

RUFFUPDATE

GHANA MISSION

Shocked & grieving!

Mike had only been back a few weeks from his furlough when we were contacted by his night guard telling us of his concern for Mikes health. Amy called him to see what the problem was and he told her that it was a nagging cold but that he would be fine. Amy encouraged him to go to the doctor to make sure it was just a cold. The next day we headed to Tamale where I unexpectedly took Amy to the hospital who had fallen sick during the night. Then the following day after she was doing better I left her in the hospital and came back to Buipe to take care of some financial needs since we were going to be in Tamale longer than expected. Mike's night guard came to the house sharing how that Mike had not gone to the doctor and that he was very concerned, so I drove to his house and found him unresponsive on his bed. His house was locked and so I contacted the police and they helped me find someone to cut the security bars so we could enter and get him to my truck and then to the hospital.

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Well done good & faithful servant

Mike had ministered in West Africa for 25+ years. He started in Mali and then spent 14 years in Togo and the last two years here in Ghana. He was a very humble man that lived on little so he could generously give to improve the lives of many. Mike, enjoy your reward in heaven. You definitely stored up much treasure in heaven and now enjoy as you see the fruit of your labor. We love you.

Terry



SISAALA DRAMATIZED NEW TESTAMENT FINISHED.



GONJA OLD TESTAMENT RECORDING
 Our studios have been busy with the Gonja OT, Kusaal OT and Sissala OT recording. This week they will also be recording the dedication ceremony for the revised Tampilma OT & NT.



THREE DISCIPLE MAKER TEAMS COMMISSIONED - Pray for Issac & Osman, Alhassan & Musa and Joshua & Sammy as they press on into the farther reaches of Gonjaland

THE NUMBERS - AUG '16

ACT #	BALANCE JULY 2016	\$8,891.94
	AUGUST DONATIONS	\$6,963.8
310	CHR ED: MEDIA	\$1,019.30
435-7	PERM CTR	\$314.15
500	POSTAGE	\$2.36
600	OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$62.04
661	INTERNET	\$98.84
800	TRAVEL FUEL	\$286.60
810	TRAVEL MEALS	\$452.77
830	TRAVEL LODGING	\$253.52
850	SHIPPING	\$340.00
860	AIRFARE	\$3,701.52
930	MISSION HOUSE	\$1,053.72
	AUGUST EXPENSES	\$7,584.82
	BALANCE AUGUST 2016	\$7,270.92

THE NUMBERS - SEPT '16

ACT #	BALANCE AUG 2016	\$7,270.92
	SEPT DONATIONS	\$5,245.00
320	CHR ED: HOSPITALITY	\$61.54
410	EVANGELISM: MEDIA	\$469.23
435-7	PERM CTR	\$52.56
435-10	RECORDING PROJECT	\$1,288.10
450	COMPASSION	\$102.56
490	NAT'L CO-WORKERS	\$243.59
661	INTERNET	\$169.99
730	REPORTING TO SUPPORTERS	\$45.53
800	TRAVEL FUEL	\$292.13
806	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	\$130.77
810	TRAVEL MEALS	\$123.38
820	TRAVEL TOLLS	\$7.95
830	TRAVEL LODGING	\$233.33
840	TRAVEL FEES	\$3.59
850	SHIPPING	\$21.54
860	AIRFARE	\$225.64
900	EQUIPMENT	\$386.02
920	BANKING FEES	\$47.20
930	MISSION HOUSE	\$512.57
	SEPTEMBER EXPENSES	\$4,417.22
	BALANCE SEPT 2016	\$8,098.70

TOO MUCH?

There are times the weight of what we are called to endure is too much! Frustration, grief, sorrow, difficulty after difficulty, pain after pain, and we find ourselves on our knees crying out to God. Thankfully we aren't all in the same place at the same time and we are blessed by our fellow sojourners that remind us of God and His work in our lives.

Betsy Childs Howard wrote in a recent blog post, "God doesn't change. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb 13:8) The God who asked Elijah to trust him when he piled hardship upon hardship is the same God who asks you to trust him today. He wants you to see the glory of God, glory that can only be seen when he overcomes what we cannot. The same God who fed a discouraged prophet is the God who will sustain you when you think you can't go on. And the God who restored to the grieving widow her greatest treasure, who undid the sting of death with his power, is the God who will one day raise you to reign with him."

I painfully admit, I have cried out to God, "What you are asking me to hold up under is too much!" But in a very gentle way He reminds me, "Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest."

