



West Africa Mission Happenings



“... Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature – Mark 16:15”

A work of the church of Christ

Fulfilling the Great Commission

Greetings to all throughout the world who are able to read this report. We thank God for the opportunity to labor in His vineyard, and pray that His blessings are finding their way into your lives. We continue to face many challenges in the work in West Africa, but the rewards are bountiful. With your help, souls are being saved, leaders are being trained, and the church is growing in both number and maturity. One major challenge that we face in West Africa, and the rest of the world, is the clash that often occurs between the demands and expectations of local culture, and the Gospel of our Lord. We will briefly review the problem in this newsletter. We will also examine some of the activities that are taking place at each of the preaching schools in West Africa. Finally, the email version of this report will present a photo album of some of the major happenings during this period.

Preaching School Synopsis

The **Center for Biblical Studies in Kpalime Togo** continues to labor diligently in our Lord's Kingdom. Many are being brought to Christ, with twenty-eight souls baptized during one recent evangelistic campaign. This school is truly a tool of God to bring the gospel to those who have been deceived in the Christian world. The only thing worse than being deceived, is failing to see the truth when it is presented to you and abiding in that deception. Thankfully, many are identifying the truth in the fertile fields of Togo. The **West Coast School of Preaching in Takoradi Ghana** is continuing to grow in size as they presently are training nineteen students in their full-time two year program. They are active in evangelism, and

bringing many to Christ when they are not in the classroom soaking up the word of God. In a recent campaign, some were baptized after hearing the gospel, and over 50 prospects were turned over to the local congregation. Additional land was purchased during the period to be used for raising poultry, goats, and growing crops to help in the support and training of the students. Daniel Ampadu Asiamah has now been moved from Accra to his home in Takoradi and needs our prayers as he struggles to recover. The **Southwest School of Evangelism in Ibadan Nigeria** continues their labor of love in the highly populated area between Lagos and Ibadan Nigeria. Twenty-five full time students are diligently studying the Scriptures in the village of Butubutu. Each of these students is linked up with a tradesman for vocational training while preparing themselves to preach the gospel. The school places a lot of emphasis on World Bible School courses and seminars to assist them in the spread of God's message. The construction of the school facilities is rapidly reaching their conclusion as they appeal for funds to finish the project. We thank God for the sacrifice of these brethren! The **Southern Institute of Biblical Studies in southern Ghana** moved into their second year with eleven students receiving training in the word of God. The school has placed a special emphasis on evangelism with quarterly week-long campaigns, and weekly local evangelistic efforts. A dry well and an electrical infrastructure that cannot supply the needs of a developing population are two areas where the school is facing challenges. The well is being dug deeper, and the use of a generator helps to provide lights for the students. We have come a long way in building our library, and computer room, and acquiring the necessary office equipment for the

smooth running of the school. We are now looking at a permanent site where we can move from the rented premises upon the conclusion of our lease. An appeal for funds is being made for this purpose! The **Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies in Ghana** is also facing a water crisis, and is considering the possibility of digging a well on their property. I had the opportunity to spend a week with the students earlier this year teaching on the subject of Christian Evidences. This third class of ten students are preparing to graduate and move into the white fields of harvest later this year. The local congregation which meets on the school premises is continuing to grow, and is diligently working towards building their own church building. One of our instructors, Jaminga, is unable to walk and is in need of your prayers. He has been told he will need an operation to put a metal plate in his leg to solve the problem. We pray that he will be healed soon! The **Cameroon Bible Institute in Wututu** began the year with 22 new students in their third (Gamma) class since their inception. The school theme for 2015 is "My Year of Growth" and they are working towards accomplishing this goal through extensive evangelism and edification. One congregation that had been dead for ten years was recently revived through the efforts of the school. The school is also attempting to help their graduates with vocational skills such as raising poultry that will help them support their families while preaching the gospel. A new Bear Valley school has commenced classes in the French speaking region of Cameroon, and more details will be available in the next report. Please keep our brethren in Cameroon in your prayers!

