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REKINDLING THE SPIRIT OF EVANGELISM IN GHANA

August 9, 2009, Charlotte and I boarded the plane in Tampa at noon for New York. We left from Tampa because Cindy, Martha, Priscilla and I attended Charlotte's graduation from Galen School of Nursing with her RN on August 7. Charlotte, to her surprise, was given a certificate of excellence for community service. Later she asked the administrator what she did to deserve it.

"Charlotte we heard that you were going to Africa to do mission work," answered the administrator.

Ever since Charlotte decided to accept my invitation to Ghana, her friends have been asking her, "Why do you want to go to Ghana? Africa is hot; poverty stricken; rampant diseases such as aids, malaria, and yellow fever; and mosquitoes and wild animals are everywhere."

Most students want to go to the Caribbean or perhaps tour Europe after college. But Charlotte and I are not going to Africa as tourists nor are we on a vacation. But we are called to "rekindle of the spirit of evangelism in Ghana," which will be the theme of my seminars. Charlotte will play the flute, be the photographer and act as my assistant. She also hopes to make contacts for future medical missions.

We boarded the Delta flight 166 at 5:00 PM and set flight for the 11 hour passage for Accra about an hour later. We read, with my comments, the first four chapters of Hebrews. We had a restless night in the tight quarters of the plane. I watched the movie 61*, which is about Mantle and Maris striving to break Babe Ruth's record of 60 homeruns in one season. Personally, I also read the first two chapters of Numbers, Genesis 48 and Psalms 1-8.



Charlotte's Graduation Day

Graceland

April 10, we arrived at 8:30 AM in Accra. Pastor Francis and two of his associates, Peter and Simon, met us after debarking from the plane. Going out of the airport there were signs with pictures of Obama and I assume the President of Ghana. Caption read, "Join hands for hope." But our hope is not in men; but in Christ as an anchor of the soul. We checked in the guest house, which Bro Francis and his associates have provided. They are paying our basic expenses of food and shelter including lots of bottled water, **only bottled water**. We paid for our flights with monies raised from our faithful supporters.

Brother Francis' wife runs a little restaurant, "Graceland Fast Foods" within walking distance from the guest house. The building is an open hut with no running water. There are multitudes of small entrepreneurs like her that line the streets. Her restaurant is next to a saw mill; but most of the businesses are selling household goods and clothes.

For lunch we had fried chicken, rice with a tasty sauce, and raw cabbage. I did not eat the uncooked cabbage for fear of consequences. Charlotte did not eat anything. Afterwards we went back to our rooms and rested. I managed to get a few hours of sleep. Late in the afternoon, Francis brought over several more of his associates to meet me. I gave everyone presents of message t-shirts donated by Brother Kevin and Bible Jim Webber. I also gave them copies of Who Will Rise Up? and Walking in

the Spirit. I showed them my crucifix staff to which they responded very positively. Both the children and adults want to touch it or carry it. I exhorted the gathering of ministers who welcomed me to Ghana, on evangelism, holiness and the fear of God. I also shared highlights of my personal testimony and ministry and spoke of my family. They received these words with joy. I have already discerned that I am with a group of leaders with whom I have a kindred spirit, which bodes well for the success of my mission. Charlotte played “Be Thou My Vision” and “Amazing Grace” on her flute.



Later we went to dinner at Mrs. Asante’s restaurant, Graceland Fast Food. The fare was potatoes, a cooked cabbage dish and a freshly cut pineapple. The cabbage and pineapple were especially good. Again Charlotte simply nibbled at her food for fear of possible improper digestion. I was bolder and ate more heartily but still cautiously. I particularly enjoyed the pineapple. I told Charlotte that I would be the guinea pig to test how our bodies digest their food. What else was I to do? How could we leave all that good food over which they had labored untouched, even though we brought with us our own packaged food, jerky, trail mix, granola bars, etc.? The children flocked around Charlotte. She gave them stickers, candy and took their pictures. It doesn’t take much to make these kids very happy.

I slept relatively well from 10-12 PM and from 2-7:15 AM, during my night watch I studied the Bible and wrote in my journal.



The Children Liked the Cross

The Teeming Masses

August 11, 2009, we had breakfast at Graceland Fast Food, which consisted of a very good omelet with toasted bread and a hot drink of Milo. These folks are going out of their way to treat us royally within their means. The morning seminar was scheduled for 9-12 AM. By the time we arrived at the church building it was 9:30, the band was playing loud, upbeat music with an African dynamic which provided a good beat for which many, including myself, to dance in the Spirit. There was a key board, sax, drum and a lead singer.



Bro. Jed Doing African Praise Dance

I was introduced about 10:20. "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," I declared and lifted the crucifix as I proclaimed Christ crucified. I spoke of John the Baptist as the first evangelist of the N.T. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

I introduced Charlotte who read James 1 and then played "Amazing Grace" on her flute. It especially lifted my heart because I have not had the opportunity to hear Charlotte play the flute for three years except here in Africa.



I taught on the Fear of God. Proverbs teaches that he that wins souls is wise. Since the fear of the Lord is the beginning of both wisdom and knowledge according to the Solomon, how will we have the wisdom to evangelize Ghana, the rest of Africa and all nations without the fear of God? I read Vine's definition of the fear of God which includes "a holy dread of doing anything that displeases him." The fear of God provides the necessary motivation to evangelize. Paul said, "Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men (2 Cor. 5:11)."

