations. We have many other preachers who are also in the same situation as Alex. Please let me know if you can help.



The Bear Valley school in Liberia is blessed with numerous strong visiting instructors from throughout the country. Brother Calvin Jusu Johnson has been a great addition to the visiting teaching staff.



It is always a blessing when the local congregations or individuals provide support for our students. They can do this in many different ways. In the photo above, one of the local church sisters brought washing soap to all the students.



The program in Liberia not only focuses on farming for souls, but they also have a strong agriculture (vocational) program at the school. This training is intended to help the student develop skills that will provide some support for him while he does the work of our Lord. The school is now farming about two acres of land that you can see has been cleared above.



The harvest from this agricultural training also helps the school to better feed the students.



The students are on their way to the mission field to preach the Gospel of our Lord.



They focus on both house-to-house personal evangelism and public preaching to make sure that the word of God is heard and understood.



Fifty-four precious souls decided to obey the Gospel during this week-long campaign.

[Click Link for more News Gueckedou, Guinea](#)

We have wonderful news from the country of Guinea. We have been able to resolve many of the issues from our previous report and our Bible classes and evangelism program have now fully resumed. I was blessed with the opportunity to travel all over the country of Guinea and visit many different congregations to discuss the future of the work in their country. We thank God for our fruitful discussions.



My journey began in the city of Conakry where I met with many of the church leaders. Here is a photo of some of us at the Cite de l'Air congregation in the capital of Guinea. There are presently three congregations in Conakry, and these are leaders from each of those locations.



I worshiped with the Yembeya congregation in Conakry on the first day of the week.



Here I am with the congregation in the city of Kissidougou wearing my local attire. I stopped here overnight on the fifteen-hour drive from Conakry to Gueckedou. This is a big city congregation that is looking for help to build their building. \$10,000 will help them to begin worshipping in their facility.



I visited and spoke at many villages surrounding the city of Gueckedou. Here I am with one of those congregations.



It is the tradition of the Kissi people to give visitors some local nuts and a chicken or two. Before the day was over, I had five or six chickens and a lot of nuts. I spent the next few days eating many of them.

I had the opportunity to worship with the congregation that meets on the Bear Valley school land in Gueckedou Guinea.



You can see the well that Healing Hands helped us to dig in front of the church building. This congregation was planted by the Bear Valley students.



Immediately after the resumption of classes at the Bear Valley school, the students began their evangelistic efforts. These men were baptized into Christ during the period and many who had fallen away during the confusion were restored.



We thank God that the work is now successfully moving forward once again!

**[Click Link for more News
Kenema, Sierra Leone](#)**



Brother Tamba Cyprien is one of our committed international students from the country of Guinea. He was converted by one of our earlier graduates from the school in Sierra Leone. He is multilingual and can speak French, English, and Kissi. This will be of great benefit when he goes into the mission field.



With the help of a beneficiary through Healing Hands, all of our students now have the same Bible for study purposes.



Here is a photo of the full-time students taking their exams.



We now have sixteen students in the extended program. This has the same level of teaching as the full-time residential program but only meets on two days a week and lasts for four years instead of two. This gives us a total of thirty-six students on our Kenema campus.



Many of our schools in West Africa work together by exchanging instructors to help us to give the best education that is possible. Here the director of the school in Kenema, Sierra Leone is with the students at our school in Ganta, Liberia.



With the relocation of the Kenema campus, it was necessary to establish a new campus congregation. Our membership is now up to thirty-seven.



Many think that the times of many coming to Christ at one time ended with the early church but this is not the case. The Gospel has the power to touch the hearts and souls of groups as well as individuals. We thank God for our new brothers and sisters in Christ.



Many times, our evangelistic teams plant new congregations but sometimes it is necessary to restore existing ones that have went astray. During the period the students embarked on a week-long campaign in Levuma Sierra Leone where fifteen souls were baptized into Christ and another seventy were restored to the church. Here is a photo of the congregation.

Click Link for more News
Kpalime, Togo



The training begins in the classroom but continues into the community, and the mission fields. The students not only learn the word of God, they learn how to teach it to others, and bring souls to Christ.



The teaching of technology has become a part of most of our Bear Valley schools. With your help, we can buy computers and provide instructors. They are taught how to use the internet, write letters and reports, and prepare spreadsheets. This will be of great benefit to their ministry after they graduate.



The students in Kpalime now have all matching shirts with their school logo. This helps produce unity, and lets all those in the community know who is coming to see them.



Motorbikes in West Africa are a great benefit to the work. The cost to operate is much less than a vehicle and allows the evangelists to be able to move from the city to the village, and from village to village to teach and preach the Gospel.



Personal evangelism is the greatest tool anywhere in the world to bring the true Gospel of Christ to the lost. This is something that takes training and practice to do effectively. That is one of the major focuses of all of our Bear Valley programs.



We are currently teaching the Bible to around 50 denominational leaders in four locations throughout southern Togo. This program has been a blessing for the church in this country and is administered through the full-time school in Kpalime.



