



# 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*

*July - August 2012*

**G**reetings from all of your brothers and sisters throughout West Africa. The gospel light is shining bright as the workers continue to labor in the vineyard of our Lord. In this report, we will outline some of the happenings over the period.

## **The Church Expands in Togo**

I love the song “Soldiers of Christ Arise!” Whether we realize it or not, Christians are at war throughout the world. We are fighting this war in West Africa where Satan is attempting to prevail through Islam, idolatry, and false teachers. A battle was recently waged in the town of Basaar in northern Togo. Ghanaian and Togolese evangelists came together to preach the gospel publicly and house to house. We preached over the radio airwaves, as the call to prayers echoed from the mosques throughout this predominantly Islamic city. We sat down and studied with the residents as others attempted to divert their attentions away from the truth. We showed Bible films and preached publicly in the evenings as many gathered to hear more about the true doctrine of Christ. Before we left, five souls were baptized into Christ, others had promised to study, and a new congregation was worshipping in Spirit and in Truth. A battle has been won, but the war wages on. Islam is pressing down from the north, false teachers are sprouting up everywhere you look, and many are becoming so confused that they look towards the animistic religion of their fathers to satisfy their spiritual needs. We must continue to preach the Good News if the war will be won in West Africa. We are ready for the fight! Many are hearing the words of truth that can save their souls. We thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement, and support!

## **Tidbits from the Schools**

With your help, the gospel is being proclaimed throughout West Africa, and dozens of leaders are being trained at the Bible schools to prepare them to build up the church in this part of the world. We want to tell you a little about each location in this Newsletter. The best place to get complete up-to-date information for the schools is on the Bear Valley website at this address:

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

The work is moving forward at the **Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies in Tamale Ghana**. The building construction is continuing with windows, doors, plastering, water, and electricity moving towards completion in anticipation of a move from the rented premises during the month of December. The school in Tamale has realized a wonderful addition to their staff with the arrival of brother Tony Johnson from the USA. He will be teaching at the school and helping coordinate the work with Bear Valley Bible Institute in Denver. He is already making a positive impact on the work!

The **Southwest School of Evangelism in Ibadan Nigeria** continues a wonderful work in their training of faithful preachers in the cities of Ibadan and Lagos. Recently, the staff and students’ evangelistic efforts resulted in sixty baptisms, forty restorations, and the establishment of a new congregation! Twenty eight students graduated during the SWSE’s ninth graduation ceremony in August. The 2012/2013 year then began with thirty eight students studying at the two SWSE campuses. A great work is taking place in Nigeria!

The **Center for Biblical Studies in Kpalime Togo** is continuing their labors to train preachers in French speaking West Africa. Twenty souls were recently baptized into Christ and a new congregation was planted in Keve Togo. Four graduates are now working with new congregations that have been planted during the year. We were able to purchase Thompson Chain Reference Bibles for all of the present and past students to help them with their studies, teaching, and preaching. We were also able to acquire a new copier to provide handouts for the students. CBS is truly making an impact on the strength of the church in this area!

During July and August, the **Liberia Bible College in Monrovia Liberia** moved forward towards their desire to train preachers in this war torn country. Brother Glen Addison from Texas and I took the time to visit Monrovia in August and assist in their building renovations, acquisition of furniture and equipment, and the planning necessary to put this training program in place. Twenty students were scheduled to begin classes at the end of August. Bear Valley is also in the process of beginning a Master's program at this school to train the instructors. We thank God for all those faithful men who are sacrificing to make this work possible!

Brothers Bill Dillon from Arkansas, and Mike Kiser from Alabama traveled to the **West Coast School of Preaching in Takoradi Ghana** to teach short courses during the month of August. Max Robertson from the overseeing congregation in Howe Texas also visited during August to discuss the renovation of the building, revision of the budget, and plans for an increase in the student body for the upcoming enrollment in September. Precious souls are being brought to Christ through the evangelistic efforts of the staff and students at this school!

The **Cameroon Bible Institute of Wotutu** is another Bear Valley Bible school in West Africa that I have not mentioned in my previous newsletters. I hope you will take the time to review their reports on the Bear Valley website. Many great things are taking place in Cameroon, and I hope to be able to visit this school in early 2013.

## Year End Reporting

I will be scheduling time over the next couple of months to visit many of you and report on the work in West Africa. The primary objective of this ministry is to fulfill the Great Commission through empowering the indigenous Christians to fulfill their complete potential. With your help, we are achieving this goal by equipping the local brethren with Bible knowledge and providing them with evangelistic assistance. Together, we can do even more in the future than we have accomplished in the past. Let us continue to labor together in this fruitful field!

