

# Oldham Lane Church of Christ

Mission Report by Victor Vadney

Ministry in Southern Ghana,

January 2012

MISSIONS  
MINISTRY



Volume 1, Issue 2, 4/9/12

**(This issue contains both my report and the report from the follow-up work.)**

## ***Disaster, Arrival, and Disaster!***



Before arrival, we learned that the large van we had reserved from a Ghanaian church of Christ at a very reasonable price was completely disabled. This van would have accommodated all the preachers, our cook and her equipment, all the books for the seminars, as well as Janet and myself. It was too late to reserve any other road-worthy van. Andy Kwofie was fortunate to find an old, gas-guzzling van that was barely going and had a "For Sale" sign on it. He also had to ask the Fiaji Church, where Frances Ayilla preaches, to loan their small van, and they graciously did so. It became obvious that van costs would be much greater than we had budgeted.

When we arrived, we learned that the President of Ghana had just raised the cost of Petrol by 20%. Since we were then feeding two vans instead of one, this caused even more concern that budgeted funds would be insufficient to fund this mission trip. At this

very late point in planning, it was clear that most of the funds were already committed, and reallocating funds would not solve our very serious problem. The only options were to continue on or call it all a loss and come home. We decided to continue on despite the disappointments, and quickly realized we would have to use personal funds to help fund the mission.

## ***Seminars at Esiama***



We had scheduled year 2 seminars at Bibiani, but received word in late December 2011 that the elders from the Bonso Church had called all the leaders in the Ashanti Region to meet them in Kumasi. This disrupted the seminars at Bibiani. Faced with failure for the first seminars, Frances Mensah asked that the seminars be held in Esiama in the Western Region. Frances had less than two weeks to put together the seminar program in Esiama. The total attendance for January 12-15 was 580. There were 2 baptisms from the afternoons we spent in personal evangelism. This was the only church that allowed us the time for afternoon evangelism. I want to

thank Frances Mensah for his very hard work to make this seminar successful. Esiamas was very happy to receive us and also to invite us to return next year.

### ***Seminars at Anyinam—Another Disaster***



Anyinam was one of several churches that were to all meet at Anyinam for the second year of the seminars at this location. However, the turn-out for January 17-18 was only 150 people, and most of the members at Anyinam did not come. It appears that they were offended that I did not give them money to help them finish their church building last year, so they didn't come. They were very inhospitable and wouldn't even give the preachers water to take a bath, which the preachers took as a great insult. Truly, I have never seen such a breach in Ghanaian hospitality in all my visits to Ghana. Others said no one had told them that we were coming, despite Andy Kwofie making two trips to set up the program with Brother Alexander Sarkodi, the preacher who has worked in this area for many years. Others said they never want us to come again. Those attending were unanimous that they wanted to have both lectures shortened and scheduled back-to-back each day, and they wanted no part in any local evangelism in the afternoon, which we have always tried to do. This was all very bizarre, to say the least. At the end of the seminars in the Osino area, the preachers all agreed that we would not come again to Anyinam.

### ***Restoration Workshop at Bunso Cocoa College—A Disappointing Turnout***



This was the third year to have the Restoration Workshop at this location. The turnout for the workshop was only 198 over the four days, January 19-22, and this was the poorest turnout of the three years. However, I learned that the Bonso Church of Christ elders had called in all the leaders in the region, kept them for some days, and then sent them home just 4 days before the Workshop began. With the relatively high cost of transportation, most of the leaders did not have the funds to return for the Restoration Workshop. It became very clear that there was tension between the main organizer, Ken Kesse, and the elders of the Bonso Church. Although the elders administrated the funds, their personal involvement in the Workshop was minimal. Because of this development, the preachers and I agreed that we need to move the venue for the Restoration Workshop to a population center where more people could participate with less travel. We agreed to have this in Cape Coast in January 2013, if it be the Lord's will. Since the participants would be able to sleep in their own beds, this should save a considerable amount over what we have been spending at the Bunso Cocoa College.