The school in Kpalime has always been very evangelistic but has committed to having even more campaigns in the year 2022. Here is a new congregation planted in the Avuzekope.



Here is a congregation that had fallen away and was recently restored through an evangelistic campaign by the school in Kpalime.



Motorbikes have always been a wonderful tool in the mission field. Now the school also has a tricycle. This vehicle is great for hauling evangelistic supplies to and from the mission field.



Northern Togo

The work in Northern Togo continues to flourish as we labor to bring the Gospel to the people.



The Bible School in Kara is continuing to move forward. We have three strong Christian evangelists on our teaching staff there. Brother Fidele, Rodrique, and Luc. Here I am instructing the Kara, Togo staff along with the director (Cephas) from our school in Kpalime. Fidele is taking the photo and the rest are seated. I spend a lot of time instructing the instructors at all of the schools that I coordinate in West Africa. All of these men graduated from the Benin Training Center in Cotonou.



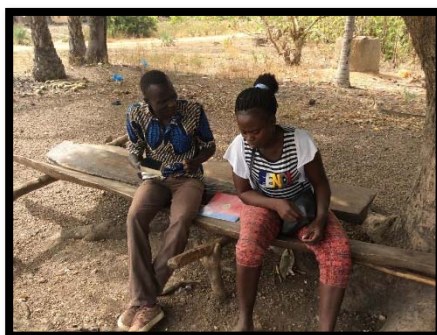
We currently have seven students at the school in Kara out of the twelve that began the program. Here is a photo of Rodrique with our present students. We are developing plans to increase the number of our student body.



The training for the students begins in the classroom but moves on to the mission field. In all of our Bear Valley programs, we focus on practical training. Here one of our students is leading a personal Bible study in a nearby village.



The best way to learn how to study with others is through example. Our director, brother Fidele, brings the students along on personal Bible studies so they can see what methods are effective. You learn by watching and then practicing the methods you have learned.



Scriptural conversion depends upon Bible instruction throughout the entire process. The Great Commission tells us to teach, baptize and then continue to teach. Here brother Fidele is giving some final instructions before leading a new convert into the water.



The objective of our Bible studies in Northern Togo is to make disciples. Every individual must be taught to understand the consequences of their sin and the need to be cleansed by the blood of Christ. They must count the costs and decide to turn away from their sins, and follow our Lord completely!



And then we must continue to teach these new Christians to observe all things the Lord has commanded (Matt 28:19).

Karen's Sunday School Workshops

Karen has finally been able to resume her West African Sunday School workshops after a long break due to COVID. She was originally scheduled to go to Ghana in the spring of 2020, but COVID restrictions stopped her plans. Then in 2021, she had programs scheduled again, and a new COVID variant did not allow for large assemblies in Ghana. Karen has continually been working on putting together resources for the last two years but has not been able to put on her presentations. Finally, in 2022, Karen was able to travel once again to Ghana.



Here is Karen in Koforidua Ghana with her interpreter and brother Kojo. She presented all types of different children's teaching resources, including the felt board in the background.



One of the highlights of the program is the jewelry and purse giveaways. It makes for an exciting workshop!



Here is a group photo of all of the participants in the program in Koforidua. Around twenty different congregations participated in the event. Each congregation was given many different types of resources to help in the training of children. This included curriculum, songs, sock puppets, and felt boards. The program was a great success!



The second program took place in the city of Accra. Once again there were about twenty different congregations present. This workshop has now taken place all over the country of Ghana. Next, we plan on moving into Togo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone!



Here is the group photo from the seminar in Mandella Accra. You can see that they are all wearing the same shirts that they receive at the workshop. You all are making this work possible with your support. The women are fed, the resources are printed and prepared, and the program is a success.



The program concludes with the women developing their own children's classes and presenting them to the entire group as seen below.

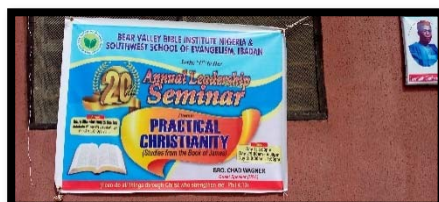


Karen's work is not finished when the seminars are over. She also spends time taking care of me. Here she is using some buckets to wash our clothes. Thank you Karen!



Cameroon and Nigeria

A report on the Bear Valley work in West Africa would not be complete without a few photos from Cameroon and Nigeria. All of the schools in these countries are coordinated by David Ballard and Chad Wagner. Working together we are training an army of evangelists in this part of the world. Here are a few photos. All of the regular reports for all of the schools can be found on the Bear Valley website.



Pictures of Children

The church in Africa is much different than America when you look at the children. Almost every congregation here has as many children as adults. Jesus loves these children and so should we. We thank God for the efforts that the women are putting forth to make sure that the local congregations have the best resources available to help to nurture and teach these little ones. Well Bible educated children are more likely to become faithful Christian leaders. And the church needs strong leadership to withstand the pressures of a Godless world.

