



# 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*

**G**reetings to all of you throughout the world who love our God, and have a desire to see His will done here on earth. May His blessings be showered continually upon you all. The work in West Africa is flourishing as we attempt to bring the Gospel to the lost in this part of the world.

In the last few months, I have traveled to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana and Togo in West Africa where I have visited six of our Bear Valley schools of preaching. I participated in seminars and helped organize evangelistic campaigns. I taught classes to the students, visited and edified previous graduates from the schools, helped with recruitment, and made plans with the administration for the future. My travels also took me all over the USA with visits to the states of California, Connecticut, Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas and Texas. While in the States, I am continually meeting with congregations and individuals with an interest in mission work who are sacrificing to help finance the programs we are implementing in Africa.

We also held our annual Bear Valley Extension meeting in Denver Colorado in April, and I have been working actively on establishing additional training programs in other areas of West Africa. We continue to be in need of American short course teachers who are willing to spend one or two weeks teaching and edifying our students. If you can help with this, please let me know. With your help, many are hearing the words of salvation, and obeying Christ's command to repent and be baptized. The gospel is reaching the far corners of West Africa, as we continually face the challenges of religious extremism and radicalism, political instability, ethnic conflicts, poverty, and disease. Regardless of the obstacles, the gospel is being preached. Please keep my travels in your prayers.

## **Key Happenings at the Schools**

**The Bear Valley Extension School in Doboro Ghana** is continuing to train thirty-seven Christians to labor in our Lord's kingdom. I had the opportunity to spend a week teaching Bible Geography to the full-time students there last month. We also have an additional twenty students in our Master's level program. Three new congregations have been planted by the school in the last six months with the latest being in the town of Ahenesie where eight souls were initially baptized into Christ. The school is actively recruiting for their next full-time class to begin in January, and seven students have already expressed an interest. **The Bear Valley School in Tamale Ghana** planted a new congregation in the village of Gunguni during the period with twenty-two new souls added to the kingdom. I have been actively working with the school through recruitment efforts and visitation of previous graduates. We now have fourteen students who have completed the interview process for the new class that begins in July. As I am writing this newsletter, I am in northern Ghana working with the brethren there. **The Bear Valley Extension School in Ganta Liberia** is also keeping pace with church planting and has established a new congregation in Tearyegbayplay where twenty-eight souls accepted Christ as their personal savior through obedience to His command to be baptized. I recently had an opportunity to spend a week teaching the students there as we continue our labor of love. The director, Robert Dahn, has established a morning radio program that is having a significant influence in the area. They need financial assistance of \$75 per month to continue this effort. Please keep all of these schools in your prayers!

**The Bear Valley Bible Institute in Kpalime Togo** also planted a new congregation in the village of Akata during the period. Dozens of souls have been brought to Christ through the efforts of the students and staff. They are so thankful for all of the tools (motorbikes, public preaching equipment, Bibles and Bible tracts, etc.) that are being provided to build up their evangelistic efforts in this difficult French-speaking area of the world. They are continuing their computer literacy training and crop and animal science programs to provide their students with additional skills. **The Bear Valley Institute near Ibadan in Butubutu Nigeria** has so many conversions through their personal evangelism, open air preaching and World Bible School efforts that it is hard for me to keep up with them. We thank God for their tireless devotion to the work. We are thankful for David Ballard and his willingness to travel to Nigeria during the period and teach a class on the Scheme of Redemption. This strengthens and edifies the Christians there well beyond the material that is presented. The school has plans for many more evangelistic efforts and are limited mainly by the resources available. **The West Coast School of Preaching near Takoradi Ghana** is continuing to train twenty-one students in their full and part-time programs. Their recent *Campaign for Christ* evangelistic effort was a success, and many are hearing and obeying the gospel on a continual basis. I will be meeting with some brethren from Howe Texas in Takoradi in the upcoming months for planning sessions, and our annual seminar. **The new Bear Valley program in Kenema Sierra Leone** is getting off to a good start. They have completed their first quarter of studies successfully with twenty full-time students. They are continuing their agriculture program that was implemented by Healing Hands, and are also actively involved in evangelism in the area around the school. Eight precious souls have recently been brought to Christ in the neighborhood around the school premises. Please keep these new Christians, and this new school in your prayers. **Our two schools in Cameroon located in Wotutu and Mbanga** are continuing to move forward. The French-speaking school in Mbanga had their first graduation with six men passing through the program. Twelve new students have now arrived to take up the torch. David Ballard continues to do a

wonderful work coordinating these two schools in Cameroon. They do a great job of regular reporting and more information can be found on the Bear Valley Bible Institute website.

## Summary of Happenings

It would take me pages and pages of writing to explain all of the happenings at all of the various schools. In addition to the schools of preaching, I am also involved in personal evangelism and leadership training in other areas of West Africa.

Each of the existing schools prepare monthly (or more often) reports that are posted on the Bear Valley website. You can read more about the work and all the schools in West Africa at this link:

[www.wetrainpreachers.com/extension-schools/](http://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

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

**Or you can contact Steven at:**

Email: [samtnhome@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Pohcraft*

**New Christians Baptized into Christ**



**Some More Christians**



**Bear Valley Bible Institute  
Kpalime, Togo**



**A new congregation has been planted in the town of Akata in French speaking Togo. The Gospel has the power to lead honest, sincere, seeking souls to heaven.**



**Part of the requirement of the Bear Valley program in Kpalime Togo is for each student to have a number of prospects to study with each week. Will these ladies obey the Gospel?**



**There is an old saying that there is no free lunch. This is true regarding the expansion of the church. Every new congregation that is planted is the result of much hard work!**



