

Ghana Mission

Inside this issue:

CEO's Corner	1
Happiness is a Book Bag	1
MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM: LET HEALING BEGIN	2
Photo Album	4
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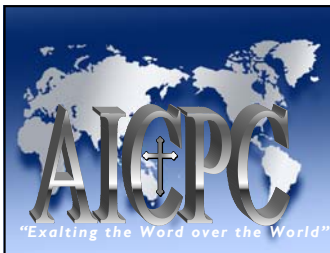
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The CEO's Corner

Grace and Peace be multiplied to each of you. It is wonderful to be back in the USA and sharing all that God has allowed me to see during my recent missions to Ghana.

I am reminded daily that the life I live when in the USA is a far cry from my life in Ghana. I am still utilizing the habits I learned in Ghana. I still go to sleep early (7 p.m.) and wake up early (5 a.m.) to begin each day. For the first two weeks I returned home, I did not watch TV or listen to music, since I have neither luxury in Ghana. Instead I spent my mornings in quiet solitude preparing for the day's journey.

While it is always wonderful to be at home, I am reminded of those that I have left behind, who are depending on me to fulfill the mission that God gave to me so long ago. I am thankful to family and friends who have welcomed me home and ask what they can do to help make a difference. Our aim is to build up the body of Christ and to assist small ministries unknown to others. Our watchword is "service." Our core organizational verse is Matthew 20:28, "For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many." We believe that through working through the local church (Faith International Christian

Praise Center) and the people of Ghana we can make a difference.

1 World 1 Vision wants to make an impact by providing a care center (orphanage) for children who have no extended family to care for them. We also want to establish nutritional supplement programs (farming) so that children who are not receiving the nutrients they need have a better chance of survival. We would like to increase the participants in our enterprising (empowerment) programs which help families be able to start small businesses and become self supporting.

Revenue will be generated initially from "100 Friends Project". Revenue will be used to purchase land to begin building a dual purpose facility that will be utilized initially as a school and church. Our "100 Friends Projects" is the start of taking a holistic Christian approach which will embrace and encompass all those we meet and minister to. We believe that everyone matters to God. No man, woman or child deserves to go without food or shelter. And we don't think anyone should have to endure living in fear. Lets share Jesus' Love...Lets Give them Hope. Together we can give hope, love, and a chance for a happy productive life that these beautiful people deserve. Won't you join us? [CD]

Happiness is a Book Bag

At the airport in Atlanta, I looked like the typical international traveler off on holiday with two large bags that I'm sure most people thought were full of clothes and other items needed for a wonderful relaxing trip. However looks are deceiving. In fact, one of my bags was filled with school supplies and book-bags, provided by AICPC and private sponsors, for school children in Ghana. Bishop Cathy had requested via email that I try to bring these items for children she had met in her village visits in Ghana. One student is Abigail of Apessa Village whose life was profiled in the last newsletter. Another is the grandson of Veronica, our guide and interpreter in Mim. We dropped Veronica off near her home and gave a school back pack filled with supplies to her grandson, Jeffrey. She calls later to say that he was overjoyed to receive it saying "It has everything I've ever dreamed about having for school." In fact they could not get it off of him until he was asleep. The simple things of life that we take for granted are treasures in the eyes of the children of Apessa and Mim. Thank you for your generosity we will be expanding this effort in the future.. [RF]



Abigail goes to school with her new book-bag filled with school supplies.



The clinic building at Mim. Exterior view belies the needed repairs on the interior

"The nearest hospital is 30 miles away. Anyone who becomes ill must travel by taxi (if available) as ambulances are not the norm in Ghana."



The clinic building at Mim out house urinal is rusting away.



Pastor Fletcher looks at old medical records from years past left on Mim clinic office floor covered with bat and goat droppings

MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM: LET HEALING BEGIN

After many months of planning, Pastor Regina Fletcher finally arrived in Ghana on Friday May 9. After a day of recovery (jet-lag), she was officially on the missionary field.

On Saturday May 10, we began our journey to Kumasi to Mim Village at 5:00 am. A four hour drive that turned into 6 hours as we made our way through congested traffic and pot holes every few feet.

Upon our arrival at the village, we were met by the village guide, Sister Veronica, who prepared us for our introduction before the council. We were quickly ushered into the Chief's Palace and Pastor Fletcher was introduced to the Chief Council. After the "meet and greet", the council was eager to give Pastor Fletcher a tour of the village. It was during this tour that we discovered the drastic changes to the Mims Health Clinic.

During my first visit in 2007 the clinic's damage was minimum compared to what we encountered on this visit. The inside walls and roof were in an advanced stage of deterioration. The ceiling of the building had been invaded by bats resulting in a complete deterioration of the roof and causing major damage that would require extensive renovation. This was not encouraging news as the village residents expressed their need for a clinic. The nearest hospital is 30 miles away. Anyone who becomes ill must travel by taxi (if available) as ambulances are not the norm in Ghana.

