

## **The “Beloved Missionary School”**

During the summer of 2011, it became increasingly clear to us that the Lord was calling for a change of plans in our building programme. We had been planning “Ruth House” for some time, as a place of refuge for women who were victims of domestic violence. But despite our every effort, in Africa and the U.K., we could not make any progress.

Then the Lord began to make it plain that we should hold back on this project for a while, and concentrate on the “Beloved” school. The funding we have for Ruth House will remain set aside on that project, when it eventually gets under way, so no money which has been given for Ruth House will be diverted. We will continue to pray for the Ruth House project, and prepare for it in the future.

In the meantime, we will open the “Beloved Missionary School.” There is a great need for a school for the 5-11 year olds in our valley. All that is available at present are schools run by other faiths. The Christians feel that their children are being stolen from them, and inoculated with teachings which they, as Christians they are not happy about.

So, we come to the “Beloved Missionary School.” This will be a 2 storey building, next to our base here in Media near Accra. In the ground floor will be 6 classrooms for the children. We will link with the Ghana Education authority syllabus, and pay the teachers we employ. We will provide all the teaching materials.

We will landscape the base, so that the school has a playing field, where events can take place. (This will not be their playground!) Parent/teacher groups will meet on the base, so that we can establish a strong link between base and school. The Lord wants his children taught in an environment where he is honoured, and where he can call them into his service in the years of their life which follow their time with us.

But there will be so much more, which is the “missionary” emphasis comes in. We will help our children in the Christian faith, and help them to discover what part they can play in the work of God, as they grow older. Some, perhaps many, will come to our “School of Ministries”, where we teach young people about spiritual gifts and service.

Upstairs we will establish the “Emmaus Pastor’s school. This is where we will train our Pastors, and where Pastors and leaders from the district can come to study, think, pray and learn. With the Pastors upstairs, the school and children downstairs are literally under the covering and prayers of the Pastors. In the Emmaus School the Lord is providing protection and prayer for the children.

One of my favourite words, as my team are always pointing out, is “nice!” The Pastors being taught and equipped over the heads of the children and so praying and caring for them - that’s very “nice!”

More details to follow.

Jim Smith