

2021 Ivory Coast Christian Mission

Comprehensive Report: September 30, 2021

The mission work supported by Ivory Coast Christian Mission is divided into four categories: (1) *Christian Leadership Training Institute*, (2) *five church planters in Ghana*, (3) *Faithway Global Outreach Ministries* and (4) *Grassroots Leadership Development*. Your donations support the Institute and the five church planters in Ghana.

The goals for each are as follows:

(1) *Christian Leadership Training Institute*

Start 20 new extension classes, restart extension classes that were shut down because of covid-19; extend extension classes to non-instrumental Churches of Christ; hold a seminar for all the active group leaders of the extension classes; complete the construction project at Tamale; make extension courses available online; make progress in translating courses into French and tribal languages.

(2) *five church planters in Ghana*

Strengthen the congregation and complete the church building at Kintampo; strengthen the congregation at Porto and obtain land for the construction of a church building; strengthen the new congregation started by Ephraim

(3) *Faithway Global Outreach Ministries*

Establish a new church in Abia State, train and send out 12 new church planters, add four new extension classes, continue to build up the leadership of the congregations through seminars and conferences for leaders, evangelists, men, women and youth.

(4) *Grassroots Leadership Development*

Complete the Life of Christ series of extension course books.

Below is a report on each work:

Generally speaking, the covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on the work in several ways as you will see in the reports.

(1) *Christian Leadership Training Institute*

The number of *active students* reported in all six countries at the annual Institute board meeting in September was 260. Normally the number is around 350. Covid-19 has caused some classes to be temporarily closed in all countries.

The *Women Enrichment Seminars* in Ghana were very successful this year. Emelia Mentah and Georgina Afrifa-Konadu held seventeen two-day seminars in eight weeks. Five hundred seventy eight (578) Women from fifty-eight (58) churches attended. The theme was raising Christian children.

Eleven new group leaders for the extension classes were trained for Ghana in April. Some of those trained were from the non-instrumental Church of Christ.

The Supervisor of extension classes in Ghana held a seminar for extension students in August. The theme was a Biblical vision for church planting and evangelism to develop servant leaders. The seminar was held in four locations with a total of 90 students in attendance.

Translation of training courses: Audio translation of courses into the Konkomba language was delayed because of health issues of the translator. Conversion of audio cassette tapes into MP3 format was completed for the Ga language. Fourteen of the seventeen Twi language courses have been completed. One more course in the French language was completed by our translator in Northern Ireland. French courses are printed, but tribal languages are in audio format.

Challenges:

Loss of pickup in accident: It took several months to replace the Nissan 4X4 crewcab pickup lost in an accident in September 2020. Delays included paper work from the Police and the insurance company. By the first of this year we were in a position to purchase a new replacement for \$7,500 over the insurance settlement. The next delay was with the dealership because of shortage of vehicles. The new pickup was not delivered until February. We thank God that special offerings came in to meet this need.

The construction project in Tamale was put on hold because of a lack of extra funds. However, we were able to send \$7,000 in August because of a special donation. That donation is being used to put a wall around the property to protect it from encroachment. The cost of finishing the first floor so that it can be occupied is about \$55,000.

(2) *five church planters in Ghana*

The five church planters are working in two areas – Kintampo and Chamba.

Daniel Marley is the lead church planter in the Kintampo area. He was very sick the first of this year and I suspect that covid-19 may have been involved, but it was not documented. He is also the translator for the Konkomba courses. We replaced Daniel's motorbike with a new one in February.

There are four active churches in the area. The first church established at Gulumpe is on its own with a lay preacher. Simion is building up a congregation at Porto and Ephraim is starting a new congregation. Daniel is working with the Kintampo congregation. It is the main focus because it is young and located in a district capital (like a county seat). A government college there was turned into a university this year. This is bringing people, development and opportunities to the town. It is also increasing the cost of living.

The construction of the building at Kintampo is on hold because of lack of funds. I recently sent \$3,000 for Daniel to rent an apartment for two years for his family so he can stay close to the work. Otherwise he has to ride his motorbike about 25 miles each way from Gulumpe. The cost of finishing our part of the building is about \$20,000.

Kingsley Laryea is the lead church planter in the Chamba area. There are five churches in the area. James, his assistant, is working with a new church plant in a previously unreached village. Brother Laryea is in poor health and is showing signs of early

dementia. James is being groomed to take his place. Some investment has been made in Ghana for the retirement income of Laryea, but more will be needed when he officially retires.

(3) *Faithway Global Outreach Ministries*

Sunday Obeten is the director of this organization. The organization is involved in leadership development, church planting, medical evangelism, Christian schools and benevolent work. Annual events and seminars are held for leaders, women, men and youth. There were 67 baptisms among the churches served in 2020. Leadership development is carried out through Cross River Christian College and extension classes in local congregations. Church planting is carried out by students of the college under the supervision of Sunday Obeten. Over the years, 32 churches have been planted. The organization has trained 155 preachers with 60 of them serving in Christian Churches. 450 local leaders have been trained through the extension classes.

Because of covid-19 restrictions, college training has continued using the internet, annual events have been held in smaller groups in regional locations and church planting has been put on hold.

Sunday Obeten has weathered two serious challenges this year. In the spring, his 22 year old daughter was accidentally electrocuted. In July a wound to a toe on his right foot resulted in a serious infection. His right leg below the knee was amputated. A prosthesis is soon to be delivered from out of the country. Through all of this Sunday has managed to stay in good spirits and keep the work going. Even while in the hospital he wrote lessons and sermons for upcoming events.

(4) *Grassroots Leadership Development*

This division of the mission helps other mission organizations setup extension programs using our materials and the three-step method of leadership development. This year I wrote a new extension course on the General Epistles (James through Jude) titled *Put Your Faith Into Action*. I am working on a three-part series on the life of Christ titled *Jesus The Messiah*. The first ten-week course book is completed and published. The second course book is in the proofreading/editing stage. I have written twelve lessons for the third course book.

I shared the course book on the General Epistles with Jamie Castor, President of Mexico Christian University. They are translating the book into Spanish and hope to publish it in two months. Mexico Christian University uses our courses for their extension program. They currently have 400 active students in Mexico, Guatemala, Columbia and the USA. They normally have about 700 active students but the number is down because of covid-19.

I also shared the new course books with Paul Wilson who uses our materials in the Philippines. He has not responded on any plans for the new courses. He requested that I write courses on the life of Christ.