

The Lighthouse

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August-September 2007

MISSION WORK REPORT – BENIN

1. WHAT A SUMMER IN THE USA!

This report is written from home, in Benin. My wife and I flew back home from the John F. Kennedy Airport in New York into Accra-Ghana on Friday August 31st. I immediately drove to Cotonou on Sunday to join my staff in interviewing candidates for the new class. Joyce stayed back home for 2 weeks to visit with her family and friends before joining me in Cotonou.

2. FROM BENTON, KY TO OTHER PLACES IN THE USA

What a summer! According to statistics from Ed Jones with whom I travelled all through the summer, we drove more than 7000 miles and spent 70 nights in hotel rooms.

This report would cover the month of August which had been spent in the USA and also September which covers activities in Benin. In the picture below, I got a taste of riding with DC Brown on his big motorcycle. This is different from the mopeds we ride in Benin.



George riding on the big motorcycle with DC Brown on the Freeways of Houston, TX

HERE IS A BRIEF SUMMARY OF OUR ITINERARY IN AUGUST 2007.

Sunday July 15: PM: Brother Bill Morgan and his wife Irene drove Joyce and I to South Fulton, TN where we made our presentation to the Smith

Street Church of Christ. *Sorry I left this out in my previous report.*

Friday August 5-12: The first two weeks of August were spent in the Maryland and Washington DC area. We left Benton in our grey Benton Church of Christ Bus on Friday and got to Frederick on Saturday. We drove through the beautiful Appalachian Mountains. The beauty of the landscape, the majestic mountains and the valleys amazed me. I could not help voicing my thoughts, "How can someone gaze at these magnificent scenes and say there is no God?" We were enjoying these amazing sights in Western Virginia and got into Virginia late. All the hotels we stopped at were full and we had to continue driving till we could get a place to sleep. We ended up driving for 14 hours since we set off from Benton before we got into a hotel. The night was very short. We arrived in Frederick, MD on Saturday afternoon and were met by Brother Bren White and his wife at our hotel upon our arrival.

Sunday August 5: AM: Our first meeting was with the Catoctin Church of Christ. After this we went to the Cozy Restaurant for a lunch. This restaurant has lots of the Camp David paraphernalia on display as a result of their services to the Camp.

PM: The Whites came for us and lead us to the Laurel Church of Christ in Laurel, MD. After my presentation, one of the members came and handed me a check for \$1300 to buy a motor cycle for our evangelists. You can imagine my joy.

Monday August 6: AM: We drove back to Laurel where we met some of my country men who live and work in Laurel and some who were visiting. We had a wonderful time meeting some of our friends we knew in the Church in Ghana and some who were there visiting just as ourselves. After the visit, we drove sightseeing in the Maryland and Delaware historic cities.

Tuesday August 7: Some of you might not know that just about the time we were helping establish the Lord's Church in Benin, God sent to Benin, Sister Ruth Anderson Davis as the

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Ambassador of the United States to Benin. She was an active member of our small congregation and a generous supporter of our work until she left around 1997/98. She invited us to visit with her when we were in the Maryland and Washington DC area. We honored her invitation to the State Department where we met with her over lunch and recalled her time and work with us in Benin.

Wednesday August 8 PM: Joyce and I had the privilege of meeting with a congregation composed of members of the Church from my home country Ghana who meet at the University Park congregation in Hyattsville. I taught the Bible class.

Thursday: August 9: We were invited to the home of the Whites where we spent a relaxing day.

Friday August 10: We went visiting the harbor area of Baltimore with the Whites.

Sunday AM: August 12: We worshipped with the University Parkway Church of Christ in Baltimore. I spoke about the work in Benin and preached the sermon.

Since we have a long ride home, we set off from Frederick for Benton in the afternoon. We spent the night in Western Virginia and got to Benton the next day.

Wednesday August 15: I taught the young adults Class for Brother Jay Lockhart at the Benton Church because he was out teaching elsewhere.

Sunday AM August 19: We worshipped at the Sharp Church of Christ, near Benton, KY.

Sunday PM: We made our presentation at the Benton Church of Christ.

August 24-28: Our next appointment was the display at Polishing the Pulpit Lectureship in Birmingham, AL.

We set off for Birmingham this time without Joyce and Judy our wives but we had Lonnie Woodruff as our traveling companion to the lectureship. On the way we had a call from the West End Church of Christ that they have an opening for us to make a presentation on Sunday.

