

Summer 2011: Jim's report.

What a long, complex, troubled and ultimately successful 46 days in Ghana!

First the problems. The Healing Crusade - the 4 major Saturday events, with the trained Ghanaian team was a disappointment. The churches, including the Vine Churches and even Blessing church did not support this event. The team never turned up. It was staged to lift high the power and name of Jesus in a valley where Islam is growing fast.

I cancelled it after the second Saturday.

This is very disappointing, and shows that the churches are not united, and do not see the challenge from Islam, which has gone from 3 to 6 mosques in 6 months. The Muslims held an event at the end of August, and over 200 men attended - not counting the women. This challenge, which we face daily, will become a big challenge for Southern Ghana, which is unprepared for the challenge. Northern Ghana knows it only too well.

My impression of Ghana this time is that faith is weaker in the churches, and that the Nation is sliding imperceptibly away from the Lord. There is enormous inflation in food prices and land prices, but this is not matched by wage rises. The Daily Graphic, very much a government supporting paper, announced that "basic wages in Ghana have risen by 20%." I wonder where their "Ghana" is - it isn't the one where I work, where just getting enough rice for the day is a challenge for many people. Oil wealth is arriving, but where is it going? Will the Nation as a whole be blessed? Africa has a poor track record when it comes to dealing with large sums of money.

We did get the clinic under way, and saw 150+ patients in the first month. That number has dropped away, but we are confident that with a little promotion, it will rise, and this will be a blessing to the people around here. All sorts of people come, including Muslims. We don't read their labels - we just try to help them.

Right next to the clinic is the well, and this is very well used by the local community. Very satisfying.

We did do some "Town centre" evangelism, especially in Medie Market square. This proved very effective, and it soon became more than just an evangelistic opportunity. Our western tem gave testimonies, Paul Sefa, Mary and myself also

spoke, although it was a major opportunity for Evangelist Hilary. It was a highly successful development, up til the last one, where the atmosphere didn't feel good at all. But the three good ones we did were brilliant. Loads of dancing as well!

The western team had, I think I can say, a brilliant time. They were very busy, training here in the base, visiting and praying for healing in the streets, sharing testimonies everywhere, including in many churches, and forming a very close knit group. I think we have got a wonderful package here for western people. Next year they will be trained in healing and prayer. But in the end it is the experience of being able to work on the very front line of God's work which they find so exciting and challenging. Next year I hope they will also be able to take a big part in Henry's church in Pokuase. We'll see, but the potential is there.

They also took a major part in the life of Blessing church.

Mary has been leading Blessing church for three months, and during the summer, Bishop, Paul Sefa and myself felt that her ministry was moving to that of an Apostle, so we ordained her to that role. Since then her ministry has changed and deepened, and in January she is going to hold an Apostolic crusade.

The Pastor's school began, with our Pastors, Mary, Henry and Stanley from Pokuase. Yet again, the local churches did not take advantage, but those who came, and will come again in January, have been moved on in their understandings.

It became clear to me during these months, that Apostle Paul will have a much wider influence than just this valley. He, and his fellow Apostles and leaders will have to move around Ghana, helping the church through the difficult days ahead. So we have created the "Apostolic team" and I will begin to train it. This might not really get going for some years, but I am convinced it is a key way ahead. We will be looking for those young leaders that the Lord wants in this team. "Young" is a key word. We must begin to look for those who are in their thirties, and begin to train them.

The Apostolic team will be based in the upstairs in the Beloved Missionary School. This is an old vision which we had, which has come to life again. We cannot allow all our children in this valley to go to Muslim schools. We have to protect our heritage. Originally, we were going to use the Ruth House land, but that is now a farm, until we build the House. Out of the heart of God, we have been offered the

perfect land near us here. So far, I have been able, out of my own work, to pay for one plot. One to go!

Last year, as I was praying in the Tab, a huge storm came up, and during it, God spoke to us. He said "This is my beloved son. Listen to him." I interpreted these words, saying that God seldom spoke in this way, so specific and clear, that it must have a powerful purpose. The first purpose was to build the house "Beloved" for Paul and Anita. That has now been done. But I always knew that this word had a wider context, and now I have found its next application -the "Beloved school." Paul's house and the school are "Beloved." That's why Paul's house as built so quickly, by one of our team, who prefers anonymity. The school wil rise up quickly under the same "Beloved" word.

And the "Beloved" word has further to run. Let's see where it leads us.

We are buying land for two more churches - one "Joy Chapel" near the satellite village, and one "Wonderful" in Kohleman. These are opposite sides of the base.

Now we have to raise the churches. I still want land in Nsawam. Land prices are rocketing, so it vital to get what we want now. Currently, and to our amazement, the Mission now covers 21 plots of land. God is truly good.

On the second to last day of the Mission, I spoke to a group of intercessors in Accra. This was very fruitful, and the word was recorded mp3, and will be on the web soon. This group wants to go further, and we are working out some ministry in January. Let's see where this goes. This is a good lesson in waiting - not my strong suit! I had to wait almost to the end before I saw a prophetic breakthrough.

January is already filling up, and I think we will stay for most of February as well. The work needs this kind of support at this point in its growth.

So a long and complex mission, with many challenges, many good things, some hard things, and enormous potential for the future.

Onwards!

Jim