

# Gateway Missions



## Ghana, West Africa

**DECEMBER 2008**

IMPACT • INFLUENCE • IMPART

I just returned from Ghana, West Africa, where three ministries combined resources and talents to train fifty-five pastoral leaders in Ashaiman and forty-four in Kwamekrom in the North Volta region. In both conference locations we had seventeen different church denominations represented. That is something only God can do! The people face such hardship on a daily basis, yet they are some of the most joyful people I have ever had the honor to be with. For instance, communities are forced to share water because of the water shortage there. The Guest House where we stayed had running water, but because of the water rotations I only had three showers (cold water only please). However, we did have a bucket of water to bathe with on the other nights. Also, electricity was intermittent. I asked them how they managed to be so optimistic and their answer was very enlightening! They said "We know how difficult things are here, so we must encourage each other by being positive." What a lesson we can learn from their example.



So many of the pastors asked us to please come back and provide them with more training. Elvis Kafui Doe, our key leader in Ghana, put it this way..."Our lives have changed. What your team has taught us has made a big Impact on us which has Influenced us to return to our churches and Impart what we have learned to our people."

There were so many testimonies of how God had touched the pastors who had attended the conferences. Jane Ann and I are grateful for your partnership with us. This year we have been able to train 4,003 pastoral leaders! We are so grateful for the doors which have been opened to us since we began. Our 2009 schedule is full and we are working on our 2010 calendar. THANK YOU!



Pastor Alfred Adjonieh, our host pastor, shared a story of a young girl born into a Muslim family who has become a believing Christian. However, because the persecution she faces, usually death by poisoning, is so great, she lives a clandestine Christian life. She wraps her Bible in plastic and keeps it hidden in a remote location. When she has the opportunity, she will sneak it out and hide away so she can read it. Her name was not revealed because of obvious reasons.

As you might imagine it takes a lot of resources to be able to get to these deserving pastors and church leaders. We need your prayers and financial support. There are opportunities everywhere for us to "come over and help". It is only by your generosity and the grace of God that we are able to bring training and hope to these leaders. Please prayerfully consider giving a year end gift. Your contributions are tax deductible and will be a blessing to many pastors. For tax purposes, gifts given this month must be postmarked no later than December 31, 2008.

The last day of the conference in Kwamekrom a group of pastors traveled forty-five minutes by water to be with us. Why? Because there is no access by land to where we were. Pastor John of Kwamekrom has been working with the people of this village and hopes to have access by land soon. What a blessing to have these pastors join us and to experience their hunger for God.



Also we had four pastors from the neighboring nation of Togo. Togo is still very rustic and presents many challenges to getting the Gospel out. The pastors were sharing with us the need for training in the very difficult times that they are facing. They have a heart to reach the areas that have no viable churches. Yes, that is correct. There are areas in Togo that still have not heard the Good News of Jesus. They have invited us to come over and help them.



Many times during the conference there will be children who are hungry and in need of some nourishment. So during the planning stages of this conference we felt it would be nice to reach out to the community and feed the children. We fed two hundred-fifty children! This is not something we do regularly as part of the ministry. However, we always want to do what we can to help the pastors and their communities establish good will and bring the Kingdom of God in a tangible way.

## Family Update



Brant surprised us by coming home for a few days to celebrate an early Thanksgiving, although he had to return to San Antonio to be at work on Thanksgiving Day. He is still with FOX News and loving it.



Chad and Amanda are doing well. Chad enjoys coaching at Evans Jr. High and Amanda is attending Texas Tech to get her elementary teaching certification. They are both very happy and busy with their children Taylor (7), Averie (5) and Connor (21 months) who are our constant delights.

Jane Ann stays busy with work at Church on the Rock, Gateway Missions & being a grandmother.

***"There has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*** (Luke 2:11)

*Our prayer is that you will experience the true meaning of Christmas and that the blessings of Love, Joy and Peace will fill your hearts.*

In Christ who loved us first,

Gary and Jane Ann

Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. All funds are used for designated projects and for the total ministry of Gateway Missions