### ***Seminars at Kibi—Another Poor Turnout***



Anyinam was one center in these groups of churches, and Kibi was the other center for another group. However, the Kibi people were very kind us and hospitable. It appeared that they had no indication that we were coming. It appeared that none of the working members could come because of the lack of notification and planning. However, when they realized I was speaking on God's Covenants and Restorations and also has books for them, all the churches in the Kibi area begged that more books be given to them so all the working members who couldn't come would be able to read the material. We worked with them on January 23-24. Unfortunately, they, like Anyinam, wanted the lectures back-to-back each day so they could close early, and no local evangelism in the afternoons.

Although there appeared to be a desire on their part for us to return next year, it has become obvious that there is friction between some of these churches, Brother Sarkodie, and the team of preachers we support. Until this gets worked out, it does not appear to be wise to return to the Osino area.



### ***Conclusion***

We were certainly encouraged by Frances Mensah and the Church of Christ in Esiamas,

especially stepping up at the last hour to request a seminar in place of Bibiani.

We were disappointed at the attitudes in Anyinam, and I don't fully understand the remarkable lack of hospitality there. That gracious hospitality is a defining mark of Ghanaians. Kibi seemed to have a better heart. However, because of the tensions in this area, it is not wise to work with these churches or their leadership until such time that these tensions are resolved and a right mind prevails over all.

We hope the elders at the Oldham Lane Church of Christ will continue to fund the Restoration Workshop as the need for restoration really needs to be taught all over the country of Ghana. Liberal elements are becoming stronger and bringing about unscriptural changes in the churches of Christ in Ghana. Only courageous teaching and preaching of the New Covenant will counteract this plan of Satan.

### ***Follow-up Work by Andy Ben Kwofie and Francis Mensah, April 2012***

These evangelists, who are supported by Oldham Lane Church of Christ, went back to these locations and met with the churches and the leaders.

### ***Esiamas***

The leaders and the members felt that the seminar helped them. Some of the surrounding churches are now using the books we printed as their Bible Class materials

and have found them very useful. Some of the preachers are using this material for the public preaching and dawn preaching. They say the book is written with simple English and any ordinary person could read and understand it. Others say that the lessons cover every lifestyle of a man and it is a book worth reading every day.

In the next seminar, they want to spend more time in evangelism, and they want to rectify their tardiness to the lectures and stop their going out when the lessons are presented. They have decided to have 50/50 for seminars and evangelism, to intensify evangelism, and add public preaching at night.

### ***Anyinam***

These Christians apologized for their “slow motion.” They requested that we return next year. But they seemed to lack real conviction. The evangelists we support are not convinced that the Anyinam brethren have repented, and at this time are reluctant to return to Anyinam again.

### ***Kibi***

The preachers and leaders of the congregations around Kibi were very cordial. They were sorry for their shortcomings. They said the seminar had greatly helped the churches in their area. Also, the seminar had caused them to intensify their evangelism, and this has resulted in 25 baptisms from four churches so far.

They also said that they had corrected all their errors regarding the seminars, and they pleaded strongly that the team should come to the Kibi area to work again in January

2013.

Lydia, our cook



Frances Ayillah



G. N. Tetteh translating for me



Andy Ben Kwofie



G. N. Tetteh



Francis Mensah setting up everything



Night preaching in Esiama



Preparing to move from Esiama. Francis, GN, and Ransford Essien waiting with me.



Anyinam--men's class under the trees



Anyinam--men and women



Andy with heavy coat--Harmattan is cold



Meditation



Rare Picture of Janet  
She is teaching the women and Lydia is translating



Books stacked to give away at the  
Restoration Workshop



Teaching at the Restoration Workshop



Restoration Workshop



Ladies' Class starting



Teaching at Kibi



Cold morning in Kibi



Our book--very well received



What a smile!



***Thank you  
OLCC!***

***The End***