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The Gospel for Ghana

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V F Churches - Ghana



CENTER FOR RESTORATION STUDIES
ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

The Gospel for Ghana



Top: Liberation Avenue
Accra, Ghana
Capital of Ghana
Pop. 461,000

Center: University College
Legon

Bottom: Post Office
Kumasi, Ghana
Pop. 220,000

Take a land the size of Oregon. Set it down just above equator in the middle of the south coast of West Africa. Let the Volta River divide the southern coastal plain and tropical forest from the grasslands in the north. In this land mix together five or six different and very old negro races living in tribal villages. Let them eat a main dish called "fu fu", made from pounded yams, and supplement that with plantain,



Ghanaian Culture

cassava, coconuts, ground-nuts, bananas, oranges, fish, chicken and, in the north some milk and beef. At a constant temperature between 75° and 85°, with alternating wet and dry seasons, stir them as they grow in numbers until they are eight million strong, speak about 56 different dialects in four or five major tongues. Marinate them in a religion compounded of belief in a supreme being, ancestor worship, prayer offered



up through trees and other tall objects, animal sacrifice, fetish priests working their medicine (or "ju ju"), and worship rituals with drums and dances. Add a pinch of Portuguese, Danish, Dutch, and British traders looking for gold, slaves, cocoa, and colonies. Bring to a boil several times. Sprinkle in one cup of Protestant and Catholic missionaries in the south, and one-half cup of Moslem missionaries in the north. Mix well until the consistency is about two-thirds Pagan, one-fourth



"Christian" and the rest Moslem or a curious mixture of all three. Cook with British soldiers and administrators for more than a century to form a fairly thick layer of modern European civilization in the cities and political institutions. Continue until the strong desire for independence boils up in 1956. Then season it with an earnest quest for education, industrial development and international status. Remove the British and call it . . . Ghana.

TELL ME . . .

One small voice . . . one cry for help
was enough to start the Lord's work in
Ghana.

About ten years ago a man in
Ghana sent word to the missionaries
then in Nigeria that he wanted
to know about their new teaching.
He was immediately contacted and a
course of study initiated by
mail. A year later John Gaidoo,
the first known Ghanaian to
study, believe and embrace the
Truth, was baptized into Christ.

Ghana

“. . . and he
went on his way
rejoicing.”

COME OVER . . . AND TEACH US
Brother Gaidoo began to preach
Christ . . . one small voice in a nation
of over seven million souls . . .
and awaited eagerly the arrival of
American missionaries. Just one
month before two men arrived in
Ghana in October of 1961,
this new zealous Christian died. We
like to think that he died with
happiness in his heart . . . happiness
because of his own obedience
to Christ . . . and the knowledge
that even then men were on their way
to teach the Gospel to his
beloved people.

Churches and brethren from many areas helped erect this dormitory - now a multi-purpose building, housing students, offices, classrooms, kitchen and dining room. When we have a BIBLE BUILDING this dormitory will accommodate 76 students. Enrollment in May 1971 - 25.



The Ghana School of Preaching. . .

The doorway to the evangelization of Ghana, *the Ghana School of Preaching* then called Bible College), was opened in 1961 by Jerry Reynolds and Dewayne Davenport, our first missionaries in that country. The sole purpose of the School was to teach men the Gospel - and prepare them to teach the Word of Jesus Christ to their own people. Brother Reynolds returned home two years later and was replaced by Harold Derr. The work continued until internal strife in Ghana forced a cessation of all activities of the church. By that time, however, the seed had been sown . . . the love of Christ had been instilled in the hearts and minds of men that the light of Christianity continued to shine during those dark days in troubled Ghana. Support was sent from churches and individuals in this country to the few natives who went about faithfully and determinedly preaching the Gospel of Christ to their people.

In the summer of 1965 elder R. N. Floyd and his wife were sent to Ghana by the Cedars congregation in Wilmington, Delaware to survey existing conditions and evaluate the possibility of reopening the School. Their report was encouraging. In the spring of 1967 Jerry Reynolds and Charles Scott made a two months tour of southern Ghana, talking and preaching to hundreds of friendly and receptive natives, and distributing Bibles and tracts. Sixty two people were baptized.

SCHOOL REOPENS

Gerald O. Fruzia, Sr., and his wife Fay arrived in Kumasi in December, 1967 and were joined by Leo Miller a year later. They found many eager students - but no facilities. Gerald rented a small garage and started classes in January '68, but with such limited facilities could accept only six students. Brethren Fruzia and Samuel B. Obeng (. B. O.) local preacher and dean of students, taught all classes, arranged week end preaching assignments for those qualified, and even managed to "squeeze in" another young man from time to time. The following month brethren Reynolds and Scott led seven evangelists from the States on a second missionary journey, four for one month and the other for three weeks. Brother Fruzia had trained several of his better students to act as guides and interpreters, and the men spread out all over the Kumasi area to preach the Gospel message.

