

Every Child Ministries
“Serving the forgotten children of Africa”
*Carolyn and Jim Driscoll Update **March 14, 2009***

Luke 10:2

Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.

How many times have you speedily read over this verse and not really given it much thought? If you are like me in that regard, I want to encourage all of you who have supported us materially and through prayer. We all (our supporters and us) have been blessed so much this last month. God has truly opened a door in so many places and I hope to share just a bit of it in this update.

Before I get into the really good spiritual stuff I'll share some of the challenges we have had to overcome this month. One day when we tried to pump water by starting the generator, the worker, John, came up and said that the pump would not work. Fred and I went down and checked the voltage coming out of the generator and it looked okay so we went over to the controller box at the well and found that the controller had burned up. After much trouble-shooting we also determined that the pump was also defective. We discovered that the electrician who had wired all this had not fused the circuit so that when the pump drew too much current it burned up the controller. We developed a strategy on how to properly wire the circuit to protect the generator, pump and all the electrical circuits. With this plan in mind we headed for Accra and discovered anew the difficulties of even the most simple task here in Ghana.

At home we would have headed for the nearest Lowe's, Home Depot or hardware store and would find all we needed to complete our job. Not so in Africa. Here we went to the place that had sold us the failed pump, only to find that they did not have a direct replacement pump. Now you've got to understand. We have 47 children and a lot of staff that had no access to water. Picture this; 47 kids at the home and another 55 village kids and staff and teachers, no water for cooking or bathing, 90 degrees plus heat. In short, we've got to do something. We asked if they had a similar pump. They had a pump one size larger but they said everything is compatible. We took it and hurried to another side of Accra where we could find the electrical parts we needed. This took several hours but we got what we needed and headed back to Haven of Hope (an hour and a half drive back), thrilled that we had managed to find everything we needed. As we assembled everything and were ready to install the pump we realized that the pump had a different connector on it, so it was not a direct replacement as the man had told us. Of course, we could not complete the work so we had to wait until the next day. We had to drive back another one and a half hours one way to get a pipe adaptor to make the connection. We ended up having to go to Tema to a manufacturer of pipe to get all that we needed. This took us over half a day. We finally got everything ready to test and when we applied power to the pump the generator under load started slipping the belts so our voltage was fluctuating from 150 volts to 220. This was what had burned up the

motor in the first place. Low voltage caused the pump to pull high current and fried everything in its path due to no fuse protection.

Is there any blessing in this whole scenario? Yes, there is. Just before reinstalling the pump we noticed something down in the well floating on the water. I fished it out and it was a decaying large frog. We had just started noticing a foul smell at the sink and thought it was the drain. This decaying frog was the culprit. We discovered a hole in the well casing that allowed the frog to enter the well. We had to use heavy chemical treatment to purify the well and make it safe for consumption. If we had not had the pumping problem we could have faced a major health crisis from the bacteria. God is good . . . all the time.

We've also put up a pen for our watch dogs so we can put them up during school. They so much want to attend school, but we've decided they would be a distraction for the other children. The children are doing great with the dogs and the dogs are already at five months starting to guard the compound instinctively. They will not let strangers enter without someone here calling them off. Though only five months old Zack is over 70 pounds and Zoe is right at 55 pounds.

I have one last item we would appreciate your prayer about before moving on to the good stuff. We were at the Immigration office about two weeks ago and someone broke into the van and stole our video camera which was brand new (\$500) and my Canon digital camera which was about two years old and cost me \$700. Also, Fred Huffman, my friend had a Nikon camera stolen which was valued at \$300. We went to the police station to report it and got a run-around and decided it was useless to pursue it. Please pray that we will be able to replace these since they are used to document the ministries we are doing here.

