

Ghana Mission Report

Upper West Region

January 2012

by Lowell Maxey

This is the longest of the trips made to Ghana. I left DFW about 4:30 PM and arrived in Ghana about 9 PM the next evening, arriving at our hotel about 10pm. I had a van meeting me the next morning and leaving Accra at 5 AM. This route goes through some of the mountainous regions before coming to Kumasi. From there we proceed to Teichiman where we spend the night. Then leaving early again we finally reach our destination about 1 PM on the fourth day.

In the last few years I have always taken my food with me and lived out of my suitcase. Beef nuggets, cheese crackers, peanut butter, etc. and Mountain House (from Academy), where a cup of hot water makes an excellent meal. We buy our water.

While exchanging U.S. dollars for Ghanaian money in Kumasi I had the opportunity for a short Bible study with a young Methodist man. I encouraged him to contact one of the Churches of Christ there and continue with his thinking, and he agreed.

Now before going any further I want to introduce you to the men supported by Oldham Lane. First of all there is Emmanuel Kuusane. Emmanuel and his family live in Nadowli. In the picture you will see Emmanuel, his wife Esther, daughter Christabel, and son Rexford. Rexford cries

every time his daddy leaves. It won't be too long before he starts going with his father.





I want to tell you a way to know when Emmanuel preaches and interprets. He will end a sentence several times with “boom, boom”. This actually means “what, what”, and he uses it as sort of a period, exclamation point, and question mark. You may not understand the sentence but the “boom boom” is very clear.

The next picture you see is Thomas Donzie and his wife Jennifer, with their children Gaius, Excell, and Nathpli. Thomas and his family live in Jirapa.

Here is the way to know when Thomas is speaking. A number of times during interpreting or in response to a statement, he will say, “AHaaaa” This is just his way of making a point or of showing the ones answering the question that they are on the right track.

After arriving we have the chance to get settled in before leaving for the village of Nator at 6 PM. The attendance that evening was 20 adults, 25 children and I spoke on the subject of judgment. Back to our base about 9 PM.

Awoke bright and early on the 14th and found that I am going to the village of Takpo this morning and afternoon. Then tonight I am speaking at Nadowli. This will be a normal schedule for the rest of my time in the Upper West. Leave by 8 or 9 AM, returning no later than 11 PM.

Before leaving this morning I had a Bible study with Rhoda, a young lady who was cooking for some other guests in the same building. She is either Pentecostal or Catholic. The Catholic Church has been in Ghana over 100 years and is very strong.

Our last stop during daylight hours was at the village of Sombo. Would guess there were 75 or so people present. Did not count but large number. No church at this village but excellent opportunity to plant a congregation and Lambert Dassah, who lives nearby can work with this effort.

On our way to our afternoon session we stopped at the village of Kankanzie. There was an extended family gathered under a tree peeling cassava and while they peeled I spoke with Emmanuel interpreting into Gtare. Emmanuel believes there is a good opportunity to plant a congregation there and he has a man that can work with the village.

This is going to be the schedule during our time in the Upper West.

You may also be interested in knowing that all Bibles were in English, as the Bible has never been interpreted into Gtare.

The villages I worked with were Nadowli, Nator, Kankanzie, Sombo, Chari-Sombo, Jirapa, Faalu, Dakpa, Takpo, Serekpere, Douri, Degri, Osino, and Anyinam.

In between preaching and teaching we went on “walkabouts”; meaning we walked throughout the villages and talked to people about the Bible. One fact that consistently impresses me is that in walking up to a single person or a group, there has never been anyone that refused to listen to what was said and study the Bible.

During the time with Emmanuel and Thomas there were 25 baptisms and one new congregation established.

On my way back we stopped at Osino for the night. It is a very long drive and the driver needed a break (as well as yours truly). We all rested up that evening and the next day. On the next day there was a long walkabout, from 9 AM to 5 PM. The preacher and eleven members of his congregation went with me. On this walk I would be told the opportunity as we approached the people and would direct my comments especially toward their needs.

One sad moment was when we visited with a lady whose husband had poured acid all over her, disfigured her face and blinded her. She is a member of the Lord’s Body but because of the disfigurement had stopped attending. Her husband had been in prison, they petitioned for him to be released to take care of his family, and he was released. Shortly after his release the incident occurred. He is now hiding somewhere in the mountains.

This good Christian woman is now attending services again.

Most of the people I had an opportunity to visit were idol worshipers, Catholic, or of some other denomination. Seldom do I study with a Muslim.

Of course I preached the plan of salvation wherever I went, but some other sermons were of Luke 12, Judgment, I Samuel 17, and, perhaps the one best received, "How To Avoid Hell".

The end results of the evangelistic effort were 29 baptisms, 1 restoration, and 1 new congregation planted.

You can go to my Facebook site and see other pictures of the trip.

Arriving in Accra on the day I was leaving gave me a chance for a good meal before going to the airport. Even though I always think of home it is also difficult to leave a people so open to the gospel. As usual working with the Ghanaian churches also gives a personal inspection time. I compare my life in Texas to my life in Ghana, and oft times find my life in Texas wanting. A definite sense of encouragement to my spiritual life is given by my time in Ghana.

For those interested I plan to return to Ghana in August of this year and would enjoy your presence and assistance.