West Coast School of Preaching
Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver Extension School
Travel Requirements and Tips
Takoradi, Ghana West Africa

Visa Requirements:

Passport:

You must have a valid passport to travel to West Africa. Please make sure that your passport is valid for at least six months beyond the date that you are to return to the USA.

Visa:

You must have a valid Ghana Visa in your Passport to enter the country of Ghana. The Visa **MUST** be purchased before leaving the USA. There is no provision for a Visa upon arrival in Ghana. If you do not have a valid Visa before you arrive at the airport, you will not be allowed to board your flight from the USA to Ghana!

1. The Visa application form and requirements can be found at this website address:

   http://www.ghanaembassy.org/index.php?page=visas

2. You should apply for your Visa at least 14 days before your expected date of departure. For an additional fee, you can request a rush service which will take about one week. You can choose a single entry Visa for $60, or a multiple entry Visa for $100. The multiple entry Visa will allow you to reenter Ghana multiple times during the next five years.

3. You should check the box for tourist Visa. The maximum stay for any trip for a tourist Visa is sixty days and no employment is allowed. You are not traveling for employment purposes so mark **Not Applicable** under this question.

4. You **MUST** be in possession of a return ticket at the time of application for your Visa. It will ask you for the ticket number on the Visa application form.

5. You **MUST** have your Yellow Fever Vaccination. Please see **Immunizations** below. I do not see that the present Visa application form requests this information but I would attach a copy anyway. You **MUST** bring your Yellow Fever Immunization Record with you for inspection at arrival at the Kotoka International Airport in Accra Ghana.

6. You will need to enter the information for two contacts on the Visa application form. Please look below under the **Contacts** section for that information.

7. I have used Tonya Ortiz in the past to help me secure Visas for different countries. For a fee of $35, she will review and personally deliver your application to the appropriate Embassy. She is usually up to date on any problems or new requirements for Visa applications. She can be contacted at (703) 582-8343 (cell), or (703) 486-3986 (home). You send your passport with the Ghana Visa Application forms and required attachments to her address with a prepaid return envelope to yourself, and she will take care of the rest.

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Contacts:

1. When applying for your Visa you will be required to enter Contact information for two Ghanaian Contacts. Please enter the information for the first two contacts below.

2. You will also need to copy this Contact information (in your phone possibly) and carry it with you when you travel into and around Ghana. The forms for entry keep changing, but it is possible you will need this information to fill out the entry form upon arrival in Ghana also. You need to check your Ghana entry stamp in your Passport on arrival to make sure they have given you sufficient time in the country (2 weeks, 30 days, 60 days, etc.).

3. Here are two Contacts for the West Coast School of Preaching

   Daniel Ampadu Asiamah
   25 Ayensu Avenue
   West Anaji Estate (Namabia)
   P.O. Box AX 1718
   Takoradi, Western Region Ghana
   Phone Number: 027-759-0053 or 020-989-9696.
   Email: dankwama@ymail.com

   Willie Gley
   Nsawam Road church of Christ
   No 19 Nsawam Road
   Accra, Ghana
   Phone number: 024-450-9169
   e-mail: williegley@gmail.com

Immunizations:

Vaccinations:

1. The only Immunization that is required to travel to Ghana is Yellow Fever. You **MUST** have an Immunization Card showing proof of your Yellow Fever Vaccination before you will be allowed entry into the country of Ghana.

2. It is highly recommended that you check with your county health officials to see what other vaccinations they recommend for Ghana West Africa. You should give yourself plenty of time because some vaccinations take months to complete. You should consider:
   a. Typhoid
   b. Hepatitis A and B
   c. Polio
   d. Tetanus / Diphtheria
   e. Meningitis

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Prophylactic:

Malaria is endemic in West Africa and should be taken very seriously. A prophylactic recommended by your doctor for Ghana West Africa should be taken as a precaution. This process should begin before you leave the USA, and continue after you return home as prescribed. It is also highly recommended for you to return to the USA with the treatment for malaria in case the symptoms appear after you return home. The treatment in Ghana only costs about $7 or so.

Money Matters:

Money:

1. The monetary system in the country of Ghana is the Ghana Cedi. One U.S. dollar equals about 1.85 Ghana Cedis at the present exchange rate (12/31/2012). This rate changes daily.

2. Except for high class hotels you cannot spend American dollars in Ghana. However, you can exchange U.S. Dollars for Ghana Cedis throughout the country at Foreign Exchange businesses. You get a better rate for large bills, $50 and $100, than small bills. The bills must be newer and in very good condition with no tears or extreme marks to be exchangeable.

3. You can use a debit card at an ATM machine to obtain local currency. You need to make sure that your U.S. bank is aware that you are traveling in West Africa, or you may find your card denied. It is always best to have some cash on you just in case. You can always exchange cash.

4. You may want to exchange some money at the airport to have Cedis available for taxis, hotels, and food until you get to your destination. It is possible that you will arrive late and leave early at the Baptist Guest House so you may not be able to exchange money there. There is an ATM machine and Currency exchange booth in the Arrivals Hall of the airport.

Airfare:

1. The average international round trip airfare from most major American cities to Accra Ghana ranges from $1,200 to $2,200. The cost is the highest during the months of July and August.