Now, to the good stuff. We have had the opportunity to reach into many animist and Muslim villages. When we are home on furlough we will share with you the details of these villages but due to the sensitivity for our translators we hesitate to talk about the location of the work we are doing in the northern areas since the Muslims from some of our so-called allies are attempting to radicalize Muslim villages in the northern areas of Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria and other countries in the region. Suffice it to say that in the last five weeks we have been able to go into seven villages and the door has been thrown open to show the Jesus film and to share Christ. Of course, as in all cultures, the children are the most receptive, but we are amazed at the number of senior citizens that have prayed to receive Christ. Fred, Jere and I have had the opportunity to present the gospel of Christ and saw amazing results. In five villages in the north and two locally we have seen about one hundred confessions of Christ. One of the men confessing Christ was a chief's brother, one was a sorcerer, several were sick people we were asked to pray for who we shared the gospel with before praying for them. Many youth and their mothers have prayed to receive Christ. We are rapidly discovering that where the message has not gone before, people of all ages are hungry for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are hoping to expand this work by assisting some of the nationals. We are finding that there are laborers who are willing to go with us if we can provide the

transportation and tools to give the gospel. They also want to continue the work of establishing children's Bible studies and adult discipleship classes leading to church planting. We tremendous advantage for a couple of old fellows to go with the eager young pastors. Besides the transportation and video equipment, a seasoned Christian is better able to address some of the questions asked. Also, we are finding the chiefs and elders of the villages are much more responsive to us old guys. I know what you are thinking, "You mean there is an advantage to being old?" "Yep, that's what I'm saying. In this culture age is respected."

The last chief we met up north was from an animist village. He is a very likable fellow who loves to laugh. We asked if we could show the Jesus film and he gave his blessing. We wanted to show it that night but they were having a funeral so we scheduled it for our next visit. I asked him if I could come and sit under his mango tree to share stories with each other and to learn about his life. He got very excited about the prospect and said that he would love to do that. As I looked at the mangos I realized that they would be ripe when we returned. I suggested that we eat mangos together when we returned. He said that he would have the women prepare them for us when we come back, laughing the whole time he talked. Pray that the Lord will open his heart to receive the gospel as we share with him. Old men . . . sitting under a mango tree . . . sharing Christ. Ah, it doesn't get any better than that!

We are so thankful for the opportunity the Lord has given us to share the gospel. We've even learned that when the police stop us to try to get a bribe if we start sharing about Christ they will either hurriedly tell us to go on, or they will open up for us to share with them and some have professed their belief in Christ. We have given several Bibles to policeman who need one. Since pressing us for money. You may be thinking, well, how often could a person be stopped. In one week on a trip to the Volta region of Ghana we were stopped at least 25 times. And, we gave, not a penny.

The family aid program for mothers about to go on the street has finally come to a point that we can now set up the co-ops. We've completed the application/interview process and are now distribute the monies into bank accounts that are being set up for the team members. We now have about 135 ladies who have applied. Our priority is widows first, then most needy and those with the most children. We want to impact the most children up front of the project. Pray that this will go well as we launch the program and that we will have wisdom in our decisions of who is helped first.

One last story I would like to share. We attended the funeral of a chief who had just recently received Christ. His brother was lead to the Lord by Fred on our first visit two months ago and he will become the new chief. The chief had died the morning before and we arrived just before 4:00 pm the next day. They don't have embalming there and the chief had been raised up on a stand about 5 to 6 feet high and sitting in a chair. The temperature was right around 100 degrees during the two days. The stench of rotting human flesh filled the village. After a memorial service several men went over to the body and hoisted it onto a man's shoulders. Then they ran through the area to the hole in the ground next to the chiefs home. As they ran through the village the chiefs rotting

flesh from his legs pulled loose and slid down his legs exposing the raw tissue. The stench was now horrible. Fred said that the Lord spoke into his heart at that moment that before salvation this was the stench he was to a Holy God, but that now, in Christ, he was a sweet smelling aroma in His nostrils. Oh, the wonders of our salvation. Transforming us from this stench of death to joint heirs of Christ and a sweet smelling savor in the nostrils of our Holy God.

The field is so ripe for the harvest. Pray laborers and support will come for the work of this ministry. We love you all and appreciate you all so much. All the children and Carolyn and thank you for making it possible for us to be here representing you for the kingdom.

We would love to hear from all of you to learn how things are going for you and how we can pray specifically for you.

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