When the Gospel & Culture Clash

Should we allow culture to change us as Christians or should Christians attempt to change culture? It is often a difficult balance to interact within society while shining the Christian light as required by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There is pressure in the church and the world today to allow cultural influences to change the doctrine we find in the word of God. In West Africa there is a deeply ingrained traditional belief in the spirit world that includes a Supreme Being, lesser deities, and ancestral spirits. There is interaction that takes place with the spiritual world on a regular basis, and

participation is expected by all family members. Can we offer sacrifices to lesser gods? Can we pour drink offerings to our ancestral spirits? What are the implications of allowing these cultural practices to influence our Christianity in the naming of our children, the funerals of our relatives, or other major events in our lives? This is not merely a problem in West Africa. Culturally accepted practices related to homosexuality, divorce and remarriage, worship, etc. are becoming acceptable in the western Christian world even though they are contrary to the word of God. We must identify those areas of culture that are incompatible with our Christian faith, and reject them. Satan is screaming that we can have heaven and live our lives in accordance with the desires of the world rather than the doctrine of God. Do not be deceived! We must allow God rather than culture to determine what is acceptable in our Christian lives! Let us be diligent to follow God's word, and not be deceived by Satan!

Financial Support

We want to thank all of the 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

Any questions can be directed to the church office at **870-425-4330**.

Or you can contact Steven at:

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

Please email Steven if you would like to receive this newsletter by email.

*Thanks So Much,
With Christian Love
Steven Pohcraft*

New Christians Baptized into Christ



You are never too old to obey the Gospel. Here an 85 year old man is baptized into Christ in Cameroon. The angels are rejoicing in heaven, and our brother is rejoicing also.



As a result of the “Campaign for Christ” that was held by the WCSOP in Effiakuma, a number of souls were baptized into Christ in the subsequent weeks.



With over 160 million people in Nigeria there is a great need for those who will preach the truth. Here another Nigerian soul is added to our Lord’s Kingdom!



During a recent evangelistic campaign, a lady is baptized into Christ at the Yokele church of Christ in Togo where one of our CBS graduates is preaching.

**Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies
Tamale, Ghana**



Our third class at the Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies is now nearing graduation. I recently had the opportunity to spend time teaching them Christian Evidences

Here is one of our present students from the Upper East Region of Ghana preaching during chapel. Each one of these men will have the opportunity to save many souls!



Jacob Yeboah, who was the valedictorian of our first graduating class, is now the preacher for the local congregation in Kpalsi, and the administrative assistant at TIBS.

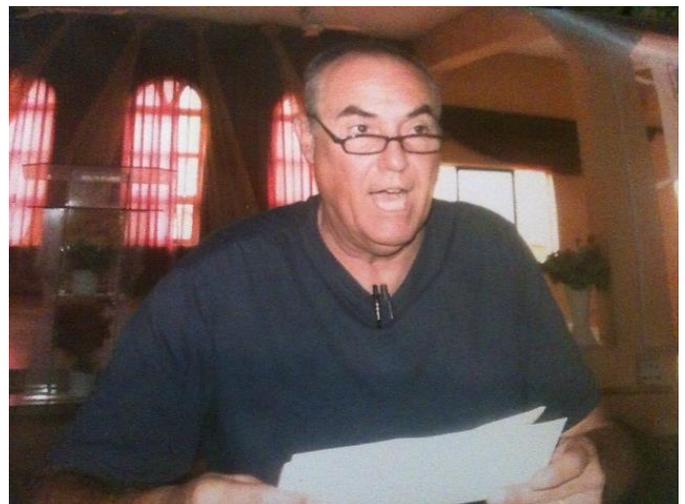
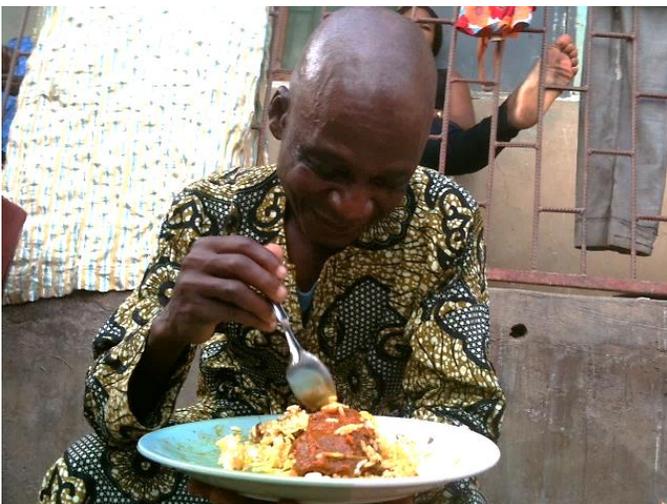
The students at TIBS spend time studying every book of the Bible, and many other subjects that will help them in their ministry in northern Ghana.

