

*Equipping Leaders to Train **More** Leaders*



IVORY COAST CHRISTIAN MISSION

sponsors of:

Christian Leadership Training Institute (west Africa)

Faith Way Global Outreach (Nigeria)

and

Grassroots Leadership Development (international)

SHEFFLER UPDATE - JUNE 2020

Dear friends and supporters,

We are again thankful that the Lord's work is able to continue during this pandemic. Covid-19 restrictions have brought about new strategies, but they have not stopped the spread of the Good News.

GHANA

Supervisor Francis Afrifa-Konadu was able to visit thirty of the leadership development (TEE) classes before covid-19 made it impossible. Most of the classes are able to meet even though there are covid-19 restrictions. Meetings are held outside so that social distancing can be observed. Teachers are encouraging each other and communicating with their supervisor through a WhatsApp platform.



Students are helping to keep the churches going by holding Bible studies for the members in groups of ten which is allowed under their covid-19 guidelines.

Thus, the covid-19 restrictions have challenged the students to use what they are learning and it has brought more demand for their services within the local congregations. These opportunities to serve

have helped the students develop their skills and enhanced their self-esteem.

Evangelist Kingsley Laryea works with five congregations. He is requesting funds for five sewing machines to be used in a special project for young girls. **Because of poverty, some girls are married off with no choice in who they marry.** If young girls are given a vocation to support themselves, they can delay marriage until they are ready and it also gives them a choice in the matter. Each congregation will be given a sewing machine. Each congregation will use their machine to enable one poverty stricken young girl to become as seamstress. When that girl is trained, then it will be used to train another. It is a small beginning, but it will help. A sewing machine will cost about \$150. If you or a group you know can help please write *sewing machine* on the donation check.

Lifado is one of the congregations which Kingsley Laryea works with. The congregation continues to mold concrete blocks by hand for a new building after a strong wind destroyed their old one last year. The elders are also surveying the nearby community of Nasondo to plant another congregation. The Jacodo Church building was recently destroyed by a strong wind. **When buildings are constructed with mud instead of concrete blocks they give way easily to strong winds.**



The congregation at Manchuni was started last year after much effort by James Materi. **The strong dedication to tribal gods at Manchuni has caused efforts by several groups to fail in the past.** James took time to cultivate the ground well before planting the seed. First, permission was obtained from the elders of the village. Then time was spent in house-to-house visitation. Next was two nights of prayer in the center of the village with twenty-two (22) responding to the invitation to follow Jesus. However, on the first Sunday worship was held, no one came. James went back for more visitation and the next Sunday 6 men, 14 women and 69 children came to the service. Since that day, the congregation has continued to grow in maturity and number. The members of the congregation are helping each other and also helping members of the community who have poverty and health issues. The congregation is meeting in a primary school and making plans to construct their own building. James is under the mentorship of Kingsley Laryea and Afrifa-Konadu.

NIGERIA

Some covid-19 restrictions have been lifted in Nigeria. Churches are able to resume congregational worship services if they observe social distancing rules.



A violent cultist in Calabar was converted. The young man, who lives near the Calabar Church, was given an assignment by his cultic group that could take his life. His heart told him his membership in the cult was not worth the risk of losing his life. He refused to take the assignment and the members of the cult threatened to take his life. His family had already disowned him because of his evil cultic activities. He did not know where to turn, but remembered hearing testimonies from his neighbors about the church and its leader. He went to Sunday Obeten for advice. With God's help, Sunday led the young man to follow Christ. Sunday called the man's parents who live in northern Ghana and arranged for him to visit them and seek reconciliation. The young man is now reconciled to God and also reconciled with his family.

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

- 1. Thank God that most leadership training classes (TEE) have been able to continue during this pandemic.**
- 2. Thank God that the TEE students are able to fill a special need in the churches where they worship during this pandemic.**
- 3. Thank God that the new congregation at Manchuni is established and growing.**
- 4. Thank God for the conversion of the young man who was caught up in a cultic group.**
- 5. Ask God to enable the churches at Lifado, Jacodo and Manchuni to construct buildings for worship.**
- 6. Ask God to provide five sewing machines to help young girls learn a trade and avoid unwanted marriages.**
- 7. Ask God to give our political leaders and health workers wisdom in dealing with the many problems caused by covid-19.**