



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 of our brothers, sisters, and friends throughout the world. This report brings us closer to that day when our Lord will return and bring an end to the challenges and problems we face here on earth. The turmoil that is taking place in the world today is amazing. Hundreds of thousands of people are trying to escape war and poverty in search of a better life. The world is becoming a more dangerous place with terrorist activities not only taking place in the Middle East and Africa, but also Paris and California. The U.S. government has issued a world-wide travel alert warning about possible terrorist attacks that could take place. How should all these events impact our desire to obey the Great Commission? Brethren, we must continue to take the gospel message of our Lord to all those who want to hear throughout the world, regardless of the dangers. An understanding of God's word makes it clear that it would be much more terrorizing to stand before God on the Day of Judgment in an unsaved state than it would be to stand before a terrorist today in a saved state. As Jesus said:

"And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

(Matthew 10:28)

We must continue to labor in our Lord's vineyard to bring the saving message to all those in the world with ears to hear. We cannot allow fear to keep us from doing God's will. If you have not **OBEYED** the gospel yet, I plead with you in the name of Jesus to do it today. Do not risk an eternity of terror!

Healing Hands International

One of the major challenges that we face at all of our preaching schools is how the graduates will support themselves and their families after they begin their work. Many times their congregations are small in number and weak in finances so they are not able to provide significant support to their preachers. We have implemented numerous programs over the year to address this problem. This includes workshops and seminars on giving and support of evangelists and preachers. We have a vocational training program at our school in Nigeria and have plans to implement one at our school in Togo. We have developed our schedule at the school in Tamale so our students can continue to tend their farms while they attend classes. We are now happy to report on another step in the right direction. Bear Valley Bible Institute has formed a partnership with Healing Hands International to help equip our students and their communities with agriculture skills that will better help them to provide for their families.

Healing Hands International is an organization located in Nashville TN that has various programs including well drilling, disaster relief, and agriculture. Ebenezer Udofia lives in Kenya and has traveled to four of our schools in West Africa to hold two day workshops on sustainable agriculture using drip irrigation. All of these programs were a great success, and the students were given certificates that qualify them to teach the process to others. Brother Udofia plans to also visit our other schools over the next few months. We pray that this program will bring us one step closer to achieving our goal of preparing workers for our Lord's Kingdom.

Preaching School Synopsis

All seven of our Bear Valley schools of preaching in West Africa continued to labor in our Lord's vineyard during the period as they trained evangelists and brought lost souls to Christ. One significant development was the decision to change the names of many of our schools to reflect their relationship with Bear Valley. The new name will be Bear Valley Bible Institute followed by their location. Here is a brief synopsis of some of the happenings at each of our West African locations. **Bear Valley Bible Institute – Kpalime, Togo** held their fourth graduation ceremony as eighteen students successfully completed the program in this French speaking school. Twelve new students began classes, and there are plans to extend the course to include vocational training so the graduates can develop a skill to help support their families as they do the Lord's work. The school continues to utilize the Gospel Chariot and dozens were baptized into Christ during the period. **Bear Valley Bible Institute – Ibadan, Nigeria** also celebrated a graduation during the period with fifteen students and instructors receiving Bear Valley Certificates. Thirty-three students are now enrolled in their two year full-time program. The students' Bible studies continue to be integrated with practical applications of personal evangelism and vocational studies which will help to develop well rounded effective preachers. May our Lord continue to bless their efforts. **Bear Valley Bible Institute – Doboro, Ghana** continues to train men as eleven students prepare to finish the program at the end of 2015. Two new congregations were planted during the past couple of months, and many souls were brought to Christ. The Bear Valley Master's program is generating much interest in Accra as more students are enrolling in this degree program. Two acres of land have been acquired and earmarked for future development for this school. **Bear Valley Bible Institute – Tamale, Ghana** held their first women's' lectureship during the period with 126 women from 39 congregations utilizing the facilities in Tamale for this purpose. A school farm was begun with the introduction of the program with Healing Hands, and the school is continuing to evangelize northern Ghana, and train evangelists to edify the new Christians. The **West Coast School of Preaching in Ituma Ghana** also continues their labor of love as they bring many wandering souls to Christ. They held their annual seminar during the period with the help of the Howe

church of Christ in Texas. The annual Campaign for Christ evangelism program resulted in a new congregation being planted in the Central Region in the town of Berman Onwomaso. The school is presently training eighteen men to bring the gospel to their people in West Africa. Finally, the **Bear Valley Bible Institute – Wotutu, Cameroon**, and the **Bear Valley Bible Institute – Mbanga, Cameroon** also continue to have great success in training preachers and evangelizing their communities in English and French speaking Cameroon. Both of these schools are being coordinated by brother David Ballard of Pattonville Texas who is doing a wonderful job helping to direct their activities. Details of the activities in Cameroon and more information for all of our West African schools of preaching can be found on the Bear Valley website where regular weekly/monthly reports are posted. These reports can be found at this link:

www.wetrainpreachers.com/extension-schools/

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: samtnhome@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 Ashcraft

New Christians Baptized into Christ



**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Kpalime, Togo**



Eighteen students completed the two year full time residential Bible program in Kpalime Togo. We thank God for these new French speaking evangelists!