2. The easiest way to travel from Accra Ghana to Takoradi is by air. There are currently a number of airlines that are flying from Accra to Takoradi so competition has greatly reduced the cost. Antrak air has daily flights at a cost of about $75 round trip (http://www.antrakair.com/). Starbow and Africa World Airlines also have regular flights from Accra to Takoradi.

a. Reservations for these airlines can be made either online or by the telephone. Unfortunately as of now, payment must be made in person in Ghana. You will need to arrange to have someone go to the airline office and make payment to secure your reservation. Please contact Steven Ashcraft to find the present procedure.

b. The amount of baggage that can be carried on these smaller planes is limited. I believe that Antrak allows about a 40 pound checked bag with a 10 pound carryon. Any additional checked baggage will require an additional fee. We can also arrange for excess baggage to be store in Accra until either Steven Ashcraft or Tony Johnson pass through with a vehicle.

c. It is quite probable that you will need to spend the night in Accra when arriving from or departing to the USA. See the Hotel Accomodations below to see your options for lodging.

d. Arrangements can be made for someone in Accra to pick you up at the airport and take you to your hotel. However, it is also possible to secure a taxi at the airport. There are taxis to the left immediately after you exit the terminal that are authorized by the airport officials. The cost to travel from the airport to the Baptist Guest House should not exceed $10 to $12 at the present exchange rate. The cost to go to the Penwood Hotel will be a little more.

Hotels or Lodging:

1. Upon arrival in Accra there are a number of options for hotels ranging in price from $20 to $300+ per night.

    a. I would recommend the Baptist Guest House in Accra if it has rooms available. You will need to reserve your room as far in advance as possible. These rooms are only available to those who are doing Christian Missionary Work. The present cost is about $20 per night with an additional $1 per hour for air conditioning if desired. Their email address is: accragh@yahoo.com, and their telephone number is: 233-(0)302777542.

    b. If there are no rooms at the Baptist Guest House then you can try the Penwood Hotel which is managed by a brother in Christ. The cost ranges from $35 per night and up depending upon the room type. There contact information can be found at this website: http://www.penwoodhotel.com/.

    c. At either place, you will need to arrange for a taxi to pick you up early enough in the morning to catch you flight to Takoradi on the next day.

2. There are no facilities at the West Coast School of Preaching for visiting instructors. However, there are a number of hotel options throughout the city of Takoradi ranging from very basic to quite modern. These would range in cost from $30 to $200+ per night. Most of these hotels have onsite restaurants with American type foods. Transportation will need to be arranged back and forth to the school.

3. Please contact brother Steven Ashcraft to arrange for your accommodations in Takoradi. His email address is: samtnhome@yahoo.com.

Expenses:

The amount of money that you will need to take care of expenses in Ghana can vary widely depending upon your needs. Generally, the average visitor should be able to stay in Takoradi for less than $700 for a two week stay. You will need to have the funds available to take care of the following:

1. Hotels and Lodging
2. Taxis and other transportation
3. Meals, bottled water, and snacks
4. Tips (In Ghana called a dash)
5. Souvenirs

Travel Tips:

1. Do not drink the water. Always use bottled water for drinking, brushing your teeth, etc. Do not drink the water that comes in the plastic sachets. Many times this in only tap water.

2. Do not bring anything of great value. Do not bring a bunch of Credit Cards to Ghana. You will not need them. You will also not need expensive jewelry.

3. Pack sufficient comfortable clothing. Casual clothes can be worn outside class, and dress clothes are necessary for class and worship service. Everyone dresses up for worship. Women always wear longer blouses or dresses to worship. Men wear dress shoes, slacks, and dress shirts.

4. Electricity in Ghana is 220 volts. If you plug in something designed for 120v it will burn it up (I know from experience). Most electronics today are designed to be used anywhere in the world but you need to check each one you bring to be sure. If it says 100-240v then it is okay. Otherwise, you will need a transformer that can be purchased at any department store. Some appliances such as hair dryers will take a special transformer that can handle high wattage.

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Hospital Information:

There are government and private hospitals throughout Ghana. All local Ghanaians will be aware of these facilities. It is not always the best option to go to the hospital. You should speak with the local brethren or missionary at the school to discuss your options in case of injury or sickness. It is wise to have emergency evacuation insurance available in case of a severe medical problem so you can be airlifted to a country that will have adequate care available (i.e. surgeries, etc.).

American Embassy:

1. The American Embassy in Ghana is located in Accra at the following address:

   No 19 Fifth Link Road
   Cantonments
   Accra, Ghana

2. In case of emergencies the Embassy Duty Officer can be contacted at 233 (0) 30 2741 775. From the U.S. you dial 011 233 302741775. From Ghana you dial 0302741775.

Emergency Contacts:

1. Bob Turner
   e-mail: bturner@bvbid.org
   Phone: 501-733-1237 (c) 303-986-5800 (o)

2. Steven Ashcraft
   samtnhome@yahoo.com
   Phone: USA 971-270-8535 / GHANA 233(0)246146022

3. Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver
   e-mail: info@bvbid.org
   Phone: 303-986-5800