



West Africa Mission Happenings



“... Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature – Mark 16:15”

A work of the church of Christ

Fulfilling the Great Commission

Greetings to all those who are making this work in West Africa possible. This has been a very busy year, and it does not seem to be slowing down anytime soon. I have recently returned from overseas where I had the opportunity to participate in a graduation and seminar in Ibadan Nigeria, another seminar in Takoradi Ghana, and work with the schools in both Accra and Tamale Ghana. Lord willing, I return to West Africa next month for two more graduations and seminars in Kpalime Togo and Tamale Ghana. I will also be traveling to Gueckedou Guinea to look at the potential for a new school, and visiting our two newest schools in Kenema Sierra Leone and Ganta Liberia during the same trip. Short courses, survey trips, seminars, graduations, evangelism, preaching and planning, it seems to go on and on. With your help, we are training hundreds of preachers throughout West Africa, and bringing thousands of lost souls to Christ. The church is growing and being edified, and together, we are fulfilling our mission as disciples of our Lord. In this report, I will give a brief synopsis of each school and then there will be dozens of photos describing many of the major happenings at the various schools in this part of the world.

Key Happenings at the Schools

The Bear Valley Extension School in Doboro Ghana is continuing to prosper and grow! We presently have forty students in the full and part-time Diploma programs. Twelve students will be completing the two-year full-time residential program in December 2017, and we are anticipating their graduation in May of 2018. We already have interviewed thirteen students for the next full-time

class that begins in January 2018 and are expecting more to apply. Twenty-eight students are presently in the four-year part-time program. They attend classes ten hours per week on Friday and Saturday with the same curriculum and class requirements as the full-time students. The desire to study God's word is great, and each quarter, the class size continues to grow! We are also offering the Bear Valley Master's Degree at this school with the number of students varying from fifteen to twenty. God has truly blessed this work!

The Bear Valley School in Tamale Ghana has experienced significant changes in the last year which has had a positive impact on the program. We presently have fifteen full-time residential students who are scheduled to complete in July 2019. The graduation for the previous class is scheduled for November 2017. We have implemented staff changes, alumni visitation programs, a school farm, and other upgrades over the last year which have greatly improved the image and effectiveness of this school. We pray for the strength to continue!

The Bear Valley Extension School in Ganta Liberia presently has fourteen full-time residential students who are expected to graduate in August 2018. This school is attracting potential students like crazy with fifty-six applications already turned in for the class to begin in 2018. If we could increase the capacity of the school through a larger budget and facilities then the students are available. The school is very active in evangelism and has had 167 baptisms over the last year. They have also implemented a leadership training program with sixteen local leaders receiving a Certificate in Leadership this year. We pray that God will continue to supply the needs for this vibrant program!

The Bear Valley Bible Institute in Kpalime Togo presently has ten students who are scheduled to graduate in November 2017. We have generally used this Bear Valley program in the past to convert denominational pastors, and have converted and trained over forty of them since the inception of the school. We have now developed a new one-year curriculum through the Center for Biblical Studies for this purpose that is not affiliated with Bear Valley. This new set of courses will be utilized to teach and convert leaders and members in the denominations to feed the existing Bear Valley school which will run at the same time. The two programs working side by side should be able to train a high number of men in French speaking Togo to preach and defend the gospel of our Lord. Please pray that this transition will be smooth as we enhance our efforts at this school.

A new class has just begun at the **Bear Valley Institute near Ibadan in Butubutu Nigeria** with forty-one full-time two-year residential students. This includes a second-year class of fifteen students and a first-year class of twenty-six students. As we do every year, these first-year students are on probation and, due to limited funds, the class will be reduced to around thirty students or so. We (Southwest School of Evangelism) also have another fourteen part-time students at the Ikorodu Campus near Lagos. Sixteen students graduated and received Bear Valley Certificates on Saturday, August 25, 2017. The students and staff in Nigeria continue to bring many to Christ as they teach and study God's word. This school could do even more evangelism if the funds were available. Please keep our brethren in Nigeria in your prayers.

The West Coast School of Preaching near Takoradi Ghana presently has twenty-seven students in their full and part-time programs. Thirteen students will be finishing the two-year full-time residential program in August 2018. We are in the process of recruiting students for the next class to begin late next year. Fourteen students are now in the part-time program in Takoradi, and we plan to increase the size of this class over the next year. We are trying to raise the funds to build a new dormitory which will greatly increase our capacity at the school. We need around \$40,000 for the structure. Please let us know if you can help.

The new Bear Valley program in Kenema Sierra Leone now has seventeen students who are actively studying God's word in this difficult part of the world. Ebola, civil war and an Islamic population of around

eighty percent have all hindered the growth of the church in this struggling country in West Africa. Regardless, the school has been very active with twenty-one souls baptized into Christ on their first gospel campaign. They have a new computer training program, and are continuing to produce vegetables on their small farm. May our Lord continue to bless the efforts of these faithful Christians in Sierra Leone.

Our two Bear Valley schools in Cameroon located in Wotutu and Mbanga continue to train preachers to build up the church throughout Cameroon. These schools are constantly planting churches and bringing souls to Christ through their evangelistic campaigns and other efforts. Please keep both of these schools in your prayers.

It would take pages and pages of writing to explain all of the happenings in West Africa. Each of the existing schools prepare monthly (or more often) reports that are posted on the Bear Valley website. You can read more about our work at this link:

www.wetrainpreachers.com/extension-schools/

Financial Support

We want to thank all of the supporters for their contributions to this exciting work in West Africa. Without you, this effort would not be possible.

Contributions by check need to be **made payable to:**

Mountain Home church of Christ
For: West Africa Mission

Mailed to:

Mountain Home church of Christ
380 North College Street
Mountain Home, AR 72653

You can direct any questions to the church office at **870-425-4330**.