Saturday August 18: We had our booth the lectureship and set up our display. We also attended the morning session. Since there was nothing for the afternoon session, we drove off from Birmingham to Atlanta, GA.

Sunday August 26 AM: We worshipped with the West End Church of Christ where I made our

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last presentation. After lunch provided by the Elders, we drove back to Birmingham to continue with the lectureship

Sunday PM: We worshipped with the Hoover Church of Christ in Birmingham as part of the lectureship with Brother Allan Highers preaching.

Monday-Tuesday at the PTP Lectureship.

I have read and used books written by Wendell Winkler, Dan Winkler and Allan Highers in my various ministries however sitting at their feet as they teach is a greater experience. I enjoyed the time so much that it is with regret that we have to leave before it was all over. It was a renewing, refreshing and recharging experience for me to listen to some of the most outstanding men in the brotherhood address some of the burning issues and expound the Word of God.

Wednesday August 29. We packed our suitcases and prepared for departure the next day.

Thursday/Friday August 30-31. Ed and Judy Jones drove us to the Nashville, TN Airport and saw us off. Brother Samuel Twumasi-Ankrah and our daughter Rejoice met us at the Airport in Accra.



Our display at Polishing the Pulpit Seminar in Birmingham

THANK YOU

We want to take this opportunity to thank all the congregations and brethren who received us during the summer. We enjoyed your homes and praise God for your hospitality. You made us feel so welcomed and beloved. Thanks for the meals, the wonderful fellowship, gifts of books, tapes, clothes and for all the stuff that we collected while in the USA. Those of you who could not take us out to eat, we say thank you for your generosity. On the work level, thanks for the CDs, printer, scanner, bible software, donations for generators, motorcycles but most of all, thanks for your LOVE.

3. BACK AT HOME

My first mission upon my return is to conduct interview for the new class of 2007-2010 to begin early October. We had 21 candidates that applied for admission. A good number could not complete their applications. We invited 10 of the most promising to a written and oral interview. We were not disappointed. All the 10 candidates were good and were admitted for the new class. We have a very heavy transportation and travel cost for the several students coming from other French-speaking nations. To give us a balance and to enable us control our costs, we have decided to limit the number of students coming from the Central part of Africa for this class. We therefore admitted only one such candidate coming from Gabon.

The churches in Benin continue to grow. Brother Barka Daniel wrote in his report that a new congregation had begun with the baptism of 23 people in a village of N'dali in the northern part of Benin.

Kado Jean wrote a moving report. Here is a summary of his report.

The three new Evangelists who just graduated from the school in Cotonou in May are doing a tremendous work. They have decided to work with the Churches already established to enable them acquire more practical experience. This is also to enable them acquire in addition to that their theoretical knowledge, practical experience which will enable them to implement their work plans which each of them had prepared individually for missionary work in different chosen places.

After two months working with the local congregation these are their fruits: 25 baptisms.

1. The Comé congregation grew from 45 to 60 members.
2. The Lizèmè congregation grew from 20 to 30 members.
3. The Akodéha congregation remained the same number, 25 to 30 members for lack of meeting place. They still meet under a tree. This is the raining season making it very difficulties to meet.
4. Our inability to travel regularly to the village of Totchon-Agni is the reason this congregation, just 12 miles from Comé is regrettably not growing. They still are

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composed of the family of Brother Gregoire and a few members (5-10 members).

Despite our difficulties, we continue to visit our preaching points in the Mono District (County). With the availability of additional workers coming from the school in Benin we have the following objectives:

1. Increase the number of the faithful members in all the existing congregations;
2. Raise the membership level of the Church at Totchon-Agni.
3. Establish new congregations in the following towns and villages where we have received invitations to evangelize or have preaching points:
 - Kpovidji, a village located in 7 miles from Comé.
 - Grand-Popo, located in 13 miles from Comé.
 - Agoué, located in 22 miles from Comé.
 - Azovè, located in 53 miles from Comé.

These are places there where mission calls keep coming from to us.

We have planned on open air evangelism campaign from 19 to 23 September 2007 in Lizèmè and it is the Church of Comé that is organizing this and bearing all the expenses involved. Also pray for us because we begin by attracting a group of pastors towards the true doctrine through seminars organized here in Comé to which they were invited. By *Jean Kado*

We had a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Advisory Board on Sept. 21 to present a report of my travels in the USA.

We are also preparing for a visit of brethren led by Ed Jones to Benin in October.

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