## 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.

Contributions by check need to be **made payable to:**

Mountain Home church of Christ  
For: West Africa Mission

**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 at:**

Email: [samtntime@yahoo.com](mailto:samtntime@yahoo.com)  
USA Phone: **971-270-8535**

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

*Thanks So Much,  
With Christian Love*

*Steven Ashcraft*

**Evangelistic Campaign – Basaar, Togo  
A New Congregation is Planted**



**A new Christian is baptized into Christ in the city of Basaar. In our recent campaign in this primarily Islamic city, five souls were added to the Lord's church. The angels are rejoicing!**



**During our week long campaign in Basaar, we preached on the radio daily. This is a wonderful way to proclaim the gospel. Here brother Fidele is preaching in French with a translation into the local language of Basaar.**



**On the first day of the week, many adults and children gathered for the first worship service of the Basaar church of Christ. Now that the congregation is planted, the hard work begins!**



**We gathered together a team of evangelists from Northern Togo and Ghana to plant the church in Basaar. These men are ready to work. It is your support that makes these evangelistic campaigns possible.**

**Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies  
Tamale, Ghana**



**Tony Johnson, a recent graduate of Bear Valley Bible Institute, is seen here teaching at the Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies. He will be working full time in northern Ghana. May the Lord bless his efforts!**



**Jack Dodgen from Denver Colorado is seen here preaching at a village worship service in northern Ghana. Jack spent a month in northern Ghana teaching at the school in Tamale.**



**The building project in Tamale is approaching completion as my wife and I pose for the camera. The building has been plastered, windows and doors are being installed, and electricity and water are being hooked up.**



**When ditches are dug in Ghana it is almost always done by hand. Fortunately, this ditch means that water is now within a few feet of the new Tamale Institute school building. God is blessing our efforts!**

**Center for Biblical Studies  
Kpalime, Togo**



**All of our Bible schools are very evangelistic. The training takes place in the classroom and in the field. Another soul is added to our Lord's Kingdom as a result of the efforts of the staff and students at CBS in Kpalime.**



**I had the opportunity to preach at the Nyiveme congregation in Kpalime during a recent visit. I try to spend time at all of the schools interacting with the staff, students, and local Christians as we attempt to build up our Lord's church!**



**With your help, we were able to give Thompson Chain Reference Bibles to all of the present and past students at the Center for Biblical Studies in Kpalime Togo.**



**One of the great needs at the schools is equipment to facilitate their work. A new copier was presented to CBS during the month of July. Working together with you, we are able to supply the needs of the various schools.**

**West Coast School of Preaching  
Takoradi, Ghana**



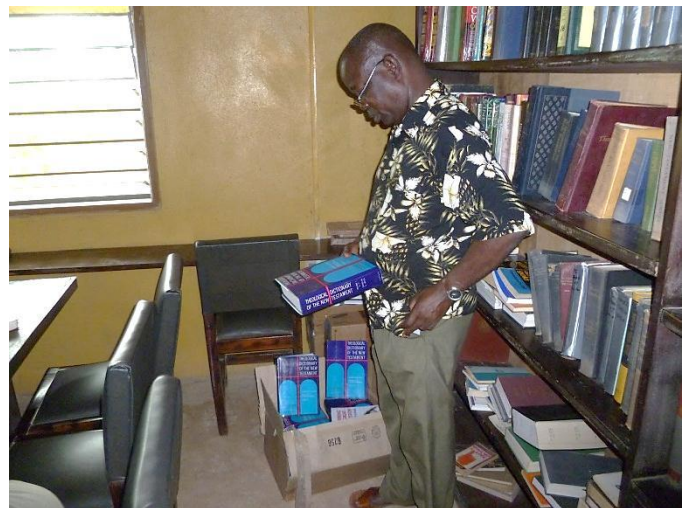
**The students at the West Coast School of Preaching were blessed with a visit by brother Bill Dillon from Cotter Arkansas. Seasoned preachers like Bill are a great encouragement to the students in Ghana.**



**Max Robertson from the Howe church of Christ in Texas has the opportunity to greet some children in Kojokrom while he was in Ghana working with the staff at the West Coast School of Preaching.**



**Here you can see brothers Trent Alexander, Bill Dillon, and Mike Kiser (the three white guys) with our brothers and sisters in Nsawam Ghana. The short Ghanaian in the middle is brother James Nyame who many of you know.**



**The Eugene church of Christ in Eugene Oregon contributed boxes and boxes of books for the libraries in West Africa. Here brother Charles Mensah is looking over some of these books that have been added to the WCSOP library.**

**Liberia Bible College  
Monrovia, Liberia**



Here we see the director of Liberia Bible College (Alassis) with some of the Bible Study and Evangelistic material that is being distributed throughout West Africa. We thank WVBS for their Searching for the Truth DVD's.