Fruzias off to Ghana Dec. 1967. When they returned Sept. 1970 . . . the school was well established, 12 graduates were preaching full time, the dorm was almost finished, and 60 new churches had been started.



SPREADING THE WORD IN GHANA

... and the multitudes followed

The size of the crowds astonished them. People begged for Bibles and other church literature . . . invitations came to them from many sources and more doors were opened to them than could possibly be entered. New congregations could have been started but, *there were not enough native leaders to carry on the work.* They concentrated on building up existing congregations, handing out Bibles and enrolling literally hundreds in the Bible Correspondence Course. At the close of this second journey 134 people had been baptized. Missionary journeys or campaigns to Ghana have now become annual affairs. In 1969, '70 and '71 groups of up to 20 men made the trip with brethren Scott and Reynolds. They preach night and day, in the bush and in the cities, in homes and on street corners, in schools and denominational meetings - but the time is always too short.

The people are eager for more teaching and preaching. These tours, referred to by Royce Reynolds as ". . . glorious adventure in carrying the Gospel to Ghana," have had a tremendous impact on the spiritual growth of the Lord's church in the Kumasi Area.

Reynolds arrive; Fruzias and Miller leave.

Royce R. and Cindy Reynolds with their five children arrived in Ghana early in September to take over the work from Gerald and Fay. Royce has complete charge of the mission work in Kumasi which includes supervising the program of the *Ghana School of Preaching*, conducting classes, following up contacts resulting from the weekly radio lesson presented by brother Obeng, supervising grading and handling of Correspondence Course, arranging week end preaching assignments for the students as well as for himself.

Cindy Reynolds has many roles. She is wife, mother, teacher, nurse and counselor, in addition to any other work that comes her way. She has eight Bible classes each week: one class of youngsters where attendance has reached as high as 59; five Bible classes at the International School where 23 nations are represented, and two evening classes, one for children and the other for mothers. Her nursing talents are in constant demand and she goes into the villages to care for the sick



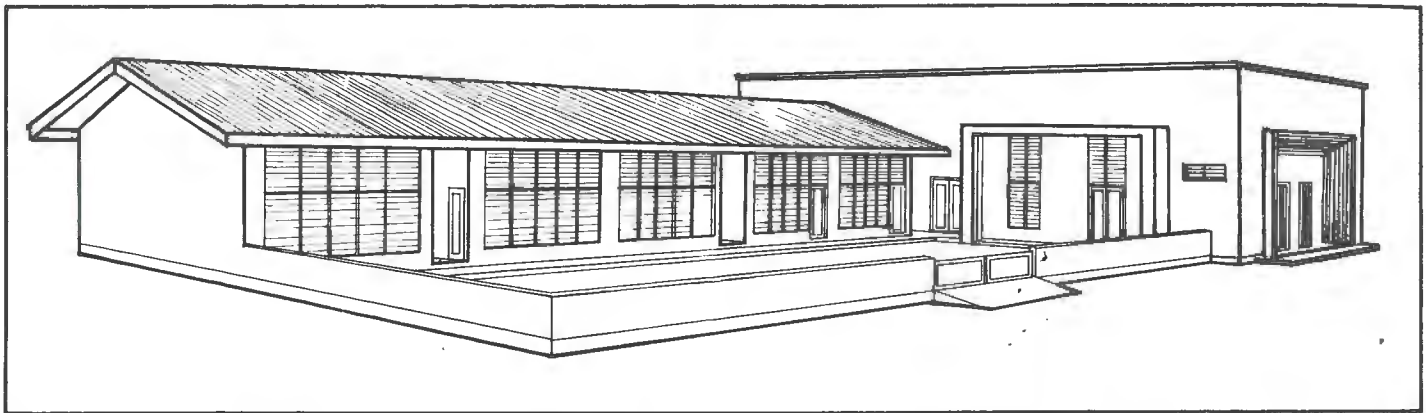
Royce and Cindy Reynolds, with Kandie, Paul, Ric, Cathy and Buzzy, arrived in Kumasi Sept. 2, 1970.



H. Clifton and Nell Jarrell, with Cliff, Jr., Donna and Phillip, reached Kumasi March 5, 1971. Bro. Jarrell will work with the students and the churches of the area, also aid in the follow-up of inquiries from radio program.



Albert and Frances Gardner with four of their five children, Tim, David, Mike and Ann, arrived in Ghana June 8, 1971. (Big brother Bill stayed home.) Brother Gardner will work with the School. All three men were on the 1970 campaign. Schooling will be continued thru correspondence lessons for the older children - the younger ones will attend the International School in Kumasi



Architect's drawing of proposed new Bible Building Plans show auditorium 40' x 80', to seat 200 and can be used for church services; 10 class rooms 15' x 17' ea. Est. Cost: \$55,000. Campus consists of 11 acres.



