



# West Africa Mission Happenings



“... Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature – Mark 16:15”

*A work of the church of Christ*

*September - October 2011*

**G**reetings to all of our brethren in the USA and throughout the world who are anxiously awaiting the return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The work is continuing in West Africa as leaders are trained, congregations are planted, and the gospel is proclaimed far and wide. Our Lord's Great Commission is our priority as we move forward with the work on this side of the world. We pray that our Lord is continuing to bless all of you as we faithfully attempt to achieve His will. During this reporting period, two new congregations were established in Togo, a new class began at the Bible schools in Takoradi and Kpalime, and classes continued with the new students at the school in Tamale. Steven returned to the USA during the month of October and has been traveling around the country to report to the various congregations who are helping to make this work possible. We are excited about the opportunities that our Lord is making available to us, and our ability to take advantage of these open doors because of the financial support provided by those involved in this work. May our Lord continue to bless you bountifully as we move towards that heavenly home that He is preparing for those who faithfully follow Him!

## **The Birth of a New Congregation**

It is always a joy to tell you about those new souls who are baptized into Christ. It is even more of a joy, when those conversions take place in a city in the world where the restoration movement has not yet reached. Such was the case in Dapaong during September of 2011. The city which has a population of around 30,000 people is located in extreme northern Togo close to the Burkina Faso

border. A large portion of the population is animist, and therefore practices the traditional religion of their ancestors. They worship idols and their ancestors as they believe the souls of humans, plants and animals continue to reside with them after they die. Islam and Catholicism are also strong in the area. A native Togolese preacher named Fidele Bedjelsi was moved to Dapaong with his wife and three children to evangelize, and train any new Christians that obey the gospel. Fidele is a graduate of the French language preaching school located in Cotonou Benin that is directed by a Ghanaian, George Akpabli. It is wonderful how God is working through so many faithful men throughout West Africa to facilitate the expansion of His Kingdom here.

A group of southern Togolese preachers (who are also graduates of the Benin preaching school), three Ghanaian preachers, and myself traveled to the city of Dapaong to help Fidele plant the church there. We held meetings every evening and showed films about Christ and traditional African religion along with public preaching on Biblical topics. During the day, we went house to house and business to business studying the Word of God with all those who would listen. During the week long campaign, we had five new souls who were baptized into Christ and many other studies that were set up. We found a school building for the new congregation to use as a worship site, and the congregation held their first worship service there in September. We pray that Fidele and the congregation will continue to grow in maturity and in numbers as they labor towards evangelizing the neighboring villages. Please keep Fidele, his family, and the congregation in Dapaong in your prayers!!

## CBS in Togo

On September 12, 2011 a new class of twenty students began at the Center for Biblical Studies located in Kpalime Togo. A new building has been rented to help accommodate this large class of students. We had our second graduation in Kpalime of eight students in June of this year. CBS helped one of these recent graduates, Yaovi, plant a new congregation in his home village of Kusuntu during the month of October. The campaign included house to house evangelism, film shows, and public preaching. Three souls were baptized into Christ as a result of these efforts. The school in Kpalime is not only training members of the church to be more effective preachers, teachers, and leaders, but it is also being used as an evangelistic tool. Many of the students are denominational leaders who have a desire to learn more about God's word. During their time at the school it is expected that they will learn the truth about salvation and the church and become obedient to our Lord's gospel. Our prayers are with all those working to expand the Kingdom in Kpalime.

## Takoradi in Ghana

A new class began at the preaching school outside of Takoradi during September with six new students. Two more men are anticipated to begin during the next quarter. This will bring the total number of students at the West Coast School of Preaching to fourteen students. There are many current needs at the school to ensure that the facilities continue to fulfill their purpose. The road to the school has been washed out due to the rains, and the roofs for the administration building and dormitory are in need of repairs. We pray that our Lord provides what is necessary to continue to train preachers here!

## Tamale in Ghana

The school in Tamale resumed classes during the month of September with their second term. Fifteen students were present to study the Life of Christ, the Scheme of Redemption, and the books of the Law in the Old Testament. Kojo Acquah Beenyi from Cape Coast in southern Ghana came to Tamale for a week during the term to teach our students Hermeneutics. Since three of the students were late additions to the class, they were kept over after the end of the term for three weeks to help them get caught up with the rest of the class. The work is progressing in northern Ghana!

## Bear Valley Bible Institute Website

I would like to remind you that more frequent reports for the schools of preaching where I am working are now being posted to the Bear Valley website. You can see these reports at this web address:

<http://www.wetrainpreachers.com/why-extension-schools/>

If you go to this web address, you will find links on the right side of the page for the schools in Tamale, Takoradi, and Togo in West Africa. You will also find specific links for each school on the left side of the page along with a link for my previous reports.

## Financial Support

We want to thank all of the supporters for their contributions to this exciting work in West Africa. Without you, this effort would not be possible.