When you need furniture for your home or the office in West Africa, you go out and get it made to order. Here brother Glen Addison from Texas is helping brother Alassis order beds for the new students at LBC.



With mosquitos that spread malaria prevalent in Liberia, and no screens on the windows due to the construction on campus, I chose to sleep under a net during our recent visit. Just say NO to Malaria!



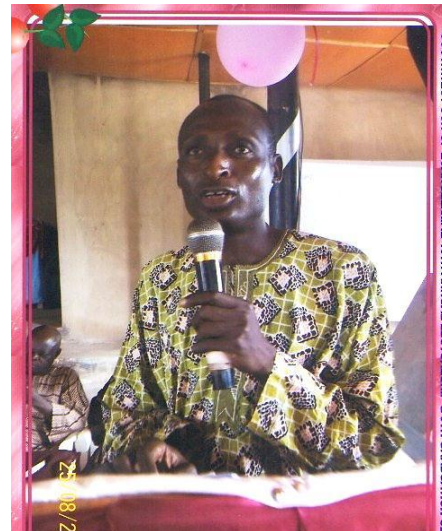
In preparation for the opening of the Bible College in Liberia, major renovations were being made on the building. Walls were being torn down, bathrooms installed, and finally a fresh coat of paint.

**Southwest School of Evangelism  
Ibadan – Lagos, Nigeria**

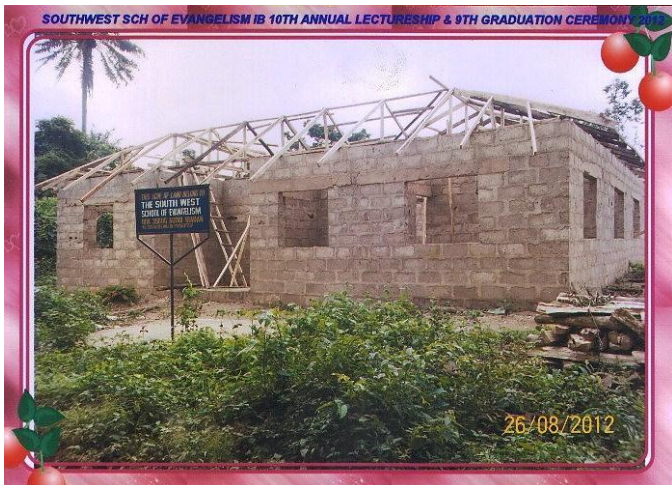


**THE GRADUATES**

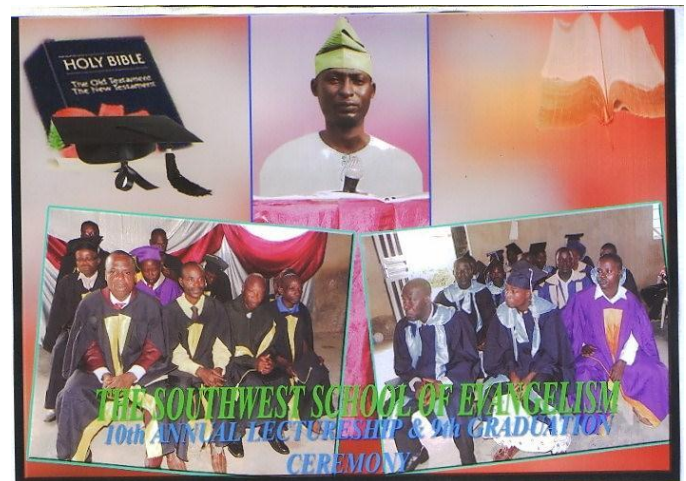
**Twenty eight students graduated from the Southwest School of Evangelism in Ibadan in August of 2012. Here is a photo of the graduates who are already laboring in the vineyard of our Lord.**



**The key to any successful Bible school is a proficient and dedicated staff. Brother Makinde is definitely part of that key in Ibadan Nigeria. Here he is seen speaking at the graduation ceremony.**



**The Southwest School of Evangelism is in the process of building a new building. The students, staff and curriculum make the school successful but they must have a place to give their instruction. We thank God for providing that place in Ibadan!**



**There were 17 first year students who graduated in the Certificate program (right) and 11 second year students who graduated in the Advanced Diploma program (left). Thank you for your sacrifice!**



Some of the Children



**Does this boy look like he is searching for the truth? Who will help him find it?**



**Some of you probably recognize this shirt. There are a lot of children running around Africa wearing left over church of Christ Tshirts. Do you have some unused shirts you would like to see used?**



**How about this little girl? Will she find someone to share the gospel with her?**



**You can almost look through this young man's eyes! What is he thinking?**

Some more Children