Bro. Obeng joins students for lunch.



Royce Reynolds and Leo Miller rejoice over "letter of occupancy" for the dormitory. Leo joined the Fruzias in November 1968 intending to stay one year to oversee the construction work - but stayed two years. He hopes to return to Ghana.

and injured as "time and money permits." The Reynolds also keep a detailed account of all receipts and expenditures, send a monthly report to the brotherhood via the *Gospel for Ghana*, and make a valiant effort to keep up with all correspondence. Cindy wrote: "I keep expecting to meet myself coming around a corner, but I am not happy unless I am busy."

The *Ghana School of Preaching* is radiating a growing influence thru the student preacher. In Accra one of the former students, Daniel Asiama, is helping missionary George Boersman start a preacher training program in that area. During the '71 campaign a student preacher baptized 60 people in his home village near Kumasi. Ghana *truly* is a fertile field for sowing the Word of Christ. The natives are intelligent, open minded, eager to hear and quick to accept the Truth. Bible knowledge is taught in all schools and our evangelists are frequently invited to speak to the students. It would be difficult to assess the value of the weekly radio program sponsored by WORLD RADIO and presented by brother Obeng, or of the Bible Correspondence Course. These lessons have attracted so much attention that a staff of four full time workers with some student help is required to handle the nearly 8,000 pieces of mail each month. In April '71 it was estimated that over 9,000 were enrolled in the correspondence program and this number was increasing at the rate of about 800 a month. Through the interest and kindness

of several brethren in the States, an AB Dick 360 printing machine was sent to Kumasi. Brother Reynolds plans to initiate an ambitious printing program for getting out more lessons, tracts and other literature, as well as song books and teaching material in the Twi language.

One might think that we have come a long way in this effort in Ghana. Actually, we have taken only a few small steps. A country of this size cannot be evangelized in one year - or two - or three. It will take years of constant, steady and devoted work by many dedicated Christians. Brethren - think of our ultimate goal: a *Christian nation in Africa!* Eye cannot see nor mind foretell the far reaching influence that the evangelization of this small African nation might have on its neighbors. There are around 70 congregations in the greater Kumasi area, many of them struggling for survival *without a leader*. Obviously, more trained leaders are needed . . . and from whence shall they come? The solution is no great mystery . . . it is quite simple. The *Ghana School of Preaching* must make room for more students. While 25 young men are studying and preparing to become full time evangelists, *50 others could be learning with them*. Before additional students may be accepted, however, there *must be adequate class room space*. When the necessary class rooms are available, the dormitory will be free to function as a dormitory only, and will accommodate up to 76 students. And there we are: the School needs a building for classes . . . a **BIBLE BUILDING**. Thus - together we move forward to insure that existing congregations may survive and grow . . . to hold up the hands of men and women now working in Ghana by giving them the tools with which to work. Ghana needs more teachers and preachers - so let us get on with the work of training enough men to fulfill this need. Young men eager to preach the Truth to their people and seeking admission to the Ghana School of Preaching *should not be turned away*. We must make room for more students **NOW** by erecting this new **BIBLE BUILDING**.



Royce Reynolds and Samuel B. Obeng (second from left) with some of the students in front of new dormitory.



Campaigners in '71 tour:

l. to r. top: Jerry Reynolds, Charles White, A.C. Morris, Charles Scott, Joe Wilson, Garry Phillips, W.J. Stanley.

Bottom: G.F. Gibbs, Mrs. A.R. (Verba) Holton, Mrs. Gary (Margaret) Phillips.

Not shown: Joe M. Deal and James E. Mabery.



Baptism in Ghana . . . four new congregations were started during the campaign, 316 precious souls were baptized, including the headmistress of a Girl's Training College and most of the students.



One of the "better type" churches in Ghana. Without preachers and teachers the weaker members will fall away while they wait for someone to "come and teach us."