It is a great honor to participate in the graduations at our West African Bear Valley extensions schools. We thank all of you for making this work possible.



All of our preaching schools are active in evangelism. We pray that each of our graduates bring many to Christ throughout their lives.

A benevolent donor provided funds for a new motorbike for the school in Kpalime. This will be used by staff and students for evangelism, and edification.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Tamale, Ghana**



In our last report, we highlighted the men who graduated at the Bible College in Tamale. We would also like to show you some of the women who are utilizing our facilities.

The women of northern Ghana gathered together in Tamale to edify one another. Since there are numerous different languages, they needed a number of translators.



Over 100 women spent three days studying the Bible with the theme “Let Us Rise and Build the Church.” Many questions were asked and addressed by the women.

Since all of the women were able to sleep and eat on the Tamale Institute campus, they could continue their activities late into the evening. We pray that God will bless this work.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Bututu (Ibadan), Nigeria**



During the month of August, we held our annual graduation at the school in Ibadan Nigeria. Over 35 students are presently attending the program here.



I was given the opportunity to speak during the graduation. Nigeria is a country about twice the size of California with 170 million people. They need to hear the gospel.



The director of the school in Ibadan Nigeria is continually thinking about the souls of others. Here Makinde helps a lady obey the gospel and wash away her sins (Acts 22:16).



Some of our Nigerian instructors are participating in the Master's Degree program in Accra Ghana. Here brother Jerry Bates is pictured with two of his students.

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



The school in Takoradi put on a successful lectureship with the help of missionaries from the Howe church of Christ in Texas. Many preachers and leaders were edified.



Here is a photo of some of the students at West Coast with Toby Soechting, and Max Robertson from Howe Texas. We thank God for all these faithful men.



Evangelism continues to be an important part of the program at all of our preaching schools. Here students at West Coast share the gospel with a young lady.



Healing Hands international put on a successful sustainable agriculture workshop at the school in Takoradi. We pray that this will help our students after they graduate.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Wotutu and Mbanga, Cameroon**



West African's love reading material. Here some young boys in Cameroon are receiving some Mission Printing tracts from one of our preachers.



David Ballard is doing a wonderful job coordinating the Bear Valley works in Cameroon. His love for evangelism can be seen here as he spreads the gospel by motorbike.



Many souls are being brought to Christ through this work. Regular photos of their evangelistic efforts, including the one above, can be seen on the Bear Valley website.



Boxes and boxes of Mission Printing tracts await distribution at the Wotutu church building in Cameroon. These tracts are making a difference throughout West Africa.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Doboro, Ghana**



The school in Doboro Ghana has acquired land near their present location. It is already being used as they participate in an Agriculture workshop with Healing Hands.



Evangelism is also a very important part of our program in Doboro Ghana. Here the students are going out with their Bible tracts to spread the gospel of our Lord.



Brother Jerry Bates traveled to Ghana West Africa for the Bear Valley Master's program. He is seen here with some of his students.



A new church was planted in the town of Amanfrom. Ten souls were baptized into Christ during the campaign, and twenty-nine attended the first worship service.

French Speaking West Africa



A new preacher is living in the northern Togo city of Kara. Please keep Nimde, and his wife and children in your prayers as they labor in our Lord's kingdom.



The congregation in Korbongou Togo near the Burkina Faso border discusses their plans and needs to build their own building. May our Lord continue to bless this group.



We had an opportunity to visit the new congregation in Kara during our recent trip through northern Togo. The congregation is growing in numbers and maturity.



A new preacher has also moved to the town of Cinkasse on the Burkina Faso border. Here three Togolese preachers discuss how their plan to evangelize Togo and Burkina Faso.

Healing Hands International Workshops in Ghana and Togo



Ebenezer Udofia is seen here at the Healing Hands office in the USA. He lives in Kenya, and recently traveled to West Africa for workshops at our preaching schools.



The students at our school in Togo are working hard to prepare the ground for the crops to be planted. May this partnership with Healing Hands bear much fruit!



The participants at the school in Tamale Ghana are taking part in the recent Sustainable Agriculture workshop there.



The students and graduates at the school in Takoradi show off the results of their hard work as they complete the two day workshop with Healing Hands International.

Some Pictures of the Children



Some more pictures of children