My heart desire, my prayer and my aim is to be able to sing the song Moses and the Israelites sang after God rescued them from Pharaoh's army, "I'm singing my heart out to God— what a victory! He pitched horse and rider into the sea. God is my strength, God is my song, and, yes! God is my salvation. This is the kind of God I have and I'm telling the world! This is the God of my father—I'm spreading the news far and wide! God is a fighter, pure God, through and through." Exodus 15:1-5 MSG

May we take heart that our God is ever unchanging, faithful, and stronger than any challenge He asks us to hold up under and He walks each step with us. Thank you for walking with us through this journey of faith as we challenge the faces of darkness in this region of the world with God's light and truth.

Amy



PRAYER



Praise God for....

1. ...Terry's healing. God showed off!
2. ...Mike's life.
3. ...opportunity to see Bobby & Mandy in USA & hear about their great home-stay
4. ...The Odle Family's found a house in Tamale
5. ...Amy's healing from her last hospital stay.
6. ...30 baptisms since our last report
7. ...total baptisms of 233 in 2016
8. ...Jonathan Project Grant
9. ...\$10,000 raised to record Gonja OT & revised NT
10. ...commissioning of 3 DMM teams to penetrate the far reaches of 2 of 13 segments of Gonjaland with Gospel
11. ...the busy studio -several OT's & Ghana deaf sign NT
12. ...the great time with our kids, parents & so many awesome friends while in USA

Request God for....

1. ...our physical, spiritual & emotional health
2. ...the Graham Family's continued home-stay productivity
3. ...Odle's move to Tamale & settling in
4. ...DMM Leaders: Isaac/Osman, Alhassan/Musa, Joshua/Sammy, Djallo, James, Enoch & Abu
5. ...protection of farms against too much rain
6. ...the studio team, Moses, Hezekiah & Michael
7. ...Perm Ctr workers: Sehadu, Simon, Lazarus, Konlan, Christy, Gloria, Yahaya
8. ...new day guard
9. ...for profit studio projects
10. ...the restoration process of Moses Sampani
11. ...Djallo as he finds his way since family's abandonment
12. ...
13. ...
14. ...

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Each year, many of our workers take part in an event called ICOM — the International Conference on Missions. But did you know that ICOM is NOT a reunion for missionaries (although many definitely enjoy it). It is now primarily designed for a) prospective missionaries (recruits), b) local church members who care about the unreached, c) concerned prayer warriors wanting to make a difference in the world, d) AND missionaries and those who serve them. So — you're invited to ICOM too! And it's a great place to link with your favorite Team Expansion missionary. Our workers have historically supported the convention quite fervently. It's not uncommon to see 100 or more Team Expansion workers at each ICOM. We hope to see you there, November 17-20 in Lexington, Kentucky. Register today at www.TheICOM.org. And be sure to stop by the Team Expansion exhibit to say hi and check in.

Doug

Financial Gifts

All gifts are tax deductible. Please make payable & mail to:

Terry & Amy Ruff
c/o Northside Christian Church
4407 Charlestown Road
New Albany, IN 47150

Please provide an email address so a receipt can be emailed to you!

ONLINE GIFTS:

It is now possible to give to the Ghana Mission online:
<http://www.mynorthside.com/> -
 "online giving"

Accountability

Our Ghana Mission is held accountable by these organizations:

Team Expansion - Wayne Meece
 4112 Old Routt Road, Louisville, KY 40299
 800-447-0800

Northside Christian Church - Doug Newland
 4407 Charlestown Road, New Albany, IN 47150
 812-945-8704

Shocked & grieving! (continued)

The next morning I discovered that his kidneys were not functioning properly. So we put him in an ambulance and sent one of his workers with him to Kumasi where there is a large hospital. On Friday I picked Amy from the hospital and we journeyed to Kumasi to check on Mike. Upon arriving we discovered that he had passed away that morning. Of course we were shocked. We spent Friday - Wednesday getting all of the paper work completed so we could travel to Accra to get the Consular Report of Death from the US Embassy. They will work out the details of getting his body shipped to the US for burial.

WE ARE NOW BACK IN BUIPE AND MIKE IS IN HEAVEN!

We have begun working on wrapping up what happens to Mike's things here in Buipe as directed by his family. Jared Odle has been a great help with this. Mike was working with Community Development projects in 9 villages and so we will see what can be done to celebrate his life together with them.

"Well done good and faithful servant. . ." You will be missed.