**Southwest School of Evangelism
Bututu (Ibadan), Nigeria**



A new Christian obeys the Gospel of Christ in Nigeria. Brother Makinde, the director at the SWSE, is a wonderful evangelist. May our Lord continue to bless his work!

Prayer is a continual part of our lives as we work throughout West Africa. Here the brethren in Nigeria are praying before they go out for personal evangelism.



Although our emphasis is on providing spiritual food for all who will listen, a plate of food is a necessity that will put a smile on most people's faces.

Doug Wheeler from Norman Oklahoma continues to make annual trips to evangelize, edify, and encourage those in Nigeria. We thank God for his efforts!

**West Coast School of Preaching
Ituma (Takoradi), Ghana**



The students at the WCSOP take an opportunity to study the Bible with others. Personal evangelism is a significant component of all our preaching programs.



A man is baptized into Christ after a recent evangelistic “Campaign for Christ” put on by the West Coast School of Preaching.



Students and visiting preachers gather for a photo at recent evangelistic “Campaign for Christ” in Effiakuma near Takoradi. Many Bible studies were set up.



Additional land was recently acquired by the school in Takoradi to be used for animal rearing and the raising of crops to assist in feeding the students.

**Cameroon Bible Institute of Wotutu
Wutu, Cameroon**



The new class at the Cameroon Bible Institute is introduced to the local congregation. The students are made to feel at home with their Wututu church family.



The new class president is seen here addressing the students at CBI. This school is making a significant impact on the church in English speaking Cameroon.



The instruction does not end in the classroom, but is carried into the field. Here the students are taught how to study the Bible with those in the community.



This lady recently delivered twins so the local culture demands that she remain painted like this for the next eight months.

**Center for Biblical Studies
Kpalime, Togo**



Between personal evangelism and evangelistic campaigns, the school in Kpalime Togo is continually bringing souls to our Lord. We thank God for their diligent efforts!



It is always a joy to visit with our brethren in Togo, even though my French is still very poor. I thank God that the pattern in the New Testament makes everything clear!



The Eglise du Christ (Church of Christ) now has a evangelistic van in Togo. With a mobile PA system and projector, the gospel is going far and wide!



Twenty-eight souls were baptized into Christ in two villages when one of our students began preaching the truth to the denominational congregations he had previously planted.

**Southern Institute of Biblical Studies
Doboro, Ghana**



The students at our new school in southern Ghana are actively spreading the Gospel of Christ! Here they are studying with some in the community.



With your help, a new congregation is now worshipping at Akim-Akropong in southern Ghana. The Gospel is preached, souls are saved, and a congregation is established!

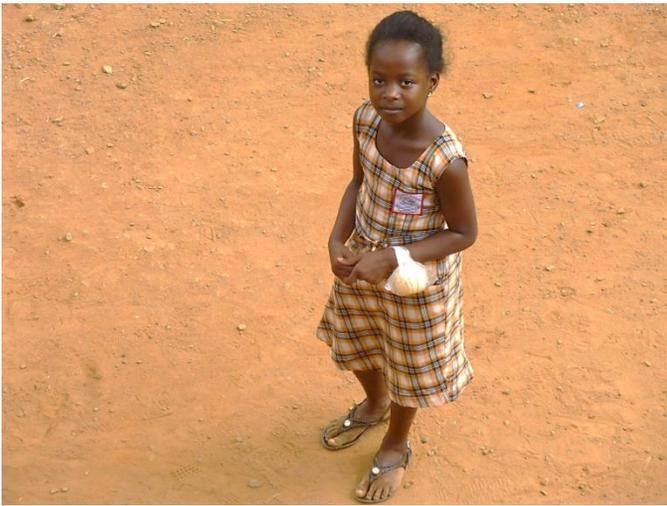


Here is a photo of some of the newly baptized Christians at the new congregation recently planted at Akim-Akropong by the staff and students at SIBS.



Many of you know Gyan Mante from Koforidua. He is doing a wonderful job preaching there, and is also helping to teach at the Bible school in Doboro/Nsawam.

Some Pictures of the Children



Some More Children