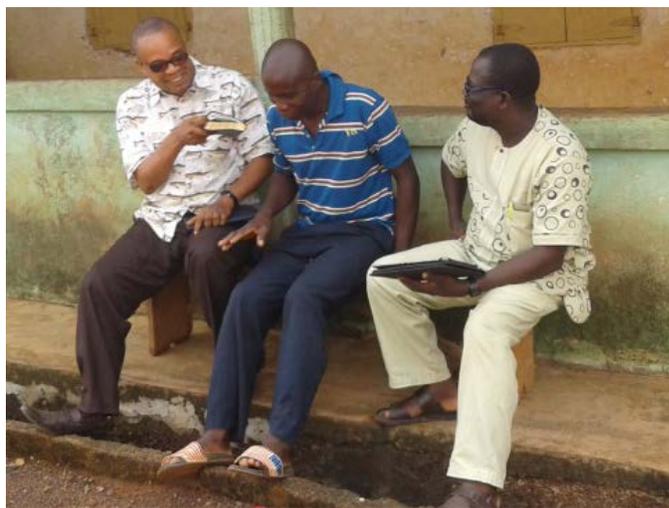
**A large part of our evangelism takes place through the written word. We are continually distributing tracts and teaching others through Bible correspondence courses.**

**Bear Valley Bible Institute  
Doboro, Ghana**



**Over 45 souls were brought to Christ when three congregations were planted by the school in Accra over the last six months. With your help many are being saved!**

**Another congregation was planted through the hard work of our full and part time students in the town of Ahenesie Ghana. Eight souls were baptized into Christ.**



**Some of those who have had their eternal destinies influenced in southern Ghana through your sacrifice. Many are hearing and obeying the Gospel call.**

**Our experienced instructors are great role models to help our students establish an evangelistic spirit. The gospel is continuing to be spread far and wide throughout Ghana!**

**West Coast School of Preaching  
Takoradi, Ghana**



**The students and staff at the West Coast school of Preaching are continually bearing fruit by sharing the gospel through personal evangelism and public preaching.**



**The training begins in the classroom but continues into the mission field. The students are taught to evangelize and preach both behind the pulpit and in the streets.**



**All of the full-time students and instructors at the West Coast School of Preaching were given Thompson Chain Reference Bibles. These are a wonderful tool for these men.**



**Many times the best place for evangelism can be the work place. While these women are trying to put food on their tables, our student is giving them some spiritual food.**

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



**When an American short course teacher comes to Nigeria, all the students and instructors gather to drink from the well. There is a great thirst for God's word in Africa!**



**Our mission is to evangelize the world. Many are hearing and obeying the Gospel through the efforts of the school in Ibadan Nigeria. Our prayers are with them.**



**We are commanded to GO and PREACH the Gospel. These brethren know how to get the best miles per evangelist per gallon of gasoline. Well done!**



**We are so thankful for the sacrifice of brother David Ballard as he builds up the church in West Africa. He recently made a detour to Nigeria to teach the Scheme of Redemption.**

**Bear Valley Bible Institute  
Tamale, Ghana**



**I take every opportunity to edify our brethren both in the classroom and at the local congregations. Here I am teaching Bible class with one of our graduates translating.**



**We are continually looking for faithful men who have a desire to study God's word. Eleven men recently interviewed for admittance into the program in Tamale.**



**When we want to plant a new congregation in a village, it is customary to ask permission from the chief. We are waiting to receive his blessing.**



**With your help, we are able to make some much-needed renovations to the building in Tamale. It is through your sacrifice that this work is possible. Thank you so much!**

**Bear Valley Bible Institute  
Kenema, Sierra Leone**



**The students at the Bear Valley school in Kenema Sierra Leone are already making an impact on the community. Recently six souls were baptized into Christ in the area.**



**There is a great need for trained leaders in the churches of Christ in Sierra Leone. This congregation in Banbuibu has sent five young men to the school in Kenema.**



**The students are ready to dig deep into God's word for the benefit of our Lord's kingdom in Sierra Leone. We thank God for their sacrifice, and yours too!**



**A school is not possible without strong faithful Christians to teach the word of God. We thank God for these men, and their desire to train others.**

**Bear Valley Bible Institute  
Ganta, Liberia**



**Twenty-eight precious souls were baptized into Christ and a new congregation planted in the village of Tearyegbayplay. Please keep these new Christians in your prayers!**



**I recently had an opportunity to spend a week teaching Biblical Geography in Ganta Liberia. We thank God for making this school possible.**



**Through the generous support of a Christian brother, we continue to give all of our students personal evangelism Bibles. These are a great help to their work!**



**Brother Robert Dahn is spreading the gospel with a radio program he began with his personal funds. He is going to need some help if this program is going to continue.**

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



**Six students graduated from the French-speaking Bear Valley program in Mbanga Cameroon during the period. Twelve new students have now taken their place!**



**This lady was attracted by the morning radio program and convinced by the students in Wotutu that she needed to be baptized immediately, even in the dark.**



**The students in Wotutu are very busy using the tools that have been provided. This includes the evangelism van, Bible tracts, food, and all else needed for the work.**



**The students in Wotutu bring another lady to Christ, and give her some advice before her sins are washed away.**

**Other Photos**



**This is the group of preachers who participated in a recent evangelistic campaign in the northern Togo town of Niamtougou. The work is difficult in French speaking West Africa, but we are making progress. You can tell by the smiles on the childrens' faces that they are ready to listen. Their families, friends, and culture make it more difficult for them to obey.**



**We held our annual Bear Valley Extension school meeting in Denver Colorado in April of this year. This photo shows the men who are involved in coordinating the various schools throughout the world.**

**Some pictures of the children**



**Some more Children**

