

*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 - SEPTEMBER 2020**

Dear friends and supporters,

**September has been a month of several concerns with some good news.** The concerns came from a serious traffic accident and the breast cancer surgery of a long time friend, the wife of a church planter we have known for over 30 years. The good news comes via the annual board meeting of the Christian Leadership Training Institute. We will start with the concerns

### **SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT - GHANA**

**Traveling on the roads in Africa is probably the most dangerous thing I have ever done.** We always prayed for protection from thieves and protection from serious accidents before leaving on a long trip.



**Afrifa-Konadu and his wife Georgina** were returning home from supervising leadership training classes on Sunday, September 6. **Their vehicle ran under a semi-trailer.** Fortunately Austin Ganyo, director of a church planting mission we partner with, was also returning home and came upon the accident. Austin helped pull the vehicle out from under the trailer and then took Afrifa-Konadu, Georgina and another passenger, Abraham, to the hospital. We thank God they only suffered bruises and

minor cuts. It is hard to believe when you see the photo of the vehicle.

**Another concern is the replacement of the vehicle.** It is only three years old. We are waiting for the insurance company to give us a settlement. Used vehicles are not reliable because you do not know how well they have been maintained or if they have been previously wrecked. We hope that somehow we will be able to purchase a new replacement vehicle. This vehicle is needed to supervise extension classes in northern Ghana, Togo and Burkina Faso.

## **CANCER SURGERY**

**Mary Addae, the wife of Francis Addae, had surgery for breast cancer on August 28.** She is recovering well and going for follow-up visits. Connie and I met Francis Addae while working in Abidjan, Ivory Coast in the 1980's. He was one of our first leadership development students. When he finished our training program, we sent him to Ghana for college level training. He was then hired by Ghana Christian Mission as one of their church planters. When we moved to Ghana, we partnered with him and the mission he works for to help train their leaders. We pray Mary's cancer does not come back.

## **CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE - ANNUAL BOARD MEETING via Zoom**

The annual board meeting of the Institute was held on September 10 and 11 via four ZOOM sessions. **Members of the board were located in five countries - four in Africa plus the USA.** Some were dropping out and coming back in during the sessions because of internet problems. At times there were nine simultaneous Zoom connections on the computer screen. Wayne Meece did an excellent job conducting the meeting using the Zoom service. We even had some time for socializing before and after the sessions.

We had copies of the necessary documents before the meeting. Each of the four African countries submitted activity reports, goals for 2021, financial reports and 2021 budget to be approved. Important decisions were made. **One decision was to expand our training into internet format because the internet is becoming more and more available in remote areas through the cell phone systems of African counties.** Those who support the Institute will receive details about the decisions and the goals for 2021. If you would like a copy, please let me know.

## **NIGERIA**

**The annual youth camp met August 27-29 in five regions instead of one because of the Covid-19 restrictions.** All lessons were prepared by Evangelist Sunday Obeten and distributed ahead of time so regional committees could prepare well and all be on the same page. The theme was Enlarging Your Vision. Sporting events, talent night and training in practical skills were also scheduled.

**The annual Men's Seminar was held on the regional level on September 11-12.** The topic was MAN OF FAITH. Again, Evangelist Sunday Obeten prepared the lessons and distributed them in magazine format to all the regions.

## **PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS**

1. Thank God that no one was seriously injured or killed in the traffic accident on September 6.
2. Thank God for the successful annual board meeting of the Institute.
3. Thank God for the ongoing seminars and youth camps in Nigeria during this pandemic.
4. Ask God to provide a good and hopefully new vehicle for the Institute to replace the one destroyed in the accident.
5. Ask God to guide the leaders within the Institute as they work on making leadership training available via the internet in Africa.
6. Ask God to completely heal Mary Addae.
7. Ask God to guide American voters in the November election. Serious Christian issues are at stake in this election.