All checks need to **be made out to:**

**Mountain Home church of Christ  
For: West Africa Mission**

**And mailed to:**

Mountain Home church of Christ  
380 North College Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653

Any questions can be directed to the church office at **870-425-4330**.

**Or you can contact Steven Ashcraft at:**

Email: [samtnhome@yahoo.com](mailto:samtnhome@yahoo.com)  
U.S. Cell Phone: **971-270-8535**  
U.S. Message Phone: **870-425-4330**  
Ghana Cell Phone: **233-24-614-6022**

**Please email Steven if you would like to receive this newsletter with photos by email.**

*Thanks So Much,  
With Christian Love*

*Steven Ashcraft*

### Campaign in Dapaong



**Fidele and his family have moved to Dapaong in extreme northern Togo to edify and expand our Lord's Kingdom in that part of the world.**



**Five new disciples were baptized into the our Lord's church during our work in Dapaong and a new congregation was planted.**



**The five standing in the rear are the new Christians in Dapaong. Please pray that they will remain faithful to the truth, and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**



**The new congregation in Dapaong was worshipping in a school classroom after our campaign in September. Here Fiedele is preaching the Sunday morning service.**

## Campaign in Dapaong



**We were blessed with help from numerous preachers throughout the country of Togo, along with a few from Ghana for our recent campaign in northern Togo.**



**We had public preaching at night along with Biblical films, while we went house to house during the day in our attempt to spread the gospel of Christ in the city of Dapaong.**



**We walked the streets of Dapaong going from house to house and business to business sharing the good news about Christ.**



**A common sight in northern Togo (and Ghana) are the many mosques along the roads and within the towns and villages.**

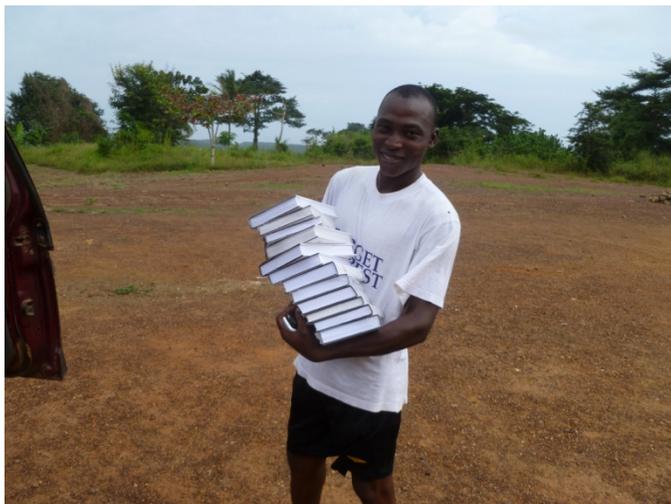
## West Coast School of Preaching



**Six new students began classes at the WCSOP in September of this year. They are anticipating two new students who will join this class at the beginning of the next quarter.**



**This is the present senior class at the West Coast School of Preaching less one student who was not present for the photograph. There are a total of twelve students presently at the school.**



**We are continuing to build up the school libraries at all of our schools. Here is a set of Coffman New Testament commentaries that were donated recently to the WCSOP.**



**The cooks are preparing meals for the students and instructors. With your support we are able to help feed all of the students while they devote their time to studying God's Word.**

**CBS - Kpalime**



**Twenty new students began classes at CBS in Kpalime Togo on September 12, 2011. Here they are seen in the classroom in the new building.**

**Before classes began in September we were able to rent a larger building to accommodate the new students. The school is growing with twenty students now attending classes here!**



**Church of Christ translated into the French language is Eglise du Christ. It is wonderful to be able to help train these future preachers in the French speaking world.**

**We were able to purchase mattresses for the new students. However, we still need to build some additional beds to get some of our students off the floor.**

## **Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies**



**Brother Adjei Mensah is a great asset to the school in Tamale. He makes extreme sacrifices to teach at the school in addition to the work he performs in the local congregations.**



**With your help we were able to purchase a new copy machine for the Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies. This will be a great benefit to provide handouts for our students.**



**My wife Karen spent a few months in Tamale this year with me. One of our modes of transportation is a small motorbike. It makes it easier to dodge the sheep and the goats.**



**We continue to work in the villages that surround Tamale. Here one of our instructors and my wife are worshipping in a small congregation at Tijo.**

## **A Few Children**



**The children in Togo look a lot like the children in Ghana. These supposed siblings live in the border town of Yembour outside of the city of Dapaong.**

**The children and mothers of northern Ghana are not going hungry but they still have a difficult life full of hard work and disease.**



**This small child did not seem to be too happy as she sat on the ground surrounded by groundnuts (what we call peanuts).**

**Whenever the children see me with a camera they want to rush out to get their picture taken. Children are pretty much the same all over the world.**