



# THE WIDENER FAMILY

## GHANA, AFRICA

*“Taking the Gospel to the Gold Coast”*



AUGUST 2006

Greetings to our Co-laborers!

### GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!

We want to **thank you** so much for your prayers concerning the new work in Cape Coast! God answered every prayer request mentioned in our last report. On June 30th, we received our 1 year Resident/Work Permit which is renewable every year. On July 4th we obtained permission to use the Ekon Early Child Development Center for church services. Before our first service we purchased chairs, built pulpit furniture, acquired hymnbooks and visual aid teaching materials. To top it off, the Lord has sent some faithful men and women to help with the ministry! Seven adults have joined our church who were members of an Independent Baptist Church that dissolved after a missionary left the field last year.

### OUR FIRST SERVICE IN CAPE COAST

On July 16th we conducted our first service with 22 present for the 9:00am Deaf Service, and 20 in the regular 10:30am Hearing Service. Our meeting place is on the east side of Cape Coast near a small fishing village named Ekon. We went for evangelism the following Saturday in the village. We shared the Gospel with many people including a fetish priestess (witch doctor). On our Second Sunday we had 12 in the Deaf Service and 49 in the Hearing Services. This last Sunday we had 18 in the Deaf Service and 82 in the Hearing Services (57 of these were children from the village). It is a humble beginning, and we believe God has great things in store for the future of Spring Valley Baptist Mission in Cape Coast.

### CAPE COAST SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Every Friday morning, I am preaching in the Chapel Service at the Cape Coast School for the Deaf. There are over 400 students who are now hearing the Gospel message in Sign Language. What privilege and joy to preach to these children who are eager to learn from this white American missionary who is hard of hearing.

A deaf man named Remy Kayang (26 years old) is helping with this ministry. He is a new convert that I am training in the ministry. He has been a big blessing in helping me to better understand the deaf culture in Ghana, as well as some of their Signs that differ with American Sign Language. Please pray for Remy's parents who are Catholic and are giving him problems about leaving the Catholic church.

Recently I was given the opportunity to preach to a group of about 40 deaf adults at a Deaf Association Fellowship. After the service 7 deaf ladies wanted to know more about how to be saved. I spent about one hour explaining the Gospel and **each one of these ladies trusted Christ as Saviour that day!** One was from a Muslim family and expressed concern about persecution from her family. I counseled with her and several others who had similar concerns. Three of these ladies have since attended our services for the Deaf.

Please **pray** for our need to find housing in Cape Coast. The traveling from Takoradi to Cape Coast several times a week is getting expensive. Fuel prices here are about \$3.85 per gallon. Also, **pray** for the people we are taking through a discipleship program. After some basic training we will be having a baptismal service for those who have recently professed Christ as Saviour.

Grateful for His Grace,

*Bro. Johnny Widener*

Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Bro. Johnny Widener

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