"By faith, Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet moved with fear made an ark to the saving of his house by which he condemned the world (Hebrews 11)."

I reminded the students that the fear of man has paralyzed the church. Where there remains fear of men and of circumstances there is little fear of God. When men fear God, they are fearless in confronting sin. I instructed everyone to examine themselves in the light of Scriptures and to repent of any sin before they went forth with me into the market place.



I prayed for many of the sixty or so who were in attendance at the first session. Then we went forth into the market place, which was teeming with the masses hawking all

sorts of fresh foods and wares. The school of evangelism students carried about a dozen of Webber's message placards which they lifted high over the multitudes. I lifted up my staff crucifix and exhorted the masses to repent in the light of the law and the gospel. After preaching 15 minutes I gave the microphone to Brother Francis who in turn gave the microphone to other men. At one point there were three men preaching in three different languages to the people. Tri is the principle native language. The official language is English since Ghana was an English colony which got its independence in 1957. Finally, I got the microphone back. I instructed the people, who needed to be saved from sin or healed in their body, to grab hold of my staff as a point of contact with the Holy Spirit. I extended the scepter over the crowd. Many hands small and large gripped the staff as I lead everyone in a prayer for salvation or healing.



The Market Ministry

We then moved to another location and went through the same routine. In my second call for salvation children put their hands to the cross as I announced, "Suffer the children to come unto the Lord, forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of God." So many people gripped the rod that I had difficulty holding it up.

Later, several of the men including Brother Francis declared that the preaching was like a fire to the leaders which jumped from me unto them as they preached for the first time in the open-air and preached boldly and fearlessly. The Holy Spirit anointing these men (and one woman) to preach outside makes the trip worth the

investment in time and money. I am convinced that these brethren have the commitment to continue to publically confront sin and boldly preach out where the people are.

Life is very much still in the outdoors in Ghana. We have driven around the city considerably and I have yet to see a quiet street. People, people, everywhere, “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things (Romans 10)! “

Churches are ubiquitous in Accra, and there is a multitude of pastors, but few who are willing to be Biblical evangelists and go out in the streets and byways and compel men to come into the Kingdom. Hopefully, this mission will start a fire from preacher to preacher to build an army to go forth everywhere to reach the lost with the good news. “God makes his ministers a flame of fire (Heb 1).” Where is the fire in the ministry today? I fear that the fire of many pastors has been extinguished because they have not learned like Timothy “to do the work of an evangelist.” The evangelists have to proclaim the gospel out where the sinners are. Brother Francis Asante heard of what I do in America, recognized that it was Biblical and asked me to cross the great sea to expound upon the way of the Lord more perfectly. Alas, few ministers in America have any interest in learning ways of evangelism out the walls of their buildings.



Prayers for Salvation

Sorely Pressed by an Altar Call

We returned to Graceland Fast Food and Sister Asante fixed my favorite food so far a meat pie sandwich. Many of the small businesses here have some sort of scriptural name or have scripture written on their signs or some Christian message, like, "God's Power Printing Press, Choose Jesus Beauty Salon, Trinity Barbering Studios and Christ is God Plumbing and Draining."

America is a nation so blessed of God with prosperity; and yet , we have not only removed God from the public square; but even privately Americans do not want to put the word on the door posts of their homes or businesses. Back in our home in Columbia last year I nailed a TRUST JESUS sign in bold red letters and a yellow background. No one has ever said anything. I suppose neighbors may think it to be inappropriate. Not so in Ghana, the name of the Lord and symbols of Christianity are seen everywhere. Yet by outward appearance the country appears to be forsaken of God, material poverty is everywhere. But God judges men's hearts. Many in Ghana have a heart for the Lord lacking in America. And so it has always been as Jesus said, "Blessed *be ye poor*: for yours is the kingdom of God." And, "the first shall be last and the last shall be first."

We drove into the country to speak at a church with about eighty in attendance. I preached, "Who Will Rise Up?" to a receptive congregation. The pastor tried to interpret but he soon gave up apparently having difficulty understanding my accent. I can understand since I often have difficulty understanding their accent. One of Brother Francis' men, Peter, took over who has had more contact with Americans. We flowed well together. It is interesting preaching through a translator. One needs to adjust because it makes your message about twice as long. I finished my message by speaking of the armor of God, especially the breastplate of righteousness. If we had any holes in our armor it could be deadly, I explained. Sin will penetrate our armor but by keeping our armor holy and carrying the shield of faith we can overcome all sin.

I called for anyone who had sin in their life to come up and take hold of the cross to get under the body of Christ and let his blood flow from the cross and cleanse them. There was such a response that not everyone could grip the cross and I was being sorely pressed so I led the throng in a short prayer of repentance and faith and told them to lift their hands in praise of the Lord. I took refuge behind the pulpit. I concluded that asking the people to grip the cross was not a good tactic. It was an anointed service. Charlotte commented later that I delivered the message more

powerfully than she had ever heard. Over her 21 years she has had the opportunity to hear “Who Will Rise Up?” a countless number of times.

Later, Charlotte asked, “Do you ever get tired of preaching that message so much?” The answer is, “no.” It is the story of my life of my deliverance of my calling and of my mission. In this message I am able to make the points on repentance, the new birth, discipleship, public preaching, the fear of God and other basic themes of my ministry with memorable illustrations.



Lifting their Hands for Prayers of Salvation



Brother Francis Preaching