History of work in Ghana

- Aug. 1961 Jerry Reynolds and Dewayne Davenport families to Ghana. School established; 7 acres of land acquired for future building.
- Aug. 1963 Reynolds family returns to U.S.
- Sept. 1963 Harold Derr and family to Ghana.
- June 1964 Davenports return to U.S.
- May 1965 Derrs return to U.S. (Elders request this due to conditions in Ghana).
- June 1965 Elder R.N. Floyd and wife with J. Reynolds on 10-day survey of Ghana. Davenport to Ghana also for several weeks.
- Nov. 1965 Davenports to Ghana for second tour.
- July 1965 to Mission fund, churches and individuals help support native preachers: brethren 2nd Danquah, Amponsah, Kwateng, Samuel, Oct. 1967 Young, Asante, Darko and Larbi.
- Mar. 1966 Revolution in Ghana-Nkrumah deposed.
- Feb. 1967 J. Reynolds—Charles Scott on preaching mission in Ghana for 2 months. 62 baptized.
- Aug. 1967 Davenports return to U.S.
- Dec. 1967 Gerald and Fay Fruzia go to Ghana after making tour in U.S. on behalf of work.
- Jan. 1968 Ghana School of Preaching reopens.
- Feb. 1968 7 men make 2 months mission journey to Ghana: Charles Scott, Jerry Reynolds, Lee Rogers, J.D. Parker, Charles Brown, Glen and Larry Nichols. 134 baptized.
- Mar. 1968 George R. Boersman family to Accra.
- Aug. 1968 Leo Miller to Ghana.
- Nov. 1968 Third missionary journey to Ghana: Jerry Reynolds, Charles Scott, A.J. Rollings, Tom Dockery, Paul E. Tuston, Neldon L. Watson, James J. Jarrett, Paul Coffman and Lee Hodges. 278 baptized.
- Feb. 1969 Feb. 1970 Fourth missionary journey: Jerry Reynolds, Charles Scott, Willie Lockert, Lee Hodges, Paul Coffman, Paul Tustin, H. Clifton Jarrell, James E. Mabery, Ray Beggs, Joe Banks, Joe Roll, Jim West, Harold Stutzman, Gerald O. Fruzia, Jr., Albert Gardner, Royce Reynolds, Edward Dyche, Paul E. Cantrill, A.B. Morris and Joe Wilson. 230 baptized.
- Sept. 1970 Royce Reynolds and family arrive in Ghana.
- Sept. 1970 Fruzias return home and report to sponsoring congregations.
- Nov. 1970 Leo Miller returns home.
- Feb. 1971 Fifth missionary journey: Jerry Reynolds, Charles Scott, Joe A. Wilson, A.C. Morris, Mrs. A.R. (Verba) Holton, Gary and Margaret Phillips, Joe M. Deal, C.A. White, W.J. Stanley, Gilbert F. Gibbs and James Mabery. Four new churches started; 316 baptized.
- March Clifton Jarrell family arrive in Kumasi, Ghana.
- Mar. 1971 June 8, 1971 Albert Gardner family arrive in Kumasi, Ghana.
- Jerry Reynolds, Derrs, Floyds and Miller supported by Cedars Church of Christ in Wilmington, Delaware.
- Fruzias supported by Cedars Church of Christ in Wilmington, Delaware and Market Street church in Athens, Alabama.
- Davenports supported by Madison Church of Christ, Madison, Tenn.
- Royce Reynolds supported by Market Street Church of Christ, Athens, Alabama.
- Jarrells supported by The Aylette St. Church of Christ, Fayette, Ala., and others.
- Gardners supported by The North Blvd. Church of Christ, Murfreesboro, Tenn.
- Campaigners were sponsored by their home congregations and by individual brethren

GHANA MISSION FUND

Treasurer
Paul Thomas
c/o Cedars Church of Christ
511 Greenbank Road
Wilmington, Delaware 19808



R. N. FLOYD, SR.

Dear friends:

Thousands of children in Ghana have never heard the name of *Jesus*, neither have their parents. Nor will they hear—unless someone is sent to tell them. We do not lightly pass over the good work that has been done since our first missionaries entered Ghana in 1961, but we have barely scratched the surface in our efforts to evangelize the nation. We cannot send one family, or two families, or even three, and expect them alone to carry the Gospel to over 8½ million people. We have reached a critical point in this work. Do we stand still—or shall we retreat? To stand still is to stagnate—to retreat is to deny the power of God's Word. We can only move forward. We have long-range plans for our work in Ghana, as outlined in this brochure, plans which will require the help of

• • •
Elders: John Arnold • R. N. Floyd, Sr.
Louis E. Green • J. T. Martin

many brethren who are concerned with preaching the Gospel to every nation. *It is our purpose to train native men to preach Christ to their people, and prepare them to assume full responsibility for the evangelization of their own country.* We are already moving toward that goal thru the work of the Ghana School of Preaching. We express our belief in the goodness, the powerfulness, the enduring love of our Heavenly Father by our own attitudes, actions, and service to others. Your help is needed so that some day—all over Ghana—little children will sing: Jesus loves me—this I *know*.

Come . . . join us . . . as we go steadily forward with plans to preach the Gospel to all the people of Ghana . . . and pray that we may find favor in His sight.

In His Service

R. N. Floyd Sr.

R. N. Floyd, Sr.
for the elders



CEDARS CHURCH OF CHRIST
511 Greenbank Road, Wilmington, Delaware 19808

