

*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 / October 2019

Dear friends and supporters,

It has been two months since the last update. Much has happened in these two months. The nursery school in Calabar, Nigeria has opened. A new church has been started in Itigidi, Nigeria. I completed a three-week visit to Ghana. The foundation for the residence and training center in northern Ghana is completed. A team for the Christian Leadership Training Institute has been trained in using equipment and soft ware to convert audio cassette lessons into MP3 files and to record lessons in new languages in MP3 format. Strategy meetings have been held, there have been baptisms and important decisions have been made at annual board meetings.

GHANA

Christian Leadership Training Institute (west Africa)

The **annual board meeting** of the Institute was held the first two days of my visit. **In addition to Ghanaian board members, Sunday Obeten came from Nigeria, Solomon Gargar from Liberia, and Wayne Meece from the USA.** Budgets were approved for all four countries where the Institute supervises extension classes. Goals were set for each country. **Among the goals are 100 active classes by 2024,** train more extension class leaders in Nigeria and record extension lessons in MP3 format in new languages as needed in northern Ghana, Togo and Burkina Faso. The institute presently has 47 active classes and over 350 students.



Sam Wright and Grant English came from First Christian Church in Kenosha, Wisconsin to train a team to convert, record and edit audio files in MP3 format. We have over 1,000 sixty-minute audio cassettes in three languages to convert to MP3 files. The cassettes must be converted to MP3, then divided into separate files for each lesson and language.

Each file must be labeled according to its language, course title and lesson number within the course. That is over 2,500 MP3 files to create and label. The lessons in the Konkomba language need to be rerecorded and processed as quickly as possible. The first audio translation was not done well. The greatest demand for extension lessons in audio format is among the Konkomba. At the end of the training, the team put together a strategy to get the job done. We were pleased that the team members had different talents which complemented each other and fulfilled all the skills needed to carry out the project.



In northern Ghana, Godfred Mintah, Afrifa-Konadu and I visited Extension classes. One class was in Burkina Faso, the country north of Ghana. This class was in the French language. The Institute is testing the French lessons which were translated several years ago and evaluating the need to publish more. Only three French courses are in print at this time. More will

be needed as we reach into Burkina Faso and northern Togo, former French colonies.

CHURCH PLANTERS

Three new Church planters were ordained in August. This makes five church planters supported by Ivory Coast Christian Mission. Kingsley Laryea is now mentoring James Maturi to plant a church at Maneatani in the Chamba area. Daniel Marley is working with Simeon Batul who is planting a church at Phorto and mentoring Ephraim

Tiburrm who is starting a church at Charenda. In addition to visiting both areas, we met together in Tamale with Godfred Mintah and Afrifa-Konadu who are acting as their mentors and their supervisors. **We set out strategy and made commitments for starting churches that will become mature to the point that they will not depend on the church planter nor the mission in the future.**

2020 PROJECT



The foundation for the residence and training center in Tamale is well done and ready for the floor. Great effort was taken to make the foundation deep and strong in an area that can become soft during the rainy season. The foundation goes all the way down to a natural stone base. The advising engineer tells us that it will last well over 100 years whereas ordinary foundations in

the area will develop cracks within 15 to 20 years. **We are praying for funds to complete the first floor by the end of 2020 so that the Supervisor of TEE can move in.** This will save rent and enable us to use future donations for completing the second floor instead of paying rent to someone. The second floor will be an office and a center for training leaders.

NIGERIA

Nursery School



The Nursery School in Calabar opened on September 23 with four levels of pre-school and fifteen students. Pray for more students as the school becomes better known in the area. The school is dedicated to giving a Christian world view in all it teaches. **Sunday, Regina and the staff of the school thank all who have made this school possible.**

New Church inaugurated at Itigidi on October 20.



The Christian churches of the area working with Sunday Obeten and the students of Cross River Christian College officially **opened the new church at Itigidi, a Local Government Headquarters similar to our county seats.**

Women's day was held on October 13 in all congregations. Recently there were eleven baptisms in the Calabar Church. Omini Obangha has completed the chemotherapy for his cancer at Enugu Teaching Hospital and is feeling stronger. Pray for his complete recovery. The youth camp and the women's seminar went well. The Bible college has started the academic year. **The churches continue to mature and grow in membership.** Pray for spiritual wisdom for Sunday Obeten and the leaders as some leaders are tempted to abandon Biblical principles in order to gain numbers.

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Thanks God for the successful MP3 training in Ghana.
2. Thank God for the new congregation started at Itigidi, Nigeria.
3. Thank God for progress on the building in Tamale.
4. Ask God to guide all the church planters as they bring congregations to maturity so they do not depend on the church planter or the mission.
5. Ask God to give the MP3 team strength and wisdom as they convert old cassettes to MP3 and record new lessons in MP3.
6. Ask God to bless the teachers and the students of the new nursery school in Calabar, Nigeria.
7. Ask God to completely heal Omini Obangha.
8. Ask God to provide funds to finish the first level of the building in Tamale by the end of 2020.