



# Global Resources

## Equipping Missionaries World Wide



Monthly Newsletter of Ed & Linda Baker - September, 2011

Where do we begin sharing about our trip to West Africa? Our time in Ghana & Togo was very impressive. We will try to share with you what we experienced.

We arrived in Ghana on Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>, tired from a 12 hr. direct flight, but anxious to learn as much as possible about Ghana. We were hosted by colleagues Mary Kay & Charles Jackson, and their son Ken. Mary Kay has a water ministry with the Methodist Church of Ghana, and works with several NGO's; Charles is an assistant professor at Ashesi University; while Ken is in his senior year of high school. Ashesi opened its new campus this year, the great ceremony can be found at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YgxEUMEBH7s&noredirect=1>.

We spent our first few days in the capital city Accra, getting acclimated to Ghana. After a couple of days, we began our travels. We drove 6-8 hrs. each day. Ghana is about the size of Oregon, and we visited from North to South, East to West! We left Accra with Mary Kay, and a Ghanaian driver, Anoché. Our first destination was to visit with colleague Sue Kolljeski. Sue is serving at a Methodist orphanage in Lawra – located in the upper northwest corner of Ghana. There are about 19 children in the orphanage. Some are not actually orphans, but living with their mothers in the protected environment provided by the church. We visited Sue on a Sunday and were able to share in a wonderful church service at her Methodist Church. You haven't experienced "worship" till you've been to a Ghanaian church! Singing & dancing are an important part of the service, with everyone participating. We left church feeling refreshed & spiritually revived.



We spent the afternoon walking through the Lawra market. We've been to lots of South American open markets, but the Lawra market was different! The senses that were touched – visuals, smells, textures, noises! One reason to visit Ghana was to see how the GRT can help the in-country missionaries of Ghana. We had a wonderful day with Sue, sharing where God has called her to serve, and what her needs in ministry are. The photo on the left is the general market; on the right is a lady selling shea butter, which she "processed" by hand from the nut of the shea tree.

From Lawra, we headed east to Bolgatanga. Another reason to visit Ghana was to learn from Mary Kay's water ministry. Along our route, we spent lots of time visiting with local pastors to access how Mary Kay's projects have helped communities, and look at what the future needs might be. In Bolga,

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we had our first real Ghanaian meal of banku. One word - interesting. Ghanaian food has been a surprise, very spicy – and you eat it with your fingers!

Our next stop was in Tamale, where Mary Kay is working with the NGO, Pure Home Water. We visited the new factory, and shared the vision of how this water system can help the poor of the world. To find out more about Pure Home Water, check them out at <http://www.purehomeh2o.com/>.

Next was the Mole Game Reserve. It was a dry, hot day in Ghana, so not many animals were out and about. We did see warthogs, antelopes, gazelles, baboons, and from a distance, elephants. It was fun being in “their” world.

Another long day of driving, but such a wonderful opportunity to see the country side of Ghana. We went to the town of Kumasi, and into the smaller community of Ankaase. Fellow colleagues Cam, Anne, and daughter Caylor Gongwer are serving this community. Cam is a physician at the hospital, and Anne began a literacy program by building The Reading Town library. The family was attending a conference in the US, so we didn’t get to visit with them personally, but enjoyed seeing how God is working in their lives.

From Ankaase, we headed south to the town of Cape Coast. We stopped at a beach resort along the way for a little Ghanaian beach time, good food, and time to refuel. Next day we headed to Cape Coast, this town is where the slave castle is located. It’s a chilling experience to visit the slave castle and to remember all those who died inside the dungeons. We made it back to Accra, ready for our next adventure – visiting the country of Togo.

For those not up on the geography of Africa (we weren’t), Togo is just east of Ghana, so we just rode to the border, walked through the immigration point, and met colleague Esaho Kipuke. Esaho had visited us in Atlanta in February of this year, so we were excited about sharing in his ministry in Togo. We spent the first night in the capital city of Lome, and then headed north to Kara, location of one of the Kipuke Ministries. We met Beatrice, Esaho’s wife, and fell in love with the 25 young women who are ministered to through her ministry. The Kipukes opened a school for these women, which is a 4 year program, certified by the government. Besides basic arithmetic, French (the legal language), and home economics, the girls are taught to sew. Their talents are amazing! We purchased clothes that were made while we were visiting. In both Togo & Ghana, if you want to buy clothes, you select the fabric, the seamstress (man or women) measures you, then the clothes are made. Talk about a custom fit!

The needs of the school are great. We felt there were many areas the GRT could be of service to this wonderful ministry. They currently have a drilled well, but it has a hand pump. There is electricity available, so they need a tower/tank in order to have running water for their kitchen & flush toilets for the school. They are also trying to teach gardening, and grow all the food needed to feed the women & children. We hope to get our agricultural team involved in helping with their crops.

We spent a full day with the women in Kara, and then returned to the capital of Lome. Our time in Ghana & Togo were full, exciting, enlightening, and unforgettable. We pray we will be able to return to these countries again in the coming year.



We've tried to make this newsletter as brief as possible, without leaving out any of the points of interest. There are several things that surprised us – how clean both countries are, the extreme contrast of poverty to wealth, how developed Ghana is & how much building is going on, how expensive it is currently to live in Ghana, the food & how different it is, and the large population of Muslims. These add to the intrigue & mystery of Ghana & Togo. We can see how the hearts of our colleagues have been touched by the majesty of God's kingdom in these 2 beautiful countries.

We will be traveling again in October, so continue to ask for traveling prayers. We'll end with photos of Ghana & Togo, you will see how beautiful the people from these countries are.



Young girl selling on the street in Togo



Lady selling water at a well near  
Ashesi University



Young girl at the market in Kara,  
Togo



Boats at Cape Coast, Ghana



Market, Lome, Togo



Bethel Methodist Church, Accra,  
Ghana

*In His Service,  
Ed & Linda Baker*

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