The villagers were visibly upset as they told us that most people never make it to the hospital and die en route. In spite of this the people were glad to share their daily lives with us, and welcome us into their families without hesitation. In spite of the numerous times we may visit the village, the impact is always the same and leaves visitors wanting to do whatever they can to help those in need. On our way back to Accra we stopped at the water source and Pastor Fletcher was able to personally witness the pond from which the local residents retrieve their water. The pond was dirty,

and filled with debris, and both human and animals utilized the water for drinking and bathing.

The next day Sunday, May 10, we drove 4 hours to El Shaddai Assemblies of God Church, in Asiakwa, at the invitation of Pastor Addae Mark Collins. We were given a brief tour of the church grounds, and we were amazed at a separate children's church that had been built over a span of years at the hands of the congregation.

The number of children present was astonishing as we helped them celebrate in song and dance. After a brief tour of the church grounds, Pastor Fletcher delivered a message of hope to the congregation. Even the blowing rains and winds coming into the church, could not diminish the spirit that was flowing so abundantly. We all joined in with the congregation as they danced and worshiped God. It was a wonderful Mother Day service that we shall never forget. After service, the congregation personally hugged us, thanked us, and walked with us to the car to see us off. We returned to Accra where we were the guests of Missionary Patricia Sims at the Bishop Eddie L. Long Missions House in Tema.

On Monday, the missions tour continued as

Pastor Fletcher was met and greeted by the students of Word Impact Ministerial Institute. The students were thrilled to have another instructor impart into their lives. Their enthusiasm and hunger for the word flowed over as they asked question after question. At the end of the two-day intensive course Pastor Fletcher thanked them for their contagious attitude. She told them that their hunger for learning made her hunger and desire for teaching more vibrant. The teaching session ending with the students praying over Pastor Fletcher, and certificates were presented to each student for completion of the course.



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Bats living in the attic space and mold are slowly destroying the ceiling and interior walls. The floor is covered with bat droppings, dirt and debris.

On Wednesday, we prepared ourselves for departure to Sumanyai to begin a three-day Revival. En- route to our destination the vehicle we were in experienced motor problems. We were able to pull off of the road and our escorts flagged down a tro-tro (mini bus). Our luggage was transferred to the tro-tro and we were on our way to the Revival. Two hours later, we were dropped at the hotel, where we quickly showered, dressed and arrived at the revival 45 minutes late. The crowd was patiently waiting for our arrival. The theme for the Revival "Pushing Beyond The Pressure" Pastor & Church Leaders Conference was appropriate as the revival started on a positive note. Each morning of the revival worship service was held, afterward, Pastor Fletcher and Bishop Douglas would teach from 10 a.m. to 12:00 noon daily. Topics included "Ministering the Abundant Life," "Dealing with Toxic Relationships" and "The Modern Pastor." The attendees consisted of Evangelist, Pastors, Teachers and Missions workers in the local area as well as from Nigeria. After morning classes, we rested and prepared for the evening service

Each night of the Revival, Pastor Fletcher along with one of the sons of the church, Pastor Edmond would prepare the crowds for the Message through praise and worship and prayer. Each night of praise and worship was powerful as the sermons preached by the Men and Women of God on the program. On Wednesday Night the topic "Tearing Down the Gates of Hell" was preached by Bishop Cathy; Thursday Night, Rev. Collins preached "Stomping The Devil Out" and the final night of the Revival was a Prophetic and Healing service led by Bishop Curtis Amarteyfio, as Pastor Fletcher, Pastor Kofi and other Pastors present ministered to God's people through prayer. After three power-filled days we set off back to Accra where we arrived after midnight. We immediately prayed and thanked God for the journey as we prepared ourselves for the final day of Pastor Fletcher journey.

On Sunday, May 18, we escorted Pastor Fletcher to the airport for her return to America. Although we were sad to see her leave we knew without a doubt that the time she spent in Ghana opened her eyes to not only the plight of the people but what it was like to be on the missions field. Pastor Fletcher left with a renewed sense of hope that she could make a difference in the lives of the people. Before leaving Ghana she promised to share her journey with everyone she encountered. She committed herself to furthering the cause of helping with the goals of the missions. We thank Pastor Fletcher for coming and sharing her time and energies with the people. Her journey to Ghana proves that each one can teach one, each one can help one. Healing begins with a helping hand. Pastor Fletcher, Thank you - for your help! [CD]



Pastor Fletcher, Bishop Douglas and Veronica (their guide and interpreter) watch young boy below collect water in an old anti-freeze jug. Very young children carrying wood home.



"Healing begins with a helping hand. Together we can give hope, love, and a chance for a happy productive life that these beautiful people deserve. Won't you join us?"



Children outside the Mim Clinic



Pastor Fletcher delivers a message of hope to the congregation of El Shaddai Assemblies of God

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Children of Apessa Village have visions of becoming doctors and lawyer but rarely have the opportunity to attend school.



12 year old girl above is not in school. She watches younger siblings while mother sells snails for income for the family.



Village Home made from mud, has one room and normally houses a family of 6-10 people.



Children 5 to 11 years old currently not in school waiting for sponsorship

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