

*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 2022

SIXTEEN DAYS IN GHANA

I recently spent **sixteen days in Ghana for three purposes**: (1) Participate in the annual board meeting of the Christian Leadership Training Institute [I am one of the board members along with Wayne Meece and eight African leaders]. (2) Visit some of the extension training classes (TEE) of the Institute to evaluate their efficacy and their impact on the local churches, (3) Evaluate the work of our five church planters and meet with them to work on strategy and to encourage them spiritually. Below are some of the highlights of my visit.

Christian Leadership Training Institute

The Supervisors of TEE reported a total of **67 active classes and 405 students in the four nations of Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Ivory Coast**. Thirteen new teachers for the TEE classes were trained.

Seventeen women enrichment seminars were held in Ghana with a total of 607 in attendance. Goals for the coming year include starting thirteen new TEE classes, putting the TEE courses online and converting the women enrichment seminars into marriage enrichment seminars every other year.

Emmanuel Bofo has been the Office Assistant for the Director of the Institute while he worked on his college education. In December he will graduate with a Master's Degree in Christian Counseling. Emmanuel has a heart (calling) to help Christians deal with the challenges they face in the culture. He wants to help youth with their special needs and help them find their calling to serve Jesus. He wants to train church leaders to be better counselors. He requested an opportunity to fulfill his calling through the Institute. The board of directors gave him the title and responsibility of **Advisor for Youth Development and Counseling for a one-year probation** period to see if it works out for both him and the Institute. He

will brainstorm with the Director and the Supervisor of TEE in Ghana to see how his vision and skills can be integrated into the work and purpose of the Institute to train leaders.

Church Planters



The reinforced concrete frame work for the church building at the district capital of Kintampo has been completed to the roof level. The next step is to put on the steel rafters and the roof. Land has been purchased for the church

plant at Porto with donations from the Kintampo area churches. The church plant at Gulumpe is now served by a preaching elder. The new church plant at Manchin in the Chamba district has grown and is being served by a preaching elder.

Some of the goals of the church planters are: (1) make the existence of the Kintampo church known to the city with a weekly radio program and evangelism at the growing college/university which is bringing students and investment to the area, (2) build a house for the church planter at Porto (3) fulfill our responsibility to retire Kingsley Laryea, a pioneer church planter in the Chamba district.



In partnership with the church planters we agreed on the following strategy:

(1) Our mission will only help start a church in strategic locations such as a large town, city or district capital. Kintampo is an example of this.

(2) The mission will only help build a building for the congregation in a strategic

location due to their high cost of land and the importance of having a nice building to attract members who are of the upper middle class with educational and financial resources to help start churches in the surrounding area.

(3) Church planters will not only focus on evangelism, but also focus on developing the members into faithful disciples. They will train some of the members to be leaders who will take their place.

(4) The church planter will train the members and their leaders to start other churches in their area.

(5) The church planter will move to a new location to start a new church when the church plant is mature and independent.

(6) The mission will not build a house for the church planter. Instead, it will only rent housing for him and his family while he is starting a church.

(7) The church planters are not employees of the mission or of the Christian Leadership Training Institute. The mission will contribute 8% of their monthly allowance to their personal pension plan. They are expected to contribute sufficient funds from their own resources toward their pension plan.

(8) There may be exceptions to these policies because of unusual circumstances. Building a house at Porto and the retirement arrangements for Kingsley Laryea are two exceptions because of unusual circumstances.

Baptisms:



I had the privilege of participating in a baptismal service at Porto. Twenty-one new converts at Porto wanted to be baptized. Several were not allowed to come because their idol worshiping families

forbid them to be baptized. This is one of the challenges of the church planters.

Financial Challenges:

The inflation rate in Ghana is about 30%. **The needs and opportunities to financially enable our African partners to meeting their goals are many.** They are working hard and deserve our support and encouragement. Ivory Coast Christian Mission is doing all we can to help them, but our resources are limited. If you would like to help, I can send you a more complete report with the details of their challenges, opportunities and needs. Contact me at robertsheffler@yahoo.com, call me at 812-391-4229 or write me at Bob Sheffler, 515 E Lavender Ct. Ellettsville, IN 47429. Please share this with those who may be able to help.

THANKFUL FOR SUPORTERS AND PARTNERS OF FAITH-WAY GLOBAL OUTREACH: NIGERIA:



Sunday Obeten held a refresher seminar for the preaches on September 8. He held the annual men's seminar on September 9 and 10. Sunday also managed to participate in the annual board meeting of the Christian Leadership Training Institute via ZOOM on September 9 and 10.

The Faith-Way Cassava farm is doing well. Cassava is one of the

staple foods of the area. It is a root crop which grows well in that climate. The Faith-Way Nursery and Primary school resumed classes after the annual vacation. Work on the school building is almost finished. Roofing materials have been purchased for the Gateway Christian Church near Ekorì at the junction with the main road.

PRAISE AND PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Thank God for Bob's successful trip to Ghana.
2. Thank God for the good work being done by our African partners in Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia and Ivory Coast.
3. Ask God to provide the funds to meet the opportunities and needs of our African partners as they sacrifice and work to train leaders and plant churches.
4. Pray for those who are training leaders for the Kingdom work in Africa.
5. Pray for the church planters as they evangelize, develop strong disciples for Jesus and train leaders for the new churches.
6. The Registrar General's office in Ghana recently required all organizations and corporations to reregister and update their legal documents to meet the requirements of recently passed laws. Pray for the Director of the Institute as he works to meet the legal requirements.
7. Pray for those who lost loved ones and property as a result of Hurricane Ian which hit the Caribbean Islands and the State of Florida.