Or you can contact Steven at:

Email: samtnhome@yahoo.com
USA Phone: **971-270-8535**

Please email Steven if you would like to receive this newsletter by email.

*Thanks So Much,
With Christian Love*

Steven Pohcraft

New Christians Baptized into Christ





**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Tamale, Ghana**



We are continuing to make our rounds in Northern Ghana visiting the previous graduates of the preaching school in Tamale. We thank God for these men.



Have you ever wondered how many Ghanaians you can pack in, on and around a van? I would say we have around fifty in this twenty-three-passenger van!



We are continuing to make repairs and upgrades on the facilities in Tamale. The wall has been rebuilt and we are moving forward. We pray that God will provide our needs.



Faithful Christian women make up a large portion of the church in Northern Ghana. Many times, their husbands do not participate. We thank God for these women.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Kpalime, Togo**



Much of the training at the school in Kpalime is practical and includes personal evangelism on a regular basis. Students are taken to a community to share the gospel.



313 people came together from 17 congregations to attend a lectureship on “The Christian in the World.” This is a wonderful opportunity to build up the church in Togo.



World Bible School correspondence courses have been a successful tool throughout West Africa. Whether the sign is in English or French, many are attracted to free Bible Studies.



We are attempting to set up computer training classes at most of our schools in West Africa. The new information technology class in Kpalime seems to be a great success.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Doboro, Ghana**



We now have almost sixty students in our programs in Accra including a Master's class with fifteen to twenty students. Here Denton Landon is teaching the Masters Class.



With your help, we are slowly building up the libraries at our schools. We recently built new shelves in Doboro and need books! Do you have library books to donate?



The students in the full-time program are earnest in their desire to study God's word. This school has grown so quickly that we need to look at improving our facilities.



All of our schools are tuition free with room and board provided. You help provide food, lodging and school supplies for all of our students. Thank you so much for your help.

**West Coast School of Preaching
Takoradi, Ghana**



The staff and students at the West Coast School of Preaching continue to bring souls to Christ. God provided a wonderful baptistry in the form of the Atlantic Ocean.



One great benefit of working in West Africa is the desire of the people to hear God's word. Wherever you go, you will find those who will give you the time to teach them the truth.



When the weather is too hot inside, the brethren in Takoradi bring the classroom outside. All of our schools are doing a wonderful job of holding fast to the true doctrine of Christ.



With your help, we were able to get a nice copy machine for the school in Takoradi. It is through your special contributions that we provide for the special needs at our schools.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Butubutu (Ibadan), Nigeria**



The students are regularly divided into groups for weekend evangelism at different locations throughout Nigeria. These men are ready to go share tracts and the Good News.

These students spend 35 to 40 hours per week sitting on hard benches studying God's Word. That is the kind of devotion and sacrifice that we all need to develop in our lives.



On this weekend campaign in Ekiti State in Nigeria four souls were added to the Lord's Kingdom. We thank God for our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

Makinde is the director of the school near Ibadan Nigeria (shown on left). I am continually amazed by the devotion, work ethic, and sacrificial nature of this brother in Christ.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Kenema, Sierra Leone**



The students prepare to travel for a gospel campaign in the Kailhun district of Sierra Leone. The instructors are instilling a strong evangelistic spirit into the students.



As a result of open air preaching and door to door evangelism, twenty-one souls were added to the Lord's church. The new Christians were lining up to be baptized into Christ!



The school buys the food for the school in bulk, and a cook prepares the meals throughout the quarter. This allows the students to focus on studying God's word.



The church of Christ in Sierra Leone is growing in both numbers and maturity as a result of our efforts in Kenema. Working together, we can make a difference in West Africa.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Ganta, Liberia**



We have library shelves at the school in Ganta library that need to be filled with books. If you know a preacher who wants to donate a library to help train preachers let us know



The students at the Bear Valley school in Ganta Liberia have now moved into their second year of studies. This will greatly strengthen the church in Nimba county.



When you are disabled in West Africa special means must be developed to get around. This man is using a homemade wheel chair for that purpose.



The students continue to farm vegetables on the land on the school premises. We thank Healing Hands for getting us started. We also have weekly agriculture training.

**Bear Valley Bible Institute
Wotutu and Mbanga, Cameroon**



Many times, items we have lying are prized possessions to our students throughout West Africa. These donated neckties will be used over and over again by the students.



Saving souls is the focus of the Bear Valley schools throughout the world. There is no better way to accomplish this task than sitting down and sharing God's word with others.



Here we have a long line of future and present preachers in new matching Bear Valley T-shirts. They can now look sharp and neat in the mission field and the classroom.



The school in Mbanga is very active in the classroom and the field through their evangelistic efforts. More information can be found on the Bear Valley website.

Northern Togo Evangelistic Work



One-on-one Bible Study is the key to church growth throughout the world. Our preachers are working hard to spread the Good News in French Speaking Northern Togo.



This is part of our team of preachers who are sacrificing themselves for the salvation of others: Francis, Nimde, Johnathon, and Nicodemus (Fidele is taking the photo).



The church in Tandjoure continues to grow as Johnathon helps another young lady obey the gospel of our Lord. Please keep the work in Northern Togo in your prayers.



We recently held a follow up campaign in Niamtougou in Northern Togo. As usual many children came to watch the Jesus film in their local language of Kabiye. Special Evangelism Campaign

Dago – Southern Ghana

We recently held an evangelistic campaign in the fishing village of Dago in southern Ghana. Working together with a group of graduates from the West Coast School of Preaching eleven souls were brought to Christ over the week. Here are some of the photos.



Some pictures of the